



Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Towns County Indians' wrestler Tyler Hoffman continues to excel

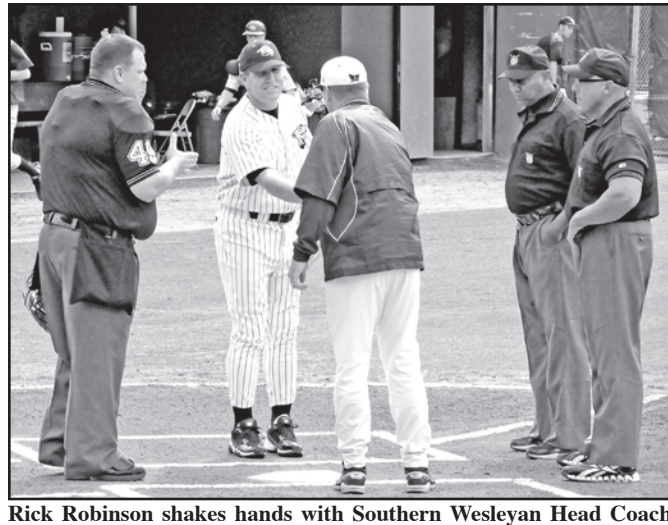


Towns County Indians' wrestler Tyler Hoffman continues to excel on the mats, this time at Elite Training Center. Hoffman, a sophomore at Towns County High School, who competed at 152 pounds and 160 pounds in Class A High School wrestling events for the Indians, wrestled over the weekend in his first Freestyle and Greco Roman wrestling tournament at East Paulding High School. He claimed a silver medal for placing second in the Greco Roman Division. Prior to that, he

was knocked out of the consolation semi finals when he got out of position and was eliminated in the Freestyle competition. "It only takes one move (to lose), and I am here to get better," Hoffman said. However, Hoffman did have one of the few five-point throws of the Freestyle tournament. It was a great day of wrestling and Hoffman will be working hard this week to prepare for the Battle at the Little Big Horn at Chattooga High School on Saturday.

Coach Rick Robinson will be a hard act to follow

When Rick Robinson's coaching days are over, he'll be a hard act to follow at Young Harris College. The man who revived the Mountain Lions' baseball program more than a decade ago and took it to soaring heights, won his 600th and 601st college games as a head coach last week. The Mountain Lions won No. 600 for Coach Robinson with a 4-3 walk-off, come-from-behind win over the Southern Wesleyan Warriors on Wednesday. On Friday, career victory No. 601 for Coach Robinson was secured with a 10-1 thrashing of Toccoa Falls College at Zell B. Miller Field. Freshman Adam Moore fanned seven in seven innings and sophomore Josh Rudnik drove in six as the Mountain Lions made sure the final game of 2011 at Zell B. Miller Field was a win. On Monday, the Mountain Lions ended their season with a 5-0 loss to Peach Belt Conference foe USC-Aiken to finish 2011 with a 28-22 record. Robinson's career coaching record, including 55 games as the head coach at Brevard College, is 601-192. Coach Robinson's career record at Young Harris College is 568-170. Robinson's feat comes in Young Harris College's first year of playing four-year competition in NCAA Division II. "I have had the opportunity to work with many outstanding players, coaches and administrators during the (793) games," Coach Robinson said. "Without the encouragement from my wife, the support from college administrators, the dedication of the players, and the great work ethic of the assistant



Rick Robinson shakes hands with Southern Wesleyan Head Coach Mike Gillespie prior to the Mountain Lions 4-3 win, Robinson's 600th career victory.

YHC to host Clay Dotson Open Golf Tournament

The annual Clay Dotson Open Golf Tournament to benefit student scholarships at Young Harris College will be held on Monday, May 16, at Brasstown Valley Resort. While adding new educational opportunities for students, Young Harris College continues to embrace its heritage, tradition and unique academic experience that set it apart from other colleges. Part of that tradition is ensuring that students continue to benefit from small classes, personal attention from faculty and opportunities for financial assistance. As Young Harris College moves ahead as a four-year college, support of this annual event is particularly critical. Young Harris College is committed to providing new juniors and seniors with the financial aid needed to stay and complete their bachelor's degree. "I am proud and thankful to be a recipient of a Young Harris College scholarship. I absolutely love this campus and thanks to my scholarship funds, I can pursue my dream of becoming a veterinarian," said Catherine Ponce, a junior biology major from McDonough, GA "I am thankful



YHC President Cathy Cox (far right) presents the 2010 Clay Dotson Open Morning Overall Low Net award to Young Harris College alumni Bart Boyd, '90, Chris Garmon, '90, Britt McAfee, '91, and Zeke Farriba, '91. The group also received the 2010 Alumni Challenge award. to everyone involved in helping me reach my goals. It is a big weight lifted off my shoulders to know I have help to pay for my education, and it helps make all the hard work I've put into it worthwhile." Players will enjoy morning and afternoon flights, a complimentary continental breakfast and lunch, an awards ceremony and prizes for low net and low gross categories in each flight and a complimentary team photo. The tournament will also feature the Alumni Team Challenge in which the team with the lowest score will win a special award. Alumni teams of four YHC alumni will also receive a special discount rate and an invitation to a kick-off alumni dinner at Brassie's on Sunday, May 15. Located in Young Harris, GA, Brasstown Valley Resort is home to a 7,000 yard, championship par-72 links-style golf course that is ranked by Golf Digest as one of the top 10 places to play in the state. The deadline to register for the Clay Dotson Open is Monday, May 2. For player registration and sponsorship opportunities at this event, contact Jennifer McAfee at (706) 379-5318 or jmcafee@yhc.edu. NT(Apr27,Z1)CA

pitch by Sawyer. The Mountain Lions claimed No. 600 for Coach Robinson in the ninth inning as freshman Adam Moore drew a lead-off walk to begin the frame and freshman Tommy Ferguson, who went 2-for-3, reached on a bunt single. Former Towns County Indian Zeke Gribble, a red-shirt freshman, reached on a fielder's choice as Moore was forced out at third. With two outs, Rudnik delivered a double to the gap in right center, scoring Ferguson with the game-winning hit and preserving Robinson's 600th win. "It has never been about winning baseball games," Coach Robinson said. "It has always been about doing what is best for Young Harris College and helping young men achieve their full potential academically, athletically, and personally. It is exciting to think about winning 600 games, but for me it is more exciting to think about the players and coaches that have gone on to become wonderful husbands and fathers."

coaches, these wins would not have been possible. "God has blessed me with a wonderful wife and kids and the community that makes us feel like we are coaching a major league team in a major league city," he said. "There's not a lot of small community's that support small college athletics the way we are supported here in Young Harris. I thank God every day for allowing me to live in these North Georgia Mountains." Luke Sawyer, the starting pitcher for the Warriors of Southern Wesleyan, kept the Mountain Lion bats off balance through three innings after being spotted 3 runs in the Warriors top of the third inning. The Mountain Lions clawed back. Leading off the fourth, freshman David Atwood drew a walk and sophomore Josh Rudnik ended Sawyer's no-hit bid with his sixth homer of the season, a two-run shot. In the fifth, YHC evaded the score at 3-3 when freshman Mike Medori scored on a wild

pitch by Sawyer. The Mountain Lions claimed No. 600 for Coach Robinson in the ninth inning as freshman Adam Moore drew a lead-off walk to begin the frame and freshman Tommy Ferguson, who went 2-for-3, reached on a bunt single. Former Towns County Indian Zeke Gribble, a red-shirt freshman, reached on a fielder's choice as Moore was forced out at third. With two outs, Rudnik delivered a double to the gap in right center, scoring Ferguson with the game-winning hit and preserving Robinson's 600th win. "It has never been about winning baseball games," Coach Robinson said. "It has always been about doing what is best for Young Harris College and helping young men achieve their full potential academically, athletically, and personally. It is exciting to think about winning 600 games, but for me it is more exciting to think about the players and coaches that have gone on to become wonderful husbands and fathers."

NASCAR 2011

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

Edwards beats Busch at Nashville

Carl Edwards returned to victory lane at Nashville for the first time since 2007, as he beat Kyle Busch to the finish line by .521-seconds to win Saturday's Nationwide Series race. "At the end of the race, I was pedaling for all I had," Edwards said. "I was kind of excited at the beginning of the race. I thought, 'Boy, we're going to run off with this thing. It's going to be easy.' Then at the end, that was white-knuckle. I was driving as hard as I can drive, racing him and Brad (Keselowski). "In the end, it's better to have a race like that, but it was really nerve-racking for me." Edwards led lap 189 of 225, with Busch coming back to lead Lap 190. Edwards led Lap 191 and finally got clear of Busch, even as Keselowski was challenging from third. The victory was Edwards' second of the season and 31st of his career—tying him for fourth all time with NASCAR Hall of Fame nominee Jack Ingram. Busch was gunning for a weekend sweep after his victory in Friday night's Camping World Truck Series race but came up short as his Toyota was "just not quite fast enough."

really interesting." Ron Hornaday passed Busch shortly after a restart with eight laps remaining. After another caution, though, Busch returned the favor, slipping under Hornaday in Turn 3 with two laps to go to complete a pole/victory sweep for the second year in a row at Nashville. "Hornaday got a good restart and put enough drag on my spoiler that he kind of slowed me down on the frontstretch and stayed alongside me," Busch continued. "I cleared him through (Turns) 1 and 2 and pulled up in front of him, but he had a little bit of momentum on me and pulled back to my inside down the backstretch and made a bold move driving it so far into the corner." Hornaday's truck slid a little through Turn 3, and he and Busch moved up the track, with Hornaday grabbing the lead. The yellow waved again, giving Busch a chance to turn the tables. In the process, Busch led his 20,000th lap across the Sprint Cup, Nationwide and Truck series. In two truck races at Nashville, Busch has two wins, two poles and 271 of 300 laps led. The victory was Busch's second of the season and 26th in the truck series. "Kyle had the dominant truck all day, and he had clean air," Hornaday said. "I had to wear my stuff out trying to stay with him. That restart, that's the only opportunity I had to run with him. I just gave a show for the fans. That's all I could do." With shot tires, Hornaday was also passed for position by rookie Nelson Piquet Jr. and Timothy Peters, who finished second and third, respectively. Hornaday was fourth, followed by James Buescher, Matt Crafton, Johnny Sauter, David Starr, Craig Goess and Parker Kligerman. Top-10 leaders after 5 of 24: 1. J. Sauter-187, 2. Peters-184, 3. Crafton-183, 4. Hornaday-182, 5. Whitt-175, 6. Dillon-162, 7. Bodine-148, 8. Rogers-144, 9. Papis-142, 10. Kligerman-136. Other Racing News: If it weren't for bad luck, former NASCAR driver Jeremy Mayfield wouldn't have any luck at all. Mayfield was barred from racing by NASCAR after testing positive for drugs. He has since been involved in several lawsuits, including one with his former step-mother. The latest twist happened on Friday, April 22. When a mail carrier tried to deliver a package too big for Jeremy Mayfield's mailbox,



Carl Edwards celebrates his Nationwide win at Nashville she tried to drop it off at the home's front door, but when she went to the house, police said she was attacked by five dogs. She was hospitalized with bite marks and cuts all over her legs, arms and shoulders. Police have confirmed that Mayfield came outside to intervene, scooping up the badly injured carrier and taking her back inside the home. The police chief in Catawba, NC said the dogs are being quarantined for ten days because he is not sure if they are up to date on rabies shots. No decision has been made yet on what will happen to the dogs or if anyone will face charges. **Weekend Racing:** The Cup and Nationwide teams are at Richmond, Virginia. The Truck teams have an off week. Fri., Apr. 29, Nationwide Bubba Burger 250, race 9 of 35, Starting time: 7:30 pm; TV: Speed. Sat., Apr. 30, Sprint Cup Crown Royal 400, race 9 of 36, Starting time: 7:30 pm; TV: FOX. All times are Eastern. **Racing Trivia Question:** When does Mark Martin plan on retiring? **Last Week's Question:** Where is Trevor Bayne's hometown? Bayne was born in Knoxville, Tennessee in February 19, 1991. You may contact the Racing Reporter at hodges@race500.com. NT(Apr27,G1)JAC

Local Racing Action

By: Carl Vanzura



Danny Ledford #4 made it three in a row as he holds off David Payne. Photos by Brian McCloud



In a race that #27 Charlie Parker won by less than two inches over Bobby Panter, the crowd was standing and cheering.

Tri-County leads local tracks with fantastic show
The Ray Cook promoted Tri-County Race Track in near-by Brasstown, NC presented one of the most exciting races in several years on the popular clay oval. Since the track moved to racing on Friday night, car count and fan base has increased each race. All five divisions were well represented and the racing thrilled the crowd as they were on their feet cheering most of the night. Hiawassee driver Danny Ledford made it three wins in a row in the Super Late Model feature, but wasn't easy as the Randall Twiggs' prepared car driven by multi-time track champion Johnny Chastain made several attempts to pass Ledford for the lead. Just a few car-lengths behind at the checkers were Jamie Oliver, David Payne and Rodney Weeks in the 12-car field. Blairsville driver Jacob Grizzled was caught in a four car accident that put him out for the night. As great as the Super Late Model race was, the 15-car Limited/Crate feature was even more exciting when Charlie Parker beat Bobby Panter by about two inches at the end of 20-laps. Devin Drillbeck, Hiawassee's Kevin Bradshaw and Jason Deal rounded out

the top five. Hiawassee driver Stephen Sofield finished 12th after a brush with the wall. The Street class saw Towns County drivers Ricky Smith and Stacy White finish one-two. Blairsville's Brian Kinnersley helps Ray with the running of the every other Friday event. North Georgia Speedway in Chatsworth runs every Saturday night and is drawing a great field of cars. Blairsville drivers Jamie Lunsford, Johnny Chastain in the Randall Twiggs car and Shannon Bearden in the Randy Shoppe car race there regularly. Saturday, Ronnie Johnson edged out David Payne and Shawn Chastain for the win. Other tracks in our area racing are Hartwell Speedway, Westminster Speedway and Cleveland Speedway on Saturday nights and Boyd Speedway in Ringgold on Friday night. Cleveland has a \$3,000 to win this week. Lavonia Speedway is closed and it looks like it will not open this season. Toccoa is closed at this time. The racing community was saddened when learning track promoter David Pritchett passed away a couple weeks ago. Jimmie Owens won the \$10,000 to win race at Bulls Gap and Blairsville's Jonathan Davenport took home a hefty second place pay day. Ray Cook finished seventh. TV(Apr27,G2)SH

Ride with the Mountain Miatas

Do you have a Mazda Miata? The Mountain Miatas have formed a group right here in the North Georgia Mountains. We ride on the first Saturday of every month and a few rides in between. Come join us. Call Jon or Pegg at 706-897-3784. NT(Apr27,Z1)CA

Free square dance lessons

Please join us at the Hiawassee Senior Center at 6 p.m. Thursday, April 28, Monday, May 2, and Monday, May 9 for free square dance and clogging lessons, sponsored by the Towns County Historical Society. For more information, call 706-896-1060. TV(Apr27,F1)SH

Lake Chatuge Charity Golf Classic

The 2011 Lake Chatuge Charity Golf Classic sponsored by Aaron's Inc and the Towns County Chamber of Commerce will be on June 11 & 12, 2011. Two great days of golf - Old Union Golf Course and Brasstown Valley Resort and Spa. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Towns and Union County Food Pantries. Entry fees are \$150 per player or \$170 which includes 4 mulligans. Anyone wishing to participate in the tournament as a sponsor or player, please contact the Towns County Chamber of Commerce at 706.896.4966 or email janeholland@brmemc.net. Applications are also online in the Calendar of Events section of www.mountaintopga.com. TV(Apr27,G3)SH

Brad Keselowski finished third and Joey Logano fourth as Sprint Cup regulars swept the top four spots in the Nationwide Series' first stand-alone race of the season. Ricky Stenhouse Jr. was fifth for the best finish among Nationwide regulars and moved into a tie for the points lead with Justin Allgaier. The remaining top-10 finishers were: Trevor Bayne, Austin Dillon, Reed Sorenson, Josh Wise, and Aric Almirola. Top-10 leaders after 8 of 35: 1. Allgaier-264, 2. Stenhouse-264, 3. Leffler-262, 4. Sorenson-260, 5. Bayne-260, 6. Sadler-259, 7. Almirola-257, 8. Scott-228, 9. K. Wallace-216, 10. Annett-184. **KYLE BUSCH FIGHTS FOR TRUCK WIN** Kyle Busch had to work a little harder than he expected, but he still scored a win in the Camping World Truck race Friday night at Nashville Superspeedway. "I felt like we had a dominant truck," Busch said. "There with about 10 to go, the race really got started and got

VFW Golf League

VFW Golf Leagues second playday of the 2011 Season at Chatuge Shores Golf Course on Thursday, April 21st. Yes it was soggy and the club did allow us to use the 90 degrees rule on course instead of Cart Path Only. Our participation this week was down due to this weather. However, there are those that braved the conditions and came out to play. Our winning team was Chuck Woodworth, Charlie Logan and Mel Halfon with a score of 69, coming in -3 under par. Looking for new members, men and women WANTED! Call Myron Grizio 706-896-3183 or Glenda Geddings 706-896-7992. TV(Apr27,G1)SH