

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Weekley to take on the task

By Mason Mitcham
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer



Duncan Weekley

A familiar face returns to the hardwood in Towns County.

Duncan Weekley, the former long-time assistant coach for the Towns County Lady Indians has come out of retirement to become head coach of the Towns County Indians for the upcoming school year.

Though Weekley retired in May 2012, Towns County Middle School Principal Darren Berrong asked him to come back and instruct the seventh- and eighth-grade boys' basketball teams.

"We had a pretty good season," Weekly said.

The team lost four games during the season and came close to advancing in the year-end tournament losing in double overtime in the first game. The team improved on the year in all statistical categories and developed a much better aptitude for the game as a whole through his leadership.

Yes, Weekley is being modest. The season was so good, in fact, that Towns County High School Principal/Athletic Director Jonathan Gibson asked him to come and coach the boys' high school team.

The Indians are a work in progress, but Coach Weekley is impressed by his

charges. "It's gone pretty good so far," Weekly said of practice.

Unfortunately, he admitted, the summer didn't go as well as he had hoped. There wasn't as much summer participation among the athletes as he had counted on, which was disappointing. "Maybe my expectations were too high. I feel like next year I'll have a better grasp on my summer program," he said. "But that's the only thing I've been disappointed with. The kids have been working hard. The parents have been supportive. The administration's been supportive. I really don't have anything to squabble about."

Weekley is staying fo-

cused one practice at a time. It's too early to predict how the season's going to turn out.

"I cannot give you a number on how many games I expect to win or lose, because a lot of that depends on the other teams," he said.

However, he added that he expected to see definite growth.

"As a coach, you always want your players to be competitive and I can see some improvement over the course of the year," he said.

Weekley's plan is to focus on improving the overall skill levels of the high school team. Since this is his first time working with some of the athletes, he has to take the time to assess and build around their skills.

"I don't think we can just pinpoint one thing," he said. "I expect us to try to score more. I expect us to try to play better defense. I just want to see an overall improvement as the year goes along."

What makes someone come out of retirement to coach? It may be a mixture of two things: a talent for coaching and a love of the sport.

"I'm excited about getting it started, and I think the kids are excited about getting it started, and I'm just looking forward to it," Weekley said. "I just love basketball."

Fuzion Dance Company attends Manhattan Dance Project workshop



Senior Company members Ansley Vardeman, Sarina Kurrimbukus and Lindy Hollingshead with SYTYCD finalist Ade Obayomi.



Fuzion Junior Company

The members of the Fuzion Dance Company traveled to Birmingham, AL last weekend to participate in an intensive training workshop. The dancers had a fabulous time at

Manhattan Dance Project with Bill Hotaling, Michael Vernon, Ade Obayomi from SYTYCD, and Tre Preston. Dancing with these amazing instructors in a classroom of 30 to 40 dancers was fun and rewarding.

Our dancers were called out to dance with the instructors and demonstrate as one of the best in the room several times and we are so proud of all of them.

Senior Company member Sarina Kurrimbukus was awarded a scholarship to attend a regional MDP workshop. Congratulations! The Company dancers were a bit worn out and sore but they are fired up about dancing!

They will now turn their focus to working very hard to prepare for the Christmas performance and competitions. They are honing their technique in class and polishing their choreography. Mark your calendars now to make plans to enjoy their Christmas concert to be held December 14th at 7:30 p.m. at the Towns County School Auditorium. You won't want to miss this festive celebration of the season in dance!

Fuzion Dance Company is a not for profit organization and a project of Brass-town Dance Academy. Senior Company dancers are Lindy Hollingshead, Sarina Kurrimbukus, Caitlyn Sheffield and Ansley Vardeman. Junior Company dancers are Tori Anderson, Lelia Barnard, Ashley Leatherwood, Mai Lim, Cailey Dockery, Dawson Mitchell, Rilla Ricks, Skylar Stephens, and Montana Walker. Company Co-Directors are Madge Smith, Amy McIntyre, and Hannah Jones. NT(Nov6,F3)SH

NASCAR 2013

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

Johnson is back on top



Jimmie Johnson wins at Texas
Furnished by NASCAR

Jimmie Johnson went into Sunday's Sprint Cup race at Texas in second-place behind Matt Kenseth. After a winning performance, which included leading 255 laps of the 334-lap race, he now leads Kenseth by seven points.

With only two races left; Phoenix and Homestead, Las Vegas odds makers have established him a 7-5 favorite to win this year's Chase.

"We had a good feel for this track, because we came down here and tested," said Johnson. "This car was awesome all day. As soon as we started practicing, we had the speed."

"I knew we were going to have a good racecar today."

For the third time in six weeks, Johnson's teammate, Dale Earnhardt Jr. finished as runner-up.

"After testing here we thought we would have a good chance at winning," said Earnhardt. "When the race first started, we struggled. But we kept getting better and better, and finally the track seemed to come to us."

Joey Logano was third.

"It was a pretty good race for us," said Logano. "I was trying so hard there at the end that I wore out a front tire. But overall, a third-place finish isn't all that bad."

Matt Kenseth led several laps on the way to a fourth-place finish, but his car clearly was not equal to Johnson's.

We tried to be as aggressive as we could," said Kenseth. "The 48-car really had the power today. We just didn't have what we needed to run with them."

Kasey Kahne finished fifth, followed by Brad Keselowski, Denny Hamlin, Kevin Harvick, Ryan Newman, and Clint Bowyer.

Harvick is third, forty points behind Johnson, which puts him out of this year's Chase.

Kyle Busch and Jeff Gordon were two drivers that had early problems and are out of the Chase.

Busch brushed the wall on lap 57, but returned to finish 13th. He dropped to fourth in points.

Gordon saw his chances for another title disappear after a right front tire blew on lap 74. He hit the wall hard. He returned to the track, 177 laps down and finished 38th.

What started out as a 13-driver field for this year's Chase is down to only two and possibly one. Unless Johnson experiences some bad luck, it seems like he is on his way to another championship.

Polesitter, Carl Edwards lost an engine in his No. 99 Ford and finished 37th.

Top-10 Chase leaders with two remaining races: 1. Johnson-2342, 2. Kenseth-2335, 3. Harvick-2302, 4. Kyle Busch-2290, 5. Earnhardt-2280, 6. Gordon-2273, 7. Bowyer-2273, 8. Biffle-2269, 9. Logano-2251, 10. Kurt Busch-2246.

KESELOWSKI REBOUNDS AT TEXAS
Brad Keselowski, one of

the early leaders in Saturday's Nationwide race at Texas, retook the lead from Denny Hamlin on lap 186 of the 200-lap race for his sixth win of the season.

The win was the 12th for the No. 22 Penske Racing Team this season.

"I wanted to compete for both championships. I didn't want it to be just one, but it is what it is at this point," Keselowski said. "I've had some great runs in the Nationwide car this year."

The remaining top-10 finishers: 2. Denny Hamlin, 3. Sam Hornish, 4. Matt Kenseth, 5. Austin Dillon, 6. Regan Smith, 7. Elliott Sadler, 8. Brian Scott, 9. Kyle Larson, 10. Brad Sweet.

Top-10 leaders after 31 of 33: 1. A. Dillon-1107, 2. Hornish-1101, 3. Smith-1053, 4. Sadler-1026, 5. Allgaier-1022, 6. Scott-1010, 7. Bayne-1009, 8. Vickers-970, 9. Larson-945, 10. Kligerman-924.

TY DILLON DOMINATES TEXAS TRUCK RACE

Ty Dillon led 130 laps of Friday's 147-lap Texas Motor Speedway truck race for his second win of the season.

With 30 laps remaining, Dillon passed Ryan Blaney and cruised to victory by nearly three seconds over Johnny Sauter.

"I wasn't going to lose this race," said Dillon. "I've let too many get away from me this year. I wanted to win this race so bad for my guys."

Sauter had a fast truck, but was no match for Dillon near the end.

"Ten laps into that last run we were just a tick too free," Sauter said. "I don't know if we ever had anything for the 3 truck, though. We've won here before, and I was running a harder, faster pace than I ever have. So their truck must have been phenomenal."

Ron Hornaday was third, followed by Brendan Gaughan, Justin Lofton, James Buescher, Darrell Wallace Jr., Miguel Paludo, and John Wes Townley.

Series leader Matt Crafton finished 10th and holds a 46-point edge over James Buescher and 47 points over Dillon with two races left in the season. Crafton can wrap up his first series title with finishes of 18th or better in the final two races.

Top-10 leaders after 20 of 22: 1. Crafton-741, 2. Buescher-695, 3. Ty Dillon-694, 4. Sauter-667, 5. Jeb Burton-657, 6. D. Wallace-651, 7. Paludo-651, 8. R. Blaney-645, 9. Gaughan-635, 10. Peters-620.

TRUEX AND TEAM LAND NEW RIDE
Martin Truex Jr. and all

his crew have landed a new contract with Furniture Row Racing. Truex was without a ride for 2014, after the sponsor on his Michael Waltrip No. 56 pulled out after the Richmond race.

While the contract with Truex is for an undisclosed number of years, the deal with his crewmembers is on a race-to-race basis.

"As far as personnel goes, we've had some struggles with our crew on pit road during the races," said Joe Garone General Manager of FRR. "We have been working hard to overcome that. Our pit crew didn't grow as fast as the performance of the car did last year. We've been able to secure Martin's pit crew; actually bring them on-board in full-time positions for 2014. I think that is going to really help that part of our program."

"It is a continual process. Our Richard Childress deal is that we do them year-to-year, and that has been a strong program. Richard (Childress) made a commitment to make sure that that program ran as a complete open-book type of relationship, and they have stood by that. It is certainly something that we utilize. But, as Martin said earlier, one of the big advantages that we have as a single-car team with that type of alliance, is our ability to move quick. We are real agile, and focused about what we are doing in our shop with a staff of about 60 people. I think this move will make us really strong."

Weekend Racing: All three of NASCAR's major series' are at the 1-mile Phoenix, Arizona facility.

Fri., Nov. 8, Truck Series race 21 of 22; Starting time: 8 pm ET; TV: Foxsports1.

Sat., Nov. 9, Nationwide Series race 32 of 33; Starting time: 4 pm ET; TV: ESPN2.

Sun., Nov. 10, Sprint Cup race 35 of 36; Starting time: 3 pm ET; TV: ESPN.

Racing Trivia Question: Who won the last race of the season last year at Homestead?

Last Week's Question: Who won the pole for the first NASCAR race at Martinsville in 1949? **Answer:** Curtis Turner.

You may e-mail any questions to the Racing Reporter at: hodges@race500.com. NT(Nov6,C1)JAC

New youth basketball program at Rec Department

The Towns County Recreation Department is currently taking youth basketball registration through Saturday the 16th of November 2013. You may register your child at the Towns County Recreation Department. 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 for 8 & under and \$25 for 6 & under.

Age divisions will be 6 & under Co-Ed divisions (5 & 6 years old), 8 & under divisions (7 & 8) years old. This is for both male and female.

For more information please contact the Towns County Recreation Department at (706)-896-2600. T(Nov6,F1)SH

Good luck to Towns County Cross Country in Carrollton on Saturday

