

# Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports



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## Town County High School Girls' Tennis team advance to State

By James Reese  
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Athens - The Towns County Lady Indians' tennis team is preparing for a return trip to the state tennis playoffs.

On Monday, the Lady Indians wore down the Prince Avenue Christian Lady Wolverines by a score of 3-1 to advance to the state playoffs for the second consecutive year.

The combined individual efforts of seniors Alexa Arencibia and Ginny Rhoades led the way for the Lady Indians. Rhoades, matched against Prince Avenue's top seeded player, took her match to the wire, as the senior finished with a 7-6; 7-4 tie-breaker and a win.

According to Towns County Head Tennis Coach Shannon Floyd, Arencibia played the best tennis in her entire four years at TCHS.

Putting the Lady Indians over the top for a trip to state competition, was the doubles team of senior Jordan Moats and junior Courtney Farmer. Moats and Farmer defeated the Prince Avenue opposition in straight sets 6-1; 6-4. The Lady Indians' second doubles team of



Towns County Lady Indians' Ginny Rhoades smashes back a service from her Prince Avenue Lady Wolverines' opponent during Monday's tennis action. Rhoades won the match with a 7-6; 7-4 tie-breaker and a win.

senior Camille Guss and freshman Eryn Cochran did likewise, winning straight sets 6-2; 6-2.

Following their state tournament clinching performance, the Lady Indians took on the George Walton Academy Bulldogs. The Indians dropped three matches in three sets to the Bulldogs marking the first match loss in 17 straight dating back to the first match of the year against Class AA Banks County.

## Indians drop three games for the week

By James Reese  
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Troubles continued for the Diamond Indians as they lost a heartbreaking game at Kimsey Field on Thursday and then lost a pair on the road last weekend.

On Thursday, the Indians took on the Athens Academy Spartans with senior Alan Turpin on the hill. A solid pitching performance by Turpin was soured by a pair of home runs by the Spartans' Mark Sanders.

The two-homer, four RBI performance by Sanders sealed the Indians' fate as they lost 6-3 to their Region 8-A rivals.

The game started on a solid note with Turpin easily retiring the side in the top of the first inning.

Indians' senior Billy Meier got Towns County started out on the right foot by slapping a single up the middle to lead off the bottom of the first. Turpin followed with another hit giving the Indians' base runners on first and third.

However, Athens Academy starting pitcher John Bracher soon settled in as he recorded back-to-back strikeouts and forced Turpin at second on a fielder's choice to escape the inning unharmed and unscathed.

The game remained scoreless until the top of the third when Sanders belted a solo shot, the first of two taters, to break the deadlock and give Athens Academy a 1-0 lead.

The Spartans' lead was short-lived however, as Turpin led off the bottom of the third inning with single and a stolen base. Senior Taylor Denton, ever patient at the plate, drove Turpin in with an infield hit tying the game at 1-1.

Leading off the fourth inning, Senior Devin Henderson was hit-by-pitch, and then quickly swiped second and third. Meier drove Henderson in on a go ahead run-scoring double giving the Indians a 2-1 advantage.

Turpin had trouble holding the lead. He ran into trouble in the top of the fifth inning giving up a pair of singles. With two on, Sanders drove Turpin's offering over the left field fence, putting the Spartans up 4-2.

The Spartans would add a couple of more runs, padding their lead at 6-2.

The Indians scored late in the bottom of the seventh inning, following a Meier double, but were unable to mount a significant rally afterwards dropping the home game 6-3.

The Indians' troubles continued on Saturday in Social



Taylor Denton gets the glad hand after chasing home a run on Thursday.



Wesley Bloodworth is swinging the bat well for the Indians.



Alan Turpin pitched perfect baseball in the early going against Athens Academy.



Billy Meier had another big day at the plate for the Indians on Thursday.

Circle as they dropped a double-header to the Redskins by scores of 3-0 and 10-0. It was a long ride back to Hiawassee.

## NASCAR 2011

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

### Kenseth leads Roush sweep of Texas

Matt Kenseth came back from a 76-race winless streak to take Saturday night's Samsung Mobile 500 at Texas Motor Speedway.

"Show me where to park this thing," Kenseth radioed to crew chief Jimmy Fennig after beating race runner-up Clint Bowyer to the checkered flag by over 8-seconds. "It's been a while.

"I've said it after every win, but especially after over two years, I didn't know if I'd ever have a chance to get here again. We had a packed house tonight, and it probably wasn't the closest finish for them, but we had great racing all night."

Clint Bowyer ran up front for most of the race, but was no match for Kenseth near the end.

"We've come on, we've had solid runs and we're clicking now," said Bowyer. "That's what it takes in this sport. You've got to be able to get on a momentum swing, get some confidence built back up, and you have to start with that."

"I got in the lead there, and got away from him once, but I was driving, you know, as hard as I possibly could to stay in front."

For third-place finisher, Edwards, it was a good weekend. On Friday he won the Nationwide race.

"Our car was really loose all night," Edwards said. "Man, we struggled. It seemed like we put on a set of tires, made a small adjustment and the car would be way different. I don't know what adjustment was making the car change so much."

"Third was about the best we could hope for, and coming out of here with the points lead and a trip to Victory Lane is a good trip to Texas for us."

The victory was Kenseth's second at Texas and the 19th of his NASCAR SprintCup career. Kenseth's teammate Greg Biffle came home fourth, with Paul Menard completing the top-five.

Marcos Ambrose ran sixth polesitter David Ragan seventh, as Ford drivers claimed five of the top seven positions. Jimmie Johnson, Dale Earnhardt Jr. and Kurt Busch completed the top-10.

Edwards regained the series lead over Kyle Busch, who finished 16th. Kenseth moved up six spots to third. Earnhardt climbed two positions to sixth in the standings, his highest ranking since he finished second in the 2010 season-opening Daytona 500. The 169 laps Kenseth led were 61 more than he led last year.

Roush Fenway now leads the points in both the Nationwide (Ricky Stenhouse Jr.) and

Sprint Cup Series, which heads to Talladega Superspeedway next weekend

Top-12 Chase contenders after 7 of 36: 1. Edwards-256,

2. Kyle Busch-247, 3. Kenseth-243, 4. Johnson-243, 5. Kurt Busch-240, 6. Earnhardt-235, 7. Newman-233, 8. Montoya-232, 9. Harvick-228, 10. Stewart-213, 11. Menard-209, 12. Bowyer-201

### EDWARDS TAKES TEXAS NATIONWIDE RACE

Carl Edwards started on the pole and never looked back, leading 169 of 200 laps in a dominating victory in Friday night's Nationwide Series race at Texas Motor Speedway.

"That was big," said Edwards. "Just an unreal race; the car was fast. It was a great effort by this team."

It was Edwards' second consecutive victory in the NNS at Texas and Roush Fenway's sixth series win at the 1.5-mile track.

It was Edwards' 30th career Nationwide Series win, making him just the fifth driver ever to accomplish that feat. The win was Roush Fenway's 14th overall NASCAR win at Texas.

Brad Keselowski crossed stripe .482 seconds behind Edwards. Paul Menard came home third, followed by Joey Logano, Elliott Sadler, Justin Allgaier, Reed Sorenson, Ricky Stenhouse, David Reutimann, and Brian Scott.

Kyle Busch, who was gunning for his third consecutive win and fourth of the season, was chasing Edwards as the two battled for the lead on Lap 88 when the No. 52 Chevrolet of Tim Schendel blew a tire and slid up into Busch's path. With no room to maneuver and no time to react, Busch slammed into the back of Schendel's car, knocking Busch's No. 18 Toyota out of the race.

"We started out a little bit tight, and the track was actually coming our way a little bit," Busch said. "It started to free up a little bit that last run right before we wrecked. We felt pretty good about it. We were just biding our time. We were just running there—we were running hard, but we were just running."

Top-10 leaders after 5 of 34: 1. Stenhouse-218, 2. Leffler-204, 3. Allgaier-194, 4. E. Sadler-188, 5. Sorenson-188, 6. Almirola-187, 7. Bayne-181, 8. Scott-173, 9. K. Wallace-164, 10. Bliss-150

### KERRY EARNHARDT JR MENDS FENCES

Kerry Earnhardt, the grandson of Dale Earnhardt and son of Kerry Earnhardt is back at his former employer, Ware Racing, in the Camping World Truck Series.



Matt Kenseth in Victory Lane at TMS

"We hope to get sponsorship to keep running," Earnhardt said. "It's tough. It's not easy to find money. It's not the best time with the economy right now and everything. We're just going to try to keep bringing money in, keep racing."

Earnhardt was terminated after being accused of contacting other teams and trying to take the sponsor of the No. 1 truck, Fuel Doctor with him.

He said earlier in the week that he only did that once he heard that Fuel Doctor wasn't going to continue sponsorship on the No. 1 truck.

Earnhardt and team owner Rick Ware reconciled Wednesday and announced that Earnhardt would drive and they would continue to look for funding.

"We've got a good team with Joe Lax as the crew chief, all the crew guys - everybody really works hard to make it as good a program as they can," Earnhardt said. "I don't want to mess it up. We have something good going and I want to keep it going, keep the relationship going and keep the friendship going."

"We're going to work hard. We're going to do whatever we can to keep racing."

"It's been a real tough week for everybody. It's been one thing to another to another and it's back to the start where we're racing again. It was tough, and I guess that's what happens when there's not enough understanding and communication between two people."

The good thing for Earnhardt and Ware is that they have a week until the next race at Nashville Superspeedway and then three more weeks until the next race at Dover.

**Weekend Racing:** The Cup and Nationwide teams are at the 2.66-mile Talladega Superspeedway, the largest of any NASCAR track. The Trucks do not race again until April 22.

Sat., Apr. 15, Nationwide Aaron's 312, race 7 of 36, Starting time: 3 pm; TV: ESPN2.

Sun., Apr. 17, Sprint Cup Aaron's 499, race 8 of 36, Starting time: 1 pm; TV: FOX. All times are Eastern.

**Racing Trivia Question:** Which Cup team does Martin Truex drive for?

**Last Week's Question:** How many NASCAR Cup championships has Darrell Waltrip won? **Answer:** He was a three-time series champion (1981-82, '85). All three crowns came while driving for Junior Johnson.

You may contact the Racing Reporter at hodges@race500.com. NT(Apr13,C)Jae

## Here comes Peter Cottontail!

Here comes Peter Cotton Tail, hoppin' down the bunny trail, hip-a-dy, hop-a-dy, Easter's on its way! That's right boys and girls! The Easter Bunny is coming to the Towns County Recreation Ball Fields on Saturday, April 23, 2011, and Egg Hunt begins promptly at 10:30 a.m.

The Towns County Recreation Department, along with United Community Bank in Hiawassee, will be hosting its annual Easter Egg Hunt. All boys and girls through age 9 are invited to come out and join in on all the fun.

activity is being planned for children 3 years and younger.

There will be Cash Prize Eggs, Toy Prize Eggs, and a Grand Easter Basket to be given away in both age divisions. There will also be a drawing for a Mother's prize.

Make plans now to join the Recreation Department and United Community Bank for all the fun on Saturday, April 23, 2011, at 10:30 a.m. For more information, call the Recreation Department at (706) 896-2600 or United Community Bank in Hiawassee at (706) 896-4186.

The hunt is FREE to all boys and girls ages 4 through 9. There will be 2 age divisions for the hunt: 4, 5 & 6 year olds; 7, 8 and 9 year olds. A special

## Dyer set for equestrian finals



Hannah Dyer

Hannah Dyer is a senior co-captain on the Georgia Equestrian team. The team will be competing in the equestrian finals in Waco, TX, April 14 and 15.

In 2010, she compiled a 5-8-1 record in Reining that included two winning rides at Nationals and another at the Southern EQ Championships. This year, however, she has a 7-2 dual-meet record that was highlighted by an MVP effort against UT-Martin.

All Georgia Bulldogs are given a ring when they are national champions in their chosen sport. Hannah has 3 and is going for her fourth.

Hannah is the daughter of William Dyer of Hiawassee and Debbie Akins of Blairsville and attends Pine Top Baptist Church. When here in the mountains, she enjoys jet skiing on Lake Chatuge and visiting family and friends - which are many.

Graduating in May, Dyer plans on working for a year before going to graduate school for a Master's degree in Public Health. T(Apr13,13)SH

## Diabetes Foundation of Georgia, Inc. group



The Diabetes Foundation of Georgia Inc. has a support group in Blairsville. This group meets at the Old Nursing Home location on the second Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m. We would like to invite everyone who is involved with diabetes, or is interested in learning about diabetes, to attend the meetings.

We have different speakers each month. Come on out and get involved with Union County Diabetic Support Group. 706-781-1200. N(Apr6,Z)JCA

## Charity Golf Tournament to benefit Juvenile Diabetes

Jerry (JR) Sheppard, a senior at Hayesville High School, hopes to inspire others to become aware of the great need to find a cure for Juvenile Diabetes. For his senior project, Jerry is hosting a Charity Golf Tournament on April 23rd at the Ridges Golf Course.

Jerry has been involved with the Chess Club, and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He is planning on attending college to major in Graphic Design. His theme for a golf tournament to benefit Juvenile Diabetes was inspired by his brother-in-law, Bobby Anderson, who has Brittle Diabetes, a form of Juvenile Dia-

betes that is characterized by dramatic and recurrent swings in glucose levels, often occurring for no apparent reason.

Hayesville High School and the Ridges Golf Course are hosting a four person scramble to benefit JDRF on Saturday, April 23, 2011. There is an 8 a.m. shotgun start, \$45 per person, includes golf, lunch, and prizes. Raffle tickets are available, as well as a hole in one chance for a new car!

Sign-ups are now available by contacting Jerry Sheppard at 770-714-4196 or the Ridges pro shop at 828-389-9000. NT(Apr13,Z)JCA

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