



Towns County Herald's Sporting News



NASCAR 2009 By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

JOHNSON GETS DOVER WIN

DOVER, Del.—Jimmie Johnson's chances for a fourth NASCAR Cup championship received a big boost Sunday, after he won the Dover 400 ahead of his teammate, Mark Martin.

"What a car," said Johnson. "Obviously we struggled early on, but the team made some great changes and we wound up with an awesome race car."

Johnson led three times for 271 of the 400 laps. He remains in second-place in the Chase, 10 points behind Martin.

"We had a good handling car on the long runs, but it was a hand full on the restarts," said Martin. "I think we did really well by finishing second. We were just off a little bit."

Martin continues to be the leader in Chase points with eight races remaining.

"The guys in the pits helped me finish where I did,

today," said third-place finisher, Matt Kenseth. "The tires were nice, but it was difficult to pass other cars."

Juan Montoya, Kurt Busch, Jeff Gordon, A.J. Allmendinger, Kasey Kahne, Tony Stewart, and Ryan Newman were the remaining top-10 finishers.

The race was red flagged on lap 32 after a violent wreck by the No. 20 Joe Gibbs Chevrolet driven by Joey Logano.

Logano had checked up coming out of turn-4 on lap 31, and was bumped from the rear by Reed Sorenson. Logano's car slid up the track, and was struck again. Logano's No. 20 rolled six or seven times, coming to rest on the track apron.

"It scared the heck out of me," said Logano. "I went low into the corner and had to check up for a car in front of me, and got hit from the back. It was a wild ride. I'm okay, but just a little shaken."

The other three drivers

that were involved, Reed Sorenson, Robby Gordon, and Martin Truex Jr. were okay, but could not continue racing.

Chase leaders after 8 of 10 races: 1. Martin-5400, 2. Johnson-5390, 3. Montoya-5335, 4. Kurt Busch-5325, 5. Stewart-5294, 6. Hamlin-5292, 7. Newman-5290, 8. J. Gordon-5278, 9. Biffle-5262, 10. Vickers-5249, 11. Edwards-5247, 12. Kahne-5211

Remaining top-25 (non-Chase) drivers: 13. Kenseth-3424, 14. Kyle Busch-3395, 15. Bowyer-3311, 16. Reutimann-3275, 17. Ambrose-3059, 18. Burton-2968, 19. Mears-2875, 20. Logano-2842, 21. Harvick-2807, 22. Earnhardt-2789, 23. McMurray-2752, 24. Allmendinger-2689, 25. Sadler-2631

Sat., Oct. 3, Nationwide Series Kansas Lottery 300, race 29 of 35; Starting time: 3 pm (EDT); TV: ESPN2.

Sun., Oct. 4, Sprint Cup Price Chopper 400, race 29 of 36; starting time: 1 pm (EDT);

TV: ABC.

Racing Trivia Question: What year was the Sprint Cup Chase started?

Last Week's Question: Which Nationwide Series driver has the most series wins? Answer: Mark Martin's 48 wins is tops among all drivers.

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



Jimmie Johnson got his fourth Cup win of the season at Dover

Local Racing Action

by Carl Vanzura



Rain ends racing season at Tri-County

The racing season at Tri-County Race Track came to an end Saturday with the second rain out of the Georgia Mini Sprints race. The next event at the popular third mile clay oval will be the crash on purpose crowd pleasing Demolition Derby Sunday October, 11th. The derby will pay \$500 to the leader of the 30th lap and \$1500 to the last car running. The race will only draw a red flag if a car flips or catches on fire. Check www.tricountyracetrack.com for rules. The Modified Street and Crate classes will also be on the program. The crates will be non-sanctioned allowing Fastrak or Nesmith cars, no licenses required. Racing continues each Friday night with the go karts.

On Sunday October 25, Tri-County Race Track will hold their Awards Banquet at the Brasstown Community Center at 4:00 p.m. with the choice of a prime rib or grilled chicken dinner complete with sides, rolls, non alcoholic drinks and deserts. Tickets can be purchased at the track on Fridays at the go kart races, at the demo derby.

Top five drivers to receive awards: Super Late Model 1. Johnny Chastain 2. Rodney Weeks 3. Randy Nichols 4. Glenn Barnett 5. George Mashburn. Sportsman 1. Bobby Panter 2. Jamie Lunsford 3. Preston Crisp 4. Doug Sneed 5. Devin Dillbeck. Nesmith Crate Late Model 1. Jacob Anderson 2. Kevin Sutton 3. Jason Deal 4. Terry Ledford 5. Kevin Bradshaw. Modified Street 1. Greg Sudderth 2. Heather Taylor 3. Brad Thomas 4. Mike Bryson 5. Jeffery Wood. Street Stock 1. Steven Sofield 2. Charles Toomey 3. Josh Roberts 4. Jeremy Woody 5. Kurt Kelly. Mini Stock 1. Justin Woodard 2. Adam Creekmore 3. Ricky Dyer 4. Travis Robinson 5. Marty Clark.

Tri-County wasn't the only track to fall to rain this week as Toccoa Speedway, Hartwell Speedway Dixie Speedway Boyds Speedway and Cleveland Speedway also cancelled due to rain. Toccoa and Dixie received extensive damage during the storms. All the tracks expect to be able to race again this year as their season draws to a close. Westminster Speedway did get to run Friday night and Blairsville's Brian Kinnersley won the Crate feature. Cleveland and Dixie still have a couple major races coming up early October.



Hiawasee driver Dallas Manus and crew celebrate his win Friday night at Tri-County Go Kart Track.

Photos by Jack Appleget

YHC finally gets on the rain soaked links

JIM BRYANT

Sports Writer

Rain shortened golf tournament sees Cats in third place finish

The Piedmont Fall Golf Invitational finally got in enough swings to complete the rain soaked event with the YHC Mountain Lions finishing in third place in both men's and women's divisions. For the Lady Cats, Kelsey McIntyre led the team to a tie for third

place, shooting a 78 to finish six strokes behind the winner in the 18-hole shortened event. She was just six strokes behind the winner from Spartanburg Methodist College. Behind McIntyre was Courtney Moore in a tie at 15th (87) and Carol Rateman tied for 21st (90) with Katie Bludworth in at 25th (91). As a team, the Cats shot 346 ten strokes behind the winner, Methodist University and one stroke behind Tennessee Wesleyan. Piedmont also shot a 346 to tie with YHC and

Spartanburg Methodist carded in at 348 in the ten team event.

In the men's event, five Mountain Lions shot in the seventies for the first time ever as they carded out in 301 as a team. Leading the field for the purple Cats was Eric Hodgson at 72 and tying for 5th individually. Evan Jordan was closely behind at 75 in 11th place, Chase Hanka in at 76 for 14th place and Beau Gammage and Matt Lewallen each holed out at 78 to tie for 24th. Both YHC and Milligan College tied at

301 but the Cats took third bases on a fifth man tiebreaker. The YHC "B" team finished 11th over-all in the fourteen field event with Matthew Peeler shooting a 76. Jesse Brock 40th (76); Caleb Kelley 43rd (83); Cameron Medina 60th (87) and Leon Payne 67th (102) rounded out the "B" team scoring. Piedmont College won the event by a single stroke, carding in two strokes ahead of YHC. Maryville College came in second, followed by ABAC.

Indians run in Chatuge Cross Country Challenge

JIM BRYANT

Sports Writer

Tribe runs well against huge NC field

The four Indian cross country teams took part in the Annual Chatuge Cross Country Challenge this past week. Hundreds of runners from the Smoky Mountain, NC Conference as well as outsiders, Franklin, NC plus the Towns County Indians hit the trail for the run. The TC mini girls took third place over-all.

Mini Girls Individual Results: Ansley Vardeman 2nd; Taylor Vardeman. 7th; Caitlin

Sheffield 13th; Olivia Silvey 35th; Alana Calhoun 51st.

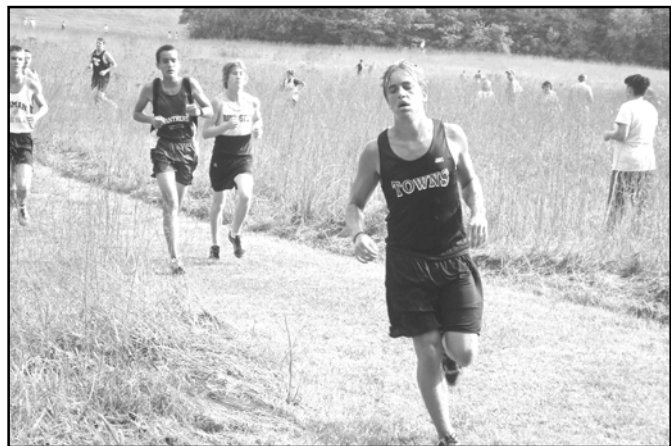
Mini Boys Individual Results: Bradley Rogers 12th; Eli Sanford 43rd; Aaron Dodson 47th; Kyle Tyler 50th; Garrett Bradshaw 54th; Matthew Barrett 65th.

Varsity Girls Individual Results: Melissa Conrad 24th; Amy Vardeman 29th; Cassie Buck 30th; Britany Walls 35th; Kristian Fuhs 45th; Dadrain Blythe 46th; Lisa Bominghaus 47th.

Varsity Boys Individual Results: Walker Guss 27th; Ethan Burch 31st; Ryan Albach 35th; Dakota Barrett 55th; Corbin Gilfilian 66th.



Ansley Vardeman



Ryan Arbach

Indians taken to the wood shed 56-12 in Wolverine home opener

JIM BRYANT

Sports Writer

Homies score early and often against out-manned Indians

Trenton, GA the home of the Dade County Wolverines is nestled in the far north-west corner of the state between Sand Mountain and Lookout Mountain. Having coached there in 1963, I remember well the historical marker across the square from my apartment. It seems that Dade County seceded from the Union following the Civil War and only admitted to returning in 1941 at the onset of World War II. The Wolverine nation is different, stories you would not believe and they are always tough as seen last season at home with an Indian win coming in the final seconds. In view of the previous information, they did not forget nor forgive as they scored on every series in the first half.

The game started early and the Wolverines received and moved immediately to the 3yd line. In the first four minutes the home team took the lead off a 3yd TD, 7-0. Billy Meier took the ensuing KO and

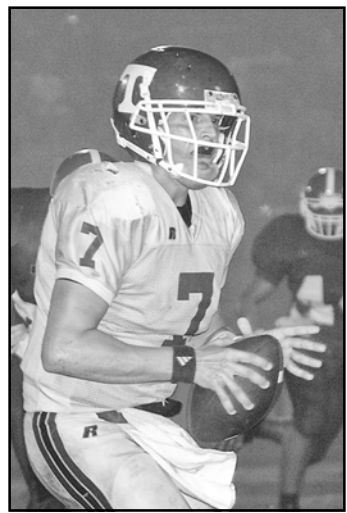
returned it back to the 36yd line. With Matt Beni nursing a bad ankle, the Indians planned to air out the ball frequently. A quick pass over the middle to Alan Turpin was fumbled and the Wolverines jumped on the pigskin. With a huge line averaging 290 pounds, the Wolverines planned to run the ball as they rumbled to the Indian 20yd line. On their third play after the fumble it was a 14-0 game at 6:49. After a stalled Indian drive, the Wolverines took a John Bleckley punt back to Indian territory. Next play, it was a 46yd gallop and a 21-0 lead with still 5:04 in the first. John Bleckley took a 16yd pass for a first down after the KO but the Tribe was sacked for a loss. Bleckley then had to kick the ball away again. Three plays later it took Mat Hogsed to make a TD saving "T" at the 14yd line. Next play the Wolverines waltzed in untouched, 28-0 with 1:27 still remaining in the first quarter.

After another Bleckley punt, John Swilley and Nic Rhoades slowed the Wolverines at midfield then a holding penalty moved the home team backwards. Didn't matter as the QB took a keeper on the next play down inside the red zone. On the following play it was their fullback for a TD and 35-0 lead. Noah Calhoun, playing for Matt Beni, picked up 9yds and the Tribe picked up a first down. On a fourth down, the Indians elected to go for it and John Bleckley hauled in a long pass that fooled the Wolverines and motored into the end zone, 35-6 after a missed PAT. After the KO, it was Tyler Hoffman and Joseph Foster with tackles but they escaped to the 15yd line. Brut force pushed across another TD, 47-6 at 6:12 in the second. With little running game, the Wolverines teed off on John Swilley as he tried to pass forcing Bleckley



Billy Meier spent most of the frustrating night running back kickoffs.

to leg another punt. Dade County burst up the gut again for another TD 49-6 as the Indians line was being whipped on the line all night. A couple of receptions by Bleckley gained first downs but were cancelled when the Indians

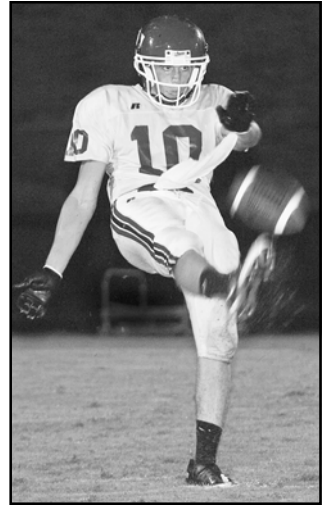


Swilley was forced to pass all night with running back Beni out hurt. Photos: Jim/Lisa Bryant

fumbled to the Wolverines with :59 in the half. With one second on the halftime clock the Wolverines ran a 1yd dive but the Tribe rose to the occasion and kept the end zone clear.

Opening the third, Billy Meier and Noah Calhoun moved the ball to the 35yd line then John Bleckley hauled in a first down pass. A stall out and punt was downed at the 2yd line for the worst Wolverine starting position of the night. For the first time in the game the Wolverines, now playing their second string, were forced to punt. After a Meier run, a pass from Swilley to Mat Hogsed got the Indians down to

the 20yd line. A penalty against the Wolverines got the Tribe close, where Meier moved it to the 3yd line. With Meier and Swilley suddenly benched from injuries, Zach Stroud went in at QB and connected in the left corner with Alan Turpin for the TD, 49-12 at 1:08 with another missed PAT. Dade County picked up huge yardage outside after the KO and moved near midfield. Josh Goodwin and Devin Henderson stopped the Wolverines after a first down inside the 10yd line then luck smiled on the Indians as they scooped up a fumble to stop the drive at 4:41 in the game. The Indian drive stalled and Bleckley was forced to punt from deep in the end zone. The punt was returned to the 18yd line but with a lot of young Indians on defense, the Wolverines scored with 1:21 in the game, 56-12.



John Bleckley set a record for most punts in a game as the Wolverines held the Indians.

Chatuge Shores golf scores

The winning team for Thursday, September 24th is: George Darden, Ray Ward, Chuck Woodworth with a Score 66, -6 Under



Towns County Herald's Sports

Local sports covered by Carl Vanzura, Jim & Lisa Bryant, Jerry Kendall, Charles Duncan and Lowell Nicholson