



Towns County Sports

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Indians-Yellow Jackets slated to play the 1988 Game That Never Happened



1988 State Baseball Champions Towns County Indians. Back Row, Left to Right, Jack Kelley, Chris Turpin, Shannon Moss, Jim Melton, Chet Kendall, Scott Neal, Shannon Floyd, Ryan Nichols, Coach Larry Kimsey. Front Row, Brad Wilson, Derrick Marshall, Robbie Moss, Jeff Lockaby, Brent Moody.



1988 Hayesville Yellow Jackets State Championship Baseball Team. Back Row, left to right, Jeff Stewart, Jeff Padgett, Mark Cox, Dwayne Bradley, Coach Keith Nuckolls, Derek Parker, Matt Cox, Joe Jack Sellers, and David Shelton. Front Row, left to right, Tim Rosser, John Wombell, Mitch Parker, Jason Guidry, Jason Ward, Larry Sellers, and Jeff Waldroup.

By Charles Duncan
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The year 1988 was a magical season for two border baseball teams from Georgia and North Carolina.

The Towns County Indians captured the Class A Georgia state baseball championship with 2 wins to 1 over Wilcox County, in Rochelle.

The Hayesville Yellow Jackets defeated Columbus County, NC's Hallsboro High School 2 games to 1 to win the Class A North Carolina state baseball championship.

The Indians and Yellow Jackets were scheduled to play a series in 1988, but Mother Nature intervened and the games never transpired.

On Saturday, March 26, the Indians and Yellow Jackets are scheduled to play in Hayesville at 2 p.m. If Hayesville's Zach Cox has his way, the question of which 1988 baseball team was better will be decided afterward.

The Hayesville High School senior is organizing The Game That Never Happened, a matchup of the 1988 Indians and 1988 Yellow Jackets.

It's his senior project for

English.

Zach's father, who played on the Yellow Jackets' championship team, inspired his son to focus on the game that never was for his senior project. The project must benefit a charity of the student's choice.

Actually, Zach had another inspiration for organizing the event, Brent Moody, his mentor in Hayesville, and also a member of the 1988 Indians' championship season.

"We're going to try to get as many members from those two teams to commit to play in this game," Zach said. "It's never been done to this point, getting two teams like this together. Baseball is kind of a big deal in my family."

"It just seemed to be the right thing to do, getting these two teams together for that one game that didn't happen 23 years ago," Zach said.

A tribute is scheduled for former Indians' championship team member Derrick Marshall, who died tragically on Dec. 23 in Union County, Zach said.

Rib Country of Hayesville will be on hand with food; and after The Game That Never Happened, a home run hitting contest will take place.

Proceeds from the event will fund a scholarship to a student-athlete to pursue their dream of playing collegiate baseball.

The 1988 Indians were legendary, dominating baseball competition all over the Southeast, including tournament wins at the Ivy Watson Baseball Classic in Gainesville. Catcher Brad Wilson later signed with the Detroit Tigers, and pitching ace Chet Kendall went on to star for the Clemson Tigers.

Indians from the 1988 team who went on to become memorable local educators include Jim Melton, Shannon Moss, Shannon Floyd and Kendall.

The Indians' baseball coach, Larry Kimsey, is now a member of the Towns County Board of Education.

The name Tim Rosser is familiar also. Rosser, a Towns County educator, was a member of the Yellow Jackets' championship baseball team.

Zach Cox was still trying to secure game commitments from players at press time. The Towns County Herald will bring updates of this potential championship showdown in next week's edition.

NASCAR 2010

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

Edwards tops Stewart at Vegas

Tony Stewart and Carl Edwards both pitted for tires under green, late in Sunday's Kobalt Tools 400. Stewart took on four tires, while Edwards' team only gave him two.

The time between changing two tires versus four tires was about seven seconds. Stewart had been leading the race, but after the pit stop, Edwards was the leader. He went on to win by less than a second, while all Stewart could do was watch and fume.

After the race had ended, Stewart shouted to his team on the radio, "I want ya'll to explain to me how we lost today's race?"

Edwards went into the race a 10-1 under dog according to Las Vegas bookies, but he led 65 of the 267 laps, including the last 16.

"My team gave me the win," said Edwards. "After the bad incidents at Phoenix last week, I didn't know where our team was going, but today showed just how good we are."

Stewart, who finished second, led the most laps and had the fastest car for most of the race.

"We just gave one away," said Stewart. "On second thought, it sucks."

Juan Montoya was third and Marcus Ambrose came in fourth.

"We fought all day," said Ambrose. "They worked and worked on the car. They gave me great pit stops, and it shows in our finish."

Ryan Newman, Martin Truex, Denny Hamlin, Dale Earnhardt Jr., Kurt Busch, and Brian Vickers were the remaining top-10 finishers.

Polesitter Matt Kenseth came into the pits with a cut tire on Lap 13 and lost a lap. During a long green-flag run that followed a restart on Lap 19, Kenseth was trapped one lap down.

Kurt and Kyle Busch had a terrible race. Kurt lost control of his No. 22 Dodge and spun out. Kyle had a right front tire blow out early in the race, then the engine in his No. 18 Toyota blew up, and he wound up with a DNF.

Jeff Gordon, the winner of last week's Phoenix race hit the wall and did not finish.

"We never got a handle on the car," said Gordon. "Nothing seemed to help. It kept getting tighter and tighter until that happened."

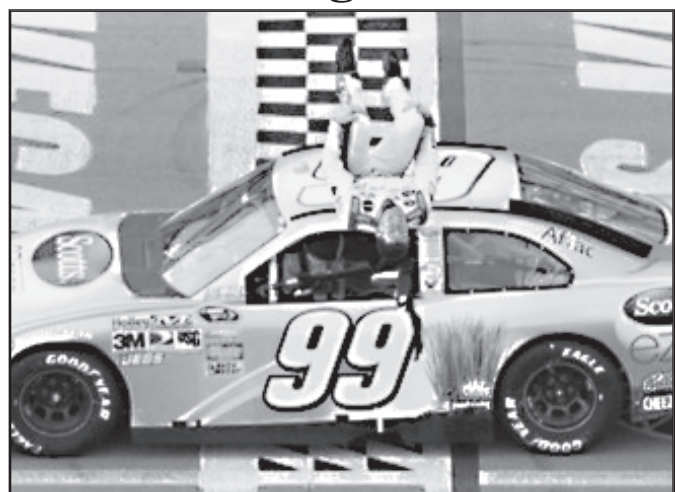
Top-12 driver standings after 3 of 36: 1. Stewart-113, 2. Kurt Busch-113, 3. Edwards-106, 4. Montoya-106, 5. Newman-103, 6. Menard-96, 7. Truex-95, 8. Hamlin-95, 9. Allmendinger-94, 10. Earnhardt-91, 11. Martin-91, 12. Johnson-87

MARTIN GRABS NATION-WIDE RACE

Mark Martin stretched his fuel mileage to win Saturday's Nationwide Series race at Las Vegas.

After race leader Brad Keselowski cut a tire and hit the wall on the final lap of the Sam's Town 300, Martin cruised to the checkered flag, posting his 49th Nationwide victory.

"I can't gloat over the



Carl Edwards doing his traditional backflip after winning at Vegas. Furnished by NASCAR

win," said Martin. "If Brad hadn't of had a tire problem, he looked like he would win. All I could do was make sure I didn't run out of gas."

Justin Allgaier ran second, with Keselowski coming home in third.

After falling more than two laps down earlier in the race, Danica Patrick rallied to finish fourth, posting the best result ever for a female driver in one of NASCAR's top three series. Patrick's previous best finish was 14th at Daytona in February.

Trevor Bayne was fifth, followed by Carl Edwards, Denny Hamlin, Ricky Stenhouse, Jason Leffler, and Kenny Wallace.

Kyle Busch, dominated early, but later fell out of the race. He finished 30th. His winning chances disappeared on Lap 130, when he made an aggressive move off Turn 4, clipped the infield grass, and slid through the tri-oval. The left front of Busch's Toyota smacked the inside wall and his race was over.

"I had a really big run off the top, and I didn't want to go to the outside," Busch said. "I wanted to kind of get down and be on the bottom, so I could get down on the white line in Turn 1. I didn't even make it that far. I got to the bottom of the 22 (Keselowski), and I guess he came to block a little bit."

"I didn't want to run into him, so I went into the grass, and I know the grass typically doesn't work, so I looked kind of stupid doing that. Tried to hang on to it, and just couldn't get it back straight in enough time and got into the inside wall."

Top-10 points leaders after 3 of 34: 1. Sorenson-111, 2. Stenhouse-109, 3. Leffler-106, 4. Patrick-98, 5. Allgaier-95, 6. Bayne-87, 7. Almirola-85, 8. K. Wallace-84, 9. Bliss-82, 10. Nemechek-79

VLRA TO PURCHASE NASCAR BIRTHPLACE

The historic Streamline Hotel, where NASCAR held its organizational meeting on December 14, 1947, will soon have a new owner.

Zetta Baker, one of the founders of Victory Lane Racing Association announced at their annual meeting in February, which was held at the Pelican Bay Country Club, that the organization plans to purchase the hotel.

"We think it is a wonderful opportunity to preserve this part of our history," said Baker. "We are in the process of final-

izing plans. We will convert it into a museum as well as keep it operating as a hotel."

Baker, who is a VLRA boardmember is also handling the purchase for the organization.

"We have made an offer to the owners and they have accepted," she continued. "We have an attorney-in-waiting, and as soon as everything moves through channels, we will finalize our operating plans."

"We have until May, 2011 to secure financing and close. The owners have told us that if we are not able to close by that date, we will be given an extension."

"This building and property was the birthplace of NASCAR's and occupies an important aspect of its heritage. We are going to preserve and enhance as much of this history as we can."

"All our long-range plans for the hotel are still being worked out, but we plan on selling something like a time-share to teams and other interested racing organizations. In exchange, they would be able to use their room for at least three months a year, for a certain number of years."

"You might call it a 'Sponsorship.'"

"In addition, teams would be able to display their memorabilia."

"It will provide a great opportunity for the fans that are staying with us to see all the NASCAR items on display, and learn more about the team history."

Victory Lane Racing Association is a not for profit organization based in Daytona Beach, FL. It was formed in 2005 to assist racing families in need.

For additional information go to www.victorylaneracingassociation.com.

Weekend Racing: The Cup and Nationwide teams are off. The only NASCAR action this weekend is the Camping World Truck Series at Darlington on Saturday, March 12. It will be televised on Speed, beginning at 5 pm ET.

Racing Trivia Question: Which trivia is Kasey Kane from?

Last Week's Question: Which Cup team does Regan Smith drive for? **Answer:** He drives the No. 78 Furniture Row Chevrolet.

You may contact the Racing Reporter at: hodges@race500.com. NT(Mar9,C)1ac

Turpin pitches a gem; Indians claim first win for Vardo

By James Reese
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The Towns County Indians split a pair last week as they won the one that counted.

The Indians dropped a 13-3, five inning decision to the Union County Panthers on Wednesday in a makeup game from the day before.

On Friday, Alan Turpin pitched the game of his life, striking out 13 while tossing a 3-1 two-hit complete game against Prince Avenue Christian.

Billy Meier led the Indians' hitting attack, driving in two of the three Towns County runs. He also was a terror on the base paths.

But the real story was Turpin, who was robbed of a win in Tallulah Falls as darkness led to a called game with the Indians leading 6-1 in the bottom of the fourth inning.

The only dent in Turpin's armor on this day was a gopher ball delivered up to Wolverine senior Ryan Finch, which accounted for Prince Avenue's only run.

Indians' Head Baseball Coach Chris Vardo almost didn't send Turpin out for the top of the seventh inning. After giving it some thought, the coach patted Turpin on the back and told the senior to go finish it off.

Turpin rewarded his coach's trust by striking out the side.

The win was the first varsity win for the first-year head coach.

"It certainly was a team win," Coach Vardo said. "Alan pitched phenomenal, he got ahead of the hitters and when things got tight, he toughened up and got the job done. You can't ask for much more than that from a starting pitcher."

"The defense behind him made routine plays look routine and that's what we've been preaching," Coach Vardo said. "On the offensive side, we had some kids step up and get the job done. Having Billy Meier on the base paths was huge. Billy is a great base runner and he makes things happen when he gets on."

"Taylor Denton had a big hit, Paydon Shook had a big hit," Coach Vardo said. "We're getting some timely hitting in some timely situations and that makes a big difference in the outcome of a baseball game."

Coach Vardo said the Prince Avenue win was a confidence builder.

"We're easing up on the

region schedule so this win was definitely big," he said.

Turpin's outstanding performance should bode well for the rest of the pitching staff and create something a new level of confidence for Coach Vardo and the rest of the Indians' team to build on as the season progresses.

The Indians are scheduled to travel to Athens on Thursday as they take on Athens Academy. Game time: 5 p.m. On Saturday, the Indians will take on Tallulah Falls in a double-header at Indian Field. Game time: 1 p.m.



Alan Turpin completes a 13-strikeout performance against Prince Avenue with a 3-1 win Photo James Reese.



Kyle McConnell ducks to miss an errant throw at his head against



Alan Turpin lines a basehit against Prince Avenue in the Indians first win of the season Photo James Reese.



Coach Vardo waves Taylor Denton home against Prince Avenue Photo

Middle School Indians lose to Union Panthers

The Towns County Indians middle school diamond stars couldn't keep up with the Union County Panthers middle school baseball team.

The Indians lost to the Panthers 17-7.

Curtis Swanson led the Indians with three hits in four at bats.

The Indians play host to the Rabun County Wildcats on Thursday at 4:30 p.m.



Mountain High Hikers schedules two hikes each Tuesday, occasional specialty hikes, and regular trail maintaining trips - all in the beautiful mountains of Georgia and North Carolina. Check the website www.mountainhighhikers.org for schedule and meeting locations. NT(Mar9,Z)1CA

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