



Towns County Herald's Sporting News



NASCAR 2009 *By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter*

MARTIN IS A WINNER AT NEW HAMPSHIRE

LOUDON, N.H. — Mark Martin is off to a good start in this year's Sprint Cup Chase for the Championship, after winning Sunday's Sylvania 300, the first of 10 Chase races.

There were three late cautions and restarts, and each time, Martin pulled away from the other cars. The last restart came with just three laps remaining in the 300-lap race, and pitted Martin against the polesitter, Juan Montoya, who finished third.

"Alan Gustafson (Martin's crew chief) is the man," said Martin. "He's the one that won this race. This is a dream come true. Pinch me, I'm sure I'm sleeping."

It was Martin's fifth win of the season, and he now has a 35-point lead in Chase points.

Denny Hamlin, last week's winner at Richmond passed Montoya on the last lap to finish second.

"We had a good car and several times, we were as good as Mark, but he drove a great race," said Hamlin.

Montoya appeared to be sore after not gaining the lead from Martin on the last restart.

"Uh, it was good, but Martin just screwed me on the restart. He stopped his car on the apex and I liked to have run into him. I have no idea. I could have pushed him out of the way."

"Next time I don't know, maybe I won't wreck him, but I will push him out of the way."

Jimmie Johnson, Kyle Busch, Kurt Busch, Ryan Newman, Elliott Sadler, Greg Biffle, and Clint Bowyer rounded out the top-10 finishers.

Tony Stewart developed a loose wheel midway of the race, and had a lengthy pit stop while crewmembers replaced a wheel-stud. He wound up 14th.

Dale Earnhardt Jr. was running fourth with 18 laps to go, when David Reutimann slipped and bumped Earnhardt's No. 88.

"The 00 (Reutimann) got loose in the corner and came up into the side of my car, knocking me into the wall," said Earnhardt. "We had a good car, but when you're racing

hard, that's going to happen." Earnhardt finished 35th. Jeff Gordon was not able to run with the leaders and finished 15th.

Carl Edwards did lead a few laps, but he had handling problems late in the race and finished 16th.

Kasey Kahne only completed 66 laps and dropped to 12th in the Chase.

Chase contenders after 1 of 10: 1. Martin-5230, 2. Johnson-5195, 3. Hamlin-5195, 4. Montoya-5175, 5. Kurt Busch-5165, 6. Stewart-5156, 7. Newman-5151, 8. Vickers-5140, 9. Biffle-5138, 10. J. Gordon-5128, 11. Edwards-5120, 12. Kahne-5069

Weekend Racing: The Sprint Cup and Nationwide teams are at Dover for their second event of the year. The Camping World Trucks go west to Las Vegas.

Sat., Sept. 26, Nationwide Series Dover 200, race 28 of 35; Starting time: 3 pm (EDT); TV: ESPN2.

Sat., Sept. 26, Camping World Las Vegas 350, race 20 of 25; Starting time: 9 pm (EDT); TV: Speed.

Sun, Sept. 27, Sprint Cup Dover 400, race 28 of 36; Starting time: 1 pm (EDT); TV: ABC.

Racing Trivia Question: Which driver has the most Nationwide Series wins?

Last Week's Question: Who was the youngest NASCAR driver to win a Cup championship? Answer: Bill Rexford, the 1950 champion. He was 23 at the time.

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



Mark Martin wins at New Hampshire

Local Racing Action

by Carl Vanzura

Georgia Mini Sprints return to Tri-County

This Saturday night, the popular Georgia Mini Sprints return to Tri-County Race Track in a rain make up date at the super-fast one third mile clay oval. A little over a month ago, 17 of the winged alcohol burning 100 mile-per-hour sprints watched rain run their night.

Track officials and sprint series officials worked out a date for this week's make up event. Cars from five states are expected to thrill the crowd. Racing will also include the popular Nesmith Crate Late Models, Modified Street, Street Stock and Mini Stocks. Gates will open at 4 p.m. with racing action at 7 p.m.

There wasn't a track in the area that didn't fall to rain this weekend. Just a few have any remaining date for the great fans in this area. I will keep everybody informed as they come up. I don't know how many of you know that former Blairsville resident Billy Ballew owns the number 51 truck that Kyle Busch has been driving to victory in NASCAR's Camping World Truck Series.



Kyle Busch drove Billy Ballew's truck to another victory Saturday at Loudon.



The Georgia Mini Sprints will turn speeds near 100 mph at Tri-County this Saturday.

Photos by Jack Appleget

Lady Cats fall to old nemesis

JIM BRYANT

Sports Writer

#7 Mountain Lions suffer 3-0 road loss to #8 Cavaliers

For years, the Cats and Cavaliers have been at each others throat and this past weekend was no exception. Yearly the two soccer powerhouses have met in post season

tournament play to determine who was the winner and who was dinner. It fluctuates, as each team has knocked the other out of further post-season play so there was no love lost between them. On the road at Albany, GA this past weekend the tough YHC women's soccer schedule saw a 3-0 loss to the home team Cavaliers to move them to a 1-3 over-all season and 0-1 in GJCAA play.

Mountain Lions continue to roll

JIM BRYANT

Sports Writer

Trevor Monroe nets two in 3-0 win

The 15th NJCAA ranked Mountain Lions took another win this past weekend in Barnesville, GA as they de-

feated the Gordon Highlanders 3-0 on the road. The win moved the Cats to 6-1 over-all and 2-0 in District XVII. The Cats sent Trevor Monroe to the website with a couple of nets and Sam Walker (sixth of the season) added the third. Assists in the game were Pedro Almazan and Ebai Ayuk.

Men's tennis returns to YHC

JIM BRYANT

Sports Writer

Cats have good showing in opening day of tournament

It has been many years since purple has courted a men's tennis team but the time had arrived again as the Mountain Lions participated in the official opening at the Georgia College and State University Tennis Fall Championship in Milledgeville, GA. In the first round of competition the team performed well, especially since they have no courts due to on-campus construction at Young Harris College and are having to practice at the TCHS courts. Even under these circumstances, head coach Bruce Sibley was impressed with his team.

Singles Flight B Draw: Laurenz Schraepen advanced to the quarter-finals.

Singles Flight C Draw: Jordan Brannon, Mitchell Midkiff and Koen Gottenbos advanced to the semi-finals.

Doubles Flight B Draw: Mitchell Midkiff/Jamie Childree advanced to the semi-finals.

Second day action saw Mitchell Midkiff playing in the singles Flight C championship

round and Matt Howard took the consolation crown. The purple Cats had three of the four semifinalists in Flight C.

Singles Results Flight C: (YHC) Michael Midkiff defeated (YHC) Koen Gottenbos 7-5, 6-1 in one semi-final; (YHC) Mitchell Midkiff lost to (GCSU) Bobby Angelucci 6-1, 6-3.

Singles Results Flight B: (YHC) Lauren Schraepen defeated (AS) Jan Labas 7-6, 7-6; (YHC) Lauren Schraepen defeated (AS) Rafael Milhati 2-6, 6-4, 6-4; (YHC) Lauren Schraepen lost to (GCSU) Leo Bernardes 6-0, 6-3; Jamie Childree lost to (AS) Wu Ferraz 6-2, 6-1; (YHC) Jamie Childree lost in a tiebreaker to (LM) Garbo Szabo 4-6, 6-2, 10-5.

Consolation Bracket Flight C: (YHC) Matt Howard defeated (YHC) Jordan Johnson 6-1, 6-1; (YHC) Matt Howard defeated (YHC) Cole Crawford 6-0, 6-3 for the consolation crown.

Doubles Results Flight B: (YHC) Jamie Childree/Mitchell Midkiff reached the doubles semifinals with wins over (OE) Ben Freedman/Ethan Protas 8-6; (LM) Andrew Bates/Corbett Smith 8-2. (YHC) Childree/Mitchell were defeated by (AS) Ferraz/Ramos 8-2.

Swallow Creek WMA Hunt
The Georgia Department of Natural Resources will hold an archery hunt on the Swallow Creek Wildlife Management Area, Sept. 12 thru Oct. 16.

Area deer, bear, and hogs are the legal game. Hunter sign-in is required prior to hunting and sign-out of harvested game is required on date of kill. Statewide limit applies on deer and bear. No limit on hogs.

For more info, contact the Gainesville Game Management Office
770-535-5700

Mtn Lions win another cat fight

JIM BRYANT

Sports Writer

Cats best the visiting Tigers 5-1

It was another muddy day off the YHC soccer field and another muddy cat fight on the field. The South Georgia Tigers came up for Douglas, GA to take on the Lady Mountain Lions but were outmatched from the start. Using their Escola Secundaria de Louie (Portugal) implant that played in Hampton, VA, the purple Cats sent Mica Lopes to the net three times is their 5-1 win over the Tigers. It could have been much worse as the Cats out-shot the visitors 31-3.



Linda Lehmann makes a sliding tackle in the box in 5-1 win over the Tigers.

Photos by Jim/Lisa Bryant

Lopes was not the first Cat in the net but she did make the assist to Jolie Kahn-Foss just minutes into the first half. Kelsey Battle netted the second goal of the half off a feed from Alyxandra Hogg, 2-0. Lopes rounded out the scoring with a goal off a rebound in the middle of the box.

The stripped Cats scored first in the second half but Mica Lopes tallied two more shots for the "hat trick" to give the Mountain Lions an easy 5-1 win. The two Cat keepers faced very little action in the game with Kelsey Cunningham making one save in the first half and Allie Matulia facing one shot in the second half.



Lauren Lepsei meets a South Georgia Tiger up close and personal as the ball is blocked.

Cats pull out 3-2 win over tough South Georgia Tigers

JIM BRYANT

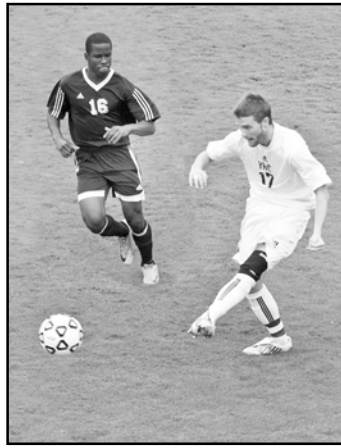
Sports Writer

It was a rainy struggle but the home team took the win

All the playing fields in Towns County this week were like playing on the Alaskan tundra. Wet, wet and wetter. Still the rains came Saturday in what was to become a defensive struggle for almost the entire first half before Mouhamed Bechir took an assist in the box by James Thorpe to the net. The NJCAA foe from Douglas, GA made it a soccer match, as they stood toe to toe with the Mountain Lions

right up until the end.

The second goal for the Mountain Lions came when Sam Walker picked the ball from a defender and sent a shot into the left corner of the net, 2-0. The Tigers came storming back a minute later with a goal to cut the Cat lead in half. Late in the match, Walker netted his second goal of the day and his eighth of the season off an assist by Zac Beta. The Tigers would simply not go away as they found the website in the seventy-second minute of the match, 3-2. The purple Cats held on as the clock ran out to chalk up their fifth consecutive victory.



Sam Walker gets in the open long enough to score one of his two goals in the match.



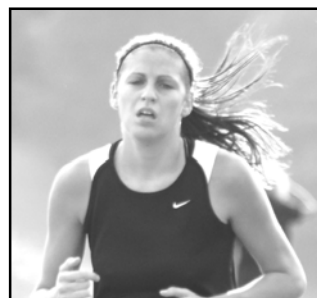
Trevor Monroe goes high for a header in 3-2 squeaker over South Georgia.

Photos by Jim/Lisa Bryant

Towns County High School Cross Country runs Chatuge Challenge



Photos by Lowell Nicholson



Mtn Lions hit the links on the road

JIM BRYANT

Sports Writer

Women's golf team garners fourth place

The Sewanee Fall Golf Invitational was held this past weekend hosted by The University of the South. The YHC Women's Golf Team placed fourth in the golfing event. Kelsey McEntyre led the Cats, shooting a 179 over thirty-six holes. Individually McEntyre

finished seventh over-all, with a 93 in the first round and an 86 in the second. Carol Rateman finished at 184, shooting a 93 and 91. Just behind her was Courtney Moore at 186, shooting 95 and 91. Katie Bludworth and Sarah Pinson holed in at 189 and 221 respectively. Birmingham-Southern (658) took the championship over Piedmont, (700), Huntington (727), Young Harris College (738), Sewanee (937) and Oglethorpe.

Herald's sports quote of the week

"A team is where a boy can prove his courage on his own. A gang is where a coward goes to hide."

- Mickey Mantle, baseball player

Addition!!!

Last week, the Herald ran an article by the Middle School Lady Indians thanking those who sponsored their summer fundraiser. The article left out The American Legion Lady Auxillary.