

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Soccer: Both TCHS teams in Top 10

By Todd Forrest
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The undefeated Towns County men's soccer hold steady at No. 2 in the latest Eurosport Class A rankings following wins over Washington-Wilkes and Social Circle.

Meanwhile, the 3-3 Lady Indians checked in at No. 8 in the latest girls poll, moving up one spot from last week.

In the guys' 3-2 win at Social Circle, Peyton Barrett, Lane Lallemand and Grant Ingram scored one goal each.

Jensen Brown and Barrett recorded one assist each. Goalkeeper Luis Quijada stopped 11 shots.

Later in the week, Towns County hosted Washington-Wilkes and took care of business in a 10-0 mercy-rule shortened victory.

Barrett recorded a hat trick and Brown collected a brace in the win.

Towns County will host Lincoln County in a Tuesday fixture beginning with the girls match at 5 p.m.

Lake Oconee pays a visit to Hiawassee at 5 p.m. Friday. Both LOA squads enter the matchup ranked



Towns County's Reace Hampton during last week's 10-0 victory over Washington Wilkes. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

No. 7 in the latest Eurosport Top 10. Towns County hosts Class AAA Fannin County in a non-region match on

Monday, March 29, beginning at 5 p.m. The Rebel men currently sport a 2-4 record on the year.

Memory Lane... continued from 2B

6:00 pm without a need for a curfew.

The First TCHS State Tournament and Elite Eight Teams – It would require seven years following the one point miss against Oconee County for a TCHS team to make it to the state tournament with eight regions and 16 teams now entered in the state tournament and one state tournament victory required to make the Elite Eight with this happening for the Lady Indians and Indians in the back to back years of 1973 and 1974 with both teams being recognized here.

In 1973 there were eight regions with just two subregions in each region in Class B with the top two teams from each region making it to the state tournament. The Lady Indians finished second behind Union County at Union in the sub region North tournament and with four teams from each sub region tournament making it to the region tournament, the Lady Indians needed two wins to be one of two Region 8B teams making it to the state tournament. And make it they did with a 67-31 win over Athens Academy and a 50-46 victory over Jackson County.

They came oh so close then to winning the region tournament at Truett McConnell College when a shot from mid court by Sara Cochran Rogers, the mother of Lady Indians and Indians assistant basketball coach Alan Rogers, hit nothing but the bottom of the net at either the end of regulation or at the end of the first overtime. It appeared to TCHS fans to be a region championship victory over Union County but the shot was ruled too late and Union went on to take the win 35-33 in double overtime.

All Class B state tournament games were played in the Macon Coliseum at that time

and the Lady Indians took an easy 51-20 victory over Georgia Military College highlighted by twenty three points by Cochran getting them into the Elite Eight for the first time for any TCHS team. And yes that GMC team was who this year's Lady Indians faced in Milledgeville in second round state tournament play. The Lady Indians fell short of victory 30-14 in a slowdown game by Cave Spring High School in the second round of that 1973 state tournament held in the Macon Centreplex, the same facility with a different name at that time where the Indians recently won their state championship.

Holly Cunningham, the great aunt of Indians freshman Tanner Cunningham, was a starting guard as a freshman for that Lady Indians team. And fourteen years old sophomore Doris Moss, the grandmother of 2018 Indians star Zach Davenport, was the top substitute on the 1973 team and a top flight player the following two years.

It was then and now of interest that the 1973 team was very unique in having three senior four year starters—Sara Cochran Rogers, Melba Hunter Blythe, and Debbie McNabb Fain—along with three freshmen—Tammi Allen, Holly Cunningham, and Carol Ina Peebles Ramsak—in the starting lineup under rover rules of the day using six players.

Just one year later in 1974, the Indians joined the Lady Indians in making their first trip to state and also to the Elite Eight round.

They defeated Union County in two overtimes and then East Fannin by two points to win the North sub region title at Union County and then had to win two games in the Region 8B tournament to make it to state.

They did just that by

defeating Athens Academy by four points and Union County by four for their fourth win of the year over Union before falling to Banks County in the championship game at Gainesville Junior College.

As one of 16 teams making the state tournament, they got the Elite Eight birth by taking a four points victory over Echols County in the first round before falling to Hogansville, a team on its way to a fourth state title in five years.

Ricky Welch was a starting forward on that team and he was the grandfather of the aforementioned 2018 TCHS graduate Zach Davenport who was a prime member of the 2017 Indians state tournament team and held the verifiable Indians career scoring record until passed by Kolby Moss this season.

Part two of Jerry Kendall's 'Memory Lane' article will continue in next week's Towns County Herald.

Benton MacKaye Trail Association hikes for March

The following hikes are sponsored by the Benton MacKaye Trail Association. The current social distancing and health rules are used by hike Leaders.

March 27 (Saturday) - Tennessee Work Trip on Benton MacKaye Trail is 4th Saturday of the month. Volunteers from youth groups to Seniors welcomed. Information contact Boe Rudder boe.r.rudder@gmail.com

March 30 (Tuesday) - The Benton MacKaye Trail Association sponsors a moderate 4 mile hike on the BMT in Cherry Log Community from Hwy 515 to Rock Shelter and return. Hike leader Martha Fowler. For more information contact hikeleaderMF@bmta-mail.org. NT(Mar24,22)CA

Friends of the Bears reminds you bears are emerging

The Appalachia Georgia Friends of the Bears would like to remind the public that March marks the time for the Black Bears to emerge from den. The first to wake up are the adult males and Subadults in early to mid-March. Second to emerge are solitary females and Sows with Yearlings in late March-mid-April. Finally, are the Sows with Cubs of the Year in mid-April-early May. They will be out, about, and hungry.

Attractants like birdseed, hummingbird feeders, pet food, livestock food, greasy barbecues, smokers and fish cookers, and other wildlife foods can be accessed by black bears. Minimize attractants and the availability of food rewards throughout your yard and neighborhood. Appalachia Georgia has approximately 3,000 black bears. Help us save a bear's life and remove the attractants.

The intentional and unintentional feeding of bears teaches them to approach homes and people for food which is a recipe for Human-



A hungry bear can create quite a mess.

Bear conflict. Studies in Canada have shown that two-thirds of Human-Bear conflict were related to improperly stored garbage. In addition, it destroys their teeth, digestive tracts, and results in a slow and painful death. Store garbage in a sturdy building or place in an approved bear-resistant trash receptacle and put it out on the day of pick up goes a long way.

The Appalachia Georgia Friends of the Bears mission is to reduce Human-Bear conflict through proactive educational outreach programs, increase public awareness about coexisting with black bears, the use of humane bear deterrents, and advocacy.

Visit BearWise.org and agfriendsofthebears.com for more information on reducing Human-Bear Conflict. TT(Mar24,F3)SH

NASCAR 2021

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

Blaney runs down Larson for Atlanta victory

Ryan Blaney ran down and passed leader Kyle Larson with seven laps to go in Sunday's Cup Series race, breaking a 28-race winless streak.

"Yeah, we had a fast car," said Blaney. "It was real free all day. We made a really good change when I needed it. It looked like Kyle was getting loose there at the end, and the changes we made worked in our favor."

"We had a couple long runs near the end that allowed us to get there. But this was just an awesome race for us. Everything worked out near the end. We were able to get the position we needed and the team gave me what I needed."

Kyle Larson led 268 laps of the 325 lap race. During the middle stages of the race, he enjoyed over a 6-second lead at one point, but he had slightly older tires than Blaney, near the end, and that may have been a factor.

"I don't know what happened," said Larson. "I think (Blaney) just got a lot better there that last stage and it kind of changed up my flow of the race a little bit. I could get out to such a big lead and I could take care of my stuff and run the bottom, where it was maybe slower but I could take care of my tires."

"I don't know if we got that much worse or if he just got way better. Like I said, it just changed the flow of my race."

In addition to leading the most laps, Larson won both stages of the race.

Alex Bowman came in third. It was his first top-5 finish of the season.

"It was a good day to come in third," said Bowman. "Obviously, we would have like to win. I feel like everything was pretty good. We were just a little off on the long runs, but it was a day when nothing bad happened, so we're satisfied with our run."

Denny Hamlin was fourth, followed by Kyle Busch, Austin Dillon, Chris Buescher, William Byron, Martin Truex Jr., and Kevin Harvick.

Chase Elliott had his first DNF of the season. He had engine problems on lap 220 and finished 38th.

Kurt Busch was the first driver out of the race. He was bumped from behind on a lap 113 restart, and spun into the outside wall.

After six races into the season, there have been six different winners.

Top-10 leaders after 6 of 33: 1. Hamlin-277, 2. Larson-234, 3. Logano-214, 4. Truex Jr.-212, 5. Keselowski-206, 6. Harvick-203, 7. Blaney-191, 8. Byron-188, 9. Bell-183, 10. Elliott-183.

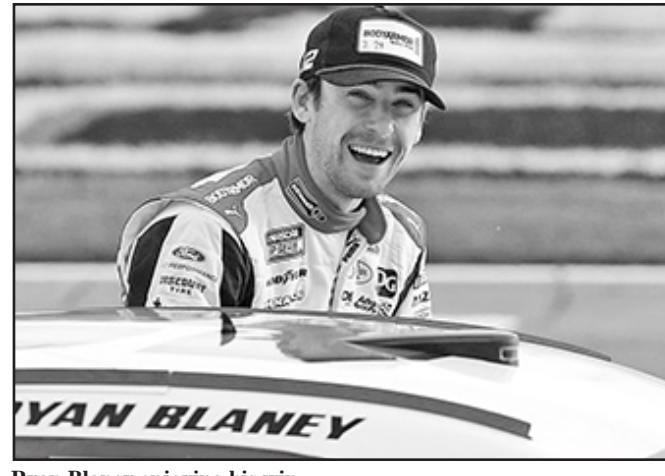
ALLGAIER HOLDS OFF TRUEX FOR XFINITY WIN

Here are the top-10 finishers of Saturdays Xfinity Series race at Atlanta: 1. Justin Allgaier, 2. Martin Truex Jr., 3. Harrison Burton, 4. Noah Gragson, 5. AJ Allmendinger, 6. Riley Herbst, 7. Michael Annett, 8. Justin Haley, 9. Daniel Hemric, 10. Ryan Sieg.

Top-10 leaders after 6 of 33: 1. Cindric-277, 2. Hemric-231, 3. H. Burton-212, 4. Allmendinger-194, 5. Haley-193, 6. J. Burton-187, 7. Snider-179, 8. Allgaier-171, 9. Clements-165, 10. B. Jones-155.

"ROWDY" KYLE GETS ATLANTA TRUCK RACE

Kyle Busch led 102 of 130 laps in Saturday's Truck Series race



Ryan Blaney enjoying his win.

at Atlanta. It was Busch's first victory of the season, his sixth at the 1.54-mile track and the 60th of his career.

The remaining top-10 finishers were: 2. Austin Hill, 3. John Nemechek, 4. Johnny Sauter, 5. Sheldon Creed, 6. Zane Smith, 7. Ross Chastain, 8. Matt Crafton, 9. Brett Moffitt, 10. Stewart Friesen.

Top-10 leaders after 4 of 22: 1. Nemechek-204, 2. Rhodes-157, 3. Creed-154, 4. Crafton-145, 5. Friesen-122, 6. Hill-115, 7. Sauter-103, 8. Smith-99, 9. Enginger-97, 10. Hocevar-93.

ALMIROLA TEAM NEEDS TO TIGHTEN UP

In an interview last week with the Charlotte Observer, Aric Almirola pulled no punches when asked to evaluate the season so far for his No. 10 Ford team.

"Obviously, we got off to a horrendous start," Almirola said. "Not getting the points and bad finishes. The best thing that's happened to us all year is we won the Duel and got 10 points."

Since winning the first Duel at Daytona, Almirola has finished in the bottom third in three of the five races completed this season. Before Phoenix, where Almirola finished 11th, his best finish this year was 17th at Homestead.

It's been his longest streak of finishes outside of the top 10 since 2019. He's ranked 26th in points and acknowledged that it'll be tough to make playoffs without a win this year, but he said that doesn't change his team's strategy.

"Every once in a while you can squeak something crazy out on strategy, but for the most part, you don't really win races on wild strategy anymore unless you have a fast race car," Almirola continued.

He explained that the forces working against better results this year have been a combination of bad luck, driver errors and slow equipment. He made an early exit from the Daytona 500 after he was spun out by Christopher Bell to bring out the first caution of the race. At the Daytona road course, Almirola also went for an early spin running in the top 10 to lose track position before clawing his way back to a top-20 finish. Another mistake at Homestead the following week, when Almirola made contact with Ryan Blaney, sent him to a bottom half finish. At Las Vegas, an "off" car combined with debris in the left front tire that eventually went flat put him in last place.

"I think a lot of it has been bad luck and circumstances, but there have also been mistakes on my part as well," Almirola said. "We've just gotta clean everything up." Almirola finished 20th at Atlanta.

Meanwhile, Martinsville

Speedway expects to operate at 30 per cent capacity for NASCAR's next visit on the week of April 8-10.

Clay Campbell, Martinsville President cited improving COVID-19 data across the state and Gov. Ralph Northam's earlier announcement about possibly loosening crowd restrictions that had left the track with no fans for its rescheduled NASCAR race last June and then with only 1,000 allowed for the three playoff races in October.

"We feel confident it's going to be more than that," he said of the current 1,000-person limits," Campbell said. "That's the restriction Northam has had in place since last summer, but last month he said that capacity could grow to 30 per cent by April 1, which Speedway officials at the time said left them "encouraged."

Meanwhile Tony Stewart announced his engagement to his girlfriend, drag racer Leah Pruett. She is a well-known drag racer and is fairly successful. In 2019, she clinched the NHRA SAMTech Factory Stock Showdown championship and is the only female champion.

Racing Joke: During a break in practice, William and Christopher are sitting back relaxing. Christopher tells William, he is unable to choose between two girls.

Christopher: I'm devoted to Kate but Edith is my dream girl, she's all I've ever wanted.

William: Then you should be with Edith.

Christopher: But I love Kate and could never leave her.

William: Then you should stay with Kate.

Christopher: But I also want to be with Edith, I can't miss this opportunity!

William: You can't have your Kate and Edith too.

Weekend Racing: The Cup and Xfinity teams will be at the Bristol Motor Speedway for a weekend of dirt racing.

Sat., Mar. 27: Xfinity Series race 7 of 33; Starting time: 8:00 pm ET; TV: FoxSports1.

Sun., Mar. 28: Cup Series race 7 of 36; Starting time: 3:30 pm ET; TV: Fox.

Racing Trivia Question: Which Cup Series team does Michael McDowell drive for?

Last Week's Question: At which track did Kevin Harvick win his first Cup Series race? Answer: It was Atlanta in 2001. He drove the No. 29 Richard Childress Chevrolet.

Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter is a syndicated NASCAR writer and author. You may e-mail him at: hodges@race500.com.

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Adult Large	\$15		
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Youth Large	\$20		
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Adult Medium	\$20		
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Adult XL	\$20		
Adult XXL	\$22		
Adult XXXL	\$23		

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Youth Large	\$25		
Adult Small	\$25		
Adult Medium	\$25		
Adult Large	\$25		
Adult XL	\$25		
Adult XXL	\$28		
Adult XXXL	\$29		

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