

# Sports



Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Hiawassee, Georgia

## Indians, Lady Indians return to the hardwood

By Jerry Kendall  
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD  
Hardwood action is just around the corner as the Towns County Indians and Lady Indians prepare for their 2009-2010 debuts.  
Round Ball action begins Nov. 17 when both teams square off against the Wildcats of Andrews, NC in the Bill P. Kendall Gymnasium. Fans desiring an early look at the Towns County Lady Indians and Indians Varsity Basketball Teams will have

that opportunity.  
The Lady Indians kickoff the contests with a 6 p.m. tip off with the Lady Wildcats. The Indians matchup with the Wildcats immediately follows the Lady Indians-Wildcats contest.  
Regular season activity will get underway the following week when the Lady Indians and Indians host the annual Towns County Tip-Off Classic on Monday and Tuesday, Nov. 23 and Nov. 24, beginning at 7 p.m. each night.

The Towns County teams will face Pisgah, Ala., on Monday and Nantahala, NC, on Tuesday with Rabun County playing Nantahala on Monday and Pisgah on Tuesday, beginning at 4 p.m. each day.  
The middle school Indians and Lady Indians get their seasons underway on Thursday at the Middle School. Game time: 4 p.m. The locals play host to the Rebels of Fannin County.

## NASCAR 2009

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

### The other Busch wins Texas race

Kyle Busch had the fastest car and the lead, but with two-laps remaining in Sunday's Sprint Cup Dickies 500, he ran out of fuel. Brother Kurt, who was running second assumed the lead and went on to victory lane.

Kurt had pitted two laps later than Kyle and most of the other drivers, so he still had fuel when Kyle, Dale Earnhardt Jr., David Reutimann, and others ran out.

"I knew we had the fuel mileage to get to the end," said Kurt Busch. "I was confident. I knew that Kyle couldn't make it. We were fast and were playing cat and mouse with Kyle on the restarts.

"For us to come away with the win and knock him off his sweep, it's bittersweet."

It was Kurt's first win at Texas Motor Speedway, and his second of the 2009 season.

Denny Hamlin finished second.

"We had a really good car, but we had some problems on pit road," said Hamlin. "We just dropped so many spots on pit road that we couldn't get near the front. I hit the wall and killed our car, but the good part about that was I was able to save fuel, and that's what got us here."

The top-10 finishers: 1. Kurt Busch, 2. Denny Hamlin, 3. Matt Kenseth, 4. Mark Martin, 5. Kevin Harvick, 6. Tony Stewart, 7. Clint Bowyer, 8. Greg Biffle, 9. Jeff Burton, 10. A. J. Allmendinger

Kyle Busch had won both the Camping World Truck and Nationwide Series races at TMS, and appeared to be headed for his third win of the weekend before losing fuel pressure on the track and finishing 11th.

Chase leaders Jeff Gordon and Carl Edwards were victims of a Juan Montoya mishap. Edwards hit the outside wall, and wound up with a DNF, while Gordon finished 13th.

Dale Earnhardt Jr. had a good run, before running out of fuel on the backstretch with three laps to go. His car stalled on pit road and he finished 25th.

The Championship Chase took a dramatic turn as points leader Jimmie Johnson was bumped by Sam Hornish on lap 3, and pushed into the outside wall. Johnson's car was almost a total wreck. When his team was able to get it repaired and he returned to the track, he was 120 laps down.

"I hate that we gave up all those points, but Sam just lost it," said Johnson. "I wish he could have waited a little longer before losing it, but that's just the way it was."

Johnson's lead dropped from 181 down to just 73 points over teammate Mark Martin, with two races remaining.

Top-12 Chase Contenders: 1. Johnson-6297, 2. Martin-6224, 3. J. Gordon-6185, 4. Kurt Busch-6126, 5. Stewart-6119, 6. Montoya-6061, 7. Biffle-6050, 8. Hamlin-5975, 9. Newman-5973, 10. Kahne-5898, 11. Edwards-5857, 12. Vickers-5777

### KYLE BUSCH GETS TEXAS NATIONWIDE WIN

Kyle Busch scored his eighth Nationwide win of the season at Texas and increased his points lead to 272 over rival Carl Edwards with just two races remaining. All Busch needs to do is finish 15th or better next week to clinch the title.

Top-10 points leaders after 33 of 35: 1. Kyle Busch-5374, 2. Edwards-5102, 3. Keselowski-5082, 4. Lefler-4349, 5. Allgaier-3831, 6. Bliss-3818, 7. S. Wallace-3726, 8. Keller-3701, 9. Gaughan-3678, 10. Annett-3395

### HORNADAY TO WRAP UP FOURTH TRUCK TITLE

Last season, Ron Hornaday battled Johnny Benson to the last lap of the last race in the Camping World Truck Series, but finished second to Benson, by seven points.  
This year, it's different. Whether for lack of competition, or the sheer strength of his Kevin Harvick Inc. team, Hornaday has run away with the title.

He has finished no worse than seventh in the standings since joining the group in 2005 and gave the organization its first title in 2007. The group has worked together to earn 19 wins during the span, and Hornaday has become the series-leading winner with 45 victories.

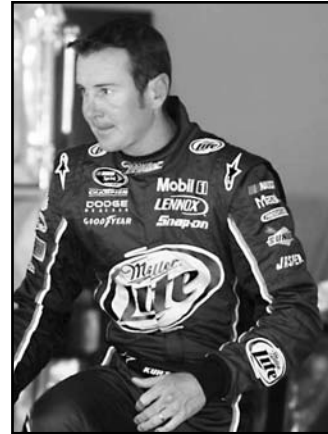
Both Hornaday and crew chief, Rick Ren continually point out the Harvicks' work ethic and their commitment to looking forward instead of backwards when it comes to making changes or recovering from a setback. They simply refuse to dwell on what might have been. Instead, they look over any mechanical failures, dismiss any incidents that were out of their control and move on to the next race.

It has clearly been a winning formula. Hornaday has 82 top-10 finishes since joining the team, 55 of them top fives, as well as the wins.

Top-10 points leaders after 23 of 25: 1. Hornaday-3657, 2. Crafton-3460, 3. Skinner-3302, 4. Bodine-3150, 5. Braun-3089, 6. Scott-3050, 7. Sauter-3033, 8. Peters-3009, 9. Starr-2987, 10. Crawford-2928

### "DANICA MANIA" OVER-TAKES NASCAR

The talk this past weekend in the media center at Texas Motor Speedway focused more on Danica Patrick, the open-wheel Indy-car racer,



Kurt Busch

than on aspects of the NASCAR Chase.

Patrick's NASCAR future was a hot topic this week, and most Sprint Cup drivers believe her arrival would be a good thing.

Even Eddie Gossage, president of TMS got into the discussion.

"She is a figure that has grabbed the American attention and I think she'll be really good for NASCAR if she comes here," said Gossage. "At the same time as an Indy-Car promoter, I really hate to lose her more over there than I would like to gain her over here because she is an incredibly valuable, marketable icon for IndyCar racing."

Dale Earnhardt Jr. and his JR Motorsports team are negotiating with her about driving a partial Nationwide Series schedule in 2010 and he believes there's competition to land Patrick.

"We've been talking to her," Earnhardt Jr. said. "Other teams are talking to her as well. She's really serious about coming to NASCAR. A lot of people, I guess, thought that it was just a media hoax or her kind of blowing smoke."

"She's really serious about it, and she's going to do it with somebody. We're working on details and trying to be part of that puzzle. We'll know more in the future."

**Weekend Racing:** All three of NASCAR's major series will be in action at the 1.0-mile Phoenix Raceway.

Fri., Nov. 13, Camping World Lucas Oil 150, race 24 of 25; Starting time: 7:30 pm (EDT); TV: Speed Channel.

Sat., Nov. 14, Nationwide Series Arizona 200, race 34 of 35; Starting time: 4 pm (EDT); TV: ESPN2.

Sun., Nov. 15, Sprint Cup O'Reilly Auto Parts 500, race 35 of 36; Starting time: 2:30 pm (EDT); TV: ABC.

**Racing Trivia Question:** Which driver has the most Sprint Cup championships?

**Last Week's Question:** Wendell Scott, the early African American driver won one major NASCAR race. Where did he win it? **Answer:** Jacksonville, Florida in 1963.

You may contact the Racing Reporter at: hodgesnews@earthlink.net. NT(Nov11,C)bc



Former Towns County Lady Indian Ellie Parton, center, was named to the Region XVII All-Region Cross Country team, the school announced last week. Photo/Jim and Lisa Bryant

### YHC's Parton named All-Region X-Country runner

Former Towns County Lady Indians cross country star Ellie Parton has advanced to the next level with ease.

Parton, a freshman at Young Harris College, and three Mountain Lion teammates have been selected to the All-NJCAA Region XVII team, the school announced last week.

As a high school senior, Parton led the Lady Indians' cross country team to a ninth place finish in the state championships last season in Carrollton. Parton finished 42nd in a crowded field of 180 runners.

Parton and Mountain Lion sophomores Rebecca Westbrook and Stacey Keahon finished in the Top 10 recently in the Region XVII meet. Parton was sixth with a time of 21:45.62, Westbrook finished eighth, with a time of 21:49.88 and Keahon was 10th with a time of 22:32.09.

The Mountain Lions also placed two members from its men's squad on the All-Region XVII team. Freshman Parker Childree and sophomore Zach Tyler were each named to the men's first team All-Region squad. Freshman Heather Richbourg also earned first team All-Region honors, while YHC teammates Parton, sophomore Rebecca Westbrook and sophomore Stacey Keahon were all named to the second team.

Richbourg paced the Mountain Lions' women's team at the Region XVII Championships this past Saturday in Albany, finishing third with a time of 21:31.25 in the 5,000 meter race. Childree and Tyler were two of the top-four finishers in the Region XVII men's championships, finishing second

and fourth, respectively. Childree finished the 8,000-meter course in a

time of 28:30.31, while Tyler clocked a time of 28:44.53.



by Jim Bryant

### Prep Football

- Towns County 0
- Union County 48
- Hart County 35
- White County 35
- Lumpkin County 13
- Dade County 6
- East Jackson 21
- Rabun County 14
- Dawson County 0
- Prince Avenue 7
- Georgia Military 0
- North Forsyth 50
- Chestatee 20
- Gainesville 49
- Jackkson County 26
- Fannin County 17
- Buford 45
- Social Circle 14
- Clarke Central 31
- Forsyth Central 0
- Pickens County 10
- Franklin County 20
- Oconee County 33
- West Forsyth 42
- Lakeview Academy 14
- South Forsyth 21
- Apalachee 37
- Robbinsville, NC 56
- Hayesville, NC 31
- Smoky Mountain, NC 6
- Murphy, NC 13
- Franklin, NC 14

- Glascocock County 37
- Banks County 20
- Elbert County 0
- Gilmer County 0
- North Hall 40
- Coosa 47
- Jefferson 35
- Oglethorpe County 42
- Riverside Academy 27
- Commerce 33
- North Paulding 42
- Northview 7
- Creekview 42
- Flowery Branch 17
- Stephens County 23
- North Oconee 7
- GAC 14
- Athens Academy 41
- Madison County 13
- Tucker 41
- East Hall 7
- Eastside 22
- Morgan County 13
- West Hall 14
- Athens Christian 31
- Mill Creek 24
- Salem 14
- Cherokee, NC 12
- Andrews, NC 12
- North Henderson, NC 7
- Swain, NC 20
- Tuscola, NC 35

### Local collection sites for Operation Christmas Child

North Georgia residents know the "Power of a Simple Gift" and pack shoe box gifts for hurting children worldwide. Local volunteers are collecting simple shoe box gifts personally packed by children, families, and individuals here in North Georgia. From North Georgia, the shoe box gifts will be sorted and sent using whatever means necessary—sea containers, trucks, buses, trains, airplanes, helicopters, boats, camels, even dog sleds—to reach suffering children around the world.

There are five local collections sites to take your shoe box gifts to: Gilmer Co. - Grace Baptist Ch. 706-635-2441; Fannin Co. - First Baptist Ch.,


McCaysville 706-492-5301; Blairsville - World Harvest Church North 706-374-6175; Towns Co. Dr. Gordon Held 706-896-2363, and Rabun Co. - Rabun Gap Nacoochee Sch. 706-746-7467 x 229. For more information on how to participate in Operation Christmas Child, call (706-374-6175) or visit [www.samaritanspurse.org](http://www.samaritanspurse.org). National Collection Week is Nov. 16-23.

Come join the effort to help the world's largest Christmas project hand-deliver some 8 million gift-filled shoe boxes to children in more than 90 countries suffering from natural disaster, war, terrorism, disease, famine, and poverty.

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**PLAYERS OF THE WEEK**



**John Swilley**  
Offensive

Each Player of the Week will receive a FREE Pizza from Big A's Pizzeria of Hiwassee!



**Matt Hagedorn**  
Defensive