

# Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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## Towns County wrestlers take second at Union County

By Shawn Jarrard  
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Blairsville - The Towns County Indians Wrestling Team won runner-up in the 2014 Union Invitational, the Panther Classic, on Saturday, Nov. 22.

Towns County finished behind tournament champs Clarke Central, a ClassAAAAA school, but beat out third place finisher Madison County.

"To be honest, that's probably about as good as we can wrestle," said Head Coach Jeff Stowers. "We made some mistakes individually in matches, but as far as placement goes and tournament placement goes, that's probably about as good as we can do."

"We only had two kids that were scoring wrestlers that didn't place. Everybody wrestled pretty well all day, so it was a good day for us."

Individually by weight class, Indians placed: junior Thomas Mitchell, 113 pounds, second place; freshman Kaine Hoffman, 113 pounds, third place; senior Aaron Collier, 132 pounds, first place champion; sophomore Nick Shook, 160 pounds, first place champion; junior Daulton Rogers,



Towns County's wrestling squad shows off its second place trophy from the Union County tournament over the weekend. The Class A Indians fell just shy of first place Clarke Central High School from Athens.

170 pounds, second place; sophomore Russell Cox, 182 pounds, second place; senior Cruz Shook, 195 pounds, fourth place; senior Kyle Davis, 220 pounds, second place; and sophomore Kendall Barnard, heavyweight, third place.

"It was a good measuring stick for us - I couldn't be happier with the second place," said Coach Stowers. "I'd like to have been able to beat Clarke Central, but the reality was that we just didn't have enough horses in the race today."

"We had a kid today that didn't get to come - he got home and started throwing up last night after the match, and one more kid that didn't make the bus this morning. So, we were two men down anyway, but it was a good day. The kids that wrestled, wrestled hard. We wrestled our guts out and won some big matches, and it was a good time."

Towns County also did well the night before the Panther Classic, in the Melee in the Mountains duals tournament, placing second behind Banks County with 4-1 wins.

The Indians beat Franklin County 39-30, Hayesville 60-15, Smoky Mountain 46-32 and Hiwassee Dam 42-18 that Friday night.

## Six Towns County wrestlers place at Middle School King of the Mountain

By Shawn Jarrard  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Towns County Schools hosted the Middle School King of the Mountains tournament on Saturday, Nov. 22.

Of the 10 Indians on the Towns County Middle School team, six of the 10 finished first through fourth place.

By weight class, victors were: Alex Barrett, 94 pounds, first place champion; Garrett Oakes, 72 pounds, second place; Ali Momin, 86 pounds, second place; Dylan White, 125 pounds, third place; Blaine Rogers, 132

pounds, second place; and Matthew Ledford, 139 pounds, third place.

"We wrestled really well," said Head Coach Jason McClure. "Some of my first-year wrestlers, Ali Momin, placed, and was in the finals. He's been wrestling for a month. As a team, we wrestled about as well as I expected."

The Indians don't have enough kids on the team to compete other than individually, but that doesn't hinder their fighting spirits.

"There are six weight classes that we can't even fill," said Coach McClure. "Even though I've got 10 wrestlers, such a great group of kids and

parents that I have - they help me with whatever I need. Our hospitality room, the coaches tell me all the time, it's the best. And that's why they keep coming back."

"Zaxby's contributed," said Coach McClure. "Dairy Queen, hugely - Dairy Queen always helps us. Happy Hawg - we had a huge success, so I want to say thank you to all the local businesses that always help us. They make it possible and they keep these schools coming. This is the major fundraiser for our team for the year, and at a small school, fundraisers are imperative. This will give us our funding we need for the year."



Towns County Middle School King of the Mountain Tournament photos by Lowell Nicholson

## Robotics Team thankful for community support



L to r: Back: Troy Hatfield, Gabe Gilliland, Mike Austin, Devin Wheeler, Nichelle Miller. Front: Taylor Underwood, Mia Manto, Kyle Buel, Dakota Anderson (not pictured Miranda Queen and Zaydel Payne).

The Dragons and Tiaras, TCHS FTC robotics team, competed at the Robotic Explorer FTC Qualifier at Cobb Galleria. They had a great day running their robot in competition and meeting other teams. They won the First Place Connect Award, Third Place Inspire (Inspire is award

for best overall), Third Place PTC Innovative Design, and Third Place Motivate.

Team members and coaches Brent Lance and Jo Ray Van Vliet would like to thank all of the people and organizations who have helped them this season. Special thanks to the Mountain Us-

ers Computer Group, ICL, BRMEMC and their engineers, Zaxby's, Mountain Graphics, McConnell Baptist Church, YHC Business Club, North Georgia Tech, Towns County Herald, Maggie and Bill Manto, Art and Diane Frenz, SuSu Davis, Byron McCombs, Daren King, John Van Vliet, Clark Helton, and, of course, Mr. Gibson and the school. We apologize if we forgot anyone.

We also would like to thank everyone who came to our garage sale. Your donations and purchases enabled us to have the money to pay for competition fees and buy parts for the robot.

We are very grateful to have such a supportive community. T(11/26/14)SH

## NASCAR 2014

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

### Stewart's season ends on high note

Tony Stewart has had more downs than ups in the last two years.

In 2013 he broke his leg in a sprint car accident and missed 15 races during the latter part of the season, and was not fully healed when the 2014 season started.

On August 9, 2015, Stewart was involved in another sprint car accident that took the life of Kevin Ward after being hit by Stewart's machine.

There has been a tremendous amount of emotional pain that has not allowed Stewart to regain his old racing form.

But Kevin Harvick's championship brought an uplifting end to a tumultuous 2014 season for Stewart, who missed three races after his involvement in that tragic racing accident, involving Kevin Ward.

After Harvick's win, Stewart spoke about his role as team owner, his season and his thoughts on Harvick's first championship to the Charlotte Observer.

"You know, I think more than anything, I'm happy for this organization and happy for this team," he said. "It's not about me right now; it's about us as a group. It's about everybody at Stewart-Haas Racing. You know, you learn when you're in these situations that it's about a larger group of people and a bigger picture that's in play. I'm grateful that I have a co-owner and co-workers and teammates that are such great people that no matter what's been thrown at us the last year and a half that this organization was able to thrive and continue to prosper and be successful through this."

"It shows the depth of this organization and what these people are capable of. Nights like tonight are when you sit back and you reflect on everything and you realize how proud you are of your entire group and everybody that you surround yourself with."

"The hard part is you've got to do the things that got you here in the first place and not get caught up in the moment, not get out of that rhythm that got you here. I didn't tell them anything they haven't been doing all year, but sometimes going into that last deal, it's nice to just remind them why they're here and why they do what they do."

Stewart now has claimed three Sprint Cup driving championships and two owner titles.

"This has been the toughest and most emotional year of my life," Stewart continued. **MISTAKE PROBABLY COST GORDON A WIN**

It is what it is. It could use hindsight to help direct our future course of action, what a wonderful world this would be.

Such was the case with Jeff Gordon and his team during the latter part of the Homestead Cup



Kevin Harvick hugs car owner Tony Stewart after winning the 2014 Sprint Cup championship.

race. Gordon was leading the race when a caution came out with 20 laps remaining. Most of the other leaders, along with race-winner Kevin Harvick pitted for four fresh tires. Gordon and Denny Hamlin did not. They stayed on the track.

The decision not to pit kept Gordon first but with most of the field taking tires, it left him at a disadvantage. During the next caution with six laps to go, Gordon pitted to get four new tires. He didn't have time to recover, and finished 10th despite leading a race-high 161 laps.

So what happened? Crew chief Alan Gustafson said his mistake late in Sunday's race at Homestead-Miami Speedway cost Gordon a chance to win. Gustafson discussed his late-race strategy on SiriusXM Radio.

"Really, the error was made," said Gustafson. "I told Jeff to stay out when the majority of the field pitted and that put us in a bad situation. Jeff felt like (on the following caution) we weren't in a very good position to succeed, so we made a decision to come pit. Really the first stop, when us and Denny (Hamlin) and ... a few other cars stayed out, that was the one that really hurt us."

"That's on me. It was a mistake I made. I tried to keep the track position. I felt like that was going to be the highest percentage decision and it ended up not being. That put us behind unfortunately. I think we had the best car. The team deserved to win the race. It was a bad decision from my part and I'm going to learn from it. It would be really easy for me to make a lot of excuses and say, 'Hey there's a lot of circumstances that play into it - and there are and it is a very tough thing to do,' but that's my job and in that situation I feel like I didn't do it to the best of my capabilities."

You win some and you lose some. But wouldn't we all like to

### Two Indians named to 8-A All-Region football team

Shea Underwood and Kyle Davis were named to the 8-A All Region football team.

Underwood, a junior, was selected as a punter/kicker and Davis, a senior was named to the offensive line.

Underwood connected on 12 of his 13 extra point attempts while sending 12 kickoffs into the endzone for a touchback. As a punter he averaged more than 37 yards a kick with a

long of 56 yards. Five of his punts were downed inside the 20-yard line.

As an offensive lineman, Davis opened enough holes for Towns' rushing attack to put up 1,432 total yards. Twelve of those yards belonged to him, all coming on one carry.

Defensively, he was second with 63 tackles. He also recorded a sack and two fumble recoveries.

have the advantage of hindsight in our lives.

### BUSCH MEETS WITH POLICE

On November 5, the Dover (Delaware) Police Department confirmed that an investigation was being conducted based on an allegation of domestic assault involving Kurt Busch, and his former girlfriend.

This past week Busch and his attorney met with police and denied all allegations that he assaulted her inside Busch's motor home at Dover International Speedway in September; just days after the couple broke up.

Police spokesman Mark Hoffman says the investigation is continuing and that no decision on whether to file charges has been made.

Two female members of the U. S. Congress have sent a letter to NASCAR asking that Busch be suspended. NASCAR said in a statement, "We take charges like this very seriously. We are monitoring the situation, but until we receive further clarification and additional information, we will not make any decision."

### FINAL DRIVER RANKINGS

Final top-16 Sprint Cup standings: 1. Harvick-5,043, 2. Newman-5,042, 3. Hamlin-5,037, 4. Logano-5,028, 5. Keselowski-2,361, 6. Gordon-2,348, 7. Kenseth-2,334, 8. Earnhardt-2,301, 9. Edwards-2,288, 10. Kyle Busch-2,285, 11. Johnson-2,274, 12. Kurt Busch-2,263, 13. Allmendinger-2,260, 14. Biffle-2,247, 15. Kahne-2,234, 16. Almirola-2,195.

Final top-10 Nationwide Series leaders: 1. Elliott, 2. Smith, 3. Sadler, 4. Scott, 5. T. Dillon, 6. Bayne, 7. C. Buescher, 8. Gaughan, 9. Reed, 10. J. Buescher.

Final top-10 Truck Series standings: 1. Crafton, 2. Blaney, 3. Wallace Jr., 4. Sauter, 5. Peters, 6. Quiroga, 7. Coulter, 8. Burton, 9. Kennedy, 10. Silas.

**Racing Trivia Question:** In what years did Stewart win his three Cup championships?

**Last Week's Question:** Marcos Ambros is returning to his native Australia, but he plans to stay in racing. What are his racing plans for 2015? He will race in the V8 Supercar Series. Note: The V8 Supercars is a touring car racing category based in Australia and run as an International Series under Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile.

You may contact the Racing Reporter at: www.hodges@race500.com