

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Cross Country completes back-to-back at Meeks Park

By Mason Mitcham
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Blairsville - Six cross-country teams raced at Meeks Park in Union County on Thursday: Fannin, Towns, Lumpkin, Union, Gilmer, and Murray Counties.

Towns County coach Jeanie Ledford makes it a point to race her team against tough competition so as to prepare them for the area and state championships.

Her girls' team finished fourth, with 114 points, and her boys finished sixth with 246 points.

Senior Ansley Vardeman finished third overall in the girls' race. Her sister, Taylor, finished 25th. Freshman and newcomer Kenzi Jenkins finished 27th, Alana Calhoun took 29th, and Ally Settles took 30th.

"Kenzi Jenkins is showing consistency," Ledford said. "That's going to change the whole outcome of what goes down in post season."

Tyler Grimsley, the no. 1 runner for the boys' team, came in 30th. Marshall Ledford came in 49th, Thomas Mitchell finished 50th, Cesar Bustamonte, Towns's no. 2 runner, got 58th, and Austin



Towns competed at Meeks Park last Thursday after a meet in Hayesville on Wednesday. Photos by Lowell Nicholson and Todd Forrest

Mitchell came in 59th. The cross-country team ran two meets back-to-back. They raced at the Carney Classic at the Chatuge Dam on Wednesday. "I knew how hard it would be," Ledford said. And I wanted to see how they would respond." Her answer? "They had fire," she said. "They had that look in their eyes. So the change is beginning to happen. Finally, these freshmen are coming around."

Ledford credits her senior leadership for growing the team. "The leadership from Ansley Vardeman and from Chase Davenport. Chase, last year was his first year running. Even though he's not a senior, he makes such a difference on the boys' and the girls' side."

Usually, Ledford's girls finish higher, team-wise, than her boys. At the Carney Classic, however the boys finished ahead of them, which may have affected her runners' performance at the Meeks Park race. "It gave them a spark," she said cheerfully. "There's more competition within the family here."

Ledford's team will race at Tallulah Falls next week. "We're excited to get to see people who are in our area there, too. So we'll see how next week goes." Their Area meet will be held on Halloween. "We already know who's



Towns competed at Meeks Park last Thursday after a meet in Hayesville on Wednesday. Photos by Lowell Nicholson and Todd Forrest

in it," Ledford said. "The boys have seven teams. The girls have six." She held up four fingers to make her point. "And you've got to be top four."

Interested in hiking?

Looking for a place to start? Mountain High Hikers, Inc. is offering monthly hikes for the beginner hiker.

Led by experienced hikers these hikes are easy but interesting. The trails we hike are in the mountains of North Georgia, North Carolina and Tennessee. There is no charge for these hikes.

The next scheduled hike is Brush Creek Trail in Ocoee, TN on Thursday, October 24, 2013. The hike leader is Hank Baudette and he will meet hikers at the Piggly Wiggly in Ducktown, TN at 9:30 a.m. Hank's telephone number is: 706-492-4318.

You can also visit us at our Website for future events: www.mountainhighhikers.org/

NASCAR 2013

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

Keselowski breaks winless streak at Charlotte

Brad Keselowski won Saturday night's Sprint Cup race at Charlotte, in what started off to be a comedy of errors for his team.

During a pit stop under caution on Lap 87, Keselowski left his stall too early with the jack stuck under his car. It remained there for the entire 1.5 miles around the track. He was able to return to his pits, and the team removed it.

"That was a big mistake on my part," said Keselowski. "We had a lot of struggles tonight. We didn't qualify well (23rd), but we kept working our way forward. I knew we had a good car. I'm not sure we were as good as the 48 (Johnson) or the 5 (Kahne)."

"I never got to really race them until the end, so I think we were probably pretty even. When they made the call to take four tires, and I saw we were close to the front, I knew we could get them."

The Hendrick Racing teams of Jimmie Johnson and Kasey dominated the race, but took only two tires on the last pit stop, which proved to be a mistake. Kasey Kahne led 138 laps of the 334-lap race, while five-time champion Jimmie Johnson led 130.

Johnson was leading the race, with Kahne running second when a caution came out on lap 309. On the restart, it was Kahne, Jeff Gordon, Jimmie Johnson and Brad Keselowski.

Johnson seemed to have the dominant car, but got off to a poor restart and was shuffled back to the eighth position. Kahne pulled out front, but Keselowski was able to catch him on lap 321, and two laps later, made the pass for the lead.

Keselowski became the first non-Chase driver to win a Chase race since Jamie McMurray in 2010.

"I actually had a good car all night," said Kahne. "We raced hard and came close. I rubbed the wall a little with a couple laps to go, and I knew that was the best I could do."

Matt Kenseth's third-place finish kept him ahead of Johnson in Chase points. "Based on where we qualified, I'd say we did a pretty good job," said Kenseth. "The car was real good there at the end, but we just couldn't get it to the front."

Johnson had to settle for fourth. "On that last restart I pushed the 5-Car (Kasey Kahne), and I stayed a little too close to him," said Johnson. "A couple of guys got in front of me and I got shuffled back."

Kyle Busch, Kevin Harvick, Jeff Gordon, Ryan Newman, Denny Hamlin, and Carl Edwards were the remaining top-10 finishers.

Kurt Busch never had the speed and finished 14th. Kyle Larson, the young rookie made his first Cup start. During the early and middle stages of the race he ran as high as 12th, but his car faded near the end, and he finished 37th.

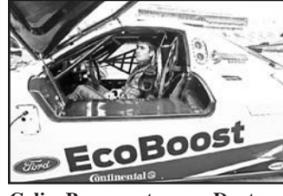
Top-13 Chase leaders with 5 races remaining: 1. Kenseth-2225, 2. Johnson-2221, 3. Harvick-2196, 4. Gordon-2189, 5. Harvick-2188, 6. Biffle-2167, 7. Kurt Busch-2166, 8. Bowyer-2162, 9. Earnhardt-2159, 10. Edwards-2158, 11. Logano-2150, 12. Newman-2147, 13. Kahne-2144.

"ROWDY" KYLE HOLDS ON FOR NATIONWIDE WIN

"Rowdy" Kyle Busch started on the pole in route to winning Friday's Nationwide race at Charlotte.



Brad Keselowski wins at Charlotte



Colin Braun sets new Daytona speed record

Colin Braun set a new Daytona speed record of 222.971 mph in his No. 14 Ford EcoBoost race car. The record was set during a special record run session last Wednesday.

What Braun experienced was his car being lifted up by the aerodynamics of the wind created at that speed. By 1988, NASCAR discovered that at speeds over 200 miles per hour, wind was able to get under the cars and lift the front end up, causing the entire car to become airborne.

To remedy this NASCAR instituted the use of spacers or "restrictors" under the carburetor so the engine would not produce as much horsepower. This came to be known as "restrictor-plate" racing, and continues to be used at Daytona and Talladega. With these engine restrictors in place, car speeds are kept below 200 mph, and keeps them from becoming airborne.

Weekend Racing: The trucks and Cup teams are at the 2.66-mile Talladega Superspeedway. The Nationwide teams do not race until Nov. 2.

Sat., Oct. 19, Truck Series race 18 of 22; Starting time: 4 pm ET; TV: Fox-sport1.

Sun., Oct. 20, Sprint Cup race 32 of 36; Starting time: 2 pm ET; TV: ESPN.

Racing Trivia Question: When is Tony Stewart scheduled to return to Cup racing?

Last Week's Question: How many Hendrick Racing drivers are in this year's Chase? **Answer:** All four; Jimmie Johnson, Jeff Gordon, Dale Earnhardt Jr., and Kasey Kahne.

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

Saddle Club members compete at state championship

Ten members of the Union County Saddle Club competed in the 2013 NBHA Georgia State Championship on October 3-6.

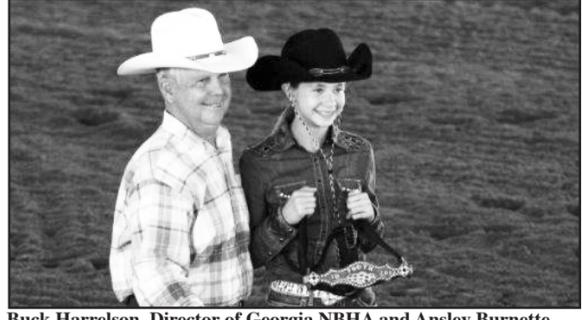
The four-day National Barrel Horse Association event took place at the Georgia International Horse Park in Conyers. More than 500 barrel racers from around Georgia vied for over \$20,000 in cash as well as prizes including saddles, buckles, and tack.

Representing Union County were Ansley Burnette, Hannah Carpenter, Larry Chambers, Vanna Chambers, Sarah Howard, Lexie Jacobs, Morgan Larkin, Alyssa McFarland, Ashley McClure, and Telaka Thomas. All of these riders qualified for the competition by competing in at least three district NBHA events throughout the year.

In the first two go-rounds of competition, Larry Chambers won sixth place in the Senior 3D; Vanna Chambers won first and third place in the Youth 4D; Sarah Howard won eighth place in the Youth 4D; Ashley McClure won sixth place in the Open 1D; and Alyssa McFarland won seventh place in the Youth 3D. These riders all received cash payouts and qualified for the finals on Sunday. In the final round, Ansley Burnette placed third in the Youth 3D; she received a cash payout and an awesome bronze halter. All Union County riders executed great runs, had a fantastic time, and demonstrated outstanding sportsmanship and camaraderie.

Our last regular Saddle Club show for the year is October 19. October is also Breast Cancer Awareness Month, so wear your pink and show your support! The Sass 'n Saddles Drill Team will be performing at this show. Be there to watch these girls. You will love it! October also brings Halloween and our annual costume contest. This will be the last class of the day. There will be an individual class and a horse & rider class. Use your imagination and come join the fun! Finally, we are doing a food drive at the show. Please bring three canned goods or dry goods, and we will waive your arena fee.

The arena and show grounds are located on the corner of Hwy. 515 and 325 in Blairsville. All shows are open to the public and there is no charge for admission. If you need further information, visit the website at www.Union-CountySaddleClub.org. Also, look for us on Facebook.



Buck Harrelson, Director of Georgia NBHA and Ansley Burnette



Alyssa McFarland



Ansley Burnette



Ashley McClure



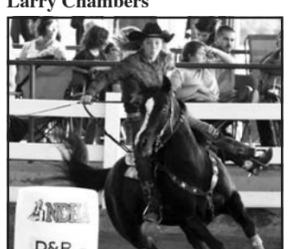
Hannah Carpenter



Larry Chambers



Lexie Jacobs



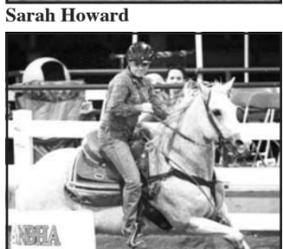
Morgan Larkin



Sarah Howard



Telaka Thomas



Vanna Chambers

Blue Ridge Mountain Jeepers active in the community



Pictured are members of the Blue Ridge Mountain Jeepers with their new banner contributed by Mountain Valley Motors.

new T-shirts recently acquired through local supplier - Boomerang. We have had another fun month of riding the local forest service roads, enjoying a well-provisioned Labor Day party, square dancing and spending time with the Blairsville Cruisers at their Block

Party. We invite all jeep owners in the tri-state area to come join the fun.

Our monthly meeting is held every second Tuesday at Steve's Steakhouse in Blairsville with dinner at 5 PM and meeting at 6 PM.

Check out our website at www.blueridgemountainjeepers.com.

For further information email: blueridgemountainjeepers@gmail.com or call 706-835-2390 and someone will answer all your questions.

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