

NASCAR 2010

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

Biffle wins at Kansas

Greg Biffle turned on the speed to win by over seven seconds in Sunday's Sprint Cup Price Chopper 400 at Kansas Speedway, ahead of Jimmie Johnson.

"It's a big win for us," said Biffle. "Our backs were against the wall. The last few races have been unacceptable, so we knew we had to win in order to stay in the Chase.

"I was too loose early in the race, but we got it tightened up and this will build our confidence."

It was his 15th career Cup win and moved him from ninth to eighth in Chase points.

Even though Johnson finished second, he now leads all drivers in Chase points.

"Being the leader is awesome," said Johnson. "Our strategy worked against us today. We didn't get the results we expected, but we'll go to the next one."

Kevin Harvick started the race 24th, but finished third.

"We did what we've got to do and that is produce top-5 finishes," said Harvick. "The car was fast. We didn't win, but we know we're in contention and able to race with everyone."

Tony Stewart led the most laps, but faded during the latter stages of the race to finish fourth.

"We had a good car," said Stewart. "I guess we just needed a little bit more. We ran well. I can't say I'm dissatisfied with today's finish, but it always feels better when you win."

The remaining top-10 finishers were Jeff Gordon, Carl Edwards, Matt Kenseth, Paul Menard, Ryan Newman, and A. J. Allmendinger.

Kyle Busch spun David Reutimann early in the race. Several laps later Reutimann retaliated by ramming Busch's car. He inflicted enough damage on it to keep Busch from finishing on the lead lap. His 21st place finished dropped him from third to seventh in points.

Polesitter Kasey Kahne had a left front tire blow and finished 37th.

Top-12 Chase contenders after 29 of 36: 1. Johnson-5503, 2. Hamlin-5495, 3. Harvick-5473, 4. Edwards-5450, 5. J. Gordon-5445, 6. Kurt Busch-5433, 7. Kyle Busch-5423, 8. Biffle-5418, 9. Burton-5402, 10. Stewart-5376, 11. Kenseth-5354, 12. Bowyer-5251

LOGANO WINS KANSAS NATIONWIDE RACE

With a push from NASCAR Nationwide Series points leader Brad Keselowski,

Logano pulled away from Joe Gibbs Racing teammate Kyle Busch after a restart on Lap 199 of 200 and held on to win the Kansas Lottery 300.

"It definitely gets frustrating, when you feel like you should have won a lot more races than what you have this season," said Logano, who has finished second six times this year. "But it also makes you want it a little bit more and makes it a little bit sweeter when you do win."

Logano took the lead from Busch on a restart on Lap 194, when he ran Busch up the track and forced him to back out of the gas. One lap later, Aric Almirola spun into the wall to cause the eighth and final caution and set up the two-lap sprint to the finish.

Right after the caution flag waved, Busch gave Logano's car a bump to express his displeasure.

"We'll talk about it and get over it," Logano said. The victory was Logano's second of the season, the eighth of his career and his second at the 1.5-mile track, making him Kansas' first repeat winner in the Nationwide Series.

Keselowski passed Busch off the final corner to secure the runner-up position, as Busch crossed the stripe in third. Kevin Harvick and Martin Truex Jr. finished fourth and fifth, respectively.

Top-10 Nationwide leaders after 29 of 35: 1. Keselowski-4589, 2. Edwards-4215, 3. Kyle Busch-4089, 4. Allgaier-3796, 5. Menard-3739, 6. Harvick-3588, 7. S. Wallace-3287, 8. Leffler-3263, 9. Bayne-3261, 10. Logano-3237

Top-10 Camping World Truck Series leaders after 20 of 25: 1. Bodine-3196, 2. Almirola-2934, 3. Sauter-2896, 4. Dillon-2808, 5. Peters-2773, 6. Crafton-2773, 7. Hornaday-2687, 8. Skinner-2549, 9. Starr-2504, 10. Lofton-2379

WHAT'S IN A NAME

Dale Earnhardt Jr. has not lived up to the expectations since signing with Hendrick Motorsports to drive the No. 88. His 18th position in the standings is representative of less than a class A Cup driver.

Would he still be driving the No. 88 if his name wasn't Earnhardt? Not likely.

Despite poor performances on the track, his team is a profitable one, and he has proven that he can win races.

But it's that name that brings in the big sponsor dollars.

For those fans that think I might be putting Junior in a negative spotlight, I'm not.

I first met him at the old Nashville Fairgrounds, when he



was racing his own late model car. During the feature race he had a flat tire, which spoiled his night. He was brash, but honest in his assessment of his career up to that point. He even said his team could do better, if they had a little more money.

The next year he started driving a NASCAR Busch Series (Nationwide) car for his dad. He lived in a double-wide trailer and drew \$200 per week.

That's hardly the Junior we know now. He always says whatever is on his mind.

I would love to be able to write that Junior has turned things around and has started winning again. I have previously written that Junior was about to get it together only to be proven wrong.

If anyone else was in the No. 88 car, Rick Hendrick would not hesitate to make a change.

Junior will never get fired or let go, and if for some reason he did, some other car owner would sign him in a heartbeat.

The racing business is about making money and he does that better than anyone else.

I wouldn't be surprised to see him in victory lane, again.

He has the talent, potential, and has been there.

Weekend Racing: Race number four in this year's Chase for the Sprint Cup championship will be held at the 1.5-mile Fontana, California track.

Sat., Oct. 9, Nationwide Series Camping World 300; race 30 of 35; Starting 4 pm ET; TV: ESPN2.

Sun., Oct. 10, Sprint Cup Pepsi Max 400, race 30 of 36; Starting time: 3 pm ET; TV: ESPN.

Racing Trivia Question: How many Cup championships did Dale Earnhardt Sr. win?

Last Week's Question: Which two drivers ended their NASCAR Cup careers in 2005? **Answer:** Ricky Rudd and Rusty Wallace.

You may contact the Racing Reporter at: hodgesnews@earthlink.net. NT1006,C13ac

The Scott Carter Insurance Open



Beautiful weather prevailed for the Scott Carter Insurance Open at Brasstown Valley Resort. The course was in great shape for the juniors players to take to the links and play some outstanding golf. Ninety-three players teed it up for another Tri-County Junior Golf Association event split into two sponsored tournaments. The TCJGA appreciates Brasstown Valley Resort for hosting the two tournaments at their resort. Playing the Scott Carter Insurance Open were boys in the 11 & 12 age division, boys in the 13 & 14 age division, boys in the 15-17 age division and girls in the 13 & up age groups.

In the Boys 11 & 12 division, Will Shirah placed first, Zack Mock placed second, and Zach Cottrell placed third.

In the Boys 13 & 14 division, Josh Sprinkles placed first, Colton Stanley placed second, and DJ Mock placed third.

In the Boys 15-17 division, Gage Killian placed first, Jacob Wallace placed second, and Eli Crumley placed third.

In the Girls 13 & up, Stephanie Patton placed first, Amber Williams placed second, and Amanda Thompson placed third.

The TCJGA is looking for support for their junior tour and college scholarship program. In May of this year, the TCJGA awarded over \$ 3,000 in college scholarships to their graduating seniors. If you would like more information on how to support the junior golf tour and its college scholarship program, please contact Tsali Bentley at 706-745-0001.

NT06,C73ac

Appalachian Duplicate Bridge Club news

On Monday, September 27, twelve full tables played a Mitchell movement at All Saints Lutheran Church in Blairsville, GA.

North-South, first, Joyce Geiger and Pat Mosteller; second, Mary Stoll and Myrna Ponkauskas; third, Ray Berry and Harry Reynolds; fourth, Debbie Foster and Jeanette Dillabough; and fifth, Betty Long and Mary Anderson.

East-West, first, Jean Pittman and Barbara Mitchell; second, Sue Smith and Kathy Yost; third, Barry Pressman and Karol Sulimirski; fourth, Carolyn Neighbors and Gwen Weaver; and fifth, Lorraine Klug and Mary Dorman.

On Thursday, September 30, eight and one half tables played a special club championship game at All Saints. Coming in first East-West and first overall to be named club champions were Marilyn Demers and Kitty Tomkinson; second East-West and second overall, Fran Egan and Martha Brewer; first, North-South and third overall, Jim Bell and Gwen Weaver; second, NS and fourth overall, Sally Miller and Marlene Mitchell; third, EW and fifth overall, Jean Pittman and Barbara Mitchell; third NS and sixth overall, Jim Shinholster and Lynn Melick; fourth EW and seventh overall, Gloria Hoffman and Diana Ring; and fifth EW and eighth overall, Karen Miller and Peg Kieffer.

October is club appreciation month so many special games are planned. If you would like to be part of this fun, the bridge club meets every Monday and Thursday at All Saints in Blairsville and would welcome any interested bridge players to join them. For partners or information, please call Dorothy Smith at 706-745-1532. NT06,C25CA

Computer Club to discuss the Facebook Phenomenon

On October 11th, there will be a presentation on the social media program Facebook. The presentation will be given by Dr. Nick Bowman. Dr. Bowman will demonstrate how you can sign up and use this free web software and highlight some of the features as well as suggested DOs and DON'Ts of this socializing program. Jen Bowman, who works in social media and communications for both 95.1 FM in Young Harris as well as Project Oriane in Clayton, will join the presentation as



In the Boys 11 & 12 division, Will Shirah placed first and Zack Mock placed second, and Zach Cottrell placed third (not pictured)



In the Boys 13 & 14 division, Josh Sprinkles placed first, Colton Stanley placed second, and DJ Mock placed third



In the Boys 15-17 division, Gage Killian placed first, Jacob Wallace placed second, and Eli Crumley placed third (not pictured)



In the Girls 13 & up division, Stephanie Patton placed first, Amber Williams placed second, and Amanda Thompson placed third pictured with Scott Carter

Local Racing Action

By: Carl Vanzura

Season wraps with a bang at Tri-County

A big crowd showed up at Tri-County Race Track Sunday to see some of the South's top Sportsman drives battle each other in the Aarons Sales and Leasing Southeastern Late Model Sportsman Series 35 lap \$1200 to win main event. The third time was a charm for the twice rained out event that saw 23 cars take the green flag.

In the early laps, a three car duel was going on between Rodney Peters, Bobby Painter and Charle Parker as Parker Herring was creeping up to join the battle. Peters spun which put him to the back of the field. Parker hit Panther in turn two which put Parker to the tail and Herring passed Panther to take the lead as Panther tried several high groove attempts to regain the lead only to fall short as Wesley English managed to take second and hold that spot over Panther as the checkered

flag dropped. Rounding out the top 10 were Mack English, Preston Crisp, Randy Dillard, Kevin Sutton, Shawn McGeehee, Daniel Wilson and Nick Sellers.

A strong field of Modified Street cars saw Morganton driver Brad Thomas fight his way to the win over Heather Taylor, Steve Sofield, Dwayne Cole and Floyd Self in the top five.

The Street Stock feature saw Hiwassee's "Fat Rat" Ricky Smith work his way through several spinning cars to take the win over Jeremy Woody, William Watson, Wes Chavez and Bobby Barker in the top five.

Hayesville racer Jamie Cross crossed the finish line in front of Justin Woodard, Vernon Nix, Mitch Whaley and Jason Calhoun.

To close out the day, Blairsville's Shannon Jones won both segments of the demolition derby when he led the 25 lap segment of the race and then was the final car running at the end of the day.

In area action, Jonathan Davenport set a new track record during the Alabama State Championship and ran second to Ronnie Johnson who won all three races he was entered in. Kevin Gibson won at North Georgia Speedway, Riley Hickman held of Shawn Chestain to win at Cleveland Speedway. Toccoa was closed last week. Lavonia has wrapped up their season. NT06,C23ac

Fuzion Dance Company presents Halloween Fright Night Dance Concert

The Fuzion Dance Company, having completed their award winning second season last May, has been preparing throughout the summer months for another outstanding season. They will start off this year with the thrilling "Fuzion Fright Night" Halloween concert. A fortunate group of spectators got a sneak peek at a couple of haunting pieces, including their finale number to Michael Jackson's "Thriller" at Summer's Last Kiss in Hiwassee. Fuzion Fright Night will be presented on Saturday, October 30th at 8:00pm in the Town's County School Auditorium. You won't want to miss the fresh and exciting choreography presented in full costume. The professional set and lighting will add to the eerie atmosphere. The one-hour show will have something for everyone to enjoy; jazz, hip-hop, lyrical, modern, and of course it wouldn't be Halloween without "Thriller!" The Fuzion Dance Company is a non-profit organization and a project of Brasstown Dance Academy in Young Harris, GA. The members of the Company and students of Brasstown Dance Academy come from all parts of our community including Towns, Union, Cherokee & Clay Counties. Admission is only \$5.00 per person. Tickets can be purchased at the door or in advance at Brasstown Dance Academy, Head 2 Toe Dance Supply, and Hiwassee Animal Hospital. We hope you will take the opportunity this Halloween Eve to come out and see them perform. Call or visit Brasstown Dance Academy for information about classes or the Fuzion Dance Company performance schedule.

Studio hours are Monday-Thursday 2:00 - 6:00pm and the phone number is (706) 379-2651. Thank you, from the studio that is "Turned on to Life!" NT06,C43ac



CRUISIN' WITH GOOD NEIGHBORS

26th Annual Car and Truck Show

Good Neighbors Auto Club is sponsoring an auto show featuring street rods, special interest, antiques, and new cars, on Saturday, October 16, 2010 (rain date October 17th) at the United Community Bank, Hwy. 515, Blairsville, GA. First 150 registered cars receive dash plaques. Cash prizes will be drawn from all entries, with door prizes and games for all. We will be hav-

ing a swap meet and car coral, fun and excitement for everyone.

Registration begins at 8 a.m. thru 12 noon. No unloading of vehicles on show grounds, all vehicles must be driven to and from show.

For more information or registration call Marc Tuschel at (706) 835-9010, Joe McGinnis at (706) 745-3985, (864) 980-1616 or email to: joe.calgent@gmail.com.

Youth basketball registration at Rec Department

The Towns County Recreation Department will be having youth Basketball registration beginning Monday, October 11, 2010, and will run through Saturday, October 23, 2010. You may register your child at the Towns County Recreation Department. Our hours of operation are Monday thru Friday from 9 a.m. til 9 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. till 7 p.m. Fee for

the program will be \$45.

Age divisions will be 10 and under divisions (8, 9 & 10 year olds) 12 & under divisions (11 & 12 year olds), and 14 and under divisions (13 & 14 year olds). This is for both male and female.

For more information please contact the Towns County Recreation Department at (706) 896-2600. TT06-20,F13H