

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Lady Indians tennis close at Area

By Joe Collins
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Rome - It has been a successful year for the Towns County High School Lady Indians tennis team.

They had a winning season and earned a spot for the Area Tournament on April 22 at the Darlington School in Rome. Unfortunately, things didn't go their way and they left Rome to return to Hiwassee without the chance to advance to the State level.

They lost both matches on Monday losing to Trion early 3-2 and then to a solid Gordon Lee team in the secondary bracket.

"The girls played hard and never gave up and that is really all you can ask as a coach," said Head Coach Heather Moss on the teams Area effort. "I just want to say congratulations to the team on the good year we have had."

The Lady Indians drew the number three seed and had to play the number six draw which was Trion.

"We met some hard hitting and fundamentally sound girls when we faced Trion and we were able to win 2 of the 5 matches which was pretty decent given how good Trion's team was," said Moss.

Junior Eryn Cochran led things off for the tribe and got things going in the right direction by dominating her first match and winning 8-2 in the singles division. Senior Kayla Olin found herself in the match of her life as she battled a tough Trion player and lost 3-8 to bring the overall score even 1-1 in the singles division.

Senior Mackenzie Mirandi put the Indians back



into the lead after she won her first singles match over another good Trion star winning a very close match 9-7. This gave the Indians the overall lead 3-1 as the doubles division got underway.

Junior Allison Page and sophomore Carly Gilfilian got the doubles started playing a very hard match but coming up short losing 4-8 which brought the overall team score to a tie 2-2. The final match against Trion matched a solid team of junior Lesleigh Irvin and junior Courtney Marshall trying to win the overall match. They played the match to a tiebreaker but losing in the end 8-8 then 4-7. It was a long match that was evenly played with the Lady Indians holding their own but losing in the final tiebreaker. The 1-1 split in the doubles division gave Trion the overall win 3-2.

The Indians then went

into the second round of the tournament seeded fifth and drew another tough team in Gordon Lee. The second round was played a little differently than the first round in that they played two sets and a tiebreaker with the first team to win three matches the winner. The tribe lost all three of its first matches with the doubles being decided by tiebreaker giving Gordon Lee the advantage and the win 0-3.

Cochran played first in the second bracket and even though she played well it was just not to be as she lost 3-6/3-6 giving Gordon Lee the lead 1-0 overall. Olin was next to take the court and was again faced with a tough competitor from Gordon Lee. She held her own in the first game but lost 4-6 as she then hit a wall in the next game losing 0-6. This loss gave Gordon Lee the lead 2-0 as they moved into the

doubles division. Gilfilian and Page played a good match even though they lost the first game 1-6 they came back to tie the second game 6-6 then ended the season with a tiebreaker loss 7-9. It was a very difficult loss for the team as they had high hopes of moving on to the State level but just fell a little short.

"I am very proud of the girls because the hustled and never gave up and that is what makes them so easy to coach. Tennis can be a lifelong sport and I hope the seniors will continue to pursue the sport for sport and exercise as they enter the next chapter of their lives. It has been a pleasure to work with these young ladies," stated Moss.

"We will miss Kayla (Olin) and Amanda (Chastain) as they will graduate and leave TCHS."

Coach Moss and her helpers will be having a junior tennis clinic on May 13, 14 and 15. Rain date will be May 16. The clinic will be from 3-4:30 p.m. on the tennis courts at TCHS and will expose the kids from grades 5-8 to the fundamentals of tennis in the hope of luring some athletes into the tennis program when they come to high school.

"It will be fun and is a great way to learn the game. Hopefully some of the participants will continue on in tennis and help the team when they get to TCHS," said Moss.

Tennis is over for 2013 and the girl's made a statement in their successful play this season. The team is young and will return several of the girls to next year's team so they should have another chance of making it to State.

Congratulations TCHS Lady Indians Tennis team on a

Garrett has night to remember



Kyler Garrett is pictured center with his game winning baseball.

It was a very exciting night at the Towns County Recreation baseball field the night of April the 18th.

The Dodgers and the Mountaineers are the two twelve and under youth baseball teams who had a great battle. Each and every inning was a nail biter and the bats were ringing all night long.

Every boy was at the top of his game but, one in particular had a night to remember forever. Kyler Garrett, age eleven who is a sixth grader at Towns County Middle School and the son of Candice and Jason Garrett of Young Harris, had a game winning hit.

When he came up to the plate in the bottom of the seventh inning he was in a tight spot. His team, the Dodgers, were down 7-4 and the bases

were loaded with two outs. Kyler then proceeded to get a full count on him with one more pitch that would determine the outcome of the ball game.

As the pitch came down the pipe he smacked it with all his might, all the while shaking from his nerves. Kyler hit a grand slam homerun in center field and the Dodgers won the game with a final score of 8-7.

The entire team and coaches greeted him at the plate full of excitement and joy.

Some fans say that it was one of the greatest games they have ever seen.

Good luck to both teams for a wonderful season and congratulations to the game ball winner, Kyler Garrett. Job well done!

Fish for Food Fishing Tournament

Matthew 25 Food Ministries presents "Fish for Food Fishing Tournament". 60% of tournament money goes to feed needy families in our area. The remaining 40% will go to tournament prize money. Prize money will be awarded for 1st Place, 2nd Place and 3rd Place and biggest fish. Actual prize amount will depend on number of entries.

Entry fee is \$50 per boat, the tournaments begin in March and end in October,

occurring the second Saturday of each month rotating between Lake Chatuge, Woods Grove Boat Ramp and Lake Nottely, Deaver Road Boat Ramp, from 7 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Tournament schedule: May 11 - Chatuge; June 8 - Nottely; July 13 - Chatuge; August 10 - Nottely; September 14 - Chatuge; and October 12 - Nottely. For contact information call David Crisp at 706-897-5347.

NASCAR 2013

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

Happy Harvick wins at Richmond

Fresh tires allowed Kevin Harvick to win Saturday night's Cup race in a green-white-checked-flag finish at Richmond.

Harvick came to pit road for tires on Lap 396 of the 400-lap race, after Brian Vicker's slapped the Turn 3 wall to bring out the race's last caution. Harvick returned to the track in fourth position, but made short work of the other three drivers who did not pit.

He beat Clint Bowyer to the finish line by .343 seconds to win his first NASCAR Sprint Cup Series race of the season, his second at Richmond and the 20th of his career.

"When the tires cause you to fall off almost two seconds, you've got to come in and get tires," he said. "There's not very many guys that stayed out. It all worked out tonight. We've been on the other side of it this year, so to be in Victory Lane is great."

Bowyer led 113 laps but didn't have a car that could stay with Harvick at the end.

"We had a good car—we just didn't have a great car," Bowyer said. "It seemed like we were just too tight on the throttle. It wouldn't quite turn and come up off (the corner). It really got wild there at the end. I was just lucky enough to be on the bottom (for the final restart)."

Joey Logano, Juan Montoya, Jeff Burton, Carl Edwards, Matt Kenseth, Aric Almirola, Kurt Busch, and Dale Earnhardt Jr. were the remaining top-10.

Kurt Busch and Tony Stewart, repeatedly swapped shots with each other on the cool-down lap. Stewart was fifth on the final restart but dropped to 18th at the finish after Busch rubbed him out of the racing groove during a two-lap free-for-all that saw lots of contact throughout the field.

Jimmie Johnson had a lot of trouble and finished 12th, but the five-time champion gained ground on his closest pursuers. He now leads second-place Carl Edwards by 43 points and Kahne and Dale Earnhardt Jr. by 46. Reigning Cup champion Brad Keselowski finished 33rd on the bottom end of a roller-coaster day that saw him recover from a scrape with the turn 2 wall only to drop a cylinder in the late going.

Top-10 points leaders after 9 of 36: 1. Johnson-343, 2. Edwards-300, 3. Kahne-297, 4. Earnhardt-297,

5. Bowyer-290, 6. Keselowski-284, 7. Kyle Busch-278, 8. Biffle-272, 9. Harvick-271, 10. Menard-271.

KESELOWSKI TAKES NATIONWIDE RACE

Polesitter Brad Keselowski held off Kevin Harvick in a 12-lap run to the finish to win Friday night's Nationwide race at Richmond.

Keselowski passed Kyle Busch to the lead with nine laps left, with Harvick following into second place a lap later. Keselowski crossed the finish line .718 seconds ahead of Harvick with Busch rolling home in third.

"It's very gratifying," Keselowski said. "We've had a lot of seconds this year (two in the Nationwide Series), and we've been really close on the Cup side. We just haven't been able to get that win. We've struggled here at Richmond, too, both in the Cup and the Nationwide cars, so it's great to get that turned around and finally get to Victory Lane is great."

Brian Vickers, Regan Smith, Elliott Sadler, Sam Hornish, Kyle Larson, Travis Pastrana, and Reed Sorenson were the remaining top-10 finishers.

Top-10 points leaders after 7 of 33: 1. Hornish-259, 2. Smith-238, 3. Scott-236, 4. Allgaier-225, 5. Sadler-224, 6. Vickers-222, 7. A. Dillon-222, 8. Kligerman-219, 9. Bayne-213, 10. Larson-204.

THE NASCAR CIRCUS CONTINUES

When you're an 800 pound gorilla you can not only make your own rules, but you also have the power to levy any penalties you like.

That's what's been happening within the Cup series this year.

Knowing how NASCAR loves publicity, I often wonder if they create situations, knowing it will generate sensational emotions, just to gain added fan exposure.

It's like creating a mountain out of a molehill, to gain an expected result.

The latest incident occurred last week after Matt Kenseth won the Kansas Cup race. The engine in his No. 20 Toyota car failed inspection at NASCAR's Research and Development Center, because one of the engine connecting rods was 2.5 grams too light.

"I think the penalties are grossly unfair," said Kenseth. "I think its borderline shameful. There's no argument the



"Happy" Kevin Harvick, Richmond Cup winner. Furnished by NASCAR

part was wrong. They weighed it and it was wrong. However, there is an argument that there certainly was no performance advantage.

"If you can find any unbiased, reputable, knowledgeable engine-builder and if they saw the facts, what all the rods weighed. The average weight of all the rods was well above the minimum -- 2.5 (grams) above the minimum at least. There was one in there that was way heavy."

Crew chief Jason Ratcliff was fined \$200,000 and suspended from NASCAR until the completion of the next six Cup races and placed on probation until Dec. 31.

Car owner Joe Gibbs has lost 50 championship car owner points.

Driver Matt Kenseth has lost 50 championship driver points.

Since all Toyota engines are supplied by the Toyota factory, there was no blame on the part of Joe Gibbs Racing.

NASCAR VP of Competition Robin Pemberton discussed NASCAR's decisions on Friday:

"As everyone knows there are a few things that are understood in the garage area that are big. When you talk about engines, you talk about tires, and you talk about fuel. That's a common thread that's been understood, and it's stood the test of time for the last 65 years. Mess with those areas, and the penalties are severe. But when you look in the case of an engine, the only time we really get a chance to look internally at an engine is post-race. Some of our most severe penalties over time have surrounded engine infractions."

When asked why the team was penalized rather than the manufacturer, Pemberton replied: "That's tough too. Because when you look at, in their particular situation, we probably don't know all the details, but we do know they come from an outside vendor for the most part, and I don't know how you would go -- it's very difficult to go to an out-

side vendor and penalize them whether it's springs or shocks or parts that are bought and bolted on race cars. That's why in today's world we all know and relate to the fact that it stops at the crew chief and stops at the owner and stops at the organization that is here to compete."

Jeff Gordon said a couple weeks ago, "It's their sandbox, and if you want to race, you have to race their way."

The circus will continue. The monkeys will just shift their focus to another team.

Weekend Racing: The Cup and Nationwide teams are the longest track on the circuit, the 2.66-mile Talladega Superspeedway. The Trucks do not race again until May 17.

Sat., May 4, Nationwide Series race 8 of 33; Starting time: 3 pm ET; TV: ESPN.

Sun., May 5, Sprint Cup race 10 of 36; Starting time: 1 pm ET; TV: FOX.

Racing Trivia Question: Kasey Kahne's Cup career began in 2004. Which team did he start with?

Last Week's Question: How many Cup races has Joe Nemechek won? He has four; 2004 at Kansas, 2003 at Richmond, 2001 at Rockingham, 1999 at New Hampshire.

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

Baseball camps and missions yard sale at YHC

Online Registration is now open at: TheRockSports.com.

Two camp weeks will be June 3 and July 16. Three camps will be held each week.

These camps offer quality instruction for every level of player. For more details call: 706-897-2363.

Also, we are having a Missions Fund Raiser Yard Sale

to raise money for medications needed, travel, and supplies to purchase to make glasses for the 3rd world people of Peru.

The date is set for May 11, from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m., Rain or Shine. Location: McConnell Church, Main Street Hiwassee.

Donations accepted thru May 10th at McConnell Church.

YHC's Raccio resigns

YOUNG HARRIS - Young Harris College Director of Athletics Randy Dunn announced on Monday, April 22nd that Paul Raccio has resigned as head softball coach to pursue other professional and collegiate coaching, and

training opportunities.

Raccio led the Mountain Lions to a 27-27 record in 2013 - his first season as Young Harris College.

A national search will be conducted to find his replacement.



Paul Raccio

Golf tournament rescheduled

The Tri County Community College Golf Tournament slated to occur Saturday, April 27 at The Ridges in Hayesville, has been rescheduled for Saturday, June 15 for a 9 AM shotgun start at The Ridges.

The TCCC special events committee will attempt to call the registered players to inform them of the change.

Towns County 4-H BB gun teams do well at state



The competitors were: Cody Bowman, Destiny Waiters, Tyler Sisco, James Norton, Isaiah Wood, James Fagin, Haley Dale.

They say "all good things come to an end". This is appropriate for the Towns County 4-H BB gun teams who after only ten weeks of practice (a normal year is about nineteen practices) and a qualifying match last month; traveled to Rock Eagle 4-H Center in Eatonton to compete in the 2013 BB Gun State Championships.

Seven competitors, one 6-person team and one person shooting as an individual

left Hiwassee on Friday the 12th with Marlene and Reggie at the helm and spent that night in the cabins at Rock Eagle along with 587 other contestants. They were preceded to Rock Eagle by their coaches, Carol Rosenquist, A.T. Sorrells, Ruby Rhine-Smith, Diane Hamilton and Ed Jones, all of whom are members of the Chatuge Gun Club. Saturday morning they were met by a host of parents and family as they took to the

range to fire 40 shots for record; 10 shots each from the prone, standing, sitting and kneeling positions. It sounds easy but it takes all day. The teams fired scores a bit better than their daily scores and placed in the upper half of the total competitors.

Well, next year is coming and we will be looking forward to another enjoyable season.

Thanks, Ed Jones