

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

www.townscountyherald.net • E-mail: tcherald@windstream.net

Youth football hosts Murphy, NC

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Towns County's little guys had a tough day in youth football against the Murphy Bulldogs Saturday, with only the Pee Wee team capturing a win.

"We didn't do as well as I thought we were going to do," said Youth Football Director Jimmy Smith about Saturday.

Pee Wees increased their record to 5-1 for the season, bringing the Pee Wee Indians into a four-way tie for first place in the conference.

"There are four teams with that same record on the Pee Wees: us, Andrews, Cherokee and Robbinsville are all tied for first place," said Director Smith. "This is the first time it's ever been tied like this."

Coach Joey Floyd was particularly impressed with the Pee Wees defense Saturday, which looks ready for the Youth Football equivalent of the Super Bowl – the Cracker Bowl.

"Several kids came out pumped up and were all over the field," said Coach Floyd. "Jamson Dawson was everywhere – he had five solo tackles and caused a fumble in which Mason Mitchell recovered on a Bulldog drive."

Jacob Nicholson and Aiden Burrell each had several key tackles, and Grayson Youngblood had a huge tackle on a fourth down, which turned the ball back over to Towns County.

Cruz Kitchens ran Bulldogs down left and right, coming up with the game's only two touchdowns and 96 rushing yards.

Lane Haney forced a fumble, which was recovered by Cooper Floyd. Floyd had 98 yards on the day.

The offensive line featured great blocking behind Greyson Tallent and Jaykob Goodwin, which aided Kitchens in scoring.

"Murphy is a good team and played hard," said Head Coach Shane Haney. He looks forward to practice next week in preparation for a tough Cherokee team this coming Saturday.

Towns County Indian Termites lost a big battle 34-18, their record dropping to 3-3 on the year.

"Offensively, our line held strong," said Head Coach Joseph Goble. "Quarterback Connor Chastain led the offense like a pro, and Andrew Brinson and Brant Youngblood really stepped up their game this week



by keeping with their blocks on the line."

Brett Young was a star player in the last series of games against Swain County, and this week it was Jensen Goble's time to shine. This little Indian rushed 151 yards and was all over the field, front and back.

"The talent we have in the backfield is amazing," said Coach Goble. "When we get these boys utilizing their talents on the same day, it will be a game I would pay to watch over and over. Young had one of the best blocks I've seen all year, and Goble had a run that seemed to go on forever."

Defensively, the Termites are going to be working on tackling this week.

"We put so much effort into overcoming our blocking issues that we only practiced one time this past week on angle tackling," said Coach Goble.

Walker Underwood recovered a key fumble, and is an invaluable member of the Termite team.

Indian Mites and Midgets went scoreless Saturday.

"The Mites really surprised me – they lost 16-0," said Director Smith. "Everybody called me last night, like, 'What in the world happened to your Mites?'"

And the Indian Midgets suffered another big loss this week. Both teams will be practicing hard in preparation for the next series of games.

Allegations over altered birth certificates in the Copper Basin youth football program have been all over the local media in Tennessee, resulting in the Copper Basin program's expulsion from the Smokey Mountain Conference until next season.

Allegedly, there were 13-

and 14-year-olds playing in the 11- and 12-year-old division, and a couple of 8-year-olds playing against 5- and 6-year-olds, though every division had age discrepancies.

The games against Copper Basin will still be considered for team records, but will only be counted as scrimmage matches.

Vice President of the Smokey Mountain Conference and President of the Murphy league Jeff Stiles was in attendance at Frank McClure Stadium Saturday, and he believes in working toward what's best for the children.

"I just like being involved with the kids and making sure everything's organized right," said Vice President Stiles.

High School Fastpitch player Angel Moss returned again to show her support for the little ones, singing the national anthem for all four games. Preacher Shep Calhoun opened the day with prayer, as can always be counted on.

Director Smith would like to thank Chris and Lisa Gibson, who volunteer their time to keep the gates and organize concessions.

Wayne and Sherry Canterbury cooked all the delicious food during the games. Their son, Cody Canterbury, coaches the Termites.

"I'd like to thank everybody who volunteers and helps me," said Director Smith, whose wife, Robyn, is concessions director. "I couldn't do it without her."

Youth football is all about families and the community showing up and supporting the children, and Director Smith is proud of his own son, Dawson Smith, who plays for the Termite team.

The Youth Indians play at Cherokee this Saturday, starting at 11 a.m.



TCMS Lady Indians wrap up 2014

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Towns County Middle School Softball team suffered an unfortunate defeat to Oglethorpe for its final home game of the season Tuesday, Sept. 16, at Lowell Nicholson Field.

"You want to end on a win, but I think we did a good job," said Head Coach Jessica Berrong.

One important thing to remember is that the girls have improved in facing this team in particular.

The last time Towns County faced Oglethorpe, the girls lost 15-3 in only four innings. This time around, the margin was closer at 9-2 in a full game.

The majority of the Lady Indians are sixth-graders, and the Patriots boast seven eighth-graders on their roster, which is an obvious obstacle to overcome.

"I think we surprised some people," said Coach Berrong. "We've improved quite a bit."

Oglethorpe scored one run in the top of the first, and Lady Indian Lea Neumyer hit



an RBI single to center in the bottom of the first, bringing the score tied.

The Patriots were also able to score in the second, fourth and fifth innings, but the real trouble started in the sixth inning, when the Oglethorpe girls were able to bring in three runs, taking their lead to 7-1.

Neumyer scored the only other Lady Indian run in the bottom of the sixth, stealing home on a wild pitch, and the seventh inning saw two more

runs by Oglethorpe that Towns County couldn't account for.

The Lady Indians played a hard season, with solid pitching, hitting and defense, even when the girls couldn't come up with wins. This game was no different, and the team exemplified the grace and dignity that has carried them through this season.

"Everybody got to hit," said Coach Berrong. "Everybody got on the field."

NASCAR 2014

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

Logano takes New Hampshire

LOUDON, N.H.—The smart money is on one of the two Penske Racing teams to win this year's Chase. Last week at Chicagoland, Brad Keselowski, driver of the No. 2 Penske Ford won, and this past week, his teammate Joey Logano claimed the victory at New Hampshire.

"I thought we had given it away when the team called for four new tires near the end, but it sure worked out in our favor," said Logano. "If we keep this up, we might win this thing (the Chase)."

The race had 16 cautions, and ended in a green-white-checkered finish. The last five yellow flags came within the last 25 laps of the 303-lap race.

On a lap 269 restart, Logano was third. He and his teammate, Brad Keselowski, who was the leader, bumped each other, allowing Kevin Harvick to gain the front position.

On the next lap Matt Kenseth and Paul Menard got together, bringing out another caution.

On the next restart, Logano just sped by Harvick to take the lead for the first time in the race. There were three more caution periods, but each time Logano got off to a good start and retained the lead.

On the g-w-c restart, Kyle Larson passed Harvick to finish second.

"I really didn't think we could get by the 4-car, but he slipped a little and it opened a way to get around him," said Larson. "I'm glad we only had a couple laps to go, because I believe he had a faster car on the long runs."

Harvick finished third, followed by Jamie McMurray, Jimmie Johnson, and Aric Almirola.

Polesitter, Keselowski, who finished 7th might have had the car to win, but in addition to getting jostled out of the way on the last two restarts, he had to battle back after bumping the wall on lap 190, and then about 20 laps later, a tire went flat.

Kyle Busch was caught up in two separate accidents and wound up 8th, but he moved up from 7th to 5th in points.

Dale Earnhardt Jr. was 9th, while Brian Vickers was 10th. Jeff Gordon was running 5th late in the race when a right front tire blew, forcing him into the wall. His 26th place finish dropped him to 7th in Chase points.

Denny Hamlin led several laps in the early part of the race, but he had two unrelated problems that relegated him to the 37th spot. During a pit stop on lap 80, the gas filler hose on his car came loose. His team made repairs, but he went four laps down. During lap 120 he hit the wall after being involved in a four-car accident, and was unable to finish. He dropped from 8th to 11th.

Top-10 Chase leaders after 2 of 10: 1. Keselowski-2097, 2. Logano-2096, 3. Harvick-2090, 4. Johnson-2080, 5. Kyle Busch-2077, 6. Earnhardt-2077, 7. Gordon-2070, 8. Kenseth-2057, 9. Edwards-2056, 10. Allmendinger-2056.

GAUGHAN WINS AT KENTUCKY

Brendan Gaughan won his second Nationwide Series race of the season. He went from fourth to first after a bold move on the last restart of the 200-lap race, and held off Brian Scott, Ty Dillon, Chase Elliott, and Regan Smith.

Ty Dillon dominated the race, leading 155 laps on the way to his third-place finish. The driver of the No. 3 Bass Pro Shops Chevrolet was able to gain some ground on points leader Chase Elliott. He trails Elliott by 38 points with six races remaining.

Cole Conley finished sixth, followed by Chris Buescher, Michael McDowell, Justin Boston, and Ross Chastain.

Top-10 leaders after 27 of 33: 1. Elliott-992, 2. Smith-972, 3. T. Dillon-954, 4. Scott-937, 5. Sadler-93, 6. Bayne-900, 7. C. Buescher-817, 8. Gaughan-798, 9. Reed-739, 10. J. Buescher-727.

16-YEAR-OLD WINS TRUCK RACE

Cole Custer, who had only driven in six previous races won Saturday's Truck Series race at New Hampshire. At 16 years, seven months and 28 days, he is the youngest race winner in NASCAR national series history.

Custer started from the pole with a record qualifying lap of 28.877 seconds at 131.897 mph. He then led three times for a race-high 148 laps in the 175-lap race around the 1.058-mile oval.

"What a great feeling and great win," said Custer. "This is just our seventh race together as a team. We've been pretty good every time we've gone out and qualified well, but we just had a great truck this weekend. We were able to take the lead, which was a big deal because clean air was so important, and after that we were just able to pull away."

Custer's previous best Truck Series finish was sixth in June at Gateway Motorsports Park in Madison, Illinois. He has two more Truck Series races remaining as part of his nine-race Truck Series schedule in 2014.

Darrell Wallace Jr., Matt Crafton, Johnny Sauter, John Nemechek, Cameron Hayley, Erik Jones, Tyler Reddick, Joey Coulter, and Ryan Blaney rounded out the top-10 finishers.

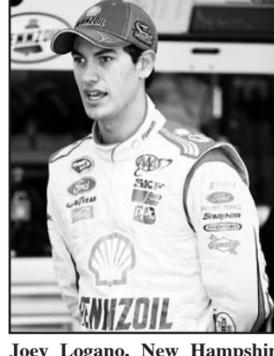
Top-10 leaders after 16 of 22: 1. Crafton-602, 2. Sauter-595, 3. Blaney-578, 4. Wallace Jr.-567, 5. Quiroga-530, 6. Coulter-527, 7. Kennedy-509, 8. Peters-508, 9. Burton-491, 10. Hornaday-460.

COULD HORNISH DRIVE THE NO. 9 CAR

When Marcos Ambrose announced he would not be back as driver of Richard Petty Motorsports' No. 9 car in the Cup Series, there has been lots of speculation about which drivers might be considered.

One of those is Sam Hornish, who has not driven in the Cup series since 2012. This past year he has driven selected Nationwide Series races for Joe Gibbs Racing.

Hornish has said his next ride would have to be the right situation. He insists that he still has "a lot going on" between testing, public



Joey Logano, New Hampshire Cup winner

appearances and TV commentary on the IndyCar series.

"I can't tell you exactly what I want right now," said Hornish in an Associated Press article. "The perfect thing is not available. I'd like to be full time next year; I want to put myself in a good place with good opportunities, good people around it. That was one of the great things about being able to come to Joe Gibbs Racing, just to see how things are run a little bit differently."

"For me, while a lot of people might have taken things harder, I just enjoyed the fact of getting a little bit of a new outlook on life and what's going on around me."

Weekend Racing: The trucks are at Las Vegas, while the Cup and Nationwide teams will be racing at Dover's Monster Mile.

Sat., Sept. 27; Nationwide Series race 28 of 33; Starting time: 3:30 pm ET; TV: ESPN2.

Sat., Sept. 27; Truck Series race 17 of 22; Starting time: 10 pm ET; TV: FoxSports1.

Sun., Sept. 28; Sprint Cup race 29 of 36; Starting time: 1 pm ET; TV: ESPN.

Racing Trivia Question: Who has the most Cup wins at Dover?

Last Week's Question: Who has won the most Sprint Cup races this season? **Answer:** Brad Keselowski with five wins. His winnings through the Chicago race totaled \$6,052,275.

You may contact the Racing Reporter at: www.hodges@race500.com. NT(Sep24,C1)ac

Golf news from The Ridges

A feeling of autumn was in the air as sixteen golfers teed it up for the Friday Night Scramble. The teams were very evenly matched as was evident by the final scores. Three teams finished at 2 under par for the nine holes. The winning team of Nick Fisk, Don Baillos, Randy Wachacha, and Karen Watson claimed low gross honors with a 3 under 33. The first place net honors came down to hundredths of a point. The team of Larry Wainwright, Tony Chiofolo, Mike Stevenson, and Carolyn Story won by 0.05 of a point. The closest to the pin winners were Mark Thompson for the men and Judy Wainwright for the ladies. Congratulations to all of the winners.

After play, the participants enjoyed pot luck. There were rave reviews on the dishes that were supplied by the golfers or their spouses. Celeste's Tavern on the Greens was also a big hit. The scrambles are open to anyone. You do not have to be a member to participate. The next scramble will be Friday, Sept. 26. It will be a shotgun start at 4. There will be a potluck dinner following the games. To participate, call the golf shop at 828-389-9000, ext. 2. Be sure to let us know what you will be bringing for the dinner. Make plans now to attend. We look forward to seeing you at The Ridges.

Youth basketball registration

The Towns County Recreation Department will be having youth basketball registration during the week of Monday the 6th of October 2014 and will run through Saturday the 25th of October 2014. You may register your child at the New Towns County Recreation & Conference Center. Our hours of operation are Monday thru Friday from 9 a.m. til 8 p.m. and Saturday

from 9 a.m. til 4 p.m. Fee for the program will be \$45.

Age divisions will be 6 & Under Coed (5 & 6 year olds), 8 & Under (7 & 8 year olds), 10 & Under divisions (8, 9, & 10 year olds), 12 & Under divisions (11 & 12 year olds). This is for both male and female.

For more information please contact Towns County Recreation Department at (706)-896-2600. T(Sep24,F4)SH