

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Opening weekend a mixed bag for Youth Football

By Mason Mitcham
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Saturday was full of highs and lows for the young athletes in Towns County's Youth Football League.

Both the 10-year-old and 8-year-old teams were scheduled to play an away game against the Fannin County Rebels.

Unlike during the high school games, where tensions and emotions often run high, the atmosphere was relaxed and cheerful. Family and fans were glad to turn out even in the autumn heat to watch their youngsters play and learn.

The 8-year-olds took the field at 9 a.m. amidst fanfare and cheers. Each quarter in these Youth Football League games last for 8 minutes, but every minute was hard-fought.

Near the end of the first quarter, with 2:40 left on the clock, the Rebels ran in for a touchdown, putting them at a 6-0 advantage going into the second quarter.

Fannin's momentum continued against the Indians throughout the second half of the game, eventually putting the Rebels up 32-0. Though shouts of "Go Indians!" and whistles of encouragement echoed from the Towns County side of the bleachers, the game ended with a score of Fannin 32, Indians 0.

Despite the loss, Youth Director Jimmy Smith remained encouraged.



Towns County Youth Football League Photos by Mason Mitcham

"We're just going to get better," he said confidently. "We've got a lot of good looking kids out. It's going to get better for us. We are the only Class A school in our league. It makes a big difference. We're just going practice hard and get better."

He was also eager to point out some individual athletes who look promising, such as Braylen Raider and Jensen Goble, and quarterback Dawson Smith, all

returning players. However, they are in the minority; most of the 8-year-old group is new.

"We want to keep encouraging them to not quit," he said. "We want to let them know that they are very important to us and to the football league."

When the 10-year-old Pee Wees, took the field at noon, the experience gap between them and the 8-year-old group was clear. Right away, the more experienced

Indians started to dominate.

With 4:58 left to go in the first quarter, they scored a touchdown, and tried for the extra point, which they scored. Shortly afterward, they scored another touchdown in the first quarter, and another in the third. Fannin County was no match for these Indians. The game ended with a score of 20-0 in favor of Towns County.

The Termites, the 5 and 6-year-olds, lost to the Wildcats of Rabun County in Clayton on Saturday 41-6.

Smith was quick to attribute the 10-year-olds success to the group's cohesion.

"They've been playing together since they were 5 or 6 years old. We've just got a great team," he said.

The Pee Wees were one game away from the Youth League Super Bowl last year, and Smith is confident that they have a chance at it again this year.

"It's a solid team," he said. "Good offense, good defense."

While the glory goes to the young athletes who put in the time and hard work, Smith is also eager to give credit to his coaching staff.

"I'm proud of each and every one of them," he said, "for the hours they put in and the effort." Players and coaches should remain focused for their next opponent, the Gilmer County Bobcats, on Saturday at Frank McClure Stadium.

First game: 9 a.m.

Upward basketball and cheerleading



On-line registration is now open through October 14th for Upward Basketball and Cheerleading for boys and girls in grades Kindergarten through 6th Grade at www.hopb.org or at www.funccunioncounty.org.

The registration price to participate is \$60 and includes one jersey or cheerleading outfit among other miscellaneous items. Payment plans are available if needed.

Convenient once per week practices will begin the week of October 14, 2013, while games will be held on consecutive Saturdays between November 2nd through December 14, 2013, with the exception of the week of Thanksgiving.

Everyone is encouraged to attend one evaluation to be held on Tuesday, September 24th and Thursday, September 26th from 6 to 7:30 PM at the House of Prayer Family Life Center.

Form and registration fees may also be dropped off, Monday through Friday, at House of Prayer Family Life Center or First United Methodist Church's business office between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. For more information contact either church office at HOP (706) 745-5925 or FUMC (706) 745-2073.

UpwardSports partners with around 2,600 churches to provide first-class, organized and welcoming children's basketball, soccer, flag football and cheerleading leagues and camps.

By providing a fun sports experience based on healthy competition, Upward Sports Leagues help children develop skills for the sports arena and values for life.

Mountain Gymnastics registration

Fall Registration for Gymnastics, Preschool, and Tumbling Classes has begun.



Classes begun the week of Aug. 5th. Stop by the gym to sign up for a class.

See our schedule at www.mtngym.com or call (706)745-3325.

Trout stocking sites week of August 19-23, 2013

Fannin: Rock Creek; Union: Cooper Creek
Note: Information is subject to change. Please call the hatchery at 706-838-4723 for questions. The hatchery also provides trout for the state. Please contact Georgia DNR for information on sites stocked by the state.

Deadline near for deer quota hunts

If you want a chance to get in on a deer quota hunt, get online soon!

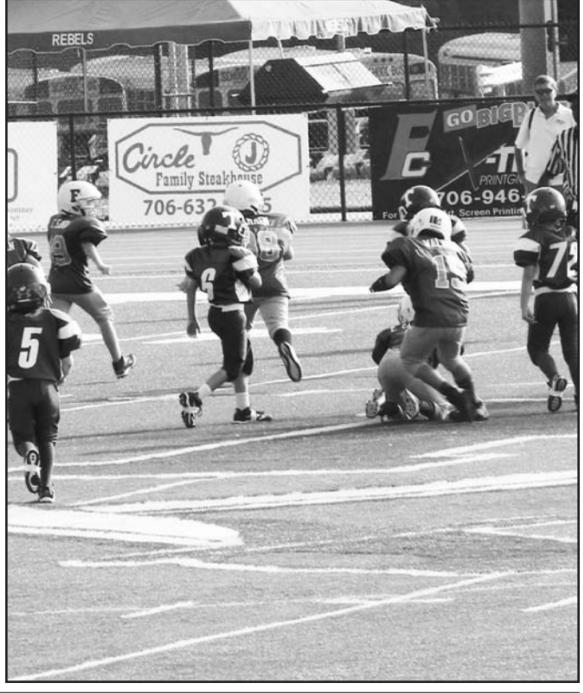
All interested hunters need to complete an online quota application that must be in before midnight September 1, according to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Division.

"Sportsmen and women drawn for a quota hunt can look forward to participating in excellent hunts," said John Bowers, chief of the Game Management Section. "Quota hunt locations and dates are specifically selected to provide one of the best hunting experiences you can have, and we are certain that this year is no exception."

Deer quota opportunities include hunts on wildlife management areas and state park lands, dog-deer hunting and adult/child hunting opportunities.

How to apply: Visit the website www.georgiawildlife.com/hunting/quota. Create a quota hunt account if you do not have one. Make sure that you enter your Social Security Number correctly when creating an account. This ensures the transfer of any priority points from previous seasons to the new account. Keep your email address current and correct to receive quota updates, application submission confirmations and notices about quota hunts.

For more information, visit www.georgiawildlife.com/hunting/quota.



NASCAR 2013

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

Kenseth gets fifth win at Bristol

Most drivers leave Bristol mad after a race. This past Saturday night's Sprint Cup race was no exception. About the only driver to express happiness was Matt Kenseth, the winner, who picked up his fifth victory of the season.

"Man, what a finish," said Kenseth. "Kasey did a great job of keeping the pressure on there at the end. I had to use up all the race track to stay ahead of him. I really had to fight to win this one."

Kasey Kahne had moved into second-place, behind Kenseth, on lap 486 of the 500-lap race. At times the pair was racing side-by-side, but Kahne could never make the pass. When he wasn't trying to get around Kenseth, he was right on his rear bumper.

"There's no one to blame but myself," said Kahne. "I had a really good car, the fastest one here. I just couldn't get it done and I feel bad about that. I raced him as hard as I could. I really blame myself for not figuring out a way to get around him."

A multi-car crash on lap 447 changed the playoff odds for numerous teams, after Brian Vickers got into Denny Hamlin. The accident collected eight cars and brought out a red flag because of all the debris. Also involved in the wreck were Brad Keselowski, Kevin Harvick, Ryan Newman, Casey Mears, Ken Schrader, and David Stremme.

The wreck ended the day for Martin Truex Jr., who entered the night 12th in points. He fell to 14th after collecting a 35th place finish.

"I'm very disappointed and frustrated," said Truex. "I don't know what happened, but we didn't deserve this. Everything just closed up, and I was in the wall, then I got hit a couple more times."

Kevin Harvick confronted Denny Hamlin in the pit area after the accident.

"I just wanted to get his take on it," said Harvick. "There ain't no fun in racing like we did tonight. I wish the old Bristol track was back."

Brad Keselowski also took damage in the pileup. He came into Bristol eighth in the standings but leaves 11th in points, though he was able to finish 30th.

Jimmie Johnson, the points leader had several problems. First, he had a bad tire, then he was involved in a bumping incident, and finally on lap 368, he ran into the spinning No. 83 driven by David Reutimann, and was finished for the night.

Despite having an engine let go in his No. 99 Roush Fenway Ford during lap 388, Carl Edwards was one of the few upbeat drivers.

"Man, it was a lot of fun," he said. "This was the best our Ford has run all year. It was really great to be able to race up front."

Kurt Busch started off leading the race, but a vibration problem forced him to make an unscheduled pit stop on lap 77. He took four fresh tires but the problem persisted and eventually, he had to bring his car behind the wall for his team to replace the damaged hub in the right rear



Matt Kenseth, winner of Bristol Cup race

wheel assembly.

When Busch returned to action, he was 27 laps down. He finished 31st.

His brother, Kyle, who won both the Bristol Truck and Nationwide race's was involved in several minor wrecks and wound up 11th.

Top-10 finishers: 1. Matt Kenseth, 2. Kasey Kahne, 3. Juan Montoya, 4. Brian Vickers, 5. Joey Logano, 6. Paul Menard, 7. Jeff Gordon, 8. Marcos Ambrose, 9. Greg Biffle, 10. Dale Earnhardt.

Here are the top-15 points leaders with two races remaining before the Chase begins. Only the top-12 drivers will make the Chase. 1. Johnson-821, 2. Bowyer-803, 3. Edwards-768, 4. Harvick-760, 5. Kyle Busch-739, 6. Kenseth-736, 7. Earnhardt-714, 8. Kahne-701, 9. Biffle-698, 10. Logano-685, 11. Keselowski-681, 12. Kurt Busch-679, 13. Gordon-674, 14. Truex-663, 15. Newman-659.

"ROWDY" KYLE GETS TWO AT BRISTOL
Kyle Busch led 228 of 250 laps on the way to victory in Saturday's Bristol Nationwide race.

shop, it comes from practice here," Busch said. (Crew chief) Adam (Stevens) and I - we work real well together. Those guys work hard. Today, it was just a great car and great job by these guys, putting together such a great car."

Brad Keselowski ran second, followed by Austin Dillon, Justin Allgaier and rookie Kyle Larson.

Busch was also the winner of Wednesday night's Truck race.

Top-10 Nationwide leaders after 23 of 33: 1. Hornish-801, 2. A. Dillon-795, 3. Sadler-790, 4. Smith-777, 5. Allgaier-762, 6. Vickers-641, 7. Scott-741, 8. Larson-735, 9. Bayne-734, 10. Kligerman-696.

MATT CRAFTON LEADS TRUCK SERIES

Top-10 Truck leaders after 13 of 22: Crafton-498, 2. Buescher-449, 3. Burton-445, 4. T. Dillon-440, 5. Peters-426, 6. Paludo-422, 7. Blaney-421, 8. Gaughan-418, 9. Sauter-409, 10. Coulter-399.

KURT BUSCH HAS ANOTHER OFFER

He reported last week that Stewart Haas Racing had extended Kurt Busch an offer to drive one of their cars in the Cup series next year. At the time, Busch's present team, Furniture Row Racing had not offered him a new contract for 2014.

But what a difference a week makes.

When Greg Zipadelli was asked how negotiations between Busch and SHR were going, he replied, "As far as Kurt's deal, that is moving forward. We spent some

VFW Golf League news

We had only 15 players this week. I guess the weather wasn't that appealing, however after a 20 minute delay the rain did hold off for the rest of the day.

The scores were pretty good again this week with at least 3 teams posting below par. The winning team posted a score of 67, 5 under. Team members

were Mel Halfon; Bill Long; Myron Grizio; and Daryl Boltz.

No eagles to report. Teams for our tournament next week have been drawn. Tee time is at 9 AM as usual. Hopefully we will have great weather for the event. Hope to see everyone there, and good luck to all.

time this week talking about buildings and expanding. As far as that part of it goes we are pretty much committed."

Busch's current team, FRR has offered him an extension. He said he is going to wait until after the Chase begins before making a final decision.

"The timing of making a decision is what it needs to be," Busch said. "There are timelines on things and things that have to fall into place. The timing of this is tough because it's the middle of August and it's the run towards the Chase. But it's a decision I have to put a lot of time and effort into."

"So, we'll see how things play out. Right now, the focus is these next two weeks and getting into the Chase. The cool part about everything is that after the next two weeks, I hope we're five points from the championship lead, because that will mean we are in."

Not only is Busch playing it cool, but smart as well. If he makes the Chase, then it means he could ask for a higher salary, or percentage of his future race winnings.

cup and Nationwide teams are at the 1.5-mile Atlanta Motor speedway, while the Trucks travel to Bowmanville, Ontario, for their inaugural race at the Canadian Tire Motorsports Park.

Sat., Aug. 31, Nationwide Series, race 24 of 33; Starting time: 7:30 pm ET; TV: ESPN2.

Sun., Sept. 1, Camping World Trucks, race 14 of 22; Starting time: 2 pm ET; TV: FoxSports1.

Sun., Sept. 1, Sprint Cup race 25 of 36; Starting time: 7:30 pm ET; TV: ESPN.

Please note that with the start of the NFL football season, there is the possibility some races will be transferred to other channels. This happened last week in certain television viewing areas on the East Coast.

Racing Trivia Question: What year did Jeff Gordon move to the Cup series?

Last Week's Question: What make car does Denny Hamlin drive in the Cup Series? **Answer:** Toyota.

You may e-mail the Racing Reporter at: hodges@race500.com.