

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Indians bats come to life in game two but not enough to overtake Providence

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Young Harris - The Varsity Diamond Indians played a doubleheader against Providence Christian Academy during spring break on Thursday, April 9, at Zell B. Miller Field at Young Harris College.

Both games went the full seven innings, and Towns County came up short in game one 6-1, and lost game two 12-6.

For game one, Will De Vries singled into shallow right field in the first inning, and hit another one in nearly the same spot in the bottom of the third inning.

De Vries ended up scoring after reaching base in the third. He reached second on a pitch to Jackson Taylor, and the throw from the Storm catcher went into the outfield. Ever quick on his feet, De Vries was able to round third and go home.

Zach Sewell and Major Moss each singled in the fourth inning of game one.

Game two saw even more action at bat, as Sewell singled in the first inning, and Moss came through with a beautifully placed single through the gap between shortstop and second base in the third inning.

Next at bat in the third, De Vries reached on four straight balls, and Sewell, once again hot at the plate, knocked a 2-run RBI single to send Moss and De Vries home.



Towns County Indians baseball in Region 8-A action vs Providence Christian Academy at Young Harris College last week. Photos/Lowell Nicholson

The fifth inning featured more Indian offense, as De Vries once again singled through a gap in the infield. He was thrown out at second, which according to the audience and Towns County dugout reactions, was definitely a questionable call.

Jackson Taylor reached base on a well-placed single, and Sewell doubled deep to left on a full count to send Taylor to third base. Dalton Key connected with a sacrifice fly to bring Taylor home for another run.

And in the sixth inning, with two outs and nobody on, second baseman Brody Graper reached on an infield single,

beating out the throw at first to earn his spot on base.

Curtis Swanson followed in Graper's footsteps, reaching first on a walk, and De Vries hit an RBI single to send Graper to the plate.

Next up, Taylor belted a 2-run RBI double to deep center, and Swanson and De Vries lit up the score board once again for the Towns County Indians.

"We got some kids in that typically don't get to play a lot, so it was a good day," said Indian Head Coach Shannon Floyd. "Hopefully everybody was happy, we got to see some different faces out there. And they hung with it. I can't

complain. But it was good to see a few guys - Zach Sewell, Will De Vries, Jackson Taylor, they all hit the ball really well today."

Leftfielder Sewell, who had two RBIs, three singles and a double on the day, typically dresses out as No. 4. But that Thursday, he wore jersey No. 27 in honor of his favorite player, 23-year-old Anaheim Angels outfielder Mike Trout.

"Today, I thought we played very well in the first game, and then the second game, maybe some things we could have done a little differently and maybe even made it a little bit more of a differ-



ence," said Coach Floyd. "But Providence is a very good ball team, and that's where we want to get to."

On Tuesday, April 7, the JV boys finished up their season 5-5 with a 13-3 win against Rabun Gap.

"Zach Davenport pitched two innings and looked good," said Coach Floyd. "It was good to see him throwing the baseball, we've just not been able to use him with some arm problems. Curtis Swanson came in and pitched real well."

Aside from good pitching, the Indians hit extremely well that Tuesday.

"Hitting wise, we scored

13 runs," said Coach Floyd. "Everybody seemed to be putting the ball in play. Trey Chastain had a couple of hits, Cooper Moss came up, eighth grade, and had a big hit for us. Colton Shook had two good hits, Cason Shook had a hit. That was good, for those guys. Andy Chambers hit the ball well. Had another eighth-grader, Kendall Floyd came up, got on base once. We just made every play. It was wet, but we got it in."

The next Indians home game is against Hebron Christian on Thursday, April 16, at 5:30 p.m.

Tickets on sale for TCHS Athletic Banquet at Recreation and Conference Center on Apr. 28

By Shawn Jarrard
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Staff Writer

On Tuesday, April 28, Towns County High School will be holding its third annual Athletic Banquet at the Towns County Recreation and Conference Center at 6 p.m.

Tickets to the event are \$15 each, which includes dinner, and are on sale at the school from Monday, April 13, through Friday, April 17.

TCHS student athletes get in free, but guests must purchase a ticket, which will be sold by Coach Jim Melton at the high school.

Tickets must be purchased by Friday the 17th to gain access to the banquet in order for the school to project a number for catering. No door sales of tickets will be available for the event.

"We do one banquet, because so many of our kids play multiple sports," said TCHS Principal Jonathan Gibson. "So, we do one sports banquet at the end of the year, and this is the third year we have done one like this. And we just do



The State Champion Cross Country team was honored at last year's banquet. A new crop of runners will be honored this year. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

all sports combined. We'll start cross country, softball, football, cheerleading, basketball, wrestling, golf, tennis. Everybody will get up and give awards for their sports."

The banquet is all about honoring the hard work of these student athletes, and coaches will be presenting awards to the students.

"It's a nice event, nice evening for our kids," said Principal Gibson. "It's great to be able to slow down and celebrate their accomplishments. It takes a lot to juggle the academics and the rigors of the classroom and the ball field or court. We try to make it nice. It's church attire, so it's a nice evening for the kiddos."

YHC Competitive Cheerleading finishes in fourth at Nationals



Photo/YHCATHLETICS.COM

YOUNG HARRIS - The Young Harris College competitive cheerleading large coed team came in fourth place at the National Cheerleading Association's Collegiate Cheer Championship April 8-11 in Daytona Beach, Fla.

It was the third consecutive year that the team had qualified for nationals. The Large Coed Team placed seventh in 2013 and third in 2014.

"This year's team had a lot of talent and a lot of momentum," said head coach Chase Carter. "The team looked great in practices leading up to nationals and we were very optimistic about having a great showing in Daytona."

The Mountain Lions were the point favorite for the competition after the preliminary round, having earned the highest raw score for Division II Large Coed. The team advanced to finals with a perfect 10 out of 10 on the "45-second game day" portion of the competition, which is the only score that carries over to

finals.

"The team, having made a few mistakes in prelims was very excited for finals, and a chance to fix the mistakes and earn a national championship," said Carter. "The excitement was very high for Friday as our team is still very young, and many team members had never competed at college nationals on the iconic "band shell" arena, which is outdoors, and only steps away from the ocean."

Young Harris made a few mistakes in the finals, which took the Mountain Lions out of the running for first place, according to Carter. Young Harris finished with a score of 89.48. Lindenwood University won the event with a score of 91.73.

"We finished in a deserving fourth place, and although the team was disappointed about a missed opportunity to win a national title, we are very proud for having the opportunity to represent our school at the national level," said Carter.

Bowling scores

Monday Night Ladies: Pam Bierce 200, Joyce Trenton, Ines Bergstrom 184.

Monday Night Men: Dewey Allen 200, 216, Bill Smith 205, 203, Chris Roberts 234, 203, 200, Kevin Mohan 210, Joe Teague 244, Derick Rice 258, 231, 259, 748 Series, Tom Griffiths 215, Chris Ellinwood 214, Jay Burrell 225, Brett Hogsd 201, 220, Dustin Ford 213, Ron Wingate 212, Rick Bracjen 241, Gary Brown 227, Dave Davis 225, 248, Kirk Bass 219, John Stevens 258, 257, Ray Everett 216, Jeb Plott 256, 216, 216, Jim McCreary 227, 247.

Hazel Farmer Seniors: Ron Gaucher 205, Del Neiffer 210, 200, Bob Shannon 193.

Thursday Night Fun Mixed: Taz Matetzschk 209, 215, Tim McVay 234, Kirk Bass 213, John Moore 255, Zach Moore 222, 247, 238, Tim Moore 222, 247, 238, Chuck Reeves 204, Daniel Brown 210, Johnathan Everett 222, 222, Ray Everett 216, 257, 218, Bonnell Thomas 205, Bill Smith 221, Stanley Tyler 223, 228, Mike Pope 223, Jordan Moore 221, 201, Doug Roberts 214, Mike Davis 203, 204, Jim McCreary 216, 214, Jaythan Burrell 204.

Correction:

In last week's edition of the Towns County Herald Sports Section, the Towns County Indians varsity baseball story was written by Shawn Jarrard.

Jerry Kendall was improperly listed as the writer in the story's byline.

NASCAR 2015

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

Johnson holds off Harvick at Texas

FT. WORTH, Tex. - Six-time NASCAR Sprint Cup champion Jimmy Johnson passed Kevin Harvick for the lead on lap 322 of Saturday night's 334-lap Texas Cup race, then held on for his fifth series win at the track.

"Yeah, I think that the end of the race was nutty," said Johnson. "I think those last three restarts with the varying tire strategies that were going on; everybody was just driving so hard. Our car didn't handle like it was when we were up front leading, so the first restart we were pretty concerned and made some changes. The second one we got a little better. The third one, our car was really, really good and able to work our way forward."

Kevin Harvick took the lead early in the race from his teammate and polesitter Kurt Busch, but relinquished it several times to Johnson, who led 128 laps.

There were three late race cautions. Jamie McMurray, who did not pit for tires, was the leader on the first one, but Harvick quickly got by him. Harvick was the leader on the second and third restarts and pulled away for a considerable lead.

Johnson was third on lap 318, behind his teammate Dale Earnhardt Jr. Three laps later, Johnson got a run on both Earnhardt and Harvick going into turn-1, passing both of them, to become the new leader.

With Johnson out front the real battle was between Harvick and Earnhardt. Harvick's car bobbed a couple times and Junior was able to get by him briefly. But as the cars approached the finish line, Harvick made a cross-over move to grab second.

"I just got behind there, and Jimmie was fast for those last couple laps and got around us," said Harvick, who also finished second at Texas in November 2014. "I got loose coming off four and I got in the wall and just was trying to hang on to where I needed to be."

While Earnhardt had a fast car, he did not lead any laps.

"I had the car I anticipated I would have," he said. "So many pit stops, so many-- a lot of great stops, a lot of good stops that maintained track position. Pit road was pretty cut and dried. We come down, get four tires, there was some opportunities for us to stay out or get two, and you never really fool with that, it's good to be on offense with good rubber under the car all the time. We made some good adjustments. We seemed to have a good pattern of what was working for us and came up short at the end of the race."

Joey Logano was fourth.

Brad Keselowski finished fifth. He received a commitment line violation on lap 268, after he attempted to pit and hit the pit road cone. He had led 27 laps, but was sent to the rear of the field, and had to work his way back to the front.

Jamie McMurray was sixth, followed by Jeff Gordon, Kasey Kahne, Martin Truex, and Carl Edwards.

Polesitter Kurt Busch led 45 laps during the early stages of the race, lost the handling on his



Jimmy Johnson Celebrates His Fifth Texas Cup Win

car and finished 14th.

Top-16 Chase contenders: 1. Harvick-306, 2. Johnson-280, 3. Truex-266, 4. Keselowski-246, 5. Kahne-230, 6. Johnson-216, 7. Earnheart-213, 8. Hamlin-205, 9. Almirola-195, 10. Ragan-194, 11. McMurray-193, 12. Kenseth-189, 13. Gordon-186, 14. Edwards-182, 15. Mears-128, 16. Menard-129.

ERIK JONES GETS FIRST INFINITY RACE

Michigan's 18-year-old Erik Jones outraced several big name Cup stars on the way to winning the Xfinity Series race at Texas, in his first ninth series start.

Jones outran Sprint Cup stars Brad Keselowski and Dale Earnhardt Jr. on a restart with 25 laps remaining Friday night, to win by nearly two seconds.

The four-time winner in the Truck Series, where Jones races full time, beat Keselowski on the restart after an earlier battle with Earnhardt. Jones even bumped Keselowski from behind, before a crash brought out the caution flag.

"I don't know what to say right now. It's surreal," Jones said. "We beat Cup guys tonight. That's huge for us."

Jones told reporters after the race that he was frustrated with Earnhardt as he tried to get around him late in the race, figuring the veteran was trying to teach him a little patience.

"I hope he had fun," Jones said. "I knew we had a blast. Just racing hard with those guys. They've been doing it so long. They know exactly what they're doing. I'm just trying to figure it out."

Keselowski was second, followed by Earnhardt, Regan Smith, Austin Dillon, Darrell Wallace Jr., Denny Hamlin, Chase Elliott, Chris Buescher, and Brian Scott.

Top-10 leaders after 6 of 32: 1. T. Dillon-219, 2. C. Buescher-217, 3. Elliott-208, 4. Wallace-204, 5. Reed-197, 6. Smith-197, 7. Sadler-181, 8. Gaughan-176, 9. Scott-169, 10. Suarez-160.

KYLE BUSCH STILL RESTING AT HOME

Kyle Busch continues to rest comfortably in his home in Charlotte, North Carolina before rehabilitating from a compound fracture of the right lower leg and left mid-foot fracture, both injuries resulted from an accident during the February 21 Xfinity

Series race at Daytona. No specific timetable has announced for Busch's return to the track; however interim drivers have been confirmed to pilot the No. 54 Monster Energy Toyota in the Xfinity Series.

Busch's teammate Denny Hamlin drove for him in several prior races. will return April 18 at Bristol (Tenn.) Motor Speedway and May 23 at Charlotte (N.C.) Motor Speedway.

Hamlin is currently running a full season in the Cup Series for Joe Gibbs Racing in the No. 11 Toyota and was previously confirmed to run in six Xfinity Series events this season in support of other team sponsors. This brings Hamlin's 2015 XFINITY Series schedule now to 11 events.

In addition, JGR announces that team member Erik Jones will again drive the No. 54 April 24 at Richmond (Va.) International Raceway, for a total of three race events supporting the No. 54 team.

David Ragan will continue to fill in for Kyle Busch behind the wheel of the No. 18 Sprint Cup Toyota. Ragan's current race team Front Row Motorsports and sponsor CSX accommodated the move by Ragan and Ragan is expected to return to the team later this season.

Ragan has run eight full seasons in the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series with 291 career starts. The 29-year-old Georgia native has two career wins, including most recently at Talladega Superspeedway in May of 2013.

Weekend Racing: The Cup and Xfinity teams are at Bristol's bull-ring for the first of two races at the .54-mile high banked, oval. The Trucks do not race again until May 8.

Sat. Apr. 18: Xfinity Series race 7 of 32; Starting time: 1:30 pm ET; TV: FoxSports1.

Sun., Apr. 19: Sprint Cup race 8 of 36; Starting time: 1 pm ET; TV: FOX.

Racing Trivia Question: How many Cup championships did NASCAR Hall of Famer Joe Weatherly win?

Last Week's Question: How many children does Jeff Gordon have? Answer: He and his wife Ingrid have two children, a son Leo Benjamin and a daughter, Ella.

You may contact the Racing Reporter at: www.hodges@race500.com. NT(Apr15,C4)ac