

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Paideia breaks open scoreless tie with three second half goals

2016 season proves the sky's the limit for young Lady Indians soccer program

By Todd Forrest
Towns County Herald
sports@nganews.com

The Towns County Lady Indians season may have come to an end on Friday, but the program took a major step forward during 2016, and there is no doubt that 2017 will bring much higher expectations.

Following a scoreless tie at halftime, Paideia put up three goals in the second half for a 3-0 victory in the first round of the Class A State Tournament.

With only three seniors, Taylor Underwood, Ali Settles, and Samantha Quijada to go along with four juniors, Towns County's first year Head Coach John Cornett relied heavily upon on freshmen and sophomores this spring.

Next year, the Lady Indians will be a year older, team chemistry will be improved with the majority of the squad returning, they will have State Tournament experience, and last but not least, their confidence will be sky-high.

Towns proved this season that their young group could play-with, and beat anyone.

In just their second game of the season, they showed just how scary-good they are capable of being when they went on the road and defeated the defending State Champions, Hebron Christian Academy.

Hebron is currently coming off a 3-0 victory over Whitefield Academy in the first round of State.

Following an up-and-down next two weeks, the Lady Indians took another step forward when they handed Union County their most one-sided, regular season loss in more than four years during a 4-0 victory.

The Lady Panthers, despite playing in Class AA, compete in a much weaker region than Towns County, and it has showed over the last three seasons as Union (who has won back-to-back Region 8-AA Championships and reaching the Elite 8 has become commonplace) has failed to record a single win over the Lady Indians in the last four meetings between the rival schools.

Prior to shutting out Union, Towns County handed Class AAA's Fannin County a 2-0 shutout. Like the Lady Panthers, the Lady Rebels would win their first round State playoff game last week.

The Lady Indians opened the month of April with four straight wins beginning with routs of Highlands, NC and George Walton Academy before pulling off what was perhaps



their most impressive win of the season - a penalty kick victory over Lakeview Academy.

The Lady Lions would take the No. 1 seed in the State Tournament, receiving a bye into the second round.

In the regular season finale, Towns avenged an earlier loss to Providence Christian.

As for the future of Class A soccer, there appears to be no public/private split in the near future.

Had that system been in place this year, the Lady Indians would be in the hunt for a State Championship right now.

If Towns played in Class AA, they would more than likely be one of the top five teams in the State, public or private.

However, no sport has been dominated by private schools they way soccer has, and nobody has suffered more at the hands of private schools than the Lady Indians soccer program.

Although, in another year or two, Towns County might be in the hunt for a State Championship while placing a bull's eye squarely on the back of Class A's elite private schools.

With reclassification taking place this summer, the pecking order of Class A soccer might appear a bit different in 2017.

Wesleyan, Darlington and Holy Innocents are on their way down to Class A, along with Gordon Lee.

Wesleyan is the favorite to win the State Championship while Holy Innocents and Darlington were consistently among the top 10 teams in Class AA.

While the private schools continue to stack the deck in Class A, the Lady Indians could be the team that brings their house of cards tumbling to the ground by proving a public school, from the mountains of all places, can not only compete, but take down a metro-Atlanta private school.

Whatever the future holds for Towns County soccer, Class A, public and private, the Lady Indians now have the horses to make the soccer season one race you don't want to miss.

The *Towns County Herald* would like to congratulate Coach Cornett and the Lady Indians on an unforgettable season. It's been an incredible ride and we can't wait to follow these young ladies on their journey next spring.



NASCAR 2016

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

Keselowski is big winner at Talladega

TALLADEGA, Ala.--Brad Keselowski got his second Sprint Cup win of the season Sunday, before an estimated 183,000 cheering fans, that saw only seven undamaged cars cross the finish line.

The other 33 cars had either been knocked out of the race or were badly banged up.

The last of ten cautions came out on lap 183 of the 188-lap race. When racing resumed on lap 185, the leaders were Keselowski, Kurt Busch, Trevor Bayne, and Jamie McMurray. Kurt Busch briefly took over, but after receiving a push from Kyle Busch, Keselowski went back to the front. As the field came out of turn-4 and headed for the finish line on the last lap, Cole Whitt got into the rear of Kevin Harvick, and sent him flying into the outside wall.

NASCAR immediately put out the yellow flag and froze the field, while the leaders were still about 100 yards from the finish line.

"You've got to have a great car and some luck to win here," said Keselowski. "Today, we had both. I've got to thank Kyle. I really needed that push he gave me near the end."

Kyle Busch finished second.

"This was a rough day," said Busch. "We were involved in a couple skirmishes, so the way things worked out, we were lucky to finish where we did."

Austin Dillon finished third for his best-ever Cup finish.

"We knew we had a good car, and it handled real good," said Dillon. "But it seems like every time we started moving to the front, somebody would wreck. You have to credit the guys in the pit, because each time they patched it up and got me back on the track."

Jamie McMurray, Chase Elliott, Ty Dillon (Note: Tony Stewart will receive credit for the sixth-place finish, because he started the race in the car), Clint Bowyer, Kurt Busch, Ryan Blaney, and Trevor Bayne were the remaining top-10 finishers.

Dale Earnhardt Jr. was involved in two separate wrecks. The first came during lap 51 while he was switching lanes.

"The car was real tight," he said. "I think the air was kind of taken off my spoiler as I moved down the track, and it got loose."

The second incident came after Carl Edwards had a right front tire blow out and he ran Junior into the wall, ending his day, and relegating him to a 40th and



Brad Keselowski gets big win at Talladega

last place finish.

On lap 95, Jimmie Johnson, Austin Dillon, Chris Buescher, Joey Logano, Carl Edwards, Michael Annett, and David Gilliland brought out the race's fifth caution.

The race's big wreck came on lap 160, and 17 cars were involved. Drivers that were in it included, Paul Menard, Jimmie Johnson, Martin Truex Jr., Austin Dillon, Jamie McMurray, Kyle Larson, Denny Hamlin, Ryan Blaney, Bobby Labonte, Kurt Busch, Ricky Stenhouse Jr., Casey Mears, Greg Biffle, Regan Smith, Ryan Newman, Brian Scott, and A. J. Allmendinger.

Twenty laps later, someone sent Danica Patrick into a spin, and she wound up hitting Matt Kenseth, who went for a wild ride. His No. 20 Joe Gibbs Toyota, rolled three times and flipped once, but he walked away from it.

"I wish I could just run one of these things without getting taken out," said Patrick. "I really don't know what happened. Someone got into my rear quarter panel, and I lost control."

There were only fifteen cars running at the end of the race.

Top-10 Cup leaders after 10 of 36: 1. Harvick-351, 2. Kyle Busch-342, 3. Edwards-337, 4. Johnson-329, 5. Logano-316, 6. Kurt Busch-312, 7. Keselowski-300, 8. Earnhardt-279, 9. Truex-274, 10. Austin Dillon-272.

SADLER GETS FIRST WIN IN TWO YEARS.

Elliott Sadler won Saturday's Talladega Xfinity Series race the hard way.

He fought for it. Sadler had run near the front of the pack for most of the race, but only led a few feet near the end.

gano, the leader. Logano was able to hold off the other chargers, but Sadler was right on his rear bumper as the cars came out of turn-4 and headed for the finish line.

Sadler faked a move to the high side, and Logano tried to block. Sadler came back down, and Logano tried to do the same. But he lost control and ran into Sadler, then bounced into the outside wall, while Sadler was able to continue.

Immediately after Logano hit the wall, NASCAR put out the caution flag, freezing the field.

For a few minutes it looked like Brennan Poole would be the winner, but when the video tapes were reviewed, it showed Sadler being in front at the moment the caution occurred.

"People don't know how hard it is to win one of these race," said a jubilant Sadler. "The team gave me a great car and I was determined not to let them down."

"I had a plan for the end of the race. Joey tried to block me, but I knew I had to keep digging."

Justin Allgaier was second, followed by Brennan Poole, Jeremy Clements, Brendan Gaughan, Austin Dillon, Daniel Suarez, Matt Tifft, Chase Elliott, and Aric Almirola.

Top-10 leaders after 9 of 33: 1. Sadler-314, 2. Suarez-314, 3. T. Dillon-281, 4. Allgaier-280, 5. Gaughan-279, 6. B. Jones-273, 7. E. Jones-263, 8. Poole-251, 9. Wallace Jr.-229, 10. Reed-221.

LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON
Chase Elliott won his second NASCAR Sprint Cup Pole this past Sunday at Talladega.

His father Bill, won the same pole 30 years ago.

While Chase hasn't yet ascended to the racing heights that his father has, he's well on the way to making a name for himself at the sport's highest level.

This is his rookie season in the Sprint Cup Series, and he already has two poles, two top-5 finishes, and is 12th in driver points.

"This is definitely a special place," said Chase Elliott of Talladega. "This has always been a special place to him and it's certainly great to be here and have the opportunity."

Elliott also won the pole for the season-opening Daytona 500, but he crashed and finished 37th. He's back in the same car he drove at Daytona, and he credited his No. 24 team for giving him such a good car.

"Man, this is cool," he continued. "Those guys do such a good

job. And as I said in Daytona, this had nothing to do with me. This is the car that we had. This is the same car we had in Daytona. They brought another fast one here.

"Obviously I have a lot to learn," he said. "The race last time at Daytona didn't go so good. Hopefully for me, I'll just try to take what I learned and try to cut down those dumb mistakes that I made in the Daytona 500 this year and just try to be smarter."

"The first thing is making it to the end and obviously I didn't do a very good job of that in February. Our first goal is to try to get to the end of the race; and if we can get there, just try to be smart."

Elliott took over driving duties of the No. 24 Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet at the beginning of the 2016 season.

He won the 2014 Xfinity Series championship, becoming the first rookie to win a national series NASCAR title.

Last year, Elliott was named the NASCAR Xfinity Series Most Popular Driver for the second year in a row.

He was born November 28, 1995 in Dawsonville, Georgia.

Weekend Racing: The Sprint and truck teams travel to the 1.5-mile Kansas Speedway.

The Xfinity Series teams have an off week.

Fri., May 6; Truck Series race 4 of 23; Starting time: 8:30 pm ET; TV: Foxsports1.

Sat., May 7; Sprint Cup race 11 of 36; Starting time: 7:30 pm ET; TV: Foxsports1.

Racing Trivia Question: Who owns the Kansas Speedway?

Last Week's Question: Talladega opened in 1969. Who won the first Cup race? **Answer:** Richard Brickhouse. That was the year of the driver boycott. Not all the regular Cup teams participated.

You may contact the Racing Reporter by e-mail at: hodges@race500.com. NT(May4,C)JHC

VFW Golf League

The VFW Post 7807 golf league plays each Thursday at Chatuge Shores Golf Course. This week's event was won by Danny Barrett, Monita Rodgers, Randy Derrington and Barrett Brown. They scored 63 which is 9 strokes under par. Congratulations! TM(May4,G)JSH



Lady Indians soccer photos by Lowell Nicholson

Veterans Appreciation Fishing Rodeo

Veterans Appreciation Fishing Rodeo will be held on Friday, May 6, 2016, 9 a.m.-12 noon at the Chattahoochee Forest National Fish Hatchery, located in Fannin County on Rock Creek Road off GA Hwy. 60.

This free event is open to all United States Military Veterans and Active Duty Service. Please bring your own fishing gear and bait. This is a

rain or shine event. All Georgia Sport Fishing Regulations will apply. Free lunch will be served.

Come on out and enjoy an action-packed morning of fishing for beautiful Rainbow and Brook Trout stocked at the hatchery in Rock Creek especially for this event!

Please call the hatchery at 706-838-4723 for more information. NT(May4,Z)CA