

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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A week's worth of games washed out for Towns County athletics

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Towns County sports were completely rained out at home last week, as every scheduled sporting event was canceled due to bad weather.

"Every spring, you'll get a week where you get a lot of stuff rained out," said Towns County High School Assistant Athletic Director Jim Melton. "It just happened that it's the last week of the season this time for soccer, last full week for baseball, too."

Sports affected by cancellations include tennis, golf, baseball and soccer.

Each time a decision must be made to allow or cancel a game based on weather conditions, the coaches and athletic directors get together to see if a field is playable and safe for student athletes, and if ongoing weather conditions will allow.

"Soccer is probably the easiest to play in the rain, but we've just had so much rain and a chance of thunderstorms," said Coach Melton. "Soccer won't play with thunderstorms or lightning or anything like that. We've just had so much, and there's so much chance, and the field is so saturated now, that any pop-up shower is just making it unplayable."

Another consideration that must be taken into ac-



The Towns County Lady Indians soccer team after their win at Union County. (Right) The Indians during an early season game vs Fannin County. Photos/Lowell Nicholson

count is the chance of playability for teams that must travel an hour and a half, sometimes two hours just to get to the school. Travel costs become a factor, especially when rain is predicted for later when a game is expected to be played.

"We're very thankful for Young Harris and all that they've allowed us to do baseball-wise," said TCHS Principal Jonathan Gibson. "We've played three or four games over there this year, and their field, they've got the infield tarp, so it keeps the infield playable, where most high schools don't have

one of those, and we surely don't. So, it keeps their field playable, and they've been so gracious to us to let us play over there."

Last Friday's boys and girls soccer matchups against George Walton Academy were canceled, but Principal Gibson looked into playing those games at Young Harris College as well, where they have a turf soccer field.

Unfortunately, an away lacrosse team needed the field Friday to practice for a match against YHC on Saturday, and the times could not be coordinated to allow for the Indians to play.

"Our soccer games with George Walton, neither team had any implications moving forward," said Coach Melton. "Top 3 in soccer from each area move on, and we are in fourth and George Walton is in fifth in both boys and girls."

The GWA games were region games, but because neither team will be advancing in state play, the games did not need to be rescheduled. The soccer teams will play their final games of the season on Tuesday, April 21, away against Rabun County.

A doubleheader was scheduled away for Indians Baseball also on Friday, but it was canceled as well, and will be made up this week.

The Indians play their last home game of the year against Lakeview on Friday, April 24, at 5:30 p.m.

Tennis Head Coach Billy Barnhart commented recently that he was proud of his girls team this year.

"Our last match got rained out Tuesday, and there was no time to get it made up,"



Indians' Head Baseball Coach Shannon Floyd discusses the situation with one of his hitters. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

on the team and was our No. 1 Singles player. Carly won four out of her last five matches, beating Rabun County, Commerce, and Woody Gap twice."



The Indians soccer team during halftime of their 1-1 tie at Union County last month. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

BB Team performs admirably at state competition

On March 28, 2015 a group of 15 Towns County 4-H BB Team members gathered at 5:30 AM to embark on a quest to go to Comer, GA to compete at the District BB Qualifying Match. Towns County 4-H BB Team was comprised of two teams of seven and an individual shooter.

To qualify to compete at the state competition which was held at Rock Eagle 4-H Center in Eatonton, GA on April 10, teams had to achieve a team score of 1550 and individuals had to score a 310. After a long day of shooting, both teams and the individual surpassed the qualifying scores and every competitor earned the right to compete at state.

On April 11, 2015 Towns County 4-H BB Team participated with 556 shooters in the largest 5 meter BB

match in the nation.

Please congratulate the following Towns County 4-H BB Team Members who performed admirably at district and state competition: Emma Lallement, Nicholas Sisco, Lane Lallement, Dren Green, Brian Lovingood, Brittany Lovingood, Olivia Batye, Laura Mauldin, Hannah Wecer, Abby Mauldin, Clayton Gibson, Carson Williams, Savannah Mitchell, Aaron Matetzschk, and Amethyst Patrick. Coaches Carol Rosenqvist, Ruby Rhine-smith, and Bill Christine volunteer their time each year and provide invaluable training and extensive knowledge to young shooters. Good job BB Team!

For more information about 4-H programs, please call Towns County Extension Office: 706-896-2024. (T/Apr22,G1) SH

VFW Golf League news

Chatuge Shores Golf Course hosted the third round of golf for the Hiwassee VFW Post 7807 golf league. The team of Glen Greenwald, J.C. Berrong, Bill Long and Bart Rodgers was triumphant, shooting 5 under par. However, this was pale in comparison to the 11 under par posted by Danny Barrett, Darryl Boltz and Norvil Haslay the previous week. (T/Apr22,G1)SH

Bass tournament

A bass tournament will be held on Lake Chatuge - Woods Grove Ramp, Saturday, April 25th from 7 a.m. until 2 p.m. Cost is \$50 per boat with 60% payback. Standard tournament rules apply. All proceeds to benefit the Young Cane Lodge Scholarship Fund. Any donations to the Scholarship Fund will be greatly appreciated.

For further information please call 706-897-1894.

Area students compete in Air Rifle Junior Olympics

Three of our five North Georgia Airheads (a name agreed upon by the shooters) traveled with their coaches and parents to North Georgia College in Dahlonega on Saturday, 26 March to compete in the 2015 Civilian Marksmanship 3 Position Air Rifle Junior Olympics Georgia State Championships.

The tournament consisted of 20 shots from each of the prone, standing and kneeling positions. The match is fired on electronically scored targets at a distance of 10 meters, with a total score of 600 points.

They were joined by 22 shooters from other clubs in Georgia. Similar matches were fired in two other locations in Georgia. The Airheads have only been shooting since October 2014 and were against shooters who were "in the game" for several years.

The Airheads are shooting in the Sporter Rifle class.



Members of the North Georgia Airheads

They were competing against shooters firing in the Precision Rifle Class. There is a significant advantage to the Precision class both with respect to the guns and the support equipment and clothing.

Alexis Ledford was only 9 points behind the Precision group firing a 521/600 followed by McKenzie Henderson with 482/600 and Olivia Adams at 471/600. (Remembering the "scoring 10" is a dot.)

These athletes are preparing to complete this year's

season on 2 May, firing the Georgia 4-H State Championships at Rock Eagle 4-H facility in Eatonton, GA. We will be taking 5 shooters to this match to include Austin Adams and Madison Chalker in addition to the three mentioned above.

Oh yeah! Not to be forgotten, these athletes will be accompanied by Volunteer Coaches, A.T. Sorrells, Gene Blackburn, Steve Curlee and Ed & Verlee Jones. Wish them luck.

Submitted by Ed Jones

NASCAR 2015

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

Kenseth wins in Thunder Valley

BRISTOL, Tenn.—Matt Kenseth and his team outlasted rain, four red flag periods, and a slew of wrecks, to win Sunday's Sprint Cup race that lasted over ten hours, and consisted of 511 laps around the .54-mile track.

"What a race," said Kenseth. "I didn't think it would ever end. But this is what it takes to be a championship team. We've got to continue putting ourselves in a place so we can win."

Kenseth started on the pole, but relinquished the lead to Kevin Harvick early in the race. He never regained it until lap 481 after Kurt Busch, the leader, pitted for four fresh tires.

On lap 483 there was a big pileup of cars caused by Tony Stewart. One of the cars taken out was the No. 5 driven by Kasey Kahne.

"Well, Tony just decided to spin me," said Kahne. "I don't know what his deal was."

There was another caution on lap 392, when Kenseth's teammate Carl Edwards, who was running second, slipped and slid into the outside wall, bringing out the race's last caution.

Due to a light shower NASCAR red flagged the race and brought all the cars down on pit road. The track was dried in less than twenty minutes, and when the race restarted it was a green-white-checked finish.

Kenseth got a good jump on the second place car driven by Jeff Gordon. Jimmie Johnson, who had been involved in three separate accidents, got by Gordon for second. He was unable to catch Kenseth, and finished as runner-up.

"It was an awesome finish to a wild night," said Johnson. "The team won this race. They patched up my car every time I messed it up."

Jeff Gordon finished third, followed by Ricky Stenhouse, Ryan Newman, Tony Stewart, Kyle Larson, Justin Allgaier, Danica Patrick, and Austin Dillon.

Two teammates Joey Logano and Brad Keselowski were involved in the race's first wreck during lap 19. Keselowski, who was running just ahead of Logano spun and lost it. Logano had no place to go and ran into the rear of Keselowski's No. 2.

The first major pileup occurred during lap 278. The No. 41 driven by Kurt Busch got sideways, and slipped up the track into Jimmie Johnson's No. 48. Nearly half of the field either spun or bumped into another car.

The second big one came on lap 310. Jimmie Johnson was in a hurry trying to get back to the front and brushed the rear of No. 26, driven by Jeb Burton. Both cars spun out. Several cars be-

hind them slipped, slid, and ran into each other, including Kevin Harvick, who broadsided the No. 18 driven by David Ragan that was sitting in the middle of the track.

"I don't know what happened with Jimmie," said Jeb Burton. "I've never had any problems with him, I just know that he tapped me, and sent me spinning. You try to give those guys as much room as you can."

Denny Hamlin started the race as usual in his No. 11 Toyota. During the first red flag period at lap 23, he relinquished his seat to Erik Jones, because of muscle spasms in his neck.

The start of the race was rain delayed, then after 23 laps had been run; it was stopped for almost four hours. There were two more brief red flag periods due to light showers. The race, which was scheduled to start at noon, did not end until 10:35 pm ET.

Top-16 Chase leaders after 8 of 26: 1. Harvick-314, 2. Logano-284, 3. Truex-281, 4. Johnson-258, 5. Keselowski-255, 6. Earnhardt-241, 7. Kahne-237, 8. Kenseth-236, 9. Gordon-224, 10. Almirola-226, 11. Hamlin-223, 12. McMurray-223, 13. Patrick-211, 14. Menard-210, 15. Edwards-203, 16. Newman-201.

LOGANO LEADS WIRE TO WIRE AT BRISTOL

Joey Logano put on a strong performance in Saturday's Xfinity Series race as he led every lap of the 300-lap race.

"That's amazing," said Logano. "To be able to lead the entire race surprises even me. When you get into leading a lot of laps, something usually goes wrong. Today everything went right."

Daniel Suarez, the young Joe Gibbs Racing driver from Monterey, Mexico, who is in his rookie season as an Xfinity driver finished second. It was his best career finish and first race at Bristol.

Suarez's transition to the Truck and Xfinity Series level hasn't been quite as smooth a ride as he had hoped. He has finished outside the top-10 more often than inside in his first 13 races.

"All day long we had a good car," he said. "We improved the car at every single stop and that's the most important thing is to learn, to improve. To be honest my team is doing an amazing job. They are having a lot of patience with me as a rookie and it's been a good day. I'm very happy."

Chris Buescher was third, and then it was Erik Jones, Ty Dillon, Chase Elliott, Kevin Harvick, Brian Scott, Brendan Gaughan, and Elliott Sadler.

Top-10 points leaders after 7 of 32: 1. C. Buescher-258, 2. T. Dillon-258, 3. Elliott-246, 4.



Matt Kenseth, winner of Bristol Sprint Cup race

D. Wallace-236, 5. Reed-220, 6. Sadler-215, 7. Gaughan-211, 8. Smith-211, 9. Scott-205, 10. Suarez-202.

KYLE BUSCH TALKS ABOUT HIS INJURIES

In a press conference last week Kyle Busch said he does not know when he will get back into a race car but hopes he can return by July as he continues to recover from a broken right leg and a broken left foot suffered in a crash Feb. 21 at Daytona.

He said he is healing well and still has a small crack in his right leg as well as a walking boot on his left foot. Kyle Busch suffered a broken right leg and a broken left foot in a Feb. 21 crash at Daytona.

"First and foremost, I have to please my doctors. ... They say my recovery is going faster [than expected]," Busch said. "I don't even ask. They won't release me a timetable."

Busch said the wreck was his fault, being greedy trying to win the race. He was trying to push teammate Erik Jones, who ended up spinning. While Jones was spinning, he took the air off the rear of Busch's car, sending him into the skid into the wall.

NASCAR has made no decision on whether it will waive the rule that a driver must compete each race weekend in order to be eligible for the Chase for the Sprint Cup. NASCAR also could waive the rule that requires a driver to be eligible with a win and a top-30 placement in the regular-season standings, although it has not waived that rule when issuing past waivers.

Weekend Racing: The Cup and Xfinity Series will continue their short track racing as they head to the .75-mile Richmond track for two night races. The trucks do not race again until May 8.

Fri., Apr. 24; Xfinity Series race 8 of 32; Starting time: 7:30 pm ET; TV: FoxSports1.

Sat., Apr. 25; Sprint Cup race 9 of 36; Starting time: 7 pm ET; TV: FoxSports1.

Racing Trivia Question: What year did Tony Stewart break into the Sprint Cup ranks?
Last Week's Question: How many Cup championships did NASCAR Hall of Famer Joe Weatherly win? **Answer:** Two, in 1962 and '63.

You may contact the Racing Reporter at: www.hodges@race500.com.