



Towns County Herald's Sporting News



Mountain Lions out-claw the Cougars 12-5

JIM BRYANT

Sports Writer

Cats put six pitchers on the hill in see-saw game.

If you were a pitcher and liked to work a short time, Wednesday's game was perfect as the Mountain Lions went through pitchers like water over the dike. Starting with Bryan Cole, the visiting Cougars from Cleveland State touched each YHC hurler until the purple Cats finally prevailed by utilizing six pitchers. It was a see-saw game from the start with the Cougars jumping off to a 2-0 lead in the top of the first inning. Austin Schultz started the bottom of the inning with a walk, Bryson

Smith followed with a single to left and Daniel Warzon plated the first Cat run with a double to left. Smith scored off a sac fly by Derrick Lowery and after one inning it was a 2-2 tie. The second went badly for the Cougars when Clay Remole nailed the Cleveland State pitcher in the face with a line drive that resulted in a big cut and a new Cougar in relief. The Cougars loaded the diamond and walked in the go-ahead run, 3-2 but stranded three runners.

Andrew Chilcoat came in relief to start the third but the Cougars touched him to get the 3-3 tie. A passed ball at home led to a 4-3 lead for the visitors and even after singles by Derrick Lowery and Travis Echols, the Cats stranded two.

A single to center field and a bouncer off the glove of the right fielder made it 5-3 for Cleveland State and again the Cats changed pitchers, this time going to Jeff Brown. This and a little on-field shake-up would end up being the pattern for the day as they sent Chris George, Sean Kelly and Ben Watson to the hill to finally secure the win. By the bottom

of the fourth inning, the Cats had a 5-5 tie

After a single by Bryson Smith, a Kenny Swab RBI double, 5-4 and a sac fly to the fence by Derrick Lowery plated Bryson Smith 5-5. The Mountain Lions plated twelve runs off sixteen hits with Austin Schultz going 3-3 and scoring three runs to lead the offense in the 12-5 win.



Bryson Smith goes airborne in his slide at third base.



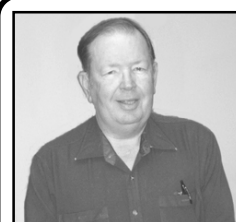
Andrew Chilcoat was the second of six Mountain Lions pitchers in the game. Photos by Jim and Lisa Bryant



Kenny Swab tries for the tag at home as the CS Cougar scores their first run.



Scoop Pharr makes a put-out at second base in 12-5 win.



Local Racing Action

by Carl Vanzura

Mashburn passes Chastain on last lap at Tri-County

Murphy's George Mashburn followed Johnny Chastain for 29 and 3/4s laps and took the lead out of turn 4 when Chastain slid out of the groove with a flat tire as Mashburn took the lead for the last 200 feet to take the first checker flag of the 2009 season. Rodney Weeks, Chris Williams, Glenn Barnett and Terry Ledford rounded out the field. Jamie Oliver broke in hot laps and did not start.

Blairsville driver Robby Roxbury won the Sportsman feature, his first win since his championship in Street Stock several years ago. Preston Crisp, Blairsville's Jamie Lunsford, Doug Sneed, Sammy Berrong, Adam Morrow, Blairsville's Tracy Dockery, Todd Manners, Mike Davis, Hiwassee's Kevin Bradshaw and Jacob Anderson rounded out the field.

In the Nesmith Crate Late Model feature the top five saw Jason Deal lead Blairsville's Brian Kinnersley, Seth Wimpey, Jim Bob David and Kevin Sutton across the finish line.

Brasstown racer Greg Sudderth started this year where he left off last year as the track champion, with a victory in the Modified Street feature over Jim Twigg, Jeffery Wood, Heather Taylor and Charles Devine.

Hiwassee's Steven Sofield won the Street Stock feature over Josh Roberts and Charles Toomey. Jim Exum broke in hot laps and did not start.

Three of the top five Mini Stocks were disqualified during the post race inspection that saw Justin Woodard take the first place honors. Casey Carter, Lynn Burchfield, and Danny Cordin rounded out the top five.

Racing returns to Tri-County this Saturday night when the Georgia Mini Sprint Series are in action along with all six classes including the Super Late Models.

Sugar Creek Speedway got off to a bad start of their new season when rain forced a cancellation of last Friday's races. They will try again this Friday night.

Blairsville's Jonathan Davenport placed third Saturday at Gaffney Speedway during the Southern All Star race won by Chris Madden.



The Georgia Mini Sprints will be in action this Saturday night at Tri-County.

Herald's sports quote of the week

"I'm working on a new pitch. It's called a strike."

- Jim The Great Emu Kern, pitcher

NASCAR 2009 By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

HOW GOOD WERE THE GOOD OLD DAYS

A lot of fans that I receive mail from refer to "The Good Old Days." Sometimes I even long for them, but how good was the actual racing in the early days of NASCAR.

Walt Wimer sent me the following statement: "Sometimes we read a lot of complaints about the NASCAR racing of today, but look at the results of the 1962 Daytona Modified race. Leroy Yarbrough won it with Bobby Johns second, the only other car on the lead lap. Eddie Crouse, another NASCAR Modified champ was third, 4 laps down while 4th and 5th Larry Frank and Jackie Evans were 5 laps back. Only 13 cars completed 90 or more of the 100 laps."

Could NASCAR sell that product to the TV today?

No. But it was more "fun" back then.

The drivers were a unique bunch. They had an overabundance of talent, courage, and a strong desire to do what they knew best, which was racing. But what made them special was their humanness.

They were more real than the drivers we have today.

Now, I don't mean to take away from drivers like Kyle Busch and Jeff Gordon, both who have tremendous driving skills. But our drivers of today are more like robots acting on behalf of the large corporations that control NASCAR racing.

Joey Logano, winner of this past weekend's Nationwide Series race in Nashville, never had to get "down and dirty," or sleep in the back of a pickup on race weekends. He doesn't know what it's like to have grease under his fingernails.

How did he learn to drive and become a talented driver? According to one report, his father invested over \$1-million in tutors and training. That included buying him the best equipment money could buy.

True race fans know there is more to it than the glamour of race day. Many drivers used to spend the better part of his life struggling to build a car and race it on Sunday.

Today's drivers enjoy big company sponsorship, have chauffeur-driven limousines, or helicopters, and never work beside their pit crews and mechanics to help create a better race car.

I would say NASCAR racing is now NASCAR entertainment.

Please understand that I'm not trying to say that today's racing doesn't have its bright spots, or isn't exciting.

Few sports or businesses have enlarged without some type of change. Racing is a spectator sport with fan identification. As the sport has changed, so have the fans.

People generally like action and activity to fill their leisure hours, and of all the major sports, except football, there is more action to be found in NASCAR than anywhere else.

No matter how polished today's drivers appear on television, there is still something to be said for the early drivers. The ones who partied and drank the night before, showed up just in time to race, and then might light up a Camel in victory lane, were heroes just as well.

You could see they were real people.

They didn't do it for the big bucks they received. It was the love of the sport, the love of racing that drove them to risk their lives each week.

Every Sprint Cup, Nationwide, and Camping World driver I have talked with told me how he loves racing.

Maybe one of my future questions to drivers will be, "If you knew you had to have a part-time job in order to survive and provide for your family, would you still be out there on Sunday?"

Ponder that question as you watch the Sprint Cup race next Sunday. You decide how dedicated to racing your favorite driver might be.

LOGANO BEATS KYLE BUSCHAT NASHVILLE

LEBANON, Tenn. -- Joey Logano slipped past teammate Kyle Busch with nine laps to go and hung on to win Saturday's Nashville 300 Nationwide Series race at Nashville Superspeedway.

The victory was Logano's first of the season and second of his young career. The 18-year-old also won last year at Kentucky Speedway.

"It's been awhile," a smiling Logano said after the race. "We had a really good run here. The last time we were here, we got caught up in a wreck. It was awesome to be able to get that win this time. Ever since I've been coming to Nashville ... I've been wanting to get that guitar, and this is just awesome."

The track awards a unique trophy to the race winner, a Sam Bass-painted Gibson Les Paul guitar, which Logano proudly carried home in a case after the race.

The race was a battle between the Gibbs teammates, and Busch and Logano led 172 of the race's 225 laps.

"He had a better car on the short run, and we had a better car on the long run," Busch said. "(The team) did a great job, and it was just a shame we weren't able to get out there and win this thing. That's kind of frustrating, but we finished second today."

JR Motorsports' Brad Keselowski was third, followed by Kelly Bires, Carl Edwards, Jason Leffler, David Ragan, Mike Bliss, Steve Wallace and Scott Lagasse Jr. Busch cut into Edwards'

points lead and now trails by 23 after the sixth race of the season.

Top-10 points leaders after 6 of 35: 1. Edwards-959, 2. Ky. Busch-936, 3. Ragan-799, 4. Leffler-762, 5. Keselowski-733, 6. Logano-728, 7. Allgaier-676, 8. Gaughan-676, 9. Lagasse-672, 10. Keller-667

The Sprint Cup and Camping World Series had an off weekend.

Next Week: Dodge's Racing Future is

Iffy

Weekend Racing:

The Nationwide Series and Sprint Cup teams are at the 1-mile Phoenix International Raceway. The Camping World Trucks do not race again until Apr. 25.

Fri., Apr., 17, Nationwide Series Bashas Supermarkets 200, race 7 of 35, Starting time: 9 p.m. (EDT); TV: ESPN2.

Sat., Apr. 18, Sprint Cup Subway Fresh Fit 500, race 8 of 36; Starting time: 8 p.m. (EDT); TV: FOX.

Racing Trivia Question: Who does Clint Bowyer drive for?

Last Week's Question: How many Cup races did Kyle Busch win in 2008? Answer: He won eight.

You may contact the Racing Reporter at: hodgegnews@earthlink.net.



Red Farmer stands beside his Studebaker prior to the 1962 Daytona Modified race. Courtesy of Walt Wimer

Bears out for their nightly bird feeder all-you-can-eat buffet



Bear cub decides to come on the front porch or finds its mother. Photos by Jim/Lisa Bryant

JIM BRYANT

Sports Writer

On Young Harris Mountain the bears rule the night. At least night, as a large mother and three big cubs made a 1:30 am visit to the deck and dined on the bird feeders. Awakened to the crunching of plastic feeders, the four bears showed absolutely no fear as they ram-sacked the feeders. Not the least bothered by the flashing of my camera (got some really great

close-ups) they went from the deck to the front porch and continued their buffet. Not even threats of tornados and rainy weather deterred the hungry visitors.

After a brief hiatus in dining, they calmly climbed straight up the bank to the road above us, only to return at 3:00 am just as I managed to get back to sleep. Again, out came the camera and flashes lit the night sky. Photographers get turned on by the simple things in nature. It was worth the lack of sleep.



Bear cub in a tree calling for its mother who had moved ahead with two other cubs.

WILD FACTS: common cottontails

Georgia is home to four species of rabbits: the Eastern cottontail, swamp rabbit, marsh rabbit and Appalachian cottontail. The Eastern cottontail is the most common and occurs statewide. For good reason, they are considered a symbol of spring fertility, with one female rabbit producing as many as 50 young per year.

Baby rabbits are born blind inside a well-camouflaged yet shallow nest hole. Active from early evening to late morning, the mother only visits the nest to suckle her young. Cottontails grow up quickly, venturing out to eat vegetation when just 1 week old. They are fully weaned by 2 weeks old.

WILD Facts is a regular feature written by Linda May, a wildlife interpretive specialist with the Georgia DNR Wildlife Resources Division.

