

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Time to say goodbye: a look back at the Class of 2015

By Jerry Kendall
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Perhaps the most difficult moment for any athlete at the high school or other level of play is the realization that their career at that level has come to an end.

The George Walton Academy game marked the final basketball appearances for the Lady Indians for seniors Karlie Albach, Madison Johnson, and Misty Lindemuth while the Providence Christian Academy game was the final appearance for Indian seniors Dallas Manus and Boone Moss.

Much appreciation is extended to these young ladies and young men who have provided countless hours of hard work in serving their team and school on the basketball court.

In reality, the often intense action fans see on the court during games represents just a tiny percentage of the time and effort to achieve various accomplishments along with much time and monetary expense required for their families for many years, including prior to their high school careers.

Lindemuth, Manus, and Moss were members of their respective varsity teams for all four years in high school while Albach served the Lady Indi-



The Towns County Lady Indians seniors. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

ans varsity her last three years and Johnson her last two years. During the last four years, the Lady Indians have won two region tournament championships and made three state tournament appearances with a State Final Four appearance two years ago and an Elite Eight appearance last year included.

Among individual accomplishments, Manus and Moss both received All Region status during their careers and Manus set what is believed to be a freshman school scoring record with 230 points in surpassing the 199 scored by legendary star Bob Bryson in 1953.

He missed reaching the 1,000 points career total due to missing about half of his

junior season due to a severe ankle injury but joined numerous former Lady Indians and Indians in reaching 900 career points with a final total of 924.

As is often the case at TCHS, second and sometimes third generation players have seen action for the Lady Indians and Indians with Manus and Moss being prime examples. Manus' maternal great uncle, the late Ernest Rogers, was an accomplished Indian baseball and basketball player through the 1961 school year when your reporter was honored, as a very raw sophomore rookie, to play right field beside Rogers, who was a well established center fielder and very kind and helpful to your reporter as an unestablished

player. And the first cousin of Manus' father, Towns County native Debbie Bryson who moved to White County prior to her high school years, was a top notch starter for the White County Lady Warriors when they won the Class AA State Basketball Championship in 1981.

Numerous Moss family members have contributed mightily to the fortunes of TCHS sports teams for more than fifty years and Boone has continued the tradition in a big way as a member of the Indian varsity for four years.

Close family members providing significant talents for the Indians and Lady Indians include his father, Kevin, and sister, Jordan, along with his uncle, Ketron, and first cousins Kindle, Mckenzi, and sophomore teammate Major. And standout freshman Zach Davenport is the grandson of former Lady Indian star Doris Welch, who is the first cousin of Kevin and Ketron with her daughter, Jacklyn, Zach's mother, also having been a star player for the Lady Indians.

Many thanks are extended from the Towns County Herald and this reporter to Karlie, Madison, Misty, Dallas, and Boone for their many hours of dedicated and highly regarded service to their school and teams and best wishes are extended to each of them for the future.

Cochran shines in return to her home county

By Jerry Kendall
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

There is an expression sometimes used of "You can't go home again" in some manner or another but this surely didn't fit former Towns County Lady Indian basketball star Eryn Cochran in last Sunday's Peach Belt Conference battle between her Columbus State University Lady Cougars and the Young Harris College Mountain Lions.

Cochran played a very prominent role in her team's 48-28 win in front of numerous friends and relatives from not only Towns County but also Clay County, the home county of her mother, the former Sara Martin.

In a most unusual low scoring first half for both teams, Cochran saw nine minutes of playing time in the twenty minutes half and provided a third of her team's points as they held a 21-12 lead at intermission. She sank two free throws near the ten and a half minutes mark in giving her team a 7-1 lead, a trey near the four minutes mark for a 16-10 advantage, and two more free throws at the three minutes mark for an 18-10 score while adding two rebounds and two steals during the half.

Cochran sank a second trey the last half for ten points and added three rebounds for a total of five for the Lady Cougars who extended their overall record to 24-1 and their



Eryn Cochran

conference record to 15-1. But perhaps her most important statistic was having no turnovers in twenty minutes of play in a game which saw an unusually high total of thirty five such mistakes by the two teams.

Hopefully the Young Harris faithful not aware of the heights Cochran was so vital in helping her Towns County teams accomplish during four years of outstanding play can forgive the local folks, who give great support to the Mountain Lions sports programs, for celebrating a performance bringing back memories of her numerous earlier accomplishments in her home county. The Lady Indians included three region championships and four trips to the Class A State Tournament, including a State Final Four and a State Elite Eight trip during her four years.

TCMS baseball drops doubleheader to George Walton

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Towns County Middle School Indians lost a disappointing couple of baseball games in a doubleheader against George Walton Academy at home on Saturday, Feb. 14.

Game one saw a Bulldog victory of 15-4, and the Indians lost by an even greater margin, 22-3, in the second game of the series.

But these results only

speak for one day of competition, as is clearly demonstrated by Towns County's win against Martins Creek, 6-3, just days earlier in a scrimmage matchup on Monday, Feb. 9.

"Everybody looked pretty good in that one," said Indians Head Coach Shea Taylor. "Today, our pitchers just couldn't find the strike zone, and that killed us - too many mistakes, throwing errors, fielding errors."

Coach Taylor plans to work with his pitchers before

the next game, as well as on "routine plays, routine ground balls and routine fly balls."

The next game pits the Indians away against Commerce on Saturday, Feb. 21.

"We've got a doubleheader, weather permitting, of course," said Coach Taylor.

Coach Taylor and his Indians' fundraiser that took place Saturday, Feb. 7, was a rousing hit with the community.

"The fundraiser went

very well," said Coach Taylor. "We raised a lot of money for our kids. It was a big success for the middle school program. It was fun and everybody really enjoyed it. The tennis ball toss was awesome - everybody loved it."

Calling Saturday's games a humbling experience, Coach Taylor looks ahead to future games.

"We've got a lot of potential, but we've just got to get right," said Coach Taylor.

While Stewart was on the track, NASCAR ordered Stewart, Denny Hamlin and Kyle Busch to return to the garage to be weighed, a pre-season mandate. Hamlin and Busch obeyed.

Stewart stayed on the track, ignoring NASCAR's request.

When he did return to the garage, he and crew chief Chad Johnston were called to the NASCAR hauler for a meeting regarding the incident.

Stewart refused to elaborate over what took place in the hauler, but according to SB Nation, he issued several curse words and profanity towards NASCAR officials.

"Well NASCAR felt compelled to make me the first to be called to the trailer 10 minutes into the first practice of the year," Stewart twitted.

He wrecked during the first round of Sunday's qualifying. Not a good start.

Weekend Racing: It all begins Thurs., Feb. 19 with two non-points races and culminates on Sun., Feb. 22 with the Daytona 500.

Thurs., Feb. 19; two non-points races known as the Budweiser Duels. These are a pair of 60-lap Sprint Cup Series races to determine the starting field for the 2014 Daytona 500; The top-16 finishers of each race will be guaranteed a spot in the "500." Starting time: 7 pm ET; TV: FOX Sports1.

Fri, Feb. 20; Camping World Truck Series, race 1 of 23; Starting time: 7:30 pm ET; TV: FS1.

Sat, Feb. 21; Xfinity Series, race 1 of 32; Starting time: 3:30 pm ET; TV: FS1.

Sun, Feb. 22; Daytona 500, race 1 of 36; Starting time: 1 pm ET; TV: FOX.

Racing Trivia Question: Who won the first Daytona 500, which was held in 1959? Hint: He was the patriarch of a famous racing family and drove an Oldsmobile to victory.

Last Week's Question: Who won the 2014 Daytona 500? **Answer:** Dale Earnhardt Jr.

You may contact the Racing Reporter at: www.hodges@race500.com NT(Feb18,C1)ac

Boone Moss selected for all region honors

By Jerry Kendall
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Staff Writer

Towns County Indians senior Boone Moss recently received the honor of being selected as a second team member of the 2015 Region 8A Boys All Region Basketball Team. In so doing, he joins senior teammate Dallas Manus who has received all region honors in prior years.

The 6'6" Moss led the Indians in scoring this year with 344 points in twenty six games for a 13.2 points per game average and he was a terrific rebounder and strong defender as well in receiving the honor. He really came on



Boone Moss

strong the final thirteen games, averaging 16.3 points when the Indians played most of their region games.

NASCAR 2015

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

Gordon and Johnson on 500 pole

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla.—Jeff Gordon has won the pole for the 2015 Daytona 500. His teammate Jimmie Johnson will have the outside position. The pair won the top-two starting spots by having the fastest time during last Sunday's qualifying runs.

The remainder of the 43-car field will be set after Thursday's two Budweiser Duels.

KENSETH WINS SPRINT UNLIMITED

Matt Kenseth took the lead from Martin Truex with 20 laps to go and won Saturday night's Sprint Unlimited, for his first Unlimited victory.

By being one of the leaders, he was able to stay in front of several wrecks that took out 17 of the 25 starters in the 75-lap race.

"It's great to win at Daytona anytime," Kenseth said. "We had a good car and Martin (Truex) was strong down the stretch there, but we were able to hold him off and that's a great way to start off the year for sure."

Truex held on for second.

"The race was over when Kenseth passed me for the lead," Truex said. "He's a better blocker that I am. I was never able to get back around him."

Carl Edwards was third, followed by Casey Mears, Kyle Larson, Joey Logano, Jeff Gordon, Kyle Busch, Dale Earnhardt Jr. and Danica Patrick.

The Unlimited was a non-points race limited to last year's 16 Chase drivers, pole winners from last season, former Daytona 500 pole winners, and former Unlimited winners, plus four other drivers based on their 2014 point standings.

Kevin Harvick thought Joey Logano was bumping him a little too hard on the track, and once the race was over, ran into the side of Logano's car, and then confronted him in the pit area. "He just drove us straight in the fence," Har-

vick said. "Everybody is trying to be aggressive, but you still have to know when and where you can do things. You can't just drive somebody in the fence."

"I have had a few issues with him on the speedways. You can't just take your head off and detach it and throw it on the floor board and not use your brain. It's an all-star race, but you still have to have some common sense."

Logano said he was trying to be helpful.

"That is Kevin just being an instigator just like everywhere else," Logano said. "It is a new year and the same stuff. I was trying to help really, to be honest with you, we had a run and I was pushing."

"I was trying to help. He just doesn't understand I was trying to help. I understand his frustration but I was trying to help out and get to the front and try to win this thing. There are no points or anything like that so you go for the win."

The race was the first to utilize NASCAR's new technology-enhanced pit road officiating procedures and several teams were caught by the system. Jamie McMurray was penalized for too many crew members over the wall, while Ryan Newman was caught for driving through three stalls on the way to his pit.

Others that received penalties included Kevin Harvick, Jeff Gordon, Aric Almirola, Kurt Busch and Kyle Busch.

TWO DRIVERS IN QUESTION

There are many racing questions that will be answered as we get further into the season, but Carl Edwards and Tony Stewart are two drivers that need to have a turnaround year.

Edwards will be with his new team, Joe Gibbs Racing, and hopefully, Tony Stewart has been able to put personal and physical problems behind him and focus on his racing.



Jeff Gordon Addresses the media after winning the Daytona 500 pole

Brad Keselowski said Edwards is one of the top-three drivers in Sprint Cup racing.

This year, he will be in the No. 19 Toyota. Prior to that, he drove the No. 99 Ford for Roush Fenway Racing. He won the 2007 NASCAR Busch Series championship and nearly won the 2011 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series title, but lost by a tie-breaker to Tony Stewart.

Edwards admits to feeling some anxiety. But he's anxious to see if he can follow the pattern and have the same first-year success as several other drivers.

"I didn't understand that until we first made the announcement and I got that feeling of, man, I've got to go prove myself, that little bit of insecurity that every driver walks around with for a long time," Edwards said. "I haven't had that feeling for a while and I'm curious to see if that's it."

One year ago Stewart was recuperating from a broken leg sustained while driving a sprint car. Then in August, 2014, he was involved in another incident during a sprint car race, that resulted in the death of 20-year-old driver Kevin Ward Jr.

But that painful incident plunged him into a depression as he anguished over Ward's death during a self-imposed three-race hiatus.

Stewart said all of that is in the past.

But is it? NASCAR race officials black flagged him for failing to weigh in Friday at Daytona International Speedway.



Senior Boone Moss with a two-handed slam earlier this season. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Baseball registration at Rec Center

The Towns County Recreation Dept. is having registration for softball and baseball for boys and girls ages 8 thru 14 beginning February 9, 2015 thru February 21, 2015. The fee for registration is \$45. Sign-ups are held at the new

Towns County Recreation Center. Our hours of operation are Monday thru Friday 9 a.m. till 8 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. till 4 p.m. If you have any questions please call the Recreation Department at 706-896-2600. TFeb18,FI1SH

Bowling scores

Monday Night Ladies: Joyce Trenton 191, Linda Nichols 204, Susanna White 216, Monday Night Men: Jim McCreary 245, 223, 257, 725 Series, Larry Canaan 220, Mike Davis 201, 222, Gary Brown 236, 192, 279, 707 Series, Keith Rhodes 213, Mike Newsome 206, 211, Kevin Mohan 223, Del Neiffer 211, Joe Teague 224, Derick Rice 214, 207, 237, Taz Matetzschk 228, 233, 204, BJ Gilbert 225, 213, Tom Griffiths 236, 220, 226, Chris Ellinwood 202, DJ DeJoseph 279, 225, Brett Hogsed 201, Steve Brandt 225, Barry Kives 200, Johnathan Everett 201, Ray Everett 200, 245, Jeb Plott 233, 203.

678 Series, Bruce Burnett 218, Mel White 230, Dewey Allen 202, Bill Co. Cooper 209, Paul Napolitano 225, 204, Ernest Rice 192, Thursday Night Fun: DJ DeJoseph 209, Chuck Reeves 221, Krik Bass 236, Russ Southcott 203, 298, John Moore 214, Denise Baldwin 190, Zach Moore 202, 202, 221, Tim Moore 252, 215, 218, Stanley Tyler 209, 202, Doug Roberts 224, 217, Dewey Allen 211, Johnathan Everett 213, Tony Lynch 221, 212, Ray Everett 200, Mike Davis 225, Jim McCreary 211, 200, 226, Brett Hogsed 202, 250, Jason Swanson 214, 215, 211, Taz Matetzschk 249, 226, Bonnell Thomas 202, 235, 203, Jordan Moore 217, Daniel Brown 214, Jaythan Burrell 224, Jerry Thomas 232, 202.

Hazel Farmer Senior League: DeJay DeJoseph 279, 222,