

# Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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## NASCAR 2012

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

### Keselowski wins at Dover

Brad Keselowski was able to get better fuel mileage than Kyle Busch, Denny Hamlin, or Jimmie Johnson, as he won Sunday's Dover Sprint Cup race, for his fifth win of the season.

He took the lead on lap 387 of the 400-lap race after the leaders Kyle Busch and Denny Hamlin pitted for a gas-and-go. Rather than pit for a splash of fuel, Jimmie Johnson's team elected to have him slow down and conserve fuel.

With the win, Keselowski took over the championship points lead.

"This team has done a phenomenal job," said Keselowski. "This was our weakest track, so it's going to be an awesome season for us."

A hard charging Jeff Gordon finished second.

"Well, I knew we had enough fuel, but we didn't have enough laps to catch Brad," said Gordon. "The car was good all day, but we just couldn't get to the front when we needed to."

Mark Martin finished third.

The fourth-place finisher was Jimmie Johnson. He was leading late in the race, but received the news that he would not have enough fuel to finish the race if he continued to run wide open.

"Man, when they told me to go in fuel-saver mode, I knew we were in trouble," said Johnson. "It was really hard to slow down, because we had a fast car and could have controlled the outcome of the race."

Carl Edwards finished fifth, followed by Martin Truex, Kyle Busch, Denny Hamlin, Clint Bowyer, and Joey Logano.

Dale Earnhardt Jr. was 11th.

Danica Patrick finished 28th, seven laps down.

Chase leaders with 7 races left in the 2012 season: 1. Keselowski-2142, 2. Johnson-2137, 3. Hamlin-2126, 4. Bowyer-2117, 5. Stewart-2110, 6. Kahne-2110, 7. Earnhardt-2103, 8. Truex-2100, 9. Harvick-2096, 10. Gordon-2094, 11. Biffle-2091, 12. Kenseth-2070.

You can almost bet that one of the top-4 points leaders; Keselowski, Johnson, Hamlin, or Bowyer will win this year's Chase. Bowyer is in fourth-place, 25 points back. Tony Stewart and Kasey Kahne are fifth and sixth, 32 points out. I think it is going to be hard for any driver to make up over 25 points.

I'm betting its Johnson, Hamlin, or Keselowski.

### LOGANO DOMINATES NATIONWIDE RACE

Joey Logano dominated Saturday's Dover Nationwide race from start to finish in winning his seventh series race of the season.

Logano, who led 184 of 200 laps, crossed the finish line .876 seconds ahead of runner-up Paul Menard. Michael An-

nett ran third, tying his career best in the Nationwide Series, and fourth-place Elliott Sadler increased his series lead to nine points over defending champion Ricky Stenhouse Jr., who finished ninth. Kyle Busch completed the top five.

Top-10 leaders after 28 of 33: 1. Sadler-1054, 2. Stenhouse-1045, 3. A. Dillon-1029, 4. Hornish-994, 5. Allgaier-926, 6. Annett-916, 7. Whitt-843, 8. Bliss-781, 9. Scott-703, 10. Nemechek-678.

### PIQUET TAKES VEGAS TRUCK RACE

Nelson Piquet Jr. converted a last-ditch, last-lap pass for the lead Saturday night at Las Vegas Motor Speedway, to win his second Truck Series victory of the season.

Piquet dove low to the inside of Matt Crafton in the first turn and made the winning move stick on the backstretch of the 1.5-mile track. Crafton, whose winless streak stretched to 30 races, finished .223 seconds behind the Brazilian at the checkered flag.

"I have no idea what happened," Piquet said. "I had to give it a last try, I stuck it in there and God gave me a little bit more grip on the inside and we made it. It feels great. We really needed this win -- probably the best win of my career. For sure, top five moments of my career."

Top-10 leaders after 17 of 22: 1. T. Dillon-637, 2. Buescher-636, 3. Peters-613, 4. Coulter-599, 5. Kligerman-598, 6. Crafton-596, 7. Lofton-572, 8. Piquet-571, 9. Paludo-514, 10. White-503.

### A LEGEND IS GONE

The Dean of American Motorsports Journalism has died.

Chris Economaki, who began selling single copies of National Speed Sport News at age 14 and eventually became the publication's editor, died last week at age 91. His column was the most read feature in the newspaper for six decades.

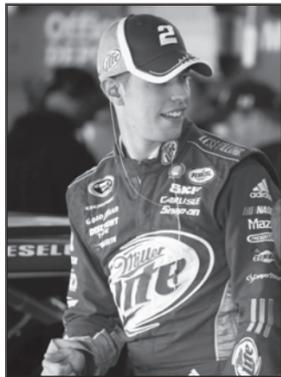
He worked with ABC's Wide World of Sports, he was with CBS and ESPN, and it can be said he was one of the catalysts in bringing racing to television. It is not an oversimplification to say he knew racing and knew how to speak about it.

Through the years Economaki has received countless awards including the NASCAR Award of Excellence, and been elected to numerous Halls of Fame.

### KURT BUSCH IS MOVING ON

Kurt Busch will leave Phoenix Racing's No. 51 after Sunday's Talladega race and move to the No. 78 Furniture Row Chevrolet, replacing Regan Smith.

"We want to come out of the chute next year ready and raring to go," said Busch, the 2004 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series champion. "Driving the Furniture Row Chevrolet in the final six races of this season



Brad Keselowski, Dover Cup winner

will obviously give us a big advantage in our preparations for 2013. The energy level is quite high and I can't wait to get out to Colorado to meet all the guys and begin this exciting new journey."

In an interview on Speed, Smith said he knew about two weeks ago that he would be out of the No. 78 for 2013, although he did not know what the team's plans were. Since that time he has been talking to several owners, but is just starting to decide what to do next. He said his priority is to be in good equipment next year, either Sprint Cup or Nationwide, and that the Nationwide Series might be a good option for him at this point in his career.

So who will fill the Phoenix Racing seat currently occupied by Busch? Since James Finch has operated for most of 2012 without sponsorship, he's looking at candidates "who have the potential" to bring financial support to the team for the final six races and possibly next year.

Finch said he isn't limited to considering just Sprint Cup candidates, but has also been approached by Nationwide Series drivers James Buescher and Justin Allgaier.

Another candidate is AJ Allmendinger, who has been sidelined since July 7, when he was suspended by NASCAR for testing positive for amphetamine, and has since been reinstated.

Weekend Racing: It will be an off weekend for the Nationwide Series, while the Cup and Truck teams are at the 2.66-mile Talladega Superspeedway.

Sat., Oct. 6, Camping World Truck Series Coca-Cola 250, race 18 of 22; Starting time: 3:30 pm ET; TV: SPEED.

Sun, Oct. 7, Sprint Cup Good Sam Club 500, race 30 of 36; Starting time: 1 pm ET; TV: ESPN.

**Racing Trivia Question:** Bill Elliott has pretty much retired from NASCAR racing. How many Cup championships did he win in his career?

**Last Week's Question:** How many racing flags are used by NASCAR officials? **Answer:** There are seven; Green, Yellow, Red, Blue with diagonal yellow stripe, Black, White, and Checkered.

You may contact the Racing Reporter at hodges@race500.com. NT10c3.C4ac

## Walk to End Alzheimer's is Saturday, October 6th



A Walk to End Alzheimer's is the nation's premier fundraiser to help those battling Alzheimer's disease. Since 1989, A Walk to End Alzheimer's has raised more than \$270 million for programs and services for individuals with Alzheimer's and other dementia's, their families and caregivers. "More people every year are telling us about their family members who has Alzheimer's", said chair Sharon Penner, "and this is not just people in their 80's. Early onset Alzheimer's has afflicted persona as young as 35 years - and now we are hearing that children have a form of Alzheimer's. Most people have a grandparent, parent, spouse, aunt or uncle who has Alzheimer's and they know the heartache of watching their loved ones physical body remains while their mind goes to some other place".

Through the nation, in October, people will be walking to raise awareness and money to defeat Alzheimer's. That is what the Walk to End Alzheimer's is all about. Ev-

ery 68 seconds another person in the United States is diagnosed. Alzheimer's is the sixth leading cause of death. No one is immune and the only hope is to find a cure. Alzheimer's disease leaves NO Survivors. The goal for the Georgia Mountain Walk to End Alzheimer's which includes Gilmer, Pickens, Fannin, Union, Towns, Lumpkin, Dawson, Habersham, Rabun, Stephens and White Counties is \$ 25,000. Anyone interested in raising dollars and voices to support those living with Alzheimer's, please call Sharon Penner (770) 789-2044 penner.sharon@yahoo.com or the Alzheimer's Association (800) 272-3900, www.alz.org/ walk for more information.

The Georgia Mountain Walk to End Alzheimer's is Saturday, October 6th, 2012 at the Fannin County Senior Center, 440 W First Street, Blue Ridge. Registration begins at 9 am and the Walk begins at 10:30 am. The Walk is free to attend, if you raise \$200 you will receive a event shirt. We will have food, music, door prizes, a silent auction, raffles and much more. Please join us for a fun Saturday morning as we put forth a giant step to find a cure for this devastating disease. NT10c3.C1ac

## Coopers Creek Sportsmen for Kids

Coopers Creek Sportsmen for Kids would like to invite folks to bring a child and come out to the Coopers Creek WMA for the Adult Child Hunt on October 5th and 6th. On October 6th lunch will be served for all hunters at the Georgia DNR Check-in Station. Every child that registers for lunch will receive a door prize.

There will be special guest appearances by members of the Mossy Oak ProStaff, area Georgia DNR and Forestry officials. Also come and meet native American Running Fox and his wife and view their amazing display and artifacts. Georgia DNR will also be presenting a 3D archery and air rifle shoot. Hope to see you there. NT0c3.Z10jCA

## Recreation Dept Info

**Attention Fitness Room Participants:**Listed are the operating hours and new participant orientation hours. Anyone using the equipment must go thru an orientation. The weekly schedule is as follows: Orientation Instructor is Gary Noe  
**Hours of orientation:**  
Mondays: 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.  
Tuesdays: 3:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
Thursdays: 3:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
Hours of Operation:  
Monday thru Friday 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Thank you for your patience and cooperation. Please enjoy. Towns County Recreation Department.  
**Come Exercise With Us:**  
The Recreation Department wants to remind everyone that we are offering the following exercise classes each week at

the Towns County Recreation Center.  
**YOGA CLASSES** - We have 2 separate class times instructed by Pat Tomczyk.  
**EVENING CLASS** - Each Monday from 4 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.  
**MORNING CLASS** - Each Thursday from 9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. (\$10 per Class or \$30 per calendar month.)  
**MORNING AEROBICS CLASSES** - Each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings from 9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. Our instructor is Donna McAuliffe.  
**Tai Chi** - Each Thursday morning from 10:45 a.m. - noon. Our instructor is Pat Tomczyk. \$10 per Class or \$30 per calendar month.  
For these programs and any other information we can help you with, just call the Recreation Department at (706)-896-2600.

## Preparations underway for the Run Above The Clouds



The 13th edition of the new Run Above The Clouds will be run at 9 AM in Suches on Saturday, October 6th in conjunction with the Indian Summer Festival. Both events support programs and students at the Woody Gap School, the smallest public school in the state.

The 10K run is over a challenging but beautiful course through the north Georgia mountains. An accompanying 1 mile fun run, which is over a basically flat course is also available and starts at 9:10 AM.

The Run Above the Clouds is believed to be the

highest race in the state with elevations at 2900 feet above sea level. This race, unlike the Peachtree Road Race, does not draw tens of thousands of runners with other tens of thousands of spectators and attendant media presence. There are a few dozen runners and save for runners families, few spectators unless you want to count the bear that was reported to have been a somewhat bemused observer a couple of years ago as the runners passed through a wooded area of the course.

Runners in both races will receive a high quality t-shirt and awards are given in the 10k race; two deep, male and female in 6 age categories. Further information about the race (including a printable application) is available at the Suches community website: www.suches.com. Early registration is encouraged but there is no penalty for race day registration. NT0c3.Z7jCA

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