

# Towns County Sports

Town's County's Leader In Sports



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## Local Racing Action

By: Carl Vanzura



Several of our local drivers are expected in the 20 to 24 cars racing in Saturdays Southeastern Sportsman Series \$1,500 to win race.



Towns County School student Dallas Manus won another go kart race Friday night.

### Three car Late Model duel brings crowd to their feet

As rain fell all over the surrounding area, it was dry, hot and exciting as Peachtree driver Jamie Oliver set fast time of 14.330, just nipping Bobby Panter's 14.366 to take the pole position of his choice, inside or out. From the outside starting spot, he and Panter barreled around the 4/10s clay over inches apart until Oliver managed to take the lead. Like last week when Panter came out of the winner, they raced that way for 24 of the 25 laps. During that time, Warne driver Danny Ledford was so close; a blanket could have covered the three cars. On the white flag lap, Ledford's tires got a better bite low in turn two and he pulled under Panter to take second place as they crossed the finish line a car length behind Oliver. Doug Sneed and Jason Dowdy rounded out the top five.

Deal held on to his points lead with another GM Performance Late Model feature win over Hiawassee's Kevin Bradshaw. Filling out the top five positions were Tony Ledford, Lee Callenback and Kevin Sutton.

The Mid-Season Cornell Tools Modified Street feature drew 13 cars to the starting line with Greg Sudderth and Charles Devine at the front of the pack. With Sudderth and Devine battling for the lead for a couple laps, Devine lost it and spun coming out of turn four and had to go to the tail of the pack Sudderth then had to battle Murphy's Sammy Berrong with some smoke trailing from the back of his car. As Sudderth took the checkered flag, his car came to a stop on the backstretch and he had to be pushed to Victory Lane to accept his winnings and championship trophy. Rounding out the top five were Junior Whitner, Justin Thomas and Mike Bryson.

Hiawassee's Ricky Smith replaced a broke transmission in his Street Stock during the week, and put his car around the track in front of Charles Toomey, Josh Roberts and Harold Garrett, to take the win.

Andrews driver Marty Clark made it two in a row in the main event in the Mini Stock class. Shannon Jones ran a strong second and Danny Cordon, Lynn Burchfield and Joshua Cordon filled the top five positions.

This coming Saturday night will see the Southeastern Sportsman Late Model Series racing a \$1,500 to win 40 lap feature with 20 to 24 cars expected. Also on hand will be the regular classes running for extra money and trophies. To top off the night will be the annual fireworks show feature about 30 minutes of spectacular action.

In other action around the area, Jonathan Davenport won the \$7,000 first place money in the Southern All Stars race at Cherokee Speedway in Gaffney, South Carolina Friday night and ran second to Casey Roberts the next night at I-77 Speedway, also in SC. Jody Knowles won at Dixie Speedway, Bruce Taylor was the winner at Toccoa Speedway and Young Harris driver Randy Nichols was second. Rick Rogers won at Cleveland Speedway and Johnny Chastain in the Randall Twigg prepared Monte Carlo ran 5th in the 18 car field. Blairsville driver Brain Kinnersley won the Limited/Crate feature but was protested, at this time the results have not been posted. Brett Dixon was the top gun at Lavonia Speedway. Coach David Payne had a popular win at North Georgia Speedway and Blairsville's Jamie Lunsford ran 5th in the Limited feature while Shannon Bearden driving Blairsville car owner Randy Shope's car ran 4th in the Limited feature. T(Jun30,H2)SH



Ricky Smith had a good night as he went to Victory Lane.

### 14-Under Lady Indians need your help!

We need your help! The 14-Under Lady Indians softball team won the District 7 Championship on Saturday. As a result of this win, they are now advancing to the state GRPA (Georgia Recreation and Parks Association) tournament, to be held in south Georgia, July 8-10. Since this was a bit unexpected, and not planned for in anyone's budget, we need help raising the money to help these girls go to the state tournament.

They will be travelling to Appling County (Baxley, GA) which is southwest of Savannah.

An account has been

set up at United Community Bank, also, any donations can be dropped off at C & J Outfitters. (Nancy Noblet is one of the assistant coaches for the team and she and Nathan have already pledged \$20 per girl for a total of \$200 towards our goal), which will probably be several thousand dollars. Donations may also be dropped off at Michelle's Hair Design, Monday through Saturday with Head Coach Penny Ledford. We don't have solid figures yet, because we have to wait for final information from the Rec Dept, which we won't have until later in the week.

T(Jun30,F1)SH

### Team soccer camp at YHC

Team soccer camp at Young Harris College with Coach McKeever, YHC's Head Men's Soccer Coach. Registration deadline is July 3rd.

July 6-9: Teams of 8-15 will receive instruction in technical and tactical aspects of the game. Age: Middle and High School players.

Coach McKeever previously served as an assistant coach at Christian Brothers University, the school he represented as a player in 1999 and 2000. At CBU, his academic career included a B.A. in Psychology and a Masters degree in education.

As a player at CBU, McKeever captained a team which remains one of the most successful men's soccer teams in the school's history. Furthermore, he was voted Conference Player of the Year in 2000. As a coach he was involved with both men's and women's programs, winning the Gulf South Conference two consecutive years.

Coaching accreditations include the Scottish Football Association "D" license and the NSCAA National, Advanced National and Premier Diplomas.

Come join us for high level instruction in a positive setting!

Questions? Call 706-897-2263

### 2010 Summer Day Camp

Summer is just around the corner and that means hot weather and Summer Day Camp for boys and girls ages 6 thru 12. This summer The Recreation Department will offer day camp for two weeks, running Monday thru Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Session III July 12th thru July 23rd.

The fee for the two week session is \$120. The fee is payable to the Towns County Recreation Department the first Monday of each session.

Day Camp offers children sports game activities, social game activities, field trips, nature hikes and much more. Give your child a lot to do this summer and sign them up for Day Camp. You may send your child to any or all of the sessions. Children need to bring a swimsuit, towel, sprayable sunscreen and sack lunch. The Recreation Department will furnish the drinks for the campers.

Registration will be the first Monday of the session at the Recreation Department located on Hwy. 76 west of Hiawassee. For more information please call the Recreation Department at 706-896-2600.

T(Jun30,F1)SH

## NASCAR 2010

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

### Johnson gets win No. 52

For the second consecutive week Jimmie Johnson stood in victory lane after winning a Cup race. He won June 20th at Infineon Raceway, and this past week he passed Kurt Busch with two laps to go in the Lenox Tools 301 at New Hampshire for his 52nd career Cup win.

"It was a situation near the end as to whether we should stay out or come in for tires," said Johnson. "Jeff (Burton) decided to stay out, so our decision was to pit. And as it turned out, it was the right call."

Polesitter Juan Montoya had brought out a caution on lap 291 of the 301-lap race after contact with Reed Sorenson.

The leader, Jeff Burton opted to remain on the track while most of the cars on the lead lap behind him pitted.

On the restart Johnson was lined up under Burton. As soon as the green flag was given, Johnson took the lead away from Burton. One lap later, Kurt Busch bumped the rear of Johnson's No. 48, causing him to lose grip and slide off the track.

Busch was the new leader. But with three laps to go Johnson had caught Busch No. 2. As the two cars went into turn-4, Johnson put a love tap on Busch's rear bumper. Busch slipped up the track, and Johnson was gone on to victory lane.

"I certainly was going to pay him (Kurt Busch) back," said Johnson. "I had no intention of letting the race end without me getting him back. That's not my style of driving, but I knew I had to do it today."

Tony Stewart edged Kurt Busch for second.

"I'm proud of these guys," said Stewart. "We started near the back and worked our way to the front. We came up short a couple runs on fuel, but we finally got in position to make a run for the win."

Kurt Busch had to settle for third.

"We didn't have a winning car, but we almost won today," said Busch. "Sometimes you do the best with what you've got and that's what we did today."

Jeff Gordon, Kevin Harvick, Ryan Newman, Clint Bowyer, Dale Earnhardt Jr., Joey Logano, and A. J. Allmendinger rounded out the top-10 finishers.

Kasey Kahne dominated the early and middle stages of the race, but the engine in his No. 9 Budweiser Ford let go and he wound up 36th.

Top-20 Chase contenders after 17 of 36: 1. Harvick-2489, 2. Johnson-2384, 3. Kyle Busch-2328, 4. Hamlin-2304, 5. J. Gordon-2302, 6. Kurt Busch-2288, 7. Kenseth-2204, 8. Burton-2159, 9. Stewart-2158, 10. Biffle-2126, 11. Martin-2047, 12. Edwards-2020, 13. Earnhardt Jr.-2017, 14. Newman-2005, 15. Bowyer-2004, 16. Logano-1921, 17. McMurray-1899, 18. Truex-1872, 19. Reuti-

### BUSCH TAKES NATIONWIDE RACE

Kyle Busch held off Brad Keselowski to win Saturday's New England 200 at New Hampshire Speedway.

The Joe Gibbs Racing (JGR) driver is the first to win multiple Nationwide Series races in the track's 24-race history, dating back to its inaugural event on July 15, 1990.

"These guys did a great job for me," said Busch, who won last year's race at New Hampshire as part of a nine-win season that culminated with the Nationwide Series championship. "It's fun to come out here with these guys and race in the Nationwide Series. What a great race, and it's a lot of fun with these cars. Can't wait to keep racing these things."

It was Busch's sixth win of 2010, the most of all drivers, and his third victory in his past three Nationwide starts.

Carl Edwards, Joey Logano, Trevor Bayne, Justin Allgaier, Kevin Harvick, Reed Sorenson, Paul Menard, and Brendan Gaughan rounded out the top-10.

Danica Patrick finished 30th, five laps down. Patrick went into the wall only seven laps into the race, after Morgan Shepherd got loose and got into her.

Top-10 leaders after 16 of 35: 1. Keselowski-2641, 2. Edwards-2394, 3. Allgaier-2201, 4. Kyle Busch-2140, 5. Harvick-2003, 6. Menard-1998, 7. Gaughan-1819, 8. S. Wallace-1804, 9. Logano-1758, 10. Bayne-1721

### LOGANO STRUGGLING IN 2010

"I think as a driver I've changed a lot," said Joey Logano, driver of Joe Gibbs Racing No. 20. "I'm as different as night and day. We've got a long ways to go to get to where the team needs to be, but we're definitely making big strides every day when we get on the racetrack."

Logano's family spent over a million dollars prepping him for a career in NASCAR racing. His first full Cup season was 2009, and it was a record-breaking year for him. Not only did he become the youngest Cup Series Rookie of the Year in the 55-year history of the award, but also the youngest Cup winner in series history at 19 years, after winning at New Hampshire Motor Speedway.

But he has struggled for most of 2010. He is currently 16th in points and has only two top-five finishes.

On top of that, he has had a couple run-ins with other drivers. The latest was with Kevin Harvick.

"I have not talked with him," said Logano. "I put it all behind me. We just need to have good, solid finishes, and try to get where we need to be. All that's in the past. I just look ahead."

"Knowing what you want in a car is something you figure out as you keep going to more tracks. Some places



I think I really have it figured out. Some places its unknown. Those are the places you try to figure out, working with your team, all that stuff.

"It all comes together. It's a bunch of little things, too. It's not like one big thing causing a light to go on, and now, oh, my God, now I got it. It definitely takes a bit of time and trying to figure it out. And it takes a lot of hard work. You can't get down on yourself when you have a bad day."

"You have to keep your head up and working hard and stay motivated."

While Logano needs to gain a considerable amount of points if he is to make this year's Chase, he could still make it with several good finishes.

### CHASE STRETCH BEGAN AT NEW HAMPSHIRE

New Hampshire Speedway plays host to two pivotal races on NASCAR's 36-race schedule. They are race No. 17 and race No. 27. This past Sunday's Lenox Tools 300 opened the 10-race stretch to the Chase For the Championship, while the September 19th race is the first Chase race.

The Race to the Chase continues next week with the traditional summer stop at Daytona. NASCAR has authorized a larger carburetor restrictor-plate opening, which should allow for more horsepower and speeds.

This year's Daytona race will be the last on the current asphalt, as the track is set for repaving prior to next year's Daytona 500.

Tony Stewart is the defending race winner, but watch out for Jamie McMurray, the reigning Daytona 500 champion. He won the 2007 summer race at Daytona, and finished second in April at Talladega, the series' only other restrictor-plate track.

**Weekend Racing:** The Cup and Nationwide teams are at Daytona for their traditional July 4th racing weekend. The Camping World Trucks do not return until July 11.

Fri., July 2, Nationwide Series Subway 250, 17 of 35; Starting time: 8 pm ET; TV: ESPN.

Sat., July 3, Sprint Cup Coke Zero 400, 18 of 36; TV: 7:30 pm ET; TV: TNT.

**Racing Trivia Question:** Where is Joey Logano's home state?

**Last Week's Question:** How many career road course wins does Denny Hamlin have? **Answer:** None. Hamlin has yet to win a road course event.

You may contact the Racing Reporter at: hodgesnews@earthlink.net. NT(Jun30,C4)ac

### Towns County Youth Football

Towns County Youth Football registration will be held July 10th and July 17th from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Towns County School football fieldhouse. The registration fee is \$60. The ages for eligible players are from 5 years of age to 12 years of age. Each player must have the \$60 registration fee and copy of birth certificate when registering. The first day of regular practice is July 19th at 6 p.m. at the Towns County School soccer practice field.

Towns County Youth Football along with the assistance of the Towns County varsity coaches will also be holding a camp July 14th and 15th from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The camp is free and any child from 5 years of age to 12 years of age is encouraged to attend.

If anyone has any questions, they may contact Jimmy Smith at 706-896-2622 or 706-835-6176. T(Jun30,F1)SH

### YHC Basketball Camp

Coach Pete Herrmann and Coach Brenda Paul will be holding their first basketball camp together this July. Boys & girls ages - 8-15 years old - July 19th/20th/21st. Contact 706-247-5779 for information on camp registration. Cost \$135 for the week.

### 2nd annual Kickin' at the Park needs your help

Hello everyone! MUSA is sponsoring an exciting event in Blairsville on August 28th.

Our second annual "Kickin at the Park" Rock N' Roll Festival.

For: Mountain United Soccer Association. Where: Meeks Park. Time 6 PM TO 10 PM.

This is a fund raiser for the Soccer Association.

We want to continue to give our youth the opportunity to play league soccer, so we've come up with this fantastic idea to not only help fund MUSA, but also have a great time doing it.

We've got some local bands lined up to play some good rock 'n roll. The High

Five Band, Sundown, and the Rubber Band are currently committed.

Last year we had over 500 people show up and we had a great time!

Food and beverages should be available, and maybe even some chances to win door prizes!

What we need from our soccer enthusiasts right now is help selling tickets, (it's really a donation) to the concert and getting the word out. If you would like to help with this event (before or during) please call me at 706-745-7865, 706-781-8152 or email me at smithric@windstream.net. We are going to need lots of help!

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### VFW Golf League news

League play on Thursday, June 24th format was a "B" Scramble. This format calls for choosing the best drive then everyone plays their ball all the way thru the hole from that point. Then on each hole you take the lowest and highest gross scores.

The winning team for this play day was Glen Greenwald, J.C. Berrong, Frank Geddings and Glenda Geddings with a score of 171 combined low and high.

## TRI-COUNTY RACE TRACK

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**20 to 24 of the South's top Late Models expected to take the Green Flag for \$1,500 to win**

Pit Gate opens at 4 p.m. • Spectator Gate opens at 4 p.m.  
Racing Activities start at 7 p.m. • Fireworks around 9:30 p.m.  
Spectator Admission \$15 • Seniors \$10 • Children under 10 Free • Pits \$27 Children \$10  
**\$2 Off Grand Stand Admission with this Ad**