

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Indians Baseball looking to regroup after dropping six games in a row

By Chad Stack
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Towns County Indian Baseball Team struggled last week, losing three regional games. The Indians started the week off Tuesday, March 19, against Tallulah Falls, as they tried to get their first region win.

Towns County started senior Devyn Burrell on the mound, who pitched a complete game, only giving up four hits and two earned runs while striking out six batters.

The Indians were in a close one with Tallulah Falls, with a scoreless game through the first two innings. Tallulah Falls scored first in the bottom of the third to take the lead, but in the top of the fourth, the Indians were able to cut their lead down to one.

Tallulah Falls extended their lead to three in the next two innings, however, as the Indians struggled to generate runs.

The Indians were only



Towns County baseball photos by Lowell Nicholson

able to get four hits in the game, and seniors Trent Bradshaw and Brett Denton scored the only two runs for the Indians in a 5-2 loss against Tallulah Falls.

Regional opponent Prince Avenue traveled to Towns County on Thursday, March 21. The Indians were missing one of their top pitchers, senior Seth Fullerton, due to injury. As such, they went through a heavy pitching ro-

tation that day, starting with freshman Collin Crowder.

They struggled against the Wolverines, and none of the four Indian pitchers – Crowder, Jacob Kinsey, Aidan Berrong nor Lane Denton – were able to stop the Wolverines' offense, allowing a combined 15 hits and 19 runs.

The Indians have shown great signs throughout the year of being able to



generate runs, though they have struggled here lately. The Towns County team lost Thursday night's game against the Wolverines 19-3, with Crowder scoring two runs and freshman Brack Burrell scoring one.

On Saturday, March 23, the Indians played their second home game in a row against another 8-A regional team, Providence Christian.

The Indians' hitting

slump continued against the Storm with a 12-0 loss against Providence Christian, a fall to 0-6 in the region and 4-9 overall.

The team is hoping to get senior Seth Fullerton back on the mound soon as they struggle with pitching depth.

The Indians faced Commerce after press time on Monday, March 25. Commerce is 0-2 in the region but

10-5 overall.

Next, the team traveled to Athens on Tuesday, March 26, going up against the top team in the region, Athens Christian, which is 3-0 in the region and 6-8 overall.

The Indians will end the week with a non-regional doubleheader on Friday, March 29, at home against Copper Basin, Tennessee, starting at 4:30 p.m.

NASCAR 2019

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

Keselowski Wows Everyone At Martinsville

MARTINSVILLE, VA - Brad Keselowski put on a driving show for the fans and 42 other drivers Sunday at Martinsville. He led 446 laps of the 500 lap Cup Series race on the way to victory.

"It was great," said Keselowski. "This was an awesome car. This is one of those days you dream about. They don't come along like this one very often. Not only did the team give me a great car, but they did a fantastic job in the pits. Everything and everybody just worked together."

Even though there was lots of good racing, the event itself was unusually tame because of the lack of rubbing and wrecking. In the past, each Martinsville race would have several major wrecks that would put drivers on edge. Not so this past Sunday. While there might have been one or two upset drivers, the emotions that normally show after the race ends were absent.

Keselowski took the lead from teammate and pole-sitter Joey Logano after six laps, and remained in charge for the next 319 laps, which included both stage wins.

Runner-up Chase Elliott, who had hounded Keselowski for much of the race, finally made the pass for the lead on Lap 320, and held onto it for 49 laps. Keselowski beat him out of the pits under a caution period during lap 376, and Elliott was never able to regain it. This was the first time this season Elliott had led any laps, but he had a strong car in the latter half of the race. He tried to catch Keselowski in the waning laps, but couldn't get to the No. 2 driver, who went on to win his second race of 2019.

"I'm not sure what we needed there at the end," said Elliott. "We made a lot of changes, but they didn't give us what we needed. I couldn't catch up with him at the end, so I don't know if we could have done anything with him."

Kyle Busch, the winner of Saturday's Xfinity Series race did not lead any laps but managed to come in third.

Busch was running in fifth place by lap 274 and in fourth by lap 289. He quickly reported that the changes made earlier by his team were ineffective. While the handling was not perfect, it reached a point that allowed Busch to be more aggressive on the track. He raced as high as second place before eventually settling in at the third position, which he maintained to the conclusion



Brad Keselowski gets second Martinsville win

of the race.

"That is probably a little better finish than what we deserved today when you look at where we were in 12th place during the midway point of the race to where we ended up," said Busch. "It was a really good turnaround. I'm just thankful for Adam Stevens and all the guys that work so hard to give me what we need to stay up front and be there at the end."

Ryan Blaney was fourth, followed by Denny Hamlin, Kevin Harvick, Clint Bowyer, Martin Truex Jr., Aric Almirola, and Daniel Suarez.

Top-10 leaders after 6 of 33: 1. Kyle Busch-273, 2. Hamlin-252, 3. Harvick-248, 4. Logano-245, 5. Keselowski-236, 6. Almirola-215, 7. Truex-207, 8. Blaney-203, 9. Elliott-186, 10. Kurt Busch-185.

Chase Elliott is the highest ranking Hendrick Motorsports driver in points. Jimmie Johnson is 15th, while Alex Bowman is 17th, and William Byron is 21st.

KYLE BUSCH GETS WIN NO. 201

Kyle Busch easily won Saturday's Truck Series race at Martinsville. He led four times for 174 laps in the 250 lap race. It was his 201st NASCAR win. While Busch's numbers look good, they don't reflect the entire story. When compared to Richard Petty, Busch still has a long way to go. Petty had 200 Cup Series wins, while Busch only has 53. Busch's other wins include 54 in the Trucks, and 94 Xfinity series victories. What has made Busch's career is that he is a good driver, but when you have the best equipment like he does, it's much easier to win against the smaller and less-funded Truck and Xfinity teams.

Busch dominated the race, winning the first 70-lap stage and leading 107 laps by the time the second stage ended on

lap 140. He got back to the front on a restart that followed a caution with 62 laps remaining after restarting second to Ross Chastain.

Top-10 finishers: 1. Kyle Busch, 2. Ben Rhodes, 3. Brett Moffitt, 4. Ross Chastain, 5. Stewart Friesen, 6. Myatt Snider, 7. Grant Engfer, 8. Matt Crafton, 9. Johnny Sauter, 10. Bubba Wallace.

Top-10 leaders after 4 of 23: 1. Friesen-151, 2. Engfer-147, 3. Moffitt-146, 4. Sauter-142, 5. H. Burton-142, 6. Rhodes-140, 7. Hill-135, 8. Crafton-130, 9. Gilliland-126, 10. Creed-111.

BEWARE OF FAKE EARNHARDT CARS

A Dale Earnhardt Sr. race car billed at auction as "one of the most famous cars in the history of NASCAR" is not the original, his longtime friend and team owner Richard Childress said on Sirius XM Radio.

"It's sitting in my showroom at the museum," Childress said of a 1994 No. 3 Goodwrench Chevy Lumina that Earnhardt drove to his seventh NASCAR Cup series title. "So I don't think that's the correct car. They definitely don't have the '94 that he won the championship with."

The car was listed online as the most valuable of 20 cars affiliated with Dale Earnhardt Sr. and son Dale Earnhardt Jr. that were up for auction last Saturday by Mecum Auctions, which listed the car's value from \$200,000-\$300,000. "The cars listed on their website and sold at auction are former show cars, not the actual race cars driven by Dale Earnhardt," continued Childress.

"The Wheaties Chevrolet is a replica show car, as the original sits in the RCR Museum in Welcome, North Carolina. The 1994 No. 3 Goodwrench Chevrolet is also a show car and not the one used to win the championship [in 1994].

"The chassis numbers do not match and there are multiple indications of this being a show car (stock air filter, 'Do Not Touch' on the doors, etc.)."

"Humpy" Wheeler, former GM of Charlotte Motor Speedway, who has also bought and sold many race cars offered this bit of advice to prospective buyers.

"Whenever you're buying a race car, get a certificate of authenticity from the owner", Wheeler advised. "Any time you're selling a race car, you're going to get confusion."

"For instance, back in the old days, when a guy had three cars for the season, it was far easier to authenticate. Today, they build 35 cars for the season."

Racing Joke: Joey was in trouble, because of the gift he gave his wife for their wedding anniversary.

She told him, "Tomorrow morning, I expect to find a gift in the driveway that goes from 0 to 200 in 6 seconds and it better be there."

The next morning he got up early and left for work. When his wife woke up, she looked out the window and sure enough there was a box gift-wrapped in the middle of the driveway.

Confused, she put on her robe and ran out to the driveway and brought the box back in the house. She opened it and found a brand new bathroom scale.

Joey slept at the race car shop that night.

Weekend Racing: All three of NASCAR's major series' will be at the 1.5-mile Texas Motor Speedway.

Fri, Mar. 29; Truck Series race 5 of 23; Starting time: 9 PM ET; TV: FoxSports1.

Sat, Mar. 30; Xfinity Series race 6 of 33; Starting time: 3 PM ET; TV: FoxSports1.

Sun, Mar 31; Cup Series race 7 of 36; Starting time: 3 PM ET; TV: Fox.

Racing Trivia Question: Texas Motor Speedway opened in 1997. Who was the race winner?

Last Week's Question: Which is considered the oldest track on the NASCAR circuit? Answer. Martinsville. The first NASCAR race was run Sept. 25, 1949.

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.

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 encourage 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! T/Mar27,F2JSH

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 new-

born through 12 years old are invited to come out and enjoy the hunt.

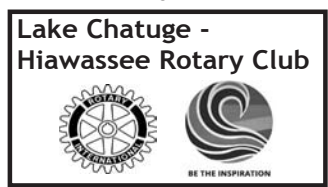
The hunt will be held on the recreation ball fields located on U.S. Hwy. 76 just west of Hiawassee. Entrance to the ball field complex will be through the upper gate located near the Georgia Mountain Fair Office. We will have over 2,500 eggs, including special prize eggs!

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. T/Mar27,F2JSH

Meals of Hope event needs you

The Lake Chatuge-Hiawassee Rotary Club is holding its second annual "Meals of Hope" packaging event on Saturday, April 13, 2019 from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. at Towns County Recreation and Conference Center (Foster Park) at 150 Foster Park Road, Young Harris, GA.

Last year we had over 220 volunteers show up to help package raw materials into bags that become 50,000 dry pack meals for distribution to the needy in our community. April 13 is the date to prepare these and it is going to be a very busy day in the community due to other events so Rotary wants to get out front and be sure to let you know the date to hold to help us com-



plete this significant project. The more volunteers we have, the faster the job gets done.

Please email Rotary President Kerry Clem at boundarywaters@gmail.com or call at (706) 897-0291 to sign up now.

Please tell your friends, clubs, churches and family. All ages are welcome to help.

For more information about Lake Chatuge-Hiawassee Rotary see us on Facebook. T/Mar27,F2JSH

Butternut Creek Ladies Golf begins 2019 Season

Every spring since 1985, a group of ladies have dusted off their golf clubs and have begun another fun season of the Butternut Creek Ladies Golf League. The BCLGA began as a small group of local ladies who loved golf and created the league to foster interest, enjoyment, and competition in the sport. This group is currently an organized league and play will begin at Butternut Creek Golf Course on Thursday, April 4, at 10 AM.

League play continues each Thursday through the first week of October. Local golfers continue to play throughout the fall and winter months, weather permitting, in a more informal format.

On league days, the ladies compete in a variety of formats and games, including stroke play, scramble, best ball,

etc. Each golfer must maintain a handicap, and golfers of all skill levels are invited to participate.

The BCLGA is involved in many activities throughout the season. Each year the league sponsors several tournaments, some of which are competitive and others are fund raisers for charities. Nine and Dine tournaments are scheduled to include men and women in fun, social events.

All ladies who are interested in golf are encouraged and invited to join the BCLGA. League membership is \$25. Butternut Creek is a beautiful mountain course and we look forward to an enjoyable season. Please join us at Butternut on April 4. For more information, you may contact Carol Crossley at carol.s.crossley@gmail.com.