

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Head Coach Livingston 'really impressed' with team's summer efforts

By Chad Stack
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Last week, the Lady Indians finished up their second week of softball practice in preparation for the upcoming 2019 season under first-year Head Coach Clay Livingston.

Livingston accepted the job after Head Coach Brandon Rowland stepped down recently following a five-season run coaching the Lady Indians.

With several key players healthy as they start the 2019 season, the Lady Indians look to have a much-improved year after finishing 3-10 in the region last year.

"Coach Rowland did a great job, and I'm very appreciative for everything he did," Livingston said. "He coached two of my daughters, and I appreciate more than anything the way he treated them."

As Livingston steps away from his football coaching duties to lead varsity soft-



The Towns County Lady Indians softball team performs soft toss drills in preparation for the upcoming season. Photo/Chad Stack

ball, he is coming in with high expectations, as he believes this group of girls is a playoff team.

With several girls playing basketball, softball and soccer, Livingston and Varsity Basketball Head Coach Brian Hunnicutt have been in the

weight room with their teams working on strength and conditioning to prepare for the 2019 season.

"I have been really impressed with all of them this summer - their work ethic, showing up, being patient and just doing what they are asked

to do," Livingston said.

As the Lady Indians head into the start of the upcoming season, they are loaded with eight talented juniors, with Kennedy Henson leading the way on the mound.

Henson was unable to get on the field last year due

to an injury that occurred in a basketball game during the start of her freshman season.

"We are hoping she can stay healthy and be ready to pitch," he said. "Natalie Smith will also contribute on the mound this year; she's been working hard all summer.

"Pitching and catching is where it's at. We've got to do a great job developing the ones we count on now and continue that work all the way through ninth grade and down through the middle school."

The Lady Indians will also return seven sophomores and bring in very talented freshmen.

Rounding out the roster are the team captains and senior leaders Sophia Shook and Jessica Taylor. Shook is the team's vocal leader on the field, Livingston said.

Coaching alongside Livingston are assistance coaches Chris Vardo and Zeke Gribble.

The Lady Indians will travel to Fannin County on Monday, July 22, and Tuesday, July 23, for a two-day Fellowship of Christian Athletes Camp with several other high schools in the area.

The start of the season will begin with a home-opener against the Lady Rebels of Fannin County on Monday, Aug. 26, at 5:55 p.m. on Lowell Nicholson Field.

Mountain Harbour Ladies Golf

Scramble Mixer: This season the Mountain Harbour Ladies Golf Association has two leagues of women playing each week, the ladies who play a full 18 holes, and another group of ladies who prefer to play in the Nine Hole League. Each week the groups play a pre-determined game or tournament and once a month, President Beckie Suverkrup schedules an event hosting the Niners in a fun game that we would all enjoy playing to encourage camaraderie and growth among the groups.

July's mixer included twenty women who enjoyed a shot-gun Scramble event, that also allowed them a mulligan from their first tee and also each foursome was allowed to draw two bonus mulligans from an envelope that could be used during their round.

As an example, some teams drew "take par on hole #18", other teams drew "take one putt and move on" or "take a mulligan anywhere but the green

on hole #4". There were also two proximity prizes awarded to the players for "closest to the pin on par 3 #5" and "closest to the red line on #10".

The days event wrapped up with a delicious lunch prepared by Chef Keith consisting of an entrée salad with fried chicken, fruits of the season, feta cheese and choice of dressing, honey butter on dinner rolls, and iced tea.

Pro Shop Manager, Curtis Phillips presented the winners and cash prizes as follows: 1st place - Beckie Suverkrup, Francine Brown, Carol Millward, & Niner-Carlynn Story 71/51 net. 2nd place - Sally Mirocke, Karen Mussoline, Karen Whittaker, and Niner-Mary Rau 74/ 54 net. 3rd place - Linda Davenport, Sidney Moser, Nancy Luck, and Niner - Desna Jarrett 77/56 net. Closest to the pin #5-Jackie DiChiara 2'2". Closest to the red line #10- Francine Brown 2' and Linda Davenport 2'.

For further information on playing with the Ladies Golf Association contact Beckie Suverkrup at bekieup@gmail.com.

TCHS Girls Bball fundraiser

Towns County High School Girls Basketball Fundraiser - July 27th in the McConnell Baptist Church parking lot, Saturday, July 27th, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. All proceeds from the car wash will go directly back into the Girls Program. The funds pay for Girls' shoes, equipment, and funds basketball camps which the team attends. The Lady Indians Basketball program greatly appreciates the community support that we receive. Thank you for your support of us! We are TC!

Register now for Fall Soccer

Towns County Recreation Fall Soccer signups have started!

UFA Mountains Recreation Soccer Families, regular registration for Fall Rec Soccer will continue through July 20th. Beginning July 21st, a late fee will be added to each registration. Register at www.mountains.unitedfa.org. Sign up now to reserve your spot!

Chatuge Shores Ladies Golf holds successful Open House



On Tuesday, July 9th we had our first ever Open House. It was a nine-hole team event, a Shamble that was handicapped. There were thirty-six ladies in attendance for the event and what a grand time we all had. They got to see our beautiful course in person and had a wonderful lunch, too. And best of all this time the weather cooperated for us to have such an event. The first place winning team was Loretta Hughes, Terie McComb, Judy Castle, Ann Parsons. L-R: Judy Castle, Terie McComb, Ann Parsons. Not pictured: Loretta Hughes.

NASCAR 2019

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

Busch Brothers Sweep Kentucky



Kurt Busch celebrates Kentucky Victory race at Kentucky for his fifth win of the season.

SPARTA, KY - Kurt Busch beat his brother to the finish line by .076 seconds in Saturday night's Cup Series race. A two-lap overtime finish between the two was set up when Bubba Wallace spun in Turn 2 with six laps left in the 267-lap race. Joey Logano, Erik Jones, the Busch brothers and Denny Hamlin stayed out on older tires for the overtime, with Kurt Busch having fresher rubber on his left side, thanks to a four-tire pit stop under green on Lap 213.

On the restart Kyle Busch shot ahead of Logano coming out of turn two on the first lap and made it three-wide with Kurt Busch and Erik Jones. By the time the white flag flew, both Kyle and Kurt were side by side racing for the win. The pair of siblings bumped and banged into each other several times as they battled for the victory.

But Kurt had fresher tires and was able to sneak by Kyle in turns three and four for his first victory of the season in the No. 1 Chip Ganassi Racing Chevrolet.

"What an awesome run," Kurt Busch said. "Whatever last week was, we got the 'W' now! That was epic. I was hopeful that we would get a shot, just one more restart. We got that yellow ... with my little brother - it's the best guy in the world to go race against."

It was the first time Kurt has beat his younger brother in a 1-2 finish. "I'm glad it was a thriller," Kyle Busch said. "Just unfortunately we were on the wrong end of the deal. Maybe I should have just gotten in front of him and messed up his air. It's so easy to do with these cars. It's pretty much just air games. I missed my chance over there, I guess. That's about all I could really have done different."

Jones finished third, followed by Kyle Larson, Hamlin, Clint Bowyer, Logano, polesitter Daniel Suarez, Ryan Newman and Chris Buescher completed the top-10.

Kurt Busch won Stage 1 of the race, while Kyle took Stage 2. Jimmie Johnson and his team continue to struggle. He spun around and bounced off the wall during lap 180 and finished 30th.

Top-10 leaders after 19 of 36: 1. Logano-746, 2. Kyle Busch-735, 3. Harvick-645, 4. Keselowski-630, 5. Hamlin-627, 6. Truex-618, 7. Kurt Busch-618, 8. Elliott-607, 9. Bowman-554, 10. Almirola-542.

CUSTER WINS FIFTH XFINITY RACE
Cole Custer led 88 laps of Friday's 200 lap Xfinity Series

the monotony and stress of racing. "There's a lot of race weekends I show up to the race track and it's just me, or me and my family and we're there, I'm just there to work," Almirola said. "I've got friends that live in the New Hampshire area and New England area, so being able to visit and see them almost makes going to the races seem a little bit like a vacation, just being able to go see people that you haven't seen in a year."

This year is no different. When the Cup Series makes its way to New Hampshire on July 21, Almirola and his family will continue the tradition. They plan to cruise over to Vermont after the race and spend a few days in Maine before heading to Pocono for the following week's race.

This year, Almirola is hopeful he'll be in a victorious mood for the post-New Hampshire road trip after coming up painfully short last season. He led 42 laps and was leading late, but finished third after losing a few spots on pit road and making a mistake on a restart.

"Any time you go to a place and you run well, it gives you a whole 'nother level of confidence going back to that race track," he said. "After the success we had last year, I'm excited and looking forward to going to New Hampshire, feeling like that's a place that we're certainly capable of going and winning."

Wins have been hard to come by for Almirola, who's in his second full season as a driver with Stewart-Haas Racing. He scored his first victory with his new team at Talladega in last year's playoffs, which helped finish a career-best fifth in last season's final standings, but hasn't won this season.

Still, Almirola is in good shape in the standings as he enters the final stretch into this year's playoffs. He's 11th heading into

this week's race at Daytona, and is hoping to hit a higher level as the second half of the season begins, which includes that anticipated race at New Hampshire.

Racing Joke: Usually, before a Sunday race, Jimmie attends a local church service. Before the Phoenix race, he spots a golden telephone on a wall and is intrigued with a sign which reads "\$10,000 a minute".

After the service, he asks about the phone and the sign. The pastor answers that this golden phone is, in fact, a direct line to Heaven, and if he pays the price he can talk directly to God.

He thanks the pastor and continues on his way. As he continues to visit churches in Ft. Worth, Chicago, Iowa, Dover, Pocono and around the United States, he finds more phones with the same sign, and the same answer from each pastor.

Finally, he arrives at a church in Atlanta. Upon entering the church, he sees the usual golden telephone. But this time the sign reads "Calls: 25 cents". Fascinated, he asks to talk to the pastor.

"Reverend, I have been in cities all across the country and in each church I found this golden telephone, and I have been told it is a direct line to Heaven and that I could talk to God, but in the other churches the cost was \$10,000 a minute. Your sign reads 25 cents a call. Why?"

The pastor, smiling, replies "Son, you're in the South now. It's a local call."

Weekend Racing: The Cup and Xfinity teams will be at the 1.058-mile New Hampshire Speedway.

Sat, July 20; Xfinity Series race 18 of 33; Starting time: 4 PM ET; TV: NBCSN.

Sun, July 21; Cup Series race 20 of 36; Starting time: 3 PM ET; TV: NBCSN.

Racing Trivia Question: Joe Gibbs is a very successful NASCAR car owner, but he has also had considerable success outside the field of racing. What other sport has he had great achievements in?

Last Week's Question: Who is the current driver of the No. 3 Chevrolet made famous by Dale Earnhardt? The No. 3 car number in the Cup Series belongs to Richard Childress Racing. It is currently driven by Austin Dillon, Richard Childress's grandson.

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