

Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports



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Hiawasse, Georgia

NASCAR 2010

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

McMurray wins Marathon Daytona 500

It was six hours and ten minutes, from the time the Daytona 500 was started until Jamie McMurray took the checkered flag ahead of Dale Earnhardt Jr.

Earnhardt drove from 10th to second over the final two laps, but was unable to chase down McMurray, who won his fourth career Sprint Cup race.

"It's unbelievable, I can't explain it," said an emotional McMurray. "It was just a gamble on which line to take on that last restart. I spun the tires, but Greg Biffle gave me a big push on the backstretch."

"When I saw the 88-car (Dale Earnhardt Jr.), I just said 'oh no,' because I know how the Earnhardts have been at Daytona."

McMurray was the odd-man-out at Roush Racing at the end of 2009 when that organization had to drop a team to comply with NASCAR's four-car ownership rule.

He didn't know if he would have a ride for 2010 until his former car owner Chip Ganassi called and put him in a car for the second time.

McMurray responded just like he did the first time he drove for Ganassi. He won his first race with the team, just like he did with Ganassi when he won his first race, the fall event at Charlotte.

There were three green-white-checked finishes.

On the first attempt Greg Biffle brought the field to the green on the inside, but a wreck behind the leaders brought out a caution.

Kevin Harvick brought the field to the green for the second attempt at the finish, but before the leaders reached turn-3, another caution came out.

On the final attempt Carl Edwards slowed Kevin Harvick allowing Jamie McMurray to take the lead with Greg Biffle second. Earnhardt came up through the middle of the track, but was unable to catch McMurray.

"I'm disappointed that I didn't get the win, but we had a decent car today," said Earnhardt. "We were pretty good, we were just working on some handling issues."

Greg Biffle had to settle for third.

"I did everything I could," said Biffle. "They gave me a good car and hopefully, we can do as good at California next week."

There were two red flag periods that lasted two hours and twenty minutes while speedway crews patched a pothole, and three green-white-checked finishes that pushed the race to 520 miles, the longest Daytona 500 on record.

In between, there were 46 lead changes and 9 cautions for wrecks.

Unofficial finishers: 1. McMurray, 2. Earnhardt, 3. Biffle, 4. Clint Bowyer, 5. David Reutimann, 6. Martin Truex Jr., 7. Kevin Harvick, 8. Matt Kenseth, 9. Carl Edwards, 10. Juan Montoya, 11. Jeff Burton, 12. Mark Martin, 13. Paul Menard, 14. Kyle Busch, 15. Brian Vickers, 16. David Ragan, 17. Denny Hamlin, 18. Michael Waltrip, 19. Scott Speed, 20. Joey Logano, 21. Bobby Labonte, 22. Tony Stewart, 23. Kurt Busch, 24. Elliott Sadler, 25. Boris Said, 26. Jeff Gordon, 27. Bill Elliott, 28. Robby Gordon, 29. Travis Kvapil, 30. Kasey Kahne, 31. Robert Richardson Jr., 32. A. J. Allmendinger, 33. Michael McDowell, 34. Ryan Newman, 35. Jimmie Johnson, 36. Brad Keselowski, 37. Sam Hornish, 38. John Andretti, 39. Regan Smith, 40. Max Papis, 41. Marcos Ambrose, 42. Mike Bliss, 43. Joe Nemecek

Stewart wins Nationwide Race

Tony Stewart won the season-opening Nationwide Series race ahead of Carl Edwards, Kevin Harvick, Justin Allgaier, Brian Vickers, Paul Menard, Joey Logano, James Buescher, Kasey Kahne, and Steve Wallace

Truck Race Goes To Timothy Peters

Todd Bodine led four times for 32 laps, but when he drifted up the track on the last lap, Timothy Peters was able to get under him for the lead to win the Camping World

Truck race at Daytona. 2. Bodine, 3. Dennis Setzer, 4. Jason White, 5. Matt Crafton, 6. Nelson Piquet, 7. Stacy Compton, 8. Johnny Benson, 9. Donnie Neunberger, 10. J. J. Yeley

NASCAR has changed the green-white-checked rule to allow a maximum of three restart attempts prior to the white flag under the green-white-checked flag finish. If the leader has taken the white flag and the caution flag is displayed, the

field is frozen and the race will not be restarted. Previously, there was only one restart attempt.

"We want to do all we can to finish our races under green flag conditions—the fans want to see that and so do the competitors," said Robin Pemberton, NASCAR vice president of competition. "We felt that putting a cap at three attempts to finish the race under green is the way to go. It gives the fans what they want and it also gives the teams a better oppor-

tunity to prepare for their end of race strategy."

With this new rule package in place there is sure to be more sheet metal damage as it will be a "shootout," each time the green flag is dropped. Every time there is a restart, chances are more cars will be damaged.

"It will be good for the fans, but costly for the owners," said Richard Childress.

This past week the Cup cars were beating and banging like never before. At least 78 Cup cars have been demolished or damaged in racing incidents from February 5th through the Daytona 500.

Jack Roush said it cost around \$375,000 to build and test one new race car. You figure what the added costs will be for these extra restarts.

While some drivers joked about the exposure Danica Patrick has been receiving from the media, Kyle Busch said more attention needs to be focused on lesser-known drivers.

"The only thing I can say is TV is doing a horrible job because they have been covering her too

much," said Busch. "Focusing attention on her means they are taking time away from the less-funded teams, the underprivileged people that want to have funding just so they can race the rest of the year."

"Danica is only going to be here for 12 races or whatever. It would help the rest of those teams that want to try to make a full run at it, get the coverage they need and the exposure they deserve to try to race the full season."

What do you think? Is ESPN going overboard with coverage on her at the expense of the other teams? E-mail us your comments, because we plan to present them to the ESPN broadcast crew prior to the March 7, Atlanta race. If we use them in our next column, we'll send you a photo of Danica.

WEEKEND RACING: The Cup and Nationwide teams are at the 2-mile California Speedway in Fontana, CA. Matt Kenseth, a Ford driver is the defending Cup champion.

It could be anyone's race, because drivers can run four wide. While the drivers run wide open on the track, race fans can purchase a

\$35 food ticket and eat as much as they want, all day long. Come hungry, leave full. The menu includes corned beef and pastrami sandwiches, garlic fries, California rolls, popcorn shrimp, fish sandwiches and fish and chips, hotdogs, BBQ juicy hamburgers and cheeseburgers, kabobs, mini burgers, and other all American race fare.

The Trucks do not race again until March 6.

TV SCHEDULE: Sat., Feb. 20, Nationwide Series Stater Bros. 300, race 2 of 35; Starting time: 3:30 pm (ET); TV: ESPN2.

Sun., Feb. 21, Sprint Cup Auto Club 500, race 2 of 36; Starting time: 1 pm (ET); TV: Fox.

Correction: Last week I reported that Martin Truex was the winner of the 2009 Daytona 500. That was a big boo-boo. What was I thinking? Matt Kenseth was the real winner.

Racing Trivia Question: Which Cup team is Elliott Sadler driving for this season?

Last Week's Question: How many Daytona 500s did Dale Earnhardt Sr. win? Only one, in 1998. You may contact the Racing Reporter at: hodgesnews@earthlink.net

YOUNG HARRIS COLLEGE

2010 Softball Schedule

Day	Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Thurs.	Feb. 18	CALHOUN CC	YOUNG HARRIS	3 p.m.
Fri.	Feb. 19	at Ringor Fastpitch Invitational	Alken, S.C.	TBA
Sat.	Feb. 20	at Ringor Fastpitch Invitational	Alken, S.C.	TBA
Sun.	Feb. 21	at Ringor Fastpitch Invitational	Alken, S.C.	TBA
Tues.	Feb. 23	at Cleveland State (DH)	Cleveland, Tenn.	2 p.m.
Thurs.	Feb. 25	AIKEN TECH (DH)	YOUNG HARRIS	2 p.m.
Fri.	Feb. 26	vs. Florida St. College-Jacksonville (GPC Inv.)	Covington, Ga.	6 p.m.
Sat.	Feb. 27	vs. Walters State (GPC Inv.)	Covington, Ga.	10 a.m.
Sat.	Feb. 27	vs. Spartanburg Methodist (GPC Inv.)	Covington, Ga.	2 p.m.
Tues.	March 2	at Hiwassee College (DH)	Madisonville, Tenn.	2 p.m.
Fri.	March 5	at Wallace Community Coll. Invit.	Dothan, Ala.	TBA
Sat.	March 6	at Wallace Community Coll. Invit.	Dothan, Ala.	TBA
Sun.	March 7	at Wallace Community Coll. Invit.	Dothan, Ala.	TBA
Sat.	March 20	at South Georgia College* (DH)	Douglas, Ga.	3 p.m.
Sun.	March 21	at Coasta Georgia CC* (DH)	Brunswick, Ga.	1 p.m.
Wed.	March 24	GORDON COLLEGE* (DH)	YOUNG HARRIS	2 p.m.
Tues.	March 30	GEORGIA MILITARY COLLEGE* (DH)	YOUNG HARRIS	2 p.m.
Wed.	April 7	HIWASSEE COLLEGE (DH)	YOUNG HARRIS	2 p.m.
Sat.	April 10	at Middle Georgia College* (DH)	Cochran, Ga.	3 p.m.
Sun.	April 11	at Abraham Baldwin Ag. Coll.* (DH)	Tifton, Ga.	1 p.m.
Sat.	April 17	at Darton College* (DH)	Albany, Ga.	3 p.m.
Sun.	April 18	at Andrew College* (DH)	Cuthbert, Ga.	1 p.m.
Sat.	April 24	at Georgia Perimeter College* (DH)	Covington, Ga.	1 p.m.
Fri.	April 30	at GJCAA Tournament	Cochran, Ga.	TBA
Sat.	May 1	at GJCAA Tournament	Cochran, Ga.	TBA
Sun.	May 2	at GJCAA Tournament	Cochran, Ga.	TBA

Home Games in ALL CAPS. *Georgia Junior College Ath. Assn. Game. (DH) denotes Doubleheader

Young Harris College

2010 Baseball Schedule

Day	Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Fri.	Feb. 19	Potomac State CC	Young Harris, Ga.	2 p.m.
Sat.	Feb. 20	Potomac State CC	Young Harris, Ga.	2 p.m.
Sun.	Feb. 21	Potomac State CC	Young Harris, Ga.	Noon
Tues.	Feb. 23	Cleveland State CC	Cleveland, Tenn.	2 p.m.
Sat.	Feb. 27	Sinclair CC (DH)	Young Harris, Ga.	Noon
Sun.	Feb. 28	Sinclair CC	Young Harris, Ga.	Noon
Tues.	March 2	Louisburg (DH)	Young Harris, Ga.	1 p.m.
Sat.	March 6	Wabush CC	Young Harris, Ga.	Noon
Sun.	March 7	Wabush CC (DH)	Young Harris, Ga.	Noon
Tues.	March 9	Wabush CC	Young Harris, Ga.	Noon
Fri.	March 12	Andrew	Cuthbert, Ga.	2 p.m.
Sat.	March 13	Andrew (DH)	Cuthbert, Ga.	1 p.m.
Mon.	March 15	Piedmont JV	Young Harris, Ga.	6 p.m.
Wed.	March 17	Piedmont JV	Demorest, Ga.	6 p.m.
Fri.	March 19	Georgia Perimeter	Covington, Ga.	7 p.m.
Sat.	March 20	Georgia Perimeter (DH)	Covington, Ga.	2 p.m.
Fri.	March 26	Middle Georgia	Cochran, Ga.	7 p.m.
Sat.	March 27	Middle Georgia (DH)	Cochran, Ga.	2 p.m.
Mon.	March 29	Mars Hill JV	Young Harris, Ga.	3 p.m.
Fri.	April 2	Gordon	Young Harris, Ga.	6 p.m.
Sat.	April 3	Gordon (DH)	Young Harris, Ga.	2 p.m.
Tues.	April 6	Catawba Valley CC	Young Harris, Ga.	6 p.m.
Wed.	April 7	Catawba Valley CC	Young Harris, Ga.	3 p.m.
Fri.	April 9	South Georgia	Douglas, Ga.	7 p.m.
Sat.	April 10	South Georgia (DH)	Douglas, Ga.	2 p.m.
Tues.	April 13	Cleveland CC	Young Harris, Ga.	4 p.m.
Wed.	April 14	Mars Hill JV (DH)	Mars Hill, N.C.	2 p.m.
Fri.	April 16	Darton	Young Harris, Ga.	6 p.m.
Sat.	April 17	Darton (DH)	Young Harris, Ga.	2 p.m.
Tues.	April 20	USC-Salkehatchie	Young Harris, Ga.	7 p.m.
Wed.	April 21	USC-Salkehatchie	Young Harris, Ga.	3 p.m.
Fri.	April 23	Abraham Baldwin	Young Harris, Ga.	6 p.m.
Sat.	April 24	Abraham Baldwin (DH)	Young Harris, Ga.	2 p.m.
Tues.	April 27	Roane State CC	Harriman, Tenn.	3 p.m.
Fri.	April 30	NJCAA Region XVII Tour. (1st Rd.)	TBA	TBA
Sat.	May 1	NJCAA Region XVII Tour. (1st Rd.)	TBA	TBA
Fri.	May 7	NJCAA Region XVII Tour. (2nd Rd.)	TBA	TBA
Sat.	May 8	NJCAA Region XVII Tour. (2nd Rd.)	TBA	TBA
Fri.	May 14	NJCAA Region XVII Tour. (3rd Rd.)	TBA	TBA
Sat.	May 15	NJCAA Region XVII Tour. (3rd Rd.)	TBA	TBA
Fri.	May 21	NJCAA District 10 Tournament	TBA	TBA
Sat.	May 22	NJCAA District 10 Tournament	TBA	TBA
Sun.	May 23	NJCAA District 10 Tournament	TBA	TBA
May 29 - June 6		NJCAA World Series	Grand Junction, Colo.	TBA

Young Harris College/Community Concert Band to Perform

Young Harris College's Division of Fine Arts will present the Young Harris College/Community Concert Band in concert Tuesday, Feb. 23, at 7 p.m. in Glenn Auditorium of the Clegg Fine Arts Building on the Young Harris College campus. The performance is free and open to the public. Dr. Benny P. Ferguson, dean of the Division of Fine Arts, will serve as conductor.

YHC music professor Dr. Leigh Miller will be featured as clarinet soloist in Carl Maria Von Weber's Concertino. Dr. Miller received her doctor of musical arts degree in clarinet performance from The Ohio State University. Now in her first year at Young Harris College, Dr. Miller teaches music theory.

The program also includes Block M March by Jerry Bilik, Russian Christmas Music by Alfred Reed, Third Suite by Robert Jager, Valdes by Glen Bainum and Johannes Brahms' Variations on a Theme by Haydn, arranged by Mark Hindsley.

The Young Harris College/Community Concert Band is composed of approximately 70 members, representing Young Harris College students, local high school students, local teachers and musicians, retired professionals, and community and civic leaders.

For more information, call the Young Harris College Division of Fine Arts at (706) 379-5182. TFEB17,SC5

Mountain Lions take 6-5 win over Chipola



Matt Lowery lays down a bunt to score a Cat runner and take the opening 6-5 win.

Matt Lowery's bunt single in the bottom of the ninth inning scored Greg Bowder and completed an improbable comeback as Young Harris defeated No. 2 Chipola 6-5 in the First Pitch Classic, hosted by Gulf Coast College in Panama City, FL. After trailing 5-1, the Mountain Lions (1-0) scored five runs in the final four innings. Meanwhile, Young Harris reliever Adam Camara held the Indians (0-1) in check with 2 and 1/3 innings of shutout ball to give YHC the opportunity to open the season with a huge win.

Bowder led off the ninth by drawing a base on balls, then advanced to second on a wild pitch. Brett Armour followed with a single to left field that pushed Bowder to third. Lowery then dropped a near-perfect bunt to the right side of the infield that the Indians defense was unable to field, scoring Bowder and setting off a celebration at home plate. The winning margin marked the first time the Mountain Lions led since scoring the game's first

run in the first inning.

Lowery led off YHC's half of that opening frame with a double down the right field line, then advanced to third on Chris Holloway's groundout to first base. Will Callaway then drove in Lowery with another groundout to the first baseman.

Chipola, ranked No. 2 in the nation in Collegiate Baseball Newspaper's preseason national rankings, would tie the score in the second on LeVon Washington's RBI double. The Indians had a chance to score again with two outs in the inning, but Young Harris starter Ben Watson made a sensational play on a tapper down the third base line. Watson came off the mound, picked up the ball near the line and delivered a perfect throw to catcher Robby Swab to nab the baserunner at home for the final out of the inning.

Young Harris answered in the bottom of that inning, loading the bases with one out and chasing reliever Brian Ellington from the

game. Lefty Austin Wright would enter in relief of Ellington and immediately fan YHC third baseman Michael Squires. But Montgomery stepped to the plate to pinch hit for first baseman Matt Lobacz, and in his first collegiate at-bat, delivered a two-run single to left-center field that scored Holloway and Callaway and pulled the Mountain Lions to within 5-3.

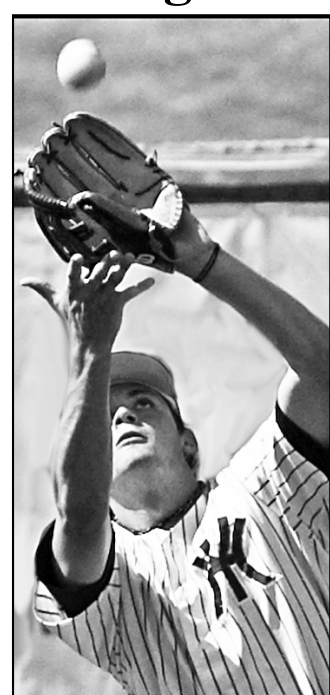
Montgomery be a prominent figure again in the eighth, when his two-out fly ball was dropped by Washington, allowing Callaway and Holloway to cross the plate. Holloway led off the inning with a single and Callaway followed by reaching on an error, moving Holloway to second. Ryan Edge, pinch hitting for Daniel Marsh, then pushed the runners up 90 feet with a sacrifice bunt. After Squires struck out swinging, Montgomery lifted a ball into shallow right-center field that fell in front of a sliding Washington, driving in both base runners and tying the game 5-5 to set the stage for the ninth-inning heroics.

Young Harris starter Ben Watson allowed four runs, with just one earned, on four hits and two walks in three innings of work. Justin Crosby came in relief of Watson to start the fourth inning and put together a solid outing for the Mountain Lions. Crosby allowed one run on four hits while walking one batter and striking out one. Camara (1-0) came on with two outs in the seventh inning to face Martin, who finished the game with two hits, two runs batted in and three runs scored. However, Camara would win the battle, inducing a ground ball to end the inning.

During the game, the Mountain Lions honored friend and teammate Antonio Burke, who passed away earlier this month. Burke's No. 2 jersey was displayed in the Young Harris dugout throughout the game.

Photo by Jim/Lisa Bryant

Mountain Lions continue seven game streak with DH wins



Matt Lowery hauls down a fly ball but did most of his damage at the plate in DH win for the Cats.

Young Harris College's Matt Lowery and Will Callaway delivered back-to-back two-run hits with two outs in the eighth inning to secure an 8-6 victory in the first game of a doubleheader against Southeastern Community College Sunday afternoon in Whiteville, N.C. Callaway's three-run double in the sixth inning of the second game keyed YHC's 7-4 win the second game and helped the Mountain Lions finish off a four-game sweep of the Rams.

The sweep improved the Mountain Lions' record to 7-0 overall on the young season.

The game, originally scheduled for seven innings, moved into an extra frame when Southeastern scored twice with one out in the bottom of the seventh to make the

score 4-4. Mountain Lions hurler Steven Voight would guarantee extra innings by striking out the next two batters after the tying run scored.

The eighth inning turned into a wild one, with the Mountain Lions scoring four runs on two hits and two errors. Brandon Curson led off the inning by reaching on an error, then advanced to second on Ryan Edge's sacrifice bunt. Brett Armour followed by reaching on a two-base error, allowing Curson to move to third. After Chris Holloway was hit by a pitch to load the bases, Greg Bowder popped up to right field for the second out of the inning. But Lowery followed with a single that scored Curson and Armour, and Callaway then cleared the bases with a two-run triple to give the Mountain Lions an 8-4 lead.

Needing three outs to secure the victory, the first two outs came quickly, as Voight got the Rams' first two hitters to pop up to the right side of the infield. But trouble lurked around the corner, and Voight allowed a single, walked a batter and gave up another single that scored a run, pulling SCC to within three runs and chasing Voight from the game. With Kendrick McDonald replacing Voight, the Rams would pick up another run when the first batter McDonald faced delivered another RBI single. But McDonald would get the next batter to ground out to third base to give Young Harris the win and pick up his first save.

Earlier in the game, the Mountain Lions found themselves trailing for the first time all season, when the Rams scored first with a second-inning run. The Rams' lead would be short lived, however, as Young Harris would receive RBIs from Lowery and Callaway to make the score 2-1. Southeastern tied the score 2-2 with a run in the bottom of the third. The score would remain the same until Matt Lobacz belted a home run, his second in a

many days, to put the Mountain Lions ahead 4-2.

Voight (1-0) earned the victory for Young Harris. He allowed four runs on five hits and two walks while striking out six batters in four and two-thirds innings. He came on in relief of starter Brian Holmes in the fourth inning. In three hitless innings, Holmes allowed a pair of unearned runs. He walked four batters and fanned six.

In the second game, Young Harris scored single runs in each of the first three innings, but fell behind 4-3 after the third.

Lobacz accounted for the game's first run with an RBI double in the first inning, and YHC would go up 2-0 in the second on a sacrifice fly by Lowery. YHC would tie the score again in the third on Armour's RBI single that plated Daniel Marsh, but a Southeastern sacrifice fly in the bottom of the same inning made the score 4-3.

That score would hold until the sixth, when Callaway delivered what turned out to be the game's decisive blow, a two-bagger that scored Lowery, Holloway and Bowder. Bowder's RBI double in the seventh completed the day's scoring. Curson (1-0) picked up the victory with three and two-thirds solid innings. The right hander gave up one unearned run on two hits. He walked one and struck out two batters. Adam Camara closed out the win with two perfect innings to record his second save of 2010.

Young Harris hitters delivered a dozen hits in the nightcap, including three from Armour and Bowder, and two each from Callaway and Lobacz.

The Mountain Lions are scheduled to play their home opener Saturday, Feb. 13 when they host Roane State in a noon doubleheader. The teams will close out the scheduled three-game series Sunday with a single game at 2 p.m.

Photo by Jim/Lisa Bryant

Lady Hawks take 9-0 decision over YHC Mountain Lions



YHC Lady Mountain Lions showed moment of joy but fell 9-0 to the 18th ranked Shorter Lady Hawks. Mickey Seward, YHC Sports SID

Shorter College's nationally-ranked women's tennis program defeated Young Harris College 9-0 in a women's tennis match held at Brasstown Valley Resort in Young Harris Thursday. The Lady Hawks, ranked

18th in the NAIA, easily swept the match, allowing just two games total.

Young Harris is scheduled to return to action against NJCAA Region XVII rival Georgia Perimeter Saturday in Dunwoody. Later that same

afternoon, the Mountain Lions will play Oglethorpe in Atlanta.

Doubles:
1. Monteith/Tinglets def. Black/Smith (YHC) 8-0

2. DeBeacoudrey/Fayard def. Deese/Brinkley (YHC) 8-0
3. Van Stavern/Mason def. Allen/Maxwell (YHC) 8-0

Singles:

1. Emmanuelle Beacoudrey def. Kinsley Black (YHC)