

# Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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## Out with a win ...continued from Page 8

Indians a 4-1 second half, after dropping the season's first five games.

Until Head Coach Blair Harrison arrived, the Indians had only dealt with the Wing-T offense on defense. It was

a learning process, and a process that found them 0-5 to begin the season.

Obviously, the Indians caught on to the Harrison offense and made a go of it in the second half.

They finish the season 4-6 with bright prospects for the 2014 season.

Congratulations to Coach Harrison and the 2013 Towns County Indians.



Seniors Evan Keyes (top) and Vonya Baldwin (bottom) will both be missed after laying a solid foundation for future Towns County teams to build upon. Photos/Lowell Nicholson

## NASCAR 2013

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

### Harvick wins at Phoenix

Carl Edwards looked like he was headed for a win in Sunday's Sprint Cup race, but one lap from the finish he ran out of gas. Kevin Harvick, who had earlier ran out of gas took the lead and went on to his fourth win of the season.

"We really weren't expecting to be handed the lead like that," said Harvick. "I thought that when we ran out of gas earlier, it killed our chance at winning. We had a really fast car, but the cautions seemed to work against us."

"I know it's a long shot to even think about winning the championship, but we've still got a shot."

Kasey Kahne finished second, with Jimmie Johnson third.

Johnson went into the race leading Matt Kenseth by seven points. Kenseth had a dull day and wound up 23rd. Johnson's lead is now 28 points over Kenseth and 34 ahead of Harvick.

Johnson, who started on the pole, had his own problems. He almost got spun around early in the race after contact with Carl Edwards. He was able to regroup and work his way back to the front.

Going into the race Kenseth was a real contender, but his car never had the speed to run up front. He started 14th and steadily fell back as the race continued.

"This was not a good day for us, but we've had an incredible season," said Kenseth. "I'm thankful for all my guys because they've worked so hard, and there's still one race to go."

While it's possible that either Harvick or Kenseth could beat out Johnson in the last race at Homestead, all Johnson has to do to win this year's Chase is finish 23rd or better.

Dale Earnhardt Jr. was fourth, followed by Kurt Busch, Juan Montoya, Kyle Busch, Martin Truex, Joey Logano, and Ryan Newman.

Top-10 Chase leaders after 35 of 36: 1. Johnson-2384, 2. Kenseth-2356, 3. Harvick-2350, 4. Kyle Busch-2327, 5. Earnhardt-2321, 6. Gordon-2304, 7. Biffle-2301, 8. Bowyer-2297, 9. Logano-2287, 10. Kurt Busch-2285.

### "ROWDY" KYLE CRUISES TO NATIONWIDE WIN

Kyle Busch led 169 laps of Saturday's 200-lap Phoenix Nationwide race for his 12th win of the season. Austin Dillon was running second until he was passed on the last lap by Justin Allgaier. Neither of the two drivers posed any threat to Busch,

as he crossed the finish line by 4.347-seconds ahead of runner-up Allgaier.

The only driver that could run with Busch was Brad Keselowski, who led seven laps, but was bumped from behind by Brian Scott on lap 143, and smacked the outside wall. His team made repairs to the rear of his car and he finished 19th, one lap down.

"It was certainly a great day for us," Busch said. "It's a testament to (crew chief) Adam Stevens and the group of guys that he's got around us that do such a great job for us and work real hard and give us some great equipment."

Austin Dillon finished third, while Regan Smith was fourth. Sam Hornish was fifth and now trails Dillon by eight points in the series championship points with one race left. Matt Kenseth was sixth, followed by Trevor Bayne, Elliott Sadler, Kevin Harvick, and Ryan Blaney.

Top-10 leaders after 32 of 33: 1. A. Dillon-1148, 2. Hornish-1140, 3. Smith-1093, 4. Allgaier-1065, 5. Sadler-1062, 6. Bayne-1047, 7. Scott-1041, 8. Vickers-970, 9. Larson-957, 10. Kligerman-953.

### 17-YEAR-OLD WINS TRUCK RACE

Erik Jones took the checkered flag ahead of Ross Chastain in Friday's Truck Series race to become the youngest series winner. Jones, who was born May 30, 1986, took the lead with 10-laps to go and successfully held off Chastain. The previous winning age record was held by Chase Elliott, winner of this year's truck race in Canada.

Brendan Gaughan, Ty Dillon, Matt Crafton, Cale Gale, Ryan Blaney, Johnny Sauter, James Buescher, and Chase Elliott were the remaining top-10 finishers.

Top-10 leaders after 21 of 22: 1. Crafton-780, 2. T. Dillon-734, 3. Buescher-730, 4. Sauter-703, 5. Burton-690, 6. Blaney-682, 7. Gaughan-677, 8. D. Wallace-675, 9. Paludo-664, 10. Peters-648.

### BURTON MAKES 1000TH START

While Jimmie Johnson and Matt Kenseth were battling for the lead in this year's championship Chase at Phoenix, Jeff Burton was making his 1,000th NASCAR start.

During a NASCAR career spanning more than 25 years, Burton has 48 wins, including victories in the Southern 500 at Darlington Raceway and the Coca-Cola 600 at Charlotte Motor Speedway. The South Boston, Va., native has earned more than



Kevin Harvick talks with car owner Richard Childress

250 top-five and 400, top-10 finishes; was named the 1994 Sprint Cup Series "Rookie of the Year" and co-piloted the No. 29 Richard Childress Racing Chevrolet to the 2007 NASCAR Nationwide Series owner's championship.

"It's hard for me to imagine that I have driven in 1,000 NASCAR races," said Burton. "I've been lucky and blessed to have family and friends that have given me all this support. I also have good relationships with everyone that I've worked with over the years to show for it, which is most important to me."

Overall, the 46-year-old driver has made 689 Sprint Cup Series starts along with 306 starts in the Nationwide Series and four starts in the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series driving for Richard Childress Racing, Roush Fenway Racing and the Stavola Brothers. Burton is the last driver to lead 100 per cent of the laps in a NASCAR-sanctioned event, pacing the field for all 300 laps en route to victory at New Hampshire Motor Speedway in 2000 and was the 2007 NASCAR Illustrated "Person of the Year." He currently sits 19th in the 2013 Sprint Cup Series driver championship point standings on the strength of two top-five and six top-10 finishes.

His future is unclear. But he said at Phoenix, that he "had something in the works".

**Weekend Racing:** This is the last race of the season for the NASCAR Sprint Cup, Nationwide, and Truck series. It all ends at the 1.5-mile Homestead-Miami Speedway.

Fri., Nov. 15, Truck Series, race 22 of 22; Starting time: 8 pm ET; TV: Fox Sports 1.

Sat., Nov. 16, Nationwide Series, race 33 of 33; Starting time: 4:30 pm ET; TV: ESPN2.

Sun., Nov. 17, Sprint Cup Series, race 36 of 36; Starting time: 3 pm ET; TV: ESPN.

**Racing Trivia Question:** Where does the 2014 NASCAR season kick off?

**Last Week's Question:** Who won the last race of the season last year at Homestead? **Answer:** Jeff Gordon.

You may e-mail any questions to the Racing Reporter at: hodges@race500.com. NT(Nov13,C1)bc

## Basketball scrimmage on Saturday

By Jerry Kendall  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

The fall sports season at Towns County High School is now complete and the Lady Indians and Indians are all set to begin their 2013-14 varsity basketball season.

The Class A TCHS Teams open the season this Saturday afternoon when they host Class AAAA Gilmer High School of Ellijay in scrimmage games which won't count in their season records. The games were originally scheduled for Friday night in Ellijay but the Bobcats' football team is in the state playoffs and the only available remaining time for both teams was Saturday afternoon at 2:00 o'clock.

Regular season play then gets underway next week when the Lady Indians and Indians host Blue Ridge High School from Cashiers, North Carolina, at 6 p.m. They then travel to Hayesville, NC on Friday with the varsity games beginning there at 6:30 p.m.



Duncan Weekley



Jim Melton

The Lady Indians will then travel on Saturday, Nov. 23rd to Apalachee High School near Winder where they will face the Class AAAAA Winder-Barrow Lady Bulldogs. They will also travel to Apalachee to face the host school as part of a season opening tournament the following Tuesday. The Indians will not see action on these two nights as they will be facing Riverside Military Academy,

an all boys school, on Dec. 10th and Jan. 25th.

The Indians will also be under the direction of new Head Coach Duncan Weekley as they see how they stack up against a tough Gilmer County team.

Weekley is a former assistant coach at Towns County High School and takes over for former Head Boys Basketball Coach Ken Hamilton.

## TCMS basketball swept at Union

By Mason Mitcham  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Blairsville - The season is off to a rocky start for the boys' and girls' Towns County Middle School basketball teams. The teams traveled away to Union county, where they faced off against the Panthers. The girls lost 41-12, and the boys lost 40-4.

With the end of softball season, many middle school softball players such as Lea Underwood have made the switch to basketball. However, the sudden switch hasn't given the girls' team much chance to practice before the beginning of the season. The end of the first half saw Union County leading 32-6. Though Towns County battled back somewhat during the third quarter, bringing the score to 34-12, Union held on to its lead and ended the game 41-12.

"With less than two weeks to prepare for the first game, the amount of defensive plays and offensive plays which you have to go over in addition to conditioning, it's really hard to get prepared," Coach Carrie Abernathy said. The girls' basketball coaches also added that Towns County's performance might have had something to do with first-game jitters. If the athletes feel underprepared, they may lack confidence, which is an



TCMS fires a jumper over a Union defender. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

important element in any sport. "I think were a factor in not being confident in their skills and their ability, which they do have," Abernathy admitted.

Coach Lana Parker noted that the girls have work to do. "We have just a lot of girls that really need to practice away from the court," she said. "We need to work on the defense, and we on getting up and down the court."

The boys' team fared even worse. Union pulled ahead by 15 points in the first quarter, which ended 15-1 in favor of the Panthers. They increased their lead to 28-1 in the second quarter. The third quarter ends 32-3, and the fourth quarter ended 40-4.

"We didn't play well. We didn't execute. We had no focus on what we wanted to get accomplished," said Coach Daryl McClure, who seemed to blame himself for the hard loss. "That's a coaches responsibility, to get his team to understand what they need to do to compete." He added that the Towns' boys needed to work on the technical aspects of their game, including executing our offensive plays, getting and making easy shots, playing great defense. However, he did note that the season would offer opportunities for improvement and growth. "We've got a lot we need to do," he said. "There's potential here."

## 'Hometown Throwdown' coming soon

Blairsville - Universal Championship Wrestling (UCW) is back in Georgia, on Saturday Night, November 23rd, with a new lineup of more than 20 professional wrestling stars and legends. UCW's "HOMETOWN THROWDOWN" begins at 7:30 p.m., at the Union County High School Gym, in Blairsville, Georgia. This will be a fundraiser for the school. This will be filmed for Cable TV. The event is sponsored by many local business including Union General Hospital & United Community Bank.

"Fans will have more of that same great action that we loved to see on WTBS on Saturday nights when WCW [World Championship Wrestling] was around," said Ron Gossett, promoter and president of UCW. "UCW has brought back the excitement, family fun, and tradition we all love."

UCW, which has offices in Atlanta and Miami, Fla., is continuing its efforts to bring wrestling back to the grass roots level. UCW Tours the country bringing back the WCW style of wrestling to the fans.

Organizers reported last year's UCW "Fall Brawl" event in Henry County succeeded in drawing over 1,900 professional wrestling fans of all ages from across the Southern Crescent, and 5 States.

"This is a family-friendly show," said Gossett.

Scheduled to appear in the ring is former WWE/WCW/TNA Wrestling Superstar - "BIG POPPA PUMP" SCOTT STEINER! Steiner was an All-American Wrestler for the University of Michigan and is a former World Heavyweight Champion. Steiner will be in the Main Event with a Mystery Partner facing the Sons of Samoa, who are 2nd generation wrestlers from WWE, and sons of original Samoan Legend AFA. A Ladies Match will be featured as Tiffany Roxx takes on Maranda Rights.

Others scheduled to appear are Wrestling Legends- The Nature Boy, & the Masked Assassin Jody Hamilton, Mexican Star Antonio Garza, Johnny Swinger



"Big Poppa Pump" Scott Steiner

of WWE, Brodie Chase of WCW, LODI of WCW, Buff Bagwell, "HOT Like LAVA" Shaun Banks, Nature Boy Paul Lee, Deon Johnson, Hammer Roberts, Blake Beretta, Brady Pierce, The Destroyer, Tommy Gage and many more. Over 20 Stars in all for this Live Television Taping. The Show will be filmed, to be aired on cable next month.

While the card is subject to change, all the stars in attendance will be available to sign autographs before the event and during intermission.

The show will offer a "VIP Super Pass" for \$45, which includes front row, ringside seating and back-stage access. Advance Ringside tickets are \$20, and \$25 the day of the show. Advance Adult General Admission is \$12, and \$15 the day of the show.

General Admission for Children ages 6, to 12 is \$7, and FREE for children under 6.

All military and Union County Employees will receive a \$3 discount on adult tickets at the door.

Tickets for The UCW HOMETOWN THROWDOWN are available now at: All United Community Bank Locations in: Hayesville, NC - Murphy, NC - Blairsville, GA - Hiawassee, GA - Blue Ridge, GA - Ellijay, GA & Dahlonega, GA.

Also at UNION COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL, Blairsville, Georgia, and Video Unlimited in Blairsville, or online with your credit or debit card at www.UCWLIVE.com.

For Complete Info or Questions Call 404-919-1UCW (1829).

## 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. TN(Nov6,F1)SH