

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Young Harris College hosts record-breaking Clay Dotson Open Golf Tournament on May 22nd

A record-breaking 205 golfers hit the links Monday, May 22, as Young Harris College hosted the 19th Annual Clay Dotson Open Golf Tournament at Brasstown Valley Resort. The tournament raised over \$100,000 for student scholarships.

The Clay Dotson Open is a longstanding tradition and highly anticipated event for alumni and community members alike. Not only did this year welcome the Clay Dotson Open's largest field to date, but all the proceeds from the event went directly to students, providing them with the opportunity to achieve their academic endeavors and become part of the Young Harris College legacy.

Nearly 100% of YHC students receive some form of financial assistance. Their scholarships are made possible by donors who have chosen to invest in the next generation of leaders.

"Many thanks to everyone who sponsored, participated in, and supported the 2023 Clay Dotson Open," said Vice President of Advancement Mark Dotson, Class of 1988. "Because of your generosity, deserving students will receive scholarships and the opportunity to pursue an education at YHC."

The Clay Dotson Open included two flights. The following teams walked away with first-place honors.

Morning Flight 1 - First Place: Daryl Allison, Isiah McPherson, Brandon Arrowood, Curtis Phillips; Morning Flight 2 - First Place: Mark Stancil, Paul Butler, Brett Butler, Kurt Momand.

Out of all the golfers in the morning flights, Otey Crisman won the Closest to the Pin competition and Dal-



(L-R): Cody Beck, Josh Rudnick, Oliver Pratt, and James Millas Synder won the Longest Drive competition.

Afternoon Flight 1 - First Place: Stacy Poteet, Colton Payne, Brian Helzog, Michael Willard; Afternoon Flight 2 - First Place: Dustin Birch, Michael Davis, Brad Smith, Cooper Patton.

Out of all the golfers in the afternoon flights, Chaiz Davenport won the Closest to the Pin competition and Cooper Patton won the Longest Drive competition.

Teams with three or more YHC alumni qualified for the Tom Forkner, Senior Alumni Challenge. The winning team included Cody Beck, Josh Rudnick, Oliver Pratt, and James Mills.

In addition to the golfers, the College is fortunate to have the generous support of businesses and families who believe in the mission of Young Harris College and contribute to the Clay Dotson Open to support student scholarships.

For the 2023 tournament, Diamond Sponsors included Alora Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Brasstown Valley Resort,

and United Community Bank. Gold Sponsors included Follett Higher Education Group, Harrah's Cherokee Casino, and Sodexo. Silver Sponsors included Batchelor and Kimball, Inc., EntryPoint Doors of Atlanta, Julian Jones, '61, Kurt Momand, '77 and Heather Momand Brunone, '08, Montag & Caldwell, LLC, The Budd Group, Tri-State Utility Products, Inc., Truist, and Waste Management. Bronze Sponsors included Beth & Jim Ellison, '88, Clay & Betty Dotson, CMA Agency, Inc., Comfort Systems USA, Heather, '08 & James Brunone, Lake Chatuge Living Magazine, Lamin-x Protective Films, Mary Broadrick & John Moffitt, McDonald's of Blairsville, and Susan Ehler Sinram '79.

Jacky Jones Chrysler Dodge Jeep was our Hole-in-One Sponsor, and this year's Charity Golf Guns Sponsor was EntryPoint Doors of Atlanta. This tournament would not succeed without the help of our sponsors. Young Harris College thanks those who contributed to the education and empowerment of students.

NASCAR 2023

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

NEWGARDEN WINS INDY 500

Sunday's 500-mile Indy 500 came down to a 2.5-mile sprint, and it was Josef Newgarden who had just a little bit more speed than Marcus Ericsson.

Ericsson and Newgarden were the two leaders on the race's last restart. Newgarden got a tremendous run on Ericsson as they exited Turn 2 and down the back straightaway, and powered away to win the 107th running of the famed event.

A trio of red flag crashes set up the dramatic finish during the race, which saw 52 lead changes among 14 drivers.

In a terrifying scene with 16 laps to go, Felix Rosenqvist got loose and slid up into the wall. As Kyle Kirkwood tried to avoid the spinning Rosenqvist, he clipped the corner of Rosenqvist's car.

Kirkwood's car slammed into the wall, flipped and slid to a stop on its roof with sparks flying. The race was red-flagged, but neither driver was seriously injured.

In a scary twist, Kirkwood's rear wheel broke free of its safety tether in the crash, cleared the catch fence and flew over the crowded grandstand, sending fans ducking for cover.

The tire came down in a parking lot and damaged at least one car, but no injuries were reported.

Eight laps later, Pato O'Ward, Simon Pagenaud and Agustin Canapino were involved in a heavy crash that brought another red flag.

With four laps remaining and Newgarden leading, there was another crash on the restart right at the start-finish line involving Benjamin Pedersen, Ed Carpenter and Graham Rahal, and the race was red-flagged again.

The green flag waved again with one lap to go, and Ericsson initially extended his lead over the chasing Newgarden. But Newgarden caught Ericsson and zipped past him on the back straightaway to reclaim the lead.

"I've always wanted to go into the crowd here in Indianapolis," Newgarden said. "I've seen people go up on the fence, I wanted to go through the fence, I wanted to celebrate with the people."

"I knew we were in a position to fight for this win, and it wasn't going to be easy. It is not easy to win this race, it's the most difficult race in the world to win."

Ericsson was unhappy with the last restart, believing that going again with only one lap and what he said was not enough temperature in the tires was not the right thing to do.

"I feel it was unfair," Ericsson said. "I just couldn't hold off Josef on the back straight. He's a worthy champion, but I feel we did everything right, that we won the race and had it taken away."

Remaining top -10 finishers: 3. Santino Ferrucci, 4. Alex Palou, 5. Alexander Rossi, 6. Scott Dixon, 7. Takuma Sato, 8. Connor Daly, 9. Colton Herta, 10. Rinus VeeKay,



Newgarden Wins Indy 500

RHODES TAKES CHARLOTTE TRUCK RACE

Ben Rhodes took the lead after a restart on Lap 111 of Friday night's 134-lap Truck Series race at Charlotte, and pulled away to a 2.398-second win over Corey Heim.

Rhodes also collected a \$50,000 bonus for winning the first of three events in the Triple Truck Challenge, a bonus program that could mean \$500,000 for a driver who can sweep all three.

"The whole season is so hard to put together," Rhodes said. "It's unbelievably hard, and it's only gotten more difficult over the years.... A championship being locked in, I'll take that. The last three races have been so unbelievably hard on my team. We've been wrecked in the last three and haven't had very good showings because of it."

"So I'll take the points-thank you."

The victory was Rhodes' first of the season, his first at Charlotte and the seventh of his career.

Dean Thompson was third, followed by Carson Hocevar, Grant Enfinger, Christian Eckes, Ty Majeski, Matt Dibenedetto, Nick Sanchez, and Taylor Gray.

Top 10 leaders after 11 of 23: 1. Heim-425, 2. Majeski-399, 3. Z. Smith-382, 4. Enfinger-362, 5. Rhodes-349, 6. Eckes-343, 7. Crafton-315, 8. Hocevar-302, 9. Gray-287, 10. DiBenedetto-281.

DOES NORTH WILKESORO HAVE A FUTURE WITH NASCAR

While there was much hullabaloo about the return of racing to the North Wilkesboro track, the All-Star race had something lacking.

The 200-lap race did not produce a lot of excitement.

In a statement last week, Speedway Motorsports CEO Marcus Smith said North Wilkesboro Speedway "definitely has a place in the NASCAR world" moving forward, despite an All-Star race that lacked drama Sunday night.

In what capacity remains to be seen.

Smith was non-committal about how North Wilkesboro might fit into NASCAR's schedule moving forward. There are no guaranteed dates on the Cup Series points race schedule and future

All-Star sites haven't been determined.

"That question's on my mind as well," Smith said. "I think when you see a successful week of events like we've had here it's natural to think, 'Boy, maybe we can come back here.' So, I'm definitely thinking that way.... It's definitely something that we're thinking about."

Meanwhile, The 27th Anniversary Kyle Petty Charity Ride Across America raised more than \$1.7 million, the organization announced Tuesday. Funds raised directly benefit Victory Junction, a camp in Randleman, North Carolina, that services children with chronic medical illnesses.

The Ride took place April 29 - May 5. Petty led more than 125 motorcycles on a seven-day trip, covering more than 1,500 miles in Nevada and Utah. The ride started and ended in Salt Lake City.

Weekend Racing: The Cup and Xfinity teams will be at Gateway Motorsports short track in Madison, Ill., which is across the Mississippi River from St. Louis. The Trucks are racing at the 1.97-mile, Portland, Oregon road course.

Sat., June 3; Truck Series race 12 of 23; Starting time: 1:30 pm ET; TV: FoxSports1.

Sat., June 3; Xfinity Series race 13 of 33; Starting time: 4:30 pm ET; TV: FoxSports1.

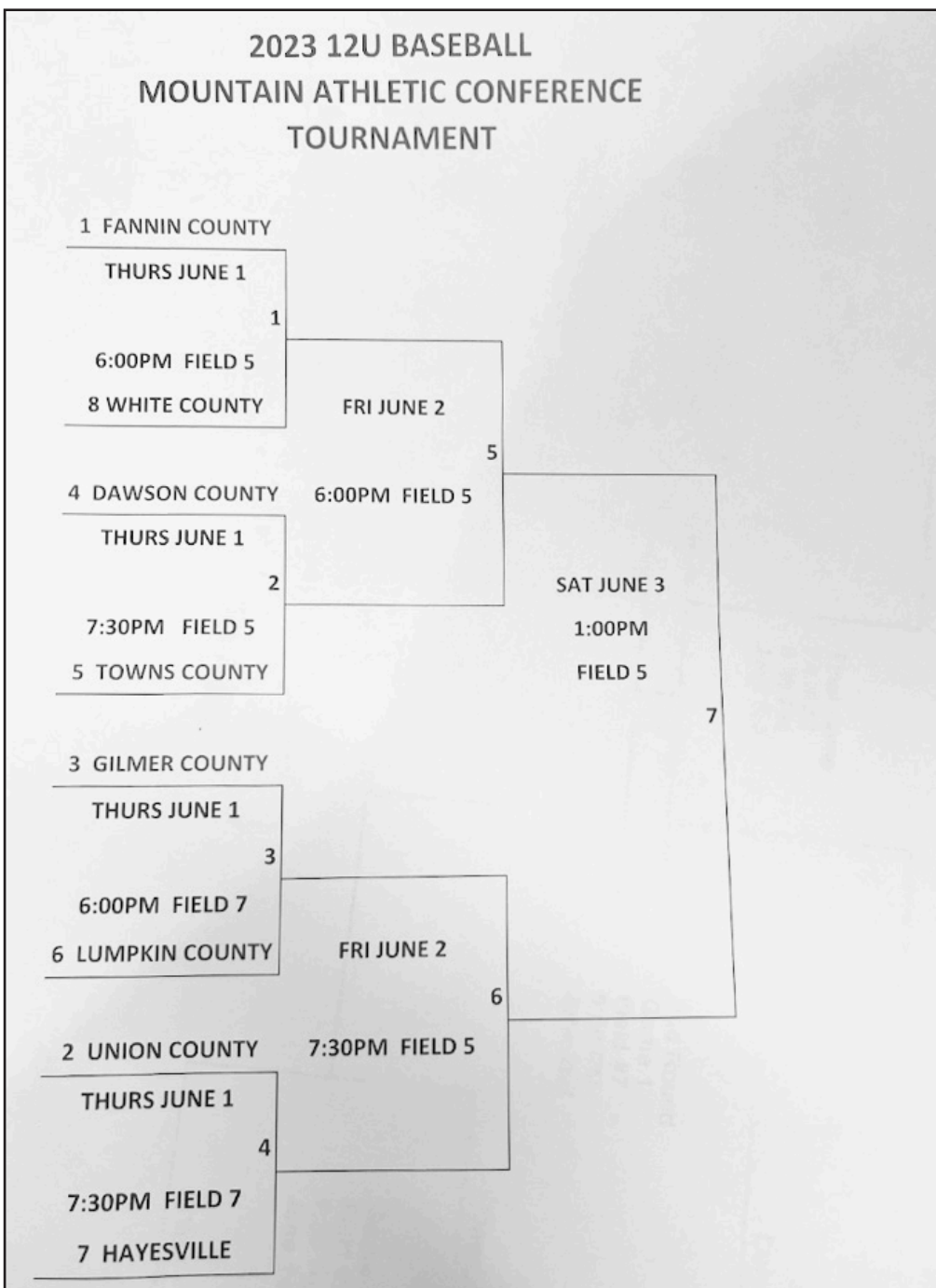
Sun., June 4; Cup Series race 15 of 35; Starting time: 3:30 pm ET; TV: FoxSports1.

NOTE: There are no race results for the NASCAR Cup or Xfinity Series races. The Xfinity race was scheduled to run Saturday, but was postponed until 11 am, Monday, May 29, due to rain. Sunday's Cup race was rain-delayed until Monday at 3 pm.

Racing Trivia Question: Who is the defending NASCAR Xfinity Series champion?

Last Week's Question: What role did Curtis Turner play in the early beginning of Charlotte Motor Speedway? Answer: Turner conceived the idea of Charlotte Motor Speedway. He was able to get most of the construction done on the track, but ran out of money before it was totally completed, and lost his financial interest in the facility before it opened.

12U MAC Baseball brackets at Fannin County



10U Softball District 7 Tournament at Towns

