

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports



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NASCAR 2010

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

Bowyer noses out Harvick

Clint Bowyer edged out his teammate Kevin Harvick to win Sunday's AMP Energy 500, in a race that ended under a last-lap caution.

Harvick was actually ahead of Bowyer when the white flag was given, signifying the last lap. After crossing the start/finish line, A.J. Allmendinger got sideways and went barreling over and over to bring out the last caution. It took replays and scoring loops to determine Bowyer had the edge on Kevin Harvick when the caution actually came out.

"Oh man, what a day," said Bowyer. "If I hadn't had help from Juan (Montoya), I couldn't have done it. We had a fast car all day, but I got into the 47-car and knocked a whole in the front of my car."

"The guys in the pits did a great job of getting me out and it was the closest finish of any race that I've won."

The win was the second of the season for Bowyer, but his first-ever restrictor-plate victory.

"I didn't know when the caution came out, but I thought I beat him to the line for the last lap," said Harvick. "It was really close."

"Our car was beat up in the front and I knew it was going to be a drag race to the end. We did what we needed to do, and it was a good points day."

Harvick is still third in points, 23 behind Johnson.

Jimmie Johnson finished seventh and has a 10-point lead over Denny Hamlin.

"Our strategy didn't play out well at the end," said Johnson. "I don't know what happened, but every car back of us abandoned us, and we really lost our momentum and got us out of sequence."

David Reutimann, Juan Montoya, Joey Logano, Martin Truex, Jimmie Johnson, Denny Hamlin, Brad Keselowski, and Jeff Gordon were the remaining top-10 finishers.

Dale Earnhardt Jr. made contact with Jeff Burton late in the race, ending the day for both drivers.

Top-12 Chase leaders with three races left: 1. Johnson-6149, 2. Hamlin-6139, 3. Harvick-6126, 4. J. Gordon-5934, 5. Kyle Busch-5919, 6. Edwards-5902, 7. Stewart-5841, 8. Kenseth-5825, 9. Burton-5797, 10. Kurt Busch-5796, 11. Biffle-5788, 12. Bowyer-5717

KYLE BUSCH EDGES ALMIROLA IN TRUCK RACE

The finish in Saturday afternoon's Camping World Truck Series race at Talladega was so close even Kyle Busch and his No. 18 team wasn't entirely sure who had crossed the finish line first. But when the dust settled, Busch was posted as the winner by .002 of a second over Aric Almirola, the closest margin of victory in series history when using electronic scoring.

Busch, who led three times for just eight laps, went below Almirola in the final few hundred yards before the finish line and managed to beat him by inches when the checkered flag flew.

The win was Busch's second consecutive victory at Talladega and his sixth Truck Series victory of 2010. Ironically, Busch beat Almirola last year at Talladega by just .057 of a second.

"That was cool," Busch said. "I didn't want to do it. Man, Aric (Almirola) deserved

to win the race and deserved it from last year. I had Johnny (Sauter) pushing on me and I was getting loose through the tri-oval - just trying to stay with the 51 (Almirola). I turned it back to the bottom to try to straighten it back out and I was still loose alongside of him. I thought the 13 (Sauter) was going to my bottom so I wanted to block him. It was just crazy there at the end."

Top-10 leaders after 22 of 25: 1. Bodine-3480, 2. Almirola-3264, 3. Sauter-3171, 4. Crafton-3067, 5. Dillon-3065, 6. Hornaday-2987, 7. Peters-2980, 8. Skinner-2828, 9. Starr-2777, 10. White-2678

JIM HUNTER PASSES AWAY

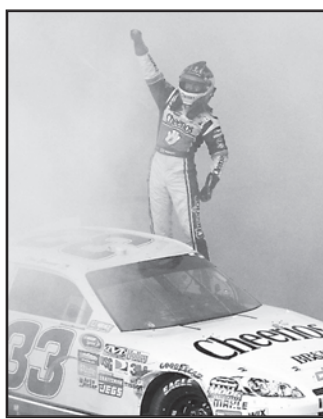
NASCAR Vice President of Corporate Communications Jim Hunter, whose career in motorsports spanned portions of six decades as both a journalist and public relations professional, died last Friday night in Daytona Beach, Fla. following a 12-month battle with cancer. He was 71.

Hunter was well-respected by the news media, because he would always provide answers to whatever questions he was asked. His answer might not be what everyone wanted to hear, but he could be counted on to give a reply.

"Jim Hunter was one of NASCAR's giants," said NASCAR Chairman and CEO Brian France. "For more than 40 years Jim was part of NASCAR and its history. He loved the sport, but loved the people even more. It seems as if everyone in the sport called him a friend. Jim will forever be missed by the NASCAR community. Our sympathies go out to his entire family."

As a young man growing up in his native South Carolina, Hunter was a football and baseball player at the University of South Carolina. Those years preceded a future of being immersed in the sports world, primarily motorsports. Hunter learned motorsports from "both sides" by working as a newspaper reporter/editor and a public relations representative. As a member of the media, Hunter was sports editor of the Columbia Record newspaper; he had an award-winning stint at the Atlanta Journal-Constitution; he was a columnist for Stock Car Racing magazine; and he authored a number of books, including a widely-read biography on NASCAR great David Pearson, entitled "21 Forever".

On the public relations side, Hunter broke into that business in the 1960s, with Dodge's motorsports operation. He handled public relations for a number of top IndyCar drivers before going on to become the public rela-



tions director at his beloved Darlington Raceway and Talladega Superspeedway.

In 1983, Hunter was named to his first executive position in his first NASCAR stint, becoming NASCAR's vice president of administration. In 1993 he was named president of Darlington Raceway and corporate vice president of the International Speedway Corporation. He remained at Darlington until 2001 when he accepted an offer from then-NASCAR Chairman and CEO Bill France Jr. to return to Daytona Beach to lead an expanded public relations effort aimed at responding to the needs of burgeoning media coverage.

"When it comes to my NASCAR career, one of my biggest influences was Jim Hunter," said Tony Stewart. "There's no playbook or manual when you eventually reach this level, and understanding all the things that come along with being a driver in the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series can be overwhelming. At least, it was for me when I first got here. Jim became a great friend to me because he helped me understand why things were the way they were and how I could better handle situations. Knowing that his knowledge and experience will no longer be available to other young drivers as they enter the sport is proof that Jim is irreplaceable."

Weekend Racing: It's on to the 1.5-mile Texas Speedway for all three of the NASCAR touring series this weekend.

Fri., Nov. 5, Camping World Winstar World Casino 350k, race 23 of 25; Starting time: 8:30 pm ET; TV: Speed.

Sat., Nov. 6, Nationwide Series O'Reilly Challenge, race 33 of 35; Starting time: 12 noon ET; TV: ESPN2.

Sun., Nov. 7, Sprint Cup Lone Star 500, race 34 of 36; Starting time: 1 pm ET; TV: ESPN.

Racing Trivia Question: Where is the last Sprint Cup race of the season held?

Last Week's Question: When was Talladega Superspeedway opened? **Answer:** The first race was held Sept. 14, 1969.

You may contact the Racing Reporter at: hodgesnews@earthlink.net. NT(Nov3,C1)ac



Chris Economaki, legendary motor sports journalist, Jody Powell, former White House Press Secretary and Jim Hunter, share stories in 2005 at Daytona

Grocery Bingo at Brasstown Community Civic Center

Come play Bingo on the 1st Saturday of every month from 7-9 pm.

Bring a little something to eat to share.

If you bring someone for the first time, they will receive a free card. Every game is a "good neighbor" Bingo. If you win, both your neighbors win as well.

Kids are welcome. The back room is used for them to play, and a Video/DVD player is available if parents bring

Georgia Mountain Writers Club meeting

The Georgia Mountain Writers Club meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 10 a.m. at the Catholic church on Hwy. 76.

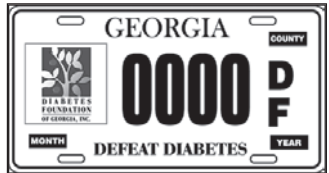
For more information, call Ellee Dobson at 706-745-0678 or email her at jldobson@windstream.net

something for them to watch. NT(Nov3,C4)ac

Diabetes Foundation of Georgia, Inc. group

The Diabetes Foundation of Georgia Inc. has a support group in Blairsville. This group meets at the Old Nursing Home location on the second Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m. We would like to invite everyone who is involved with diabetes, or is interested in learning about diabetes, to attend the meetings.

We have different speakers each month. Come on out and get involved with Union County Diabetic Support Group. 706-781-1200.



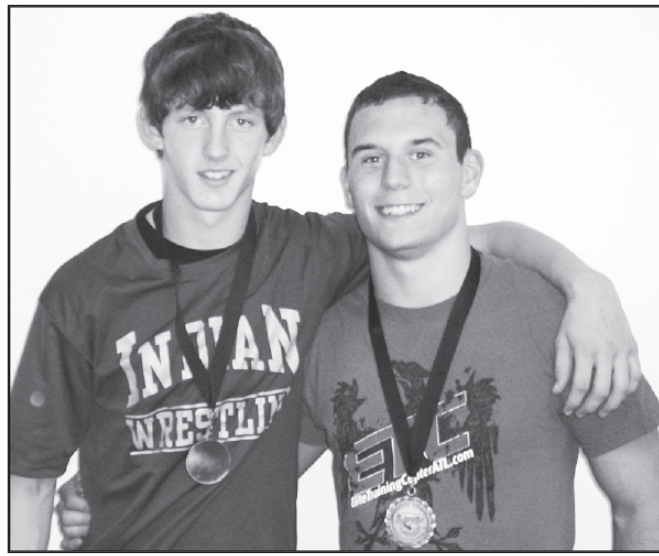
Ride with the Mountain Miatas

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. NOct27,Z1)CA

BMTA November 20th Fun Hike

Benton MacKaye Trail Association is having a Fun Hike on Saturday, Nov. 20. Meet Hike Leader in Blue Ridge. Hike Springer Mountain to Three Forks. 7.1. This is a moderate hike. Shuttle involved. Non-members welcome. Register, via e-mail: gowen2@tds.net, with Hike Leader, George Owen. Or call: 706-374-4716. NT(Nov3,C4)ac

Varsity wrestlers preparing for season



Timmy Collier and Tyler Hoffman

Two varsity wrestlers (Junior Timmy Collier and Sophomore Tyler Hoffman) from Towns County are competing in USA Preseason Tournaments to prepare them-

selves for this year's wrestling season. They have teamed up with Elite Training Center in Buford and have wrestled all summer and now into the fall. On October 2, they wrestled

The Battle at The Branch at Flowery Branch High School. At the end of the day Collier, with only one loss, was in a 3-way tie for first and once all the criteria was settled for the tie, he ended up with a Bronze Medal. Hoffman ended the day undefeated, to take the Gold. Then on October 23, they traveled to Mountainview High School for The Hardcore Challenge and again did well. Collier walked away with another Bronze Medal with only one loss on the day, and Hoffman went 5-0 again to bring home the Gold. The competition these guys are seeing is great. They are really getting prepared to lead the Indians on this season.

We have a feeling they will be ready on November 19th, when Hayesville comes to town for the season opener. We are very proud of them.

T(Nov3,F1)SH

Local Racing Action

By: Carl Vanzura

The 2010 season wraps up with a strong finish

This will be the final Local Racing Action column for the 2010 season and I would like to thank Kenneth West, owner of both the North Blairsville resident Chase Elliott won several big asphalt races and a number of series championships.

Since my last column two weeks ago, Jonathan Davenport won \$10,000 at Wythe Speedway in West Virginia when he won a Fastrak Crate race. Ronnie Johnson won at North Georgia Speedway for a \$3000 payday. Casey Roberts took a \$4000 win at Cherokee Speedway and at Magnolia Speedway in Mississippi, Ray Cook finished 8th and Davenport was 13th in the \$15,000 event won by Brian Birkhofer.

With most of the tracks closed for 2010, Ray Cook's Tarheel 50 will race at Boyds Speedway for \$4000 on Friday November 5th and at Cleveland Speedway for \$5000 on Saturday November 6th. The World of Outlaws will have their final race of the season at Charlotte Dirt Track Saturday November 6th with a race that will be televised live on Speed. Cleveland Speedway will run the Southern All Stars final, a \$5000 race on November 20th and Cherokee Speedway will run the Southern All Stars East final for \$10,000.

Jonathan Davenport and Ray Cook both had some good wins this year on the traveling series and Jacob Grizzle on

his first attempt on a traveling series finished second in the SRRS points and was named the Rookie of the Year. Former Blairsville resident Chase Elliott won several big asphalt races and a number of series championships.

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Everybody has a good off season and we will see you in 2011. NT(Nov3,C2)ac

Young Harris College hosted annual Fall Fest for local community



Shae Carroll and Peyton Hamilton enjoy Fall Fest

On October 28, Young Harris College presented Fall Fest, an annual event held on the Young Harris College campus. The family friendly event was attended by approximately 700 community members, along with YHC faculty, staff and students.

The College's main plaza was lined with booths featuring Halloween games, activities and treats, including candy apples, balloon animals, face painting and pumpkin decorating. Trick-or-treating took place at Ennotah Hall and Appleby Center residence halls, while the brand new

YHC Recreation Center was transformed into a frightfully fun haunted house.

"Fall Fest is one of our biggest events and it keeps growing every year," Director of Campus Activities Rouseline Emmanuel said. "I was thrilled with the number of community members who joined us on campus for this fun-filled evening that celebrates Halloween and the fall season."

Fall Fest 2010 was co-sponsored by the Office of Campus Activities, Office of Residence Life and Office of Campus Recreation. NT(Nov3,Z15)CA

Is your child riding safely in the car?

Is your child riding safely in the car? National studies show that four out of five car seats are installed incorrectly, which means your child could be at risk.

Find out at a free car seat check sponsored by and conducted by Georgia Northeast Rural Roads Initiative, The Union County Health Department, The Georgia State Patrol and local law enforcement officers. The coalition is holding the event on Saturday, December 4th, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Wal-Mart parking lot in Blairsville. Certified child passenger safety specialists will be there checking car seats and providing education on proper installation.

"Georgia law requires all children to ride properly restrained in an appropriate child safety seat until their sixth birthday." "We are offering this free event to help parents and guardians ensure that they are in compliance with the law and most importantly, that their children are safely secured in the car."

Georgia State Troopers will also be collecting Toys For Tots. If you would like to participate in this effort, all you have to do is bring a new, unwrapped toy and present it to one of the Troopers at the car seat safety check. So come see police vehicles, fire trucks, and even a Georgia State Patrol helicopter.

For more information about this free child safety seat check or child passenger safety, call Georgia State Patrol Post 27 at 706-632-2215 during business hours. NT(Nov3,17,Dec1,Z2)CA

