

# Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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## Football: Coach Roquemore meets with parents, highlights summer activities

By Chad Stack  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

New Towns County Head Football Coach Jason Roquemore met with students and parents on Monday, March 11, in the High School cafeteria.

Roquemore was hired earlier this month and was introduced to the students on Tuesday, March 5, but he wanted to meet the parents and talk about the goals that he has in mind for the football program.

He told parents in the meeting last week that he wanted all of Towns County Football to become one program, where the middle school would practice with the high school to form a cohesive unit.

The coach handed out a three-month calendar for students wanting to play multiple sports and have a summer job. For any students looking to play football, the calendar and the communication paperwork can be picked up from High School Athletic Director Jim Melton.

Roquemore's calendar features summer workouts that start in June and go through August, three to four days a



Coach Roquemore takes center stage. Photo/Chad Stack

week.

On Saturday, June 8, the Towns County Football Touchdown Club will be hosting a fishing tournament. This year, the Touchdown Club is giving away \$2,500 in prize money, and First Place wins \$1,000.

It'll be \$100 a boat to enter the tournament, and the goal for the Touchdown Club is to have 100 boats enter the tournament this year.

Roquemore is also bringing Midnight Madness to Towns County. The Georgia

High School Association has a rule that doesn't allow students to practice in full pads until August 1.

The football players will come to the school on the evening of July 31, eat dinner and do some things together as a team.

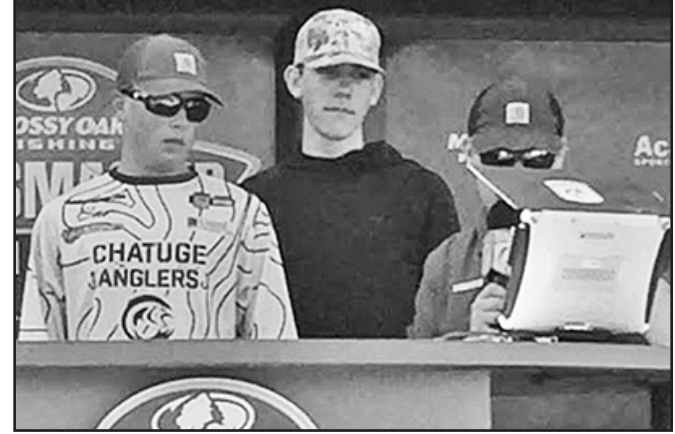
At 12:01 a.m., the players will practice in full pads under the lights on the field, and after practice, they will sleep in the gym together as a team until 7 a.m.

## Chatuge Anglers performing well in 2019

Hayesville High School Junior Caz Anderson has had a whirlwind past few weeks competing in both High School and adult Bass affiliated fishing tournaments.

The month of February started off tough for the Chatuge Anglers team of Anderson and Crisler when they broke their boat on a stump filled and flooded Lake Seminole in Bainbridge GA. Luckily they procured a volunteer boat but managed the worst finish in three years finishing in 64th place out of 123 boats. After the tournament they dropped to 8th place in the AOY standings and effectively dropped out of points contention for a back to back AOY Championship and berth into the National Championship on Kentucky Lake. The only other way to the Championship is through the National Opens which there are only two held nationally each year. The positive about this tournament is our neighbor, Towns County High School fishing team, finished in 4th place.

The next week Caz had the opportunity to compete against some of the worlds best anglers in Many, LA on Toledo Bend Reservoir. This



Chatuge Anglers weighing-in.

was Caz's first opportunity to compete in the BASS Central Opens as a co-angler and he managed a 5th place finish out of 214 boats in a three day event. Caz was the youngest person competing as you have to be at least 16 years of age to compete in the BASS Opens.

The following weekend Caz was scheduled to compete again on the BASS High School tournament trail on lake Hartwell in Anderson, SC. Caz and his Chatuge Anglers teammate had an exceptional day fishing. Out of 168 teams Chatuge Anglers tied for first place with 18 lbs. 5 oz. and lost the tie breaker big fish weight

to take an overall second place finish. The second place finish qualified our Chatuge Angler team for the National Championship to be held on KY Lake this summer.

We have the best support in our community and we thank you all for your well wishes and prayers, Take a Kid Fishing!

Thank you to all our sponsors! Car Quest By-Pass Auto Parts, Jacky Jones Automotive Group, Century 21 Black Bear Realty, Bridges to the other Side, Chatuge Regional Hospital, Carl Patterson Flooring, United Community Bank, GoLakeChatuge.com.

## Towns County High School Fishing Team continues to move up in points

**LAKE BLACKSHEAR** - The Towns County High School Fishing Team had another respectable outing, this time on Lake Blackshear located in Crisp County, Georgia, on March 9.

Team partners Adrian Hooper and Mitchell Grimsley placed 28th out of 140 teams competing on the muddy waters of Blackshear.

The team caught three nice fish weighing a total of 7.05 pounds. Adrian and Mitchell were very proud of their catch because over 35 competing teams caught no fish at all. When all was said and done, they were only one fish away from yet another Top 10 finish. The water was muddy and the weather uncertain, all making for a tough day on the lake.

Team Coach Chad Hooper said he continues to thank

God every day for allowing him to be able to spend this wonderful time in these young men's lives, and this experience is something he will never forget. It is amazing to him how hard the boys continue to strive for that ultimate finish by trying to catch that ultimate fish.

The coaches are happy to report that this finish moved the team up to 22nd in the overall points. Having a Top 20 finish is now within reach. There are 213 teams competing this year. The initial goal from the onset was for this first-year team to place in the top 10 percent of the field.

Lake Blackshear was a new experience for the team, as neither Adrian nor Mitchell had ever visited the lake. Blackshear is a small lake that is 20 miles long and has a maximum width of one mile, whereas

Lake Chatuge is around 10 miles long and a bit wider at its maximum width.

For people who enjoy boating and fishing, it is highly recommended that they take time to visit Lake Blackshear to experience the large Cypress trees with Spanish moss and grass lines that can't be found in North Georgia lakes.

As mentioned in previous articles, this team is possible because of the generous support from corporate sponsors and personal donors. The team continues to thank the community for all of their support, from the Facebook followers and the Georgia Outdoor News subscribers. Folks who haven't taken the time to do so should be sure to follow the team on Facebook at Towns County Fishing Team.

## NASCAR 2019

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

Fontana, CA - When Kyle Busch took the checkered flag in Sunday's Cup Series race, it marked the 200th time he has stood in a NASCAR victory lane. The win was his 53rd Cup victory, along with 94 Xfinity and 53 Truck Series wins.

"Feels just like number one. Feels just like yesterday," said Busch. "Just awesome. Just awesome. To win 200, I mean, whatever it means, it means a lot to me. It means a lot to all my guys, everybody at Joe Gibbs Racing. It's an amazing opportunity to drive for Joe Gibbs. I cherish every minute of it, love it always."

"What an awesome car we had today. The team really shined. I feel very humble to have been able to win all these races."

Busch was hoping for his 200th victory on Saturday in the Xfinity Series race, but came up short in the closing laps. During a caution on lap 121 of Sunday's 200 lap race, Busch was caught speeding on pit road and penalized by NASCAR. When the race restarted, he was back in the 18th spot. It looked like a repeat of the previous day's events.

But this time Busch was not to be denied. His car was dialed in and by lap 150, he was up to sixth. There was another caution on lap 166, and when the race restarted, Busch's green machine was second. He got by the leader, Brad Keselowski, but lost it and dropped back to fourth. He kept the accelerator to the floor and regained it from Joey Logano during lap 175 and pulled away.

All Logano could do was watch and hold on for second place. "We still have a little work to do," said Logano. "We just didn't have what we needed to stay with or catch that driver in the green car."

Logano's teammate Brad Keselowski was third, with Kevin Harvick, Ryan Blaney, Kurt Busch, Denny Hamlin, Martin Truex Jr., Aric Almirola, and Austin Dillon making up the top-10 finishers.

Busch won both stages of the race and led 134 laps.

While it is inevitable that some people will be comparing Busch with seven-time Cup Series champion Richard Petty, it must be noted that Petty's 200 career wins, all came at the premier series level, which would now be considered the Cup Series.

Busch made his NASCAR national series debut in the Truck Series in 2001 at Indianapolis Raceway Park driving for Roush Fenway Racing with crew chief Jeff Campey. He started 23rd and finished ninth.

Top-10 leaders after 5 of 36: 1. Kyle Busch-237, 2. Logano-222, 3. Harvick-213, 4. Hamlin-205, 5. Keselowski-176, 6. Almirola-174, 7. Truex-169, 8. Larson-163, 9. Kurt Busch-160, 10. Blaney-155.

**CUSTER OUT DUELS "ROWDY" FOR XFINITY WIN**  
Cole Custer led the last 18 laps of Saturday's 150 lap Xfinity Series race, and was able to finish nearly 2-seconds ahead of runner-up Kyle Busch.

"We had a pretty good car all day," said Custer, who led four times for a total of 29 laps. "It was just a matter of getting out front. We got our car to turn a little better, and that was kind of the difference."  
After restarting sixth on Lap 131, Busch, who won the first two stages and led 98 laps,



Kyle Busch celebrates his 200th win at Fontana, CA

couldn't match Custer's speed over the last 19 laps around the 2-mile oval.

"Earlier in the day we were two tenths (of a second) better than some of the guys, and there at the end, we weren't," said Busch. "It is what it is. Our car was fast, just not enough at the end. At the end there, he (Custer) was really good and really fast and had a good car. They got better throughout the day and got closer to our rear bumper there on that second-to-last run before we had our pit road problems and dropped us back in the pack."

Christopher Bell was third, followed by Tyler Reddick, Chase Briscoe, Austin Cindric, Brandon Jones, Ryan Preece, Justin Allgaier, and Justin Haley.

Top-10 leaders after 5 of 33: 1. Reddick-220, 2. Custer-213, 3. Bell-206, 4. B. Jones-183, 5. Cindric-179, 6. Annett-178, 7. Allgaier-171, 8. Gragson-161, 9. Sieg-153, 10. Nemechek-149.

**NASCAR TO CHANGE QUALIFYING**  
Fans weren't happy with qualifying this past week at Fontana. Austin Dillon won the pole for the Cup Series race at Auto Club Speedway on Friday, because no drivers completed a lap in the final round of qualifying.

While it's hard to judge the reaction of those who watched on television, fans that were at the speedway booed the outcome of their qualifying efforts.

All 12 drivers waited until the final seconds to start their qualifying lap, in hopes of getting the best position in the new drafting format adopted this season.

But no driver started their lap in time for it to count. As a result, Austin Dillon, the fastest driver in the second round, won the pole by default.

"I have seen it in other sports, but never seen it in ours," Clint Bowyer said. "We just got booed, and it is disappointing."

NASCAR senior vice president of competition Scott Miller readily admitted "That's what you don't want," saying drivers "kind of making a mockery of the qualifying is not what we expect for our fans."

"I think we definitely make some tweaks to it. We really don't want to go back to single-car qualifying. There may not be another way, but we want to try to exhaust every possibility before we do that because it's not as fun and not as intriguing of a show as the group situation. We're go-

ing to try to figure out a way to adjust the group qualifying thing and not go back to single, but we've got some work to do on that."

Yet Kyle Busch offered a plausible defense for the drivers: "Don't hate the player," he said. "Hate the game."

The teams' decision to play an elaborate game of chicken on pit road in qualifying was caused by the importance of drafting, which essentially is the only way to post the fastest lap on longer tracks this season. NASCAR's new rules package minimizes the differences between the teams, which makes drafting almost the only advantage available in single laps.

"If there's 12 cars, you want to be the 11th or 12th in line," Denny Hamlin said. "Being second is worse than being third. Being third is worse than being fourth, and on down the line. It's really just a domino effect. It's tough today, but hopefully [the rules package] puts on a good show on Sunday. That's what it's all about. I don't know that we really thought everything out for [qualifying], but I'm sure if you have any good suggestions, NASCAR will listen to them and make tweaks as needed."

**Racing Joke:** During the off season, Kurt applied for a driving position with a new team. The team manager said they were looking for somebody responsible.

"You've found your man," Kurt responded, "Whenever there was a problem in my last job, they always said that I was responsible."

**Weekend Racing:** The Cup and Truck teams will be at the .52-mile Martinsville Speedway, the shortest track on the circuit. The Xfinity teams have an off week.

Sat, Mar. 23; Truck Series race 4 of 23; Starting time: 2 PM ET; TV: FoxSports1.

Sun, Mar. 24; Cup Series race 6 of 36; Starting time: 2 PM ET; TV: FoxSports1.

**Racing Trivia Question:** Which is considered the oldest track on the NASCAR circuit?

**Last Week's Question:** Which car number does Michael McDowell drive in the Cup Series? Answer: He drives the No. 34 Ford for Front Row Motorsports.

Gerald Hodges is a syndicated NASCAR writer and author. His books may be viewed and ordered online at Amazon.com. You may contact him by e-mail at: hodges@race500.com.



## Recreation Department hosting annual Easter Egg Hunt



The Towns County Recreation Department will be hosting its annual

Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 13th, 2019. The hunt will begin promptly at 10:30 a.m.

All boys and girls newborn through 12 years old are invited to come out and enjoy the hunt.

The hunt will be held on the recreation ball fields located on U.S. Hwy. 76 just west of Hiawassee.

Entrance to the ball field complex will be through the upper gate located near the Georgia

Mountain Fair Office. We will have over 2,500 eggs, including special prize eggs!

The hunt is free and for all boys and girls newborn through 12 years old. Make plans now to join the Recreation Department on Saturday, April 13th at 10:30 a.m.

For more information contact The Recreation Department at 706-896-2600.

## Soccer Booster Club kayak raffle

The 2019 Towns County Soccer Season is off to a great start for our teams.

For the first time we had over 100 students participate in tryouts.

The purpose of the Towns County Soccer Booster Club is to promote and maintain an enthusiastic level of interest and participation in the sport of soccer, to support our players and coaches by providing for the needs of the program through fundraising efforts, to en-

courage strong parental involvement, and to further collaborate within our community for their support.

Thanks to the hard work of everyone involved along with contributions from the school and local businesses thus far, we have already been able to provide our teams with new sweatshirts, new uniforms, new equipment, and meals for away games for all four teams that the booster club supports.

In order to continue raising funds to provide for next year's needs, we are now raffling off a kayak, generously donated to us by Young Harris Water Sports, Lance Markham. Tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$20 and can be purchased from members of the soccer team or by visiting Young Harris Water Sports.

The drawing will be held April 18th and you do not have to be present to win.  
Go Indians!