

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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All-Region selections headline TCHS soccer's year-end banquet



First-team All Region: (L-R) Emma Lalletment (Team MVP), Abby Gardella (TC Offensive MVP) and Elizabeth Edwards (TC Defensive MVP).



Region honorable mention: (L-R) Anleigh Hardin, Laura Mauldin, Drew Livingston.



TCHS banquet Dirthead Award winners: (L-R) Reagan Rogers and Chloe Sutton

NASCAR 2024

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

BELL GETS SHORTENED COKE 600

Christopher Bell won Sunday's Coca Cola 600 Cup Series race after it was shortened to 249 of 400 laps by rain. Bell was leading the race ahead of Brad Keselowski when NASCAR put out the yellow flag after rain began falling. Two laps later, they brought the cars into the pits. Rain soaked the speedway and high humidity prevented track workers from making progress drying the speedway.

Bell becomes the fourth driver this season to earn multiple wins, joining William Byron, Denny Hamlin and Kyle Larson.

"It feels so good, win or lose, just to have a great race to go off of," Bell said. "A race that we led laps, we were able to pass cars, we lost the lead at times we were able to drive back to the lead. Had great pit stops ... This is a team effort, and it was amazing to have a good race. And hopefully this is something we can build on and get back to being more consistent."

"I really don't know exactly when I got told about the rain. I think it was right at the stage break they said that the rain was coming and we likely wouldn't get to the end of stage 3. You could feel the intensity in the race just pick up, and people were being very aggressive for how early we were into a 600-mile event, and I think it was because everyone knew that we were racing to the rain."

A disappointed Brad Keselowski had to settle for runner-up.

"Yeah, it was pretty disappointing," said Keselowski. "I felt like we had a car to win the race. We kind of ran down the 20 car twice and just didn't get to see it play out. Kind of slipped through our fingers there. Would have liked to have just had more laps and ran the Coke 600. I think we ran the Coke 350 today."

The remaining top 10 finishers were: William Byron, Tyler Reddick, Denny Hamlin, Ty Gibbs, Chase Elliott, Ross Chastain, Alex Bowman, and Josh Berry.

Top 10 leaders after 15 of 36: 1. Hamlin-492, 2. Truex-487, 3. Larson-486, 4. Elliott-475, 5. Byron-461, 6. Reddick-437, 7. Gibbs-435, 8. Bowman-408, 9. Keselowski-397, 10. Chastain-392.

Both the Indianapolis 500 and NASCAR's Coca Cola 600 in Charlotte, were plagued by wet weather. And in the end, rain wound up completely wrecking the much anticipated Indy-Charlotte Double for Kyle Larson.

After the start of the Indianapolis 500 was delayed four hours due to rain, Kyle Larson -- seeking to become the fifth driver to ever run both the Indy 500 and Coke 600 in the same day -- was put in a position where he could not both compete at Indianapolis and make it to Charlotte for the start of the Cup race. Ultimately, Larson committed to competing in the Indianapolis 500, forcing reserve driver Justin Allgaier into action behind the wheel of the No. 5 Chevrolet for Hendrick Motorsports.

Larson led four laps at Indy and finished 18th. Josef Newgarden was the winner of the Indy 500, for the second consecutive year.

The 65th running of the Coca-Cola 600 this past weekend was sold out, Charlotte Motor Speedway officials announced. This marks the third consecutive sellout for NASCAR's longest race of the year.



Bell Gets Shortened Coke 600

ELLIOTT WINS CHARLOTTE XFINITY RACE

Chase Elliott grabbed the lead in Saturday's 200-lap Xfinity Series race after a Lap 183 restart and held it for the remaining 17 laps in his first series start of the season.

Elliott crossed the finish line 0.500 ahead of Brandon Jones, who recovered from early brake problems to finish second after pressing Elliott in the closing laps.

"Greg (Ives) made a good call, and I think ultimately that's what won us the race," Elliott said. "I felt like I needed a little bit with my balance to make as much pace as the 7 (Justin Allgaier) and a couple of those guys."

The remaining top 10 finishers were: Brandon Jones, Sammy Smith, Sam Mayer, AJ Allmendinger, Kyle Busch, Ryan Sieg, Josh Williams, Ty Gibbs, and Noah Gragson.

Top 10 leaders after 12 of 33: 1. Hill-454, 2. C. Smith-450, 3. Custer-433, 4. Allgaier-397, 5. Love-384, 6. Allmendinger-347, 7. Herbst-338, 8. Creed-313, 9. Kligerman-307, 10. B. Jones-304.

SANCHEZ WINS CHARLOTTE TRUCK RACE

Nick Sanchez took advantage of fresh tires and a quick pit stop to charged from the 10th position on a restart with nine laps left in Friday night's Truck Series race at Charlotte to win his second race of the season.

Top 10 finishers: 1. Nick Sanchez, 2. Stewart Friesen, 3. Grant Enfinger, 4. Matt Mills, 5. Ben Rhodes, 6. Jake Garcia, 7. Kaden Honeycutt, 8. Connor Mosack, 9. Dean Thompson, 10. Christian Eckes.

Top 10 points leaders after 11 of 23: 1. Eckes-453, 2. Heim-423, 3. Sanchez-403, 4. Majeski-389, 5. Taylor Gray-354, 6. Caruth-336, 7. Ankrum-320, 8. Tanner Gray-291, 9. Enfinger-290, 10. Rhodes-289.

STENHOUSE FINED, CREWMEMBER SUSPENDED

NASCAR issued penalties this week stemming from an altercation after Sunday's All-Star Race at North Wilkesboro, after Ricky Stenhouse Jr. landed a haymaker to Kyle Busch's face. Stenhouse was fined \$75,000 for punching Busch. In addition, two crew members from Stenhouse's No. 47 JTG Daugherty Racing team were suspended.

Stenhouse's punch set off a post-race melee between his crew and Busch's No. 8 Richard Childress Racing team in the garage area.

Team mechanic Clint Myrick was suspended for the next eight Cup Series races (through events at Pocono Raceway on July 14) for his role, and tuner Keith Matthews was suspended for the next four Cup Series events (through Iowa Speedway on June 16).

NASCAR 2025 HALL OF FAME CLASS SET

Two drivers, both from the Modern Era Ballot and one team owner, from the Pioneer Ballot were elected to become the NASCAR Hall of Fame's class of inductees in 2025.

Modern Era: Carl Edwards and Ricky Rudd
Pioneer Inductee: Ralph Moody

Landmark Award Winner: Dr. Dean Sicking, inventor of the SAFER, Steel and Foam Energy Barrier.

The Class of 2025 Induction Ceremony is set for Friday, Feb. 7, 2025 at the NASCAR Hall of Fame and Charlotte Convention Center in Charlotte, North Carolina. Tickets for Induction Weekend, Feb. 6-9, 2025 will be available June 17 on NASCARHall.com.

NASCAR ALL-STAR RATINGS UP

NASCAR and FoxSports1 earned 2.573 million average viewers for the 2024 All-Star Race at North Wilkesboro, up roughly 17 percent from the 2023 event. This could be due to Kyle Larson's attempt at "The Double," as he flew in before the race after Indianapolis 500 qualifying. Overall, the viewership produced in 2024 has been positive.

Racing Joke: An old time racer dies and goes to Heaven. Immediately, upon entering the gates he sees St. Peter. There are many clocks surrounding him, so the old racer asks, "What are these clocks for?"

St. Peter replies, "These are lie clocks. They tick once for every lie you tell."

"Here we have Mother Teresa's clock. She has never lied, so the clock has never moved."

"Honest Abe has only lied twice, so it has ticked twice."

The old racer then asks, "So where is Donald Trump's clock?"

St. Peter replies, "Oh, that is in the main office. We are using it as a ceiling fan."

Weekend Racing: The Cup and Truck teams will be at the 1.25-mile World Wide Technology Raceway (formerly Gateway) in Madison, Illinois. The Xfinity teams travel to the 1.97-mile Portland, Oregon Raceway's road course.

Racing Trivia Question: Who did Carl Edwards, the 2025 NASCAR Hall of Fame Inductee, drive for in the Cup Series?

Last Week's Question: Two-time NASCAR Cup Series champion, "Texas" Terry Labonte was often referred to as the "Iron Man." How did he acquire the nickname? Answer: Because he made 890 Cup Series starts with 22 victories and titles in 1984 and 1996. NT(May29,218)

GA Mountain and Cooper's Creek Sportsmen for Kids presents:

NWTF Sanctioned

Turkey Calling Contest



Saturday, June 1 at 9 am

Pat Haralson Memorial Civic Center

165 Wellborn St., Blairsville, GA 30512

- Hotdog/hamburger plates available
- Shotgun raffle • 50/50 raffle
- Silent auction