

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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TOWNS COUNTY SOCCER

BOYS ALL REGION SELECTIONS



1ST TEAM:

CRUZ KITCHENS
CADEN COGGINS



2ND TEAM:

CONNOR WILLIAMS

HONORABLE MENTION:

BROCK MURRAY
DUSTIN BARRETT

GREAT JOB!!

Matthew Chastain signs... continued from 1A

were interested, but I was already signed with Truett," he said. "We reached out to North Georgia but never heard back, but Young Harris was kind of my backup plan if Truett didn't work out."

Truett McConnell is a private Baptist university, which was the deciding factor in Chastain's decision.

"It was their love of Jesus, and I could tell it was meant to be," he said. "I could tell it was from God for me to go there and the opportunity came from Him."

Chastain, a physical therapy major, plans to see the mound next spring during his freshman campaign.

"They expect me to play," he said. "They told me I locate (my pitches) well and that I will get some innings."

Truett's summer workouts are already underway, but he won't report to school until later in the summer.

"(Truett) sends me workouts every day, a lot of running and lifting," he said. "It's definitely more advanced than high school, but I like it. I'm excited. It's going to make me stronger and throw harder so I can better help the team."

Chastain battled tendinitis as a senior and missed over three weeks between late March and mid-April, which he admits was a difficult time not getting to help the Indians secure a playoff spot. "I've dealt with (injuries) in the past, but that was in middle school," he said. "It was hard to watch (the games); it made me realize how much of an impact I had on the team."

He opened 2024 with a complete-game two-hitter during a 5-1 win at Union County on Feb. 27, a performance he considers the highlight of his 2024 season.

Chastain tossed five shut-out innings vs. GSIC on March 10, then surrendered 2 hits and 1 run in 6 innings vs. Lake Oconee Academy on March 26. Chastain returned to the mound on April 19 to nail down the final two innings of a 9-3 win vs. Rabun County.

During a junior season that saw TCHS reach the Elite Eight, Chastain fanned a career-high 13 batters during a 5-inning rout against Hiwassee Dam, North Carolina. Later in the year, he went the distance in a 3-1 win over Lake Oconee.

As a sophomore in 2022,

he struck out eight in three innings during his season debut—a 15-0 win over Greene County. He went on to toss five scoreless frames during a 4-0 win vs. Hiwassee Dam that included 8 strikeouts.

Chastain's varsity debut came in an 8-7 loss to Liberty County in 2021, allowing one run over an inning of work.

Chastain joins battery-mate Connor Chastain as the Indians' second outgoing senior headed to the next level in baseball. Connor Chastain signed with Young Harris earlier in May.

Georgia BASS Nation High School State Classic- Lake Chatuge



Welcome and Good Luck Anglers

The Lake Chatuge Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce, Lake Chatuge will be host to the 2024 Georgia BASS Nation High School State Classic on June 7-8, 2024. There will be 140 teams competing in the high school classic tournament. These families will be in the Lake Chatuge area beginning Monday, June 3 with practice ending on Thursday, June 6.

Weigh in will take place around 3pm each day - Friday

and Saturday- at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds boat ramp. Parking will be in the parking levels to the right as you enter the fairgrounds and shuttles will be available to the boat ramp. The community is welcome to come out and support the young anglers!

Please join Lake Chatuge Chamber of Commerce in welcoming these anglers to our area. Good Luck! For more info, contact the Lake Chatuge Chamber at 706-896-4966.

Save the Date for Summer Heat's Family Fun Day



Summer Heat Family Fun Day returns on Saturday, June 15. Come and enjoy the day with our First Responders.

Building on last year's success, it returns even bigger and better. Summer Heat of Towns County was Established as a 501(c)(3) non-profit, Inc. This organization will focus on supporting our Towns County first responders. Our goal is to provide limited financial support for Towns County First Responders should they suffer a debilitating illness or injury after exhausting all vacation,

sick leave, and other means of financial aid.

This event celebrates the Towns County Commissioner's declaration of the second Saturday of June as "First Responders Day." It is a great day to show your appreciation for our First Responders of Towns County.

We support all paid employees and volunteers in good standing in the following agencies: Towns County Sheriff's Office, City of Hiwassee Police Department, Young Harris College Police Department, Towns County Fire Department, Towns County EMS, and Towns County 911 Dispatch.

We can achieve our goal with fundraising events, sponsors, and donations from our community.

Our mission statement

is: "Serving those who serve us."

Saturday, June 15, Rain, or shine. 10 AM-3 ish. Towns County Recreation Center 150 Foster Park Rd, Young Harris.

Get ready for a day filled with excitement! We have live local bands, craft vendors, fantastic food vendors, games for the kiddos, face painting, and a kickball competition between the Towns County Sheriff's Department and the Towns County Fire Department--Guns versus Hoses. There's also a dunk tank, Iron Man, and fire Safety Training Classes for the whole family. Please use our popular silent auction featuring a themed Gift auction to bid for your favorite basket.

There will be lots of other great activities. It will be a fun day for the whole family.

NASCAR 2024

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

CINDRIC GETS SECOND CUP WIN

Austin Cindric took Sunday's Cup Series race at World Wide Technology Raceway at the expense of Penske Racing teammate Ryan Blaney.

Victory was in sight for Blaney, until he ran out of fuel on the next-to-last lap allowing Cindric to take over the lead and go on to his second career series win.

"This is huge for me," said Cindric. "This is huge for this team. I'm so glad I was able to get a win with Brian (Wilson) as my crew chief in the Cup Series. You never know when it's going to happen again. Just drove my butt off, hope for the best."

Blaney wound up finishing 24th.

"Never thought in my mind we were short," Blaney said. "One of those things. Gosh, proud of the 12 boys. We were fast. Had my work cut out for me holding off Christopher. That was a fun battle. I don't know what happened to him."

"Yeah, one lap short, which just stinks. Congrats to the 2 team. They did a good job all day."

Denny Hamlin was the runner-up, while Brad Keselowski, Tyler Reddick, Joey Logano, Austin Dillon, Christopher Bell, Carson Hocevar, Justin Haley, and Kyle Larson were the remaining top 10 finishers.

It appeared Christopher Bell, last week's winner would overtake Blaney, until Bell had engine problems.

"I have no idea what happened," said Bell, who rolled to a seventh-place finish. "Some sort of motor issue. I'm surprised that I made it to the end. Glad we were able to salvage something out of it."

"You don't get race cars like that very often. Whenever you do, you need to take advantage of it. Disappointing day."

On Lap 139 Kyle Busch and Larson were battling each other when Larson's car slipped underneath Busch, sending both cars sliding into the outside wall.

Busch's car was damaged beyond repair and exited the race in the 35th position, the first DNF of the season for the two-time Cup champion.

"We can't afford days like this," said Busch, who is winless this year and squarely on the bubble for a Playoff spot. "Yeah, he got loose and wiped us out."

Top 10 leaders after 16 of 36; 1. Hamlin-534, 2. Larson-513, 3. Elliott-507, 4. Truex-490, 5. Byron-488, 6. Reddick-473, 7. Gibbs-465, 8. Bell-437, 9. Keselowski-437, Bowman-417.

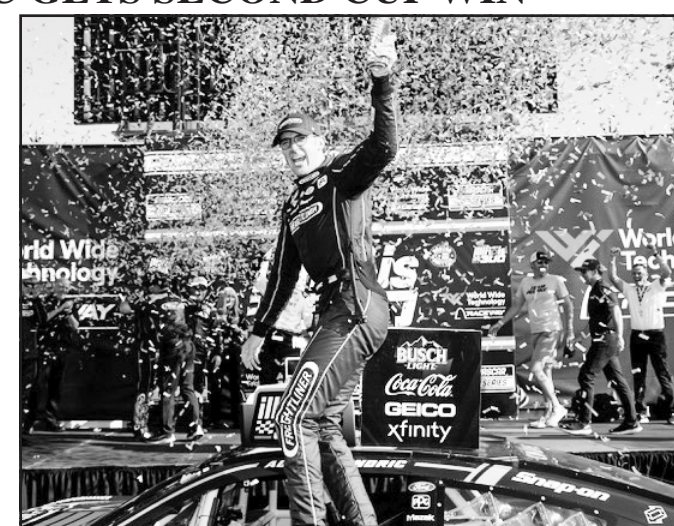
ROAD RACE GOES TO VAN GISBERGEN

Shane van Gisbergen of New Zealand claimed his first Xfinity Series victory in Saturday's road course race at Portland, Oregon. The popular driver from 'down under' celebrated his victory by kicking a rugby ball into the crowd.

"What a day, really cool, had some great racing," said van Gisbergen. "I need to get better on my restarts and learn how to position, but that was so much fun. Really cool racing. I love these cars, they're great."

Van Gisbergen also has one Cup Series win, the 2023 Chicago Street Race.

Justin Allgaier was runner-up, followed by Sammy Smith, AJ Allmendinger, Ed Jones, Cole Custer, Josh Williams, Parker Kligerman,



Cindric Gets Second Cup Win
Parker Retzlaff, and Riley Herbst.

Top 10 leaders after 13 of 33: 1. Custer-475, 2. Hill-457, 3. C. Smith-457, 4. Allgaier-452, 5. Love-402, 6. Allmendinger-380, 7. Herbst-378, 8. Creed-354, 9. Kligerman-342, 10. S. Smith-328.

HEIM GETS TRUCK WIN

Here are the top 10 finishers in Saturday's Truck Series race at Madison, Illinois :1. Corey Heim, 2. Christian Eckes, 3. Nick Sanchez, 4. Ty Majeski, 5. Layne Riggs, 6. Chase Purdy, 7. Ben Rhodes, 8. Stewart Friesen, 9. Andres Perez de Lara, 10. Luke Fenhaus.

Top 10 leaders after 12 of 23: 1. Eckes-506, 2. Heim-475, 3. Sanchez-453, 4. Majeski-442, 5. Taylor Gray-365, 6. Caruth-357, 7. Ankrum-342, 8. Rhodes-329, 9. Tanner Gray-321, 10. Enfinger-319.

ELLIOTT MAKES 300TH CUP START

When Chase Elliott, driver of the No. 9 Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet, took the green flag in last Sunday's Coca Cola 600, it was his 300th Cup Series start.

"I don't know how long my career will go, but I would love to spend it all here," Elliott said. "This has been the only home I have ever known in my NASCAR career, which is really cool. I owe everything I have to Rick (Hendrick), the opportunities and my life, just every bit. It's been a lot of fun. To be able to call one place home and drive for one guy is a big deal to me. Three hundred (starts) is wild to think about with a 38-race season. We've been around longer than you think."

Elliott has 19 wins, 98 top-five finishes, 158 top-10s, 12 poles and 5,226 laps led in the Cup Series. He won the 2020 Cup Series championship and reached the Championship 4 in three consecutive seasons (2020-22).

STEWART-HAAS TEAMS WILL CLOSE

Stewart Haas Racing will shut down all its racing teams at the end of the 2024 season.

SHR co-owners Tony Stewart and Gene Haas announced last week they will shut the team down at the end of the 2024 season, ceasing operations after over 20 years as a NASCAR Cup Series team and 16 in partnership together. The team will sell off its assets, including the four Cup Series charters it holds, and all of its drivers and crew members will become free agents.

"Racing is a labor-intensive, humbling sport. It requires unwavering commitment and vast resources, with a 365-day mindset to be better than everyone else. It's part of what makes success

so rewarding," read a joint statement from Stewart and Haas. "But the commitment needed to extract maximum performance while providing sustainability is incredibly demanding, and we've reached a point in our respective personal and business lives where it's time to pass the torch."

The situation at SHR did not happen over night. They have been a team in transition all year. It lost major sponsors Smithfield and Busch Light and driver, Ross Chastain after the retirement of Kevin Harvick). Its deal with Ford Motor Company for support also ends after this season and there has been no announcement of any renewal.

In a recent television episode, Dale Earnhardt Jr. gave his take on the situation.

"I heard that their range is \$20M to \$30M, for a charter," said Earnhardt. "One of the last ones that sold was for \$40M, and so now they're kind of going through a bit of a reset. I mean, I know one sold for \$40M, but from everything that I've learned, and all the things that we've dug up over the last three or four years, the true value is not near \$40M. So yeah, \$20M to \$25M is more in the ballpark of what I think they should be going for. The question is, will Stewart-Haas sell all four of them? Does Tony Stewart and [Gene] Haas get out entirely?"

"But I mean, it doesn't seem like there's a lot of - I don't know. I don't want to speculate. But I hope that Tony Stewart doesn't leave NASCAR entirely. That would suck. I just think he's an icon. He's a motorsports icon. Done it all."

Racing Joke: Kyle was having trouble stowing his over sized travel bag onto the plane. Helped by a flight attendant, he finally managed to stuff it into the overhead bin.

"Do you always carry such heavy luggage," the flight attendant asked.

"Never again," replied Kyle. "Next time, I'm riding in the bag and my friend can buy the ticket."

Weekend Racing: Both the Cup and Xfinity teams will be on the 1.99-mile road course at Sonoma, Calif. The Trucks do not race again until June 28.

Sat., June 8: Xfinity Series race 14 of 33; Start time: 8:00 pm ET; TV: FoxSports1.

Sun., June 9: Cup Series race 17 of 36; start time: 3:30 pm ET; TV: Fox.

Racing Trivia Question: How many Cup Series championships did Ned Jarrett win?

Last Week's Question: Who did Carl Edwards, the 2025 NASCAR Hall of Fame Inductee, drive for in the Cup Series? Answer: The two main teams he drove for were Roush Racing and Joe Gibbs Racing.

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