

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Soccer: Lady Indians win at Hebron; improve to 2-0

Towns County men fall 7-1 at Hebron in season opener

By Todd Forrest
North Georgia News
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The Towns County Lady Indians soccer team is off to a 2-0 start following a non-region, home victory over Highlands, NC and a Region 8-A win at Hebron Christian Academy.

In last Wednesday's win over Highlands, the Lady Indians jumped out to a 3-0 lead at the half and cruised to an easy 5-0 shutout victory.

Brook Barrett led the offense with three goals, while Taylor Cornett and Ally Settles added one goal each.

The victory was also win No. 1 for first-year head coach John Cornett.

Defensively, Towns only allowed three shots on goal, resulting in three saves by keeper Jordyn Hyatt.

Although, Hyatt didn't do it alone. She has had plenty of help on the defensive side from Taylor Underwood, Callie Hogsed, Madison Stround, and Alyssa Hunter.

In the win at Hebron, Towns fell into a 1-0 hole, seven minutes in, but Barrett scored both Lady Indian goals and with the defense clamping down, Barrett's output proved to be enough.

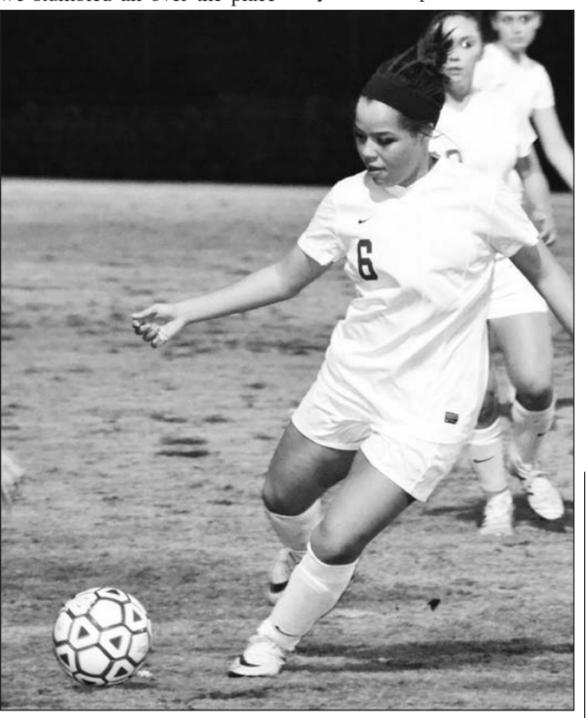
"We got to the game a little late and only had a short few minutes to get ready," Coach Cornett said. "Those first seven minutes we stumbled all over the place



(until) we found ourselves. Then the defense played lights out."

Hyatt finished with 10 saves in the win.

Monday's game with Union has been postponed due to storms but Towns is at Providence on Tuesday (4 and 6 p.m.) before hosting George Walton on Thursday at 5 and 7 p.m.



Towns County Lady Indians soccer pictures by Todd Forrest

Baseball: Trip to George

Walton unkind to Indians

By Todd Forrest
North Georgia News
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Monroe - The Indians opened Region 8-A action last Friday night with a doubleheader at George Walton Academy and came out on the wrong end of a two-game sweep.

Towns County (2-7, 0-2) lost the first game 15-5, but in the early going, the Indians were having their way with the Bulldogs pitching staff.

Towns scored a run in the top half of the first but George Walton responded with six runs of their own in the bottom half of the inning.

However, the Indians refused to roll over as they answered with four runs in the second inning to trim the deficit to 6-5.

Unfortunately, that would be all the offense that Towns could muster and the Bulldogs tacked on five more runs in their half of the second.

They went on to add two

more runs in the fourth and two in the sixth.

The Indians finished with 5 runs on 5 hits and junior Will DeVries lead the offense with 3 RBIs.

Senior Curtis Swanson led the Indians with 3 1/3 innings pitched. Freshman Seth Fullerton worked 1 1/3 innings with a strikeout. DeVries also saw action on the mound for Towns County.

George Walton took the second game 16-0.

Sophomores Dalton Key and Zach Davenport, along with junior Brody Graper each pitched for the Indians.

Up next Towns will host Hebron Christian at home on Friday. This Region 8-A matchup will also be a doubleheader with the first pitch scheduled for 4:30 p.m.

As of this writing, Hebron is currently 9-2 overall with a 2-0 win over Commerce in its only Region game of the year. Hebron and Commerce also met on Tuesday of this week.



Major Moss at bat vs Bryan County at home on Friday, March 4th. The junior outfielder went deep off of Bryan County for the first homerun of his high school career. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Bowling scores

Monday Night Ladies: Ryan West 201, Chris El-Chumbley 181, Amber Gilbert 184.

Monday Night Men: Ryan West 201, Chris El-Chumbley 208, Dewey Allen 201, 214, Bonnell Thomas 226, Kevin Mohan 220, 202, Ron Wingate 200, 235, Mike Newsome 226, Joe Teague 208, 234, Derick Rice 210, Ranny Jones 231, Ken Clark 215, Jay Burrell 235, 231, 225, Series 694, Ray Everett 244, 214, Bob Bischoff 243, Greg Whittenburg 243, 230, 221 Series 694.

Young At Heart: Max Puett 210, Ron Wingate 230, Ron Gaucher 226, 211, Anne Sorrelle 189, Paul Napolitano 220, Bob Landis 235, Bruce Burnett 213, Bart Rodgers 201.

Blairsville Youth: Savannah Karisny 149, Ivy Rob-

MGC celebrates 30 years on Saturday

The Mountain Gymnastics Center celebrates 30 years in business in March!

Please join us for an Open House on Saturday, March 19th at the Mountain Gymnastics Center from 1-3 p.m.

At 1:30 p.m. the MGC will feature a performance by the Young Harris College Competitive Cheer Team. At 1:45 will be a performance by the Mountain Cheer All Stars.

At 2 p.m. will be a time of reflection. Finally at 2:30 p.m., the Mountain Gymnastics Center Team will perform.

Please celebrate 30 years with Mountain Gymnastics Center on Saturday.

bins 151, 119, Jared Edwards 141, Michael Fox 197, 164, 155, Jacob Fox 140, 158, Derek Harwood 105, Nick Love 161, DJ Robbins 160, Eric Fox 171, 163. N(Ma16,Z)CA

"Casting for Addison"

Bass Tournament fundraiser

A Bass Tournament fundraiser for Addison McClure, the daughter of Nathan and Nioka McClure will be held March 19, 2016 at the Lake Chatuge GMF Ramp, 7 a.m. til 4:30 p.m.

Bass Tournament info: \$75 with \$10 Big Fish Option; 5 fish limit at 14"; Black Bass only; 2 persons in boat; Blast determined by registration; payback determined by number of boats registered; artificial lure; 50 yards distance between boats; all state and federal laws apply. No

refunds. All donations are appreciated. 50/50 Pay Payout Tournament; officials decisions are final. Pre-register at C&J Mountain Outfitters, 706-896-7543. Not responsible for accidents.

All proceeds are to help with medical expense for Addison McClure. She was diagnosed with Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia (ALL) on November 23, 2015 and is currently undergoing treatments at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta at Egleston. NT(Mar16,Z2)CA

T-ball and Coaches Pitch registration

The Towns County Recreation Dept. is having registration for T-ball and coaches pitch for boys and girls ages 4 thru 8 beginning March 14, 2016 thru March 26, 2016.

Late registration will be held the week of March 28, 2016 through April 2, 2016. The fee for registration is \$45. Sign-

ups are held at the new Towns County Recreation Center. Our hours of operation are Monday thru Friday 9 a.m. till 8 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. till 4 p.m.

If you have any questions please call the Recreation Department at 706-896-2600. TMa9,F1)SH

NASCAR 2016

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

Harvick Gets Close Win At Phoenix

Phoenix, AZ - Kevin Harvick's Sprint Cup win over Carl Edwards by 0.100-second was the closest win on record at the one-mile Phoenix track.

What looked like a Harvick waltz to the finish line turned into a no-holds barred, bumping match between the two drivers during the last half of the last lap of the 312-lap race.

Harvick led twice for 139 laps and was nearly three seconds ahead of Dale Earnhardt Jr. when the caution flag came out after Kasey Kahne hit the outside wall with five-to-go.

Harvick, Clint Bowyer, and Earnhardt remained on the track while Edwards, Kyle Busch, Denny Hamlin, Jimmie Johnson and Matt Kenseth made a brief pit stop for two right side tires.

On the green-white-checked restart, which sent the race into overtime, Edwards was lined up fourth. He quickly got by Bowyer and Earnhardt, and set his sights on Harvick.

But Harvick wasn't waiting around. He had the accelerator to the floor and Edwards was unable to catch him until the two cars exited turn-4 and were headed for the finish line. Edwards bumped Harvick several times, and until the end of the race, it looked more like a drag race than an oval race.

Edwards moved ahead briefly, but Harvick held steady and crossed the stripe a couple feet ahead of Edwards.

"I knew I could beat him (Edwards), but when I saw him coming, I knew I was going to get some sheet metal messed up on the car," said Harvick. "This is a tough track and you have to move around to find the right groove, but it paid off today."

Edwards gave it his best shot and after the race went over, stuck his head in Harvick's car and congratulated him.

"I could have wrecked him," said Edwards. "But I didn't want to do that. I tried to move him up, and was able to, but it wasn't quite enough."

Denny Hamlin did not lead any laps but finished a strong third. "The car was a mystery

to us," said Hamlin. "It was a fast car, but it seemed like the longer the runs, the better it got. It wasn't as fast on the restarts, and that kind of put us behind."

Polesitter Kyle Busch led 75 laps, but after the midway point of the race, he wasn't able to lead any laps, and finished fourth.

Dale Earnhardt Jr. was fifth, followed by Kurt Busch, Matt Kenseth, Chase Elliott, Austin Dillon, and Ryan Blaney.

Top-10 leaders after 4 of 36: 1. Harvick-154, 2. Kyle Busch-154, 3. Johnson-140, 4. Kurt Busch-137, 5. Edwards-136, 6. Hamlin-131, 7. Logano-127, 8. A. Dillon-122, 9. Truex-117, 10. Earnhardt-115.

GIBBS TEAMS SWEEP XFINITY RACE

Joe Gibbs teams led by Kyle Busch finished 1-2-3 and dominated Saturday's Xfinity Series race at Phoenix.

Justin Allgaier, Chase Elliott, Ty Dillon, Austin Dillon, Elliott Sadler, Brad Keselowski, and Brandon Poole were the remaining top-10 finishers.

Top-10 leaders after 4 of 33: 1. Suarez-144, 2. Sadler-136, 3. T. Dillon-135, 4. Allgaier-132, 5. B. Jones-126, 6. E. Jones-126, 7. Gaughan-119, 8. Reed-106, 9. Poole-102, 10. Wallace Jr.-96.

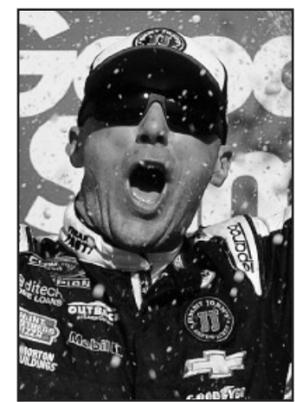
WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO JAMIE McMURRAY

Jamie McMurray started off in the Sprint Cup Series in 2002 with a bang. According to some of his competitors he's a very competitive driver, but he has never lived up to his early expectations.

"He is a good, clean driver, but if he is racing for position, he isn't going to move over and let you pass him," said Carl Edwards, driver of the No. 19 Gibbs Toyota.

McMurray was born June 3, 1976 in Joplin, MO. He grew up racing go-karts and competed in nearly every form of karting around the country before moving to late-model stock cars.

He is best known for winning at Charlotte as a substitute driver for Sterling Mar-



Kevin Harvick

lin in his second Cup start, and is one of only three drivers to win both the Daytona 500 and Brickyard 400 in the same year. He currently drives the No.1 Ganassi Chevrolet in the Sprint Cup Series with crew chief Matt McCall.

McMurray's entry into Sprint Cup racing is unique among active drivers. He was tapped as interim replacement for the injured Sterling Marlin, who fractured a vertebrae in a crash at Kansas Speedway in 2002. He made his Cup debut in SABCO Racing's No. 40 Dodge at Talladega. One week later, at Charlotte, in just his second career NASCAR Winston Cup and first non-restrictor plate start, McMurray outraced Bobby Labonte and Tony Stewart for the win.

In 2003, McMurray joined the Cup Series full-time. He won Rookie of the Year honors by 37 points over Greg Biffle. McMurray had five Top 5 finishes for the year and finished 13th overall.

He did not win any races in 2004 or 2005, and moved to Roush-Fenway Racing in 2006, scoring two of his biggest career Sprint Cup wins at the famous superspeedways of Daytona and Talladega. For 2010, Jamie returned to race for Ganassi, winning the Daytona 500 and Brickyard 400.

McMurray married Christy Futrell in July 2009. Their first child Carter Scott McMurray was born Thanksgiving morning, November 25, 2010. Their second child, a daughter named Hazel, was born February 11, 2013.

Through the tumultuous years of 2009 and 2010,

McMurray found the power of prayer. Following his win at Charlotte in 2010, McMurray said in his post race interview, "As those laps were winding down, I was thinking about Daytona and why I cry and the power of prayer. I had a tough year last year. I found out the power of prayer and what that can do for you. When you get to victory lane, and you get to experience this, it just makes you a believer."

In 2013, he had one win, one pole, nine top-ten finishes and four top-five finishes in the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series coming home 15th in the championship standings.

He was the winner of the 2014 Sprint All-Star Race and earned two poles, seven Top 5 and 13 Top 10 finishes, but failed to make the Chase.

Going into last year's Contender Round, he was one point above Dale Earnhardt, Jr., who marked the cutoff line. During the race, McMurray was locked in a constant battle with Earnhardt for control of the final transfer spot. Ultimately, Earnhardt finished third and McMurray finished fourth, which tied them in points. The tie was broken in favor of Earnhardt, and McMurray was eliminated.

After three races into the 2016 season, he is 16th in points. I don't know if it's his team, or equipment, that has kept him from having better finishes, but I believe that McMurray can still get the job done.

Weekend Racing: The Cup and Xfinity teams are at the 1.5-mile Fontana, California track. The trucks do not race again until April 2. Sat., Mar. 19; Xfinity Series race 5 of 33; Starting time: 4 p.m. ET; TV: FoxSports1. Sun., Mar. 20; Sprint Cup Series race 5 of 36; Starting time: 3:30 p.m. ET; TV: Fox.

Racing Trivia Question: Which Cup team does Ryan Blaney drive for?

Last Week's Question: How many crew chiefs has Jimmie Johnson had in his Sprint Cup career at Hendrick Motorsports? Answer: Only one, and that is Chad Knaus.

You may contact the Racing Reporter by e-mail at: hodges@race500.com. NT(Mar16,Z2)CA