

# Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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## Towns wrestling practice goes on the road to Fannin

By Shawn Jarrard  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

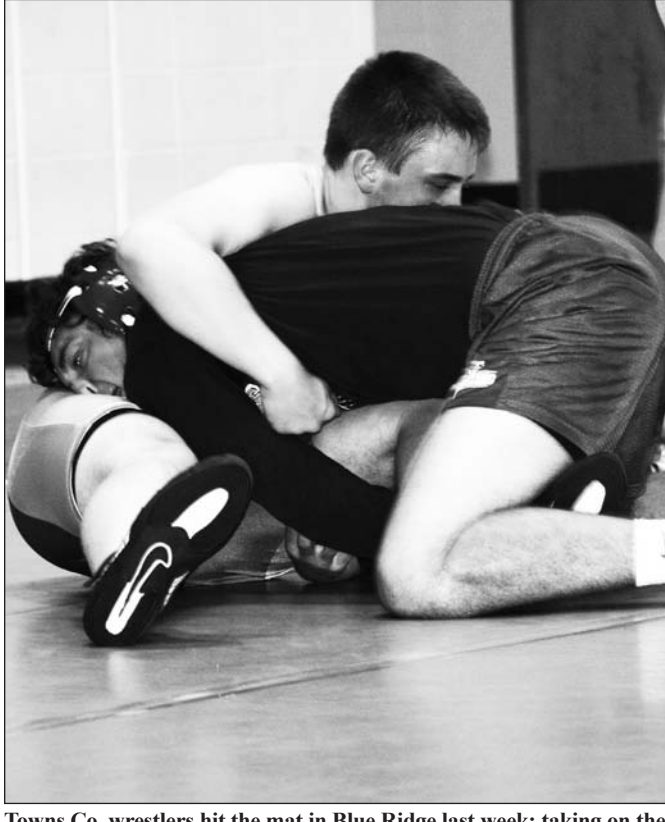
**Blue Ridge** - Towns County Indian grapplers squared off against the Rebels and the War Eagles on Thursday, June 18, at Fannin County High School.

"We went down there to practice, and we got some of that in," said Indians Head Coach Jeff Stowers. "We did some good stuff. All of them did some pretty good stuff on their feet, and that's really kind of what we were looking for."

"We still obviously have a lot of work to do, but when you take these kids that haven't done anything all summer and throw them on a wrestling mat and expect them to wrestle three live matches in an hour - conditioning is a factor, and all those other things are factors. It makes it hard, but we did some really good stuff, and that's what we went down there for."

Four Indians were able to make it to the matchup against Fannin County and Chestatee High School: Daulton Rogers, Blaine Rogers, Dylan Roberts and Peyton Smith.

Daulton Rogers will be a senior this year and has been wrestling since the seventh grade. He placed third in the 2014-15 GHSA Class A Trad-



Towns Co. wrestlers hit the mat in Blue Ridge last week; taking on the

tional Wrestling State Championship on Valentine's Day earlier this year.

And he performed at a high level on Thursday, as well.

"Daulton Rogers went undefeated and pinned the kid who finished third in state in AAAA last year, pinned the kid that finished fifth in the state in

AA," said Coach Stowers.

The other Indians performed admirably as well, as Roberts and Blaine Rogers had winning matches, and Smith put a lot of heart into his matwork.

"In fact, all three of his matches he was winning early in the match, he just ran out of gas at the end of them," said Coach Stowers of Smith, who



Rebels and Chestatee High in practice matches. Photos/Shawn Jarrard

couldn't attend wrestling camp due to prior obligations. "So, we're looking for some really big things out of him next year as one of our lightweights."

Coach Stowers called the matches at Fannin on Thursday a "glorified practice," just to get kids from different schools together, and get them on the mat for a couple of hours.

"It's shaping up to be a pretty successful season," said Coach Stowers, looking ahead. "We've got some holes we've got to fill, some kids graduated, and we're going to miss Kyle Davis, Cruz Shook and Aaron Collier. But we've got some kids coming up from the eighth

grade into the ninth that can fill some of those holes."

Towns County Wrestling has been able to achieve new successes each year, and next year looks to be no different, though Coach Stowers admits there are some challenges ahead.

"Really, our biggest issue now is we're just going to be looking for some big kids," said Coach Stowers. "We don't have a lot of big kids in the school, and we don't have a lot of big kids on the wrestling team. We're going to have to beat the bushes and grab somebody out of the hallway to try to find a 195 and 220. So,

hopefully we can get that taken care of and have a full roster again and make a run at it."

Coaches Josh Rider and Brandon Rowland joined Coach Stowers and the Indians at Fannin on Thursday, and both are just as optimistic about the start of the new school year as Coach Stowers.

"What we usually do is we wait until right about the time school starts," said Coach Stowers. "We find the kids that are not doing anything else, they're not playing football, they're not running cross country - and then we start going with them a day or two a week in the afternoons."

"Then we'll try to find some preseason tournaments for them to go to and wrestle in and those kind of things. Right now, we're just kind of in a holding pattern. Our summer stuff, for all practical purposes, is done, and we'll start back up basically when school starts."

And now that wrestling camp is over and this practice with Fannin and Chestatee is in the books, Coach Stowers has an opportunity to finally kick back with his family and relax after trying up some loose ends at the school.

"Next week really kind of starts our vacation, and we'll go do a week at the beach, just kind of relax a little bit and unwind and get away," said Coach Stowers. "You can't guarantee that every day next week, I'm going to be up about 5:45 or 6 a.m., I'll have a cup of coffee and a book on the balcony of the condo, and I'll watch the world wake up and read a book."

## Update on TCYFL Camp signup

By Shawn Jarrard  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Towns County Youth Football Camp will take place Saturday, July 11, from 8 a.m. until noon at the Towns County High School practice football field, and signups continue Saturday, June 27, between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. at the Towns County Recreation and Conference Center.

Interested young athletes and their parents should bring a copy of their child's birth certificate at signup, as it will be provided to the Smoky Mountain Conference as proof of age.

The camp will be free, but a one-time payment of \$90 will be required at the time of signup in order to cover costs of playing during the season, including insurance, a game jersey that kids will get to keep at the end of the season, and a trophy at the end-of-year banquet.

Following signups this Saturday, the next opportunity to sign up will be the day of camp, which is July 11.

Again, in order to be accepted on one of the teams, parents will need to provide a copy of their child's birth certificate at the time of signup, along with the \$90.

Kids who played last year will not need to provide



copies of their birth certificates at signup.

Teams are broken down into categories according to age: Pee Wees are 5 and 6-year-olds; Termites are 7 and 8-year-olds; Mites are 9 and 10-year-olds; and Midgets are 11 and 12-year-olds.

This year will be Youth Football Director Jimmy Smith's 19th year directing the Towns County program, as well as the county's second year in the Smoky Mountain Conference.

Youth football kicks off its regular season on Saturday, Aug. 15, when the Franklin Panthers head over from North Carolina to play at Towns County.

## 2015 Summer Day Camp

Summer is just around the corner and that means hot weather and Summer Day Camp for boys and girls ages 6 thru 12, each session being two weeks, running Monday thru Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Session III: July 6th thru July 17th; Session IV: July 20th thru July 31st.

The fee for the two week session is \$120 or \$60 per week. The fee is payable to the Towns County Recreation Department.

Day Camp offers chil-

dren sports game activities, social game activities, field trips, nature hikes and much more. Children need to bring a swimsuit, towel, sprayable sunscreen and sack lunch. The Recreation Department will furnish the ice water for the campers.

Registration will be the first Monday of each session at The Towns County Recreation and Conference Center located 150 Foster Park Rd. For more information please call the Recreation Department at 706-896-2600. TJum24,FJSH

## Chatuge Shores Ladies prepare for golf tournament

The Tuesday Chatuge Ladies Golf Association members and guests enjoyed a great day of golf. The game of the week was "Criss-Cross", which allowed the players to pick their best shots. For example, they could choose the score on 1 or 10; on 2 or 11; on 3 or 12 and onward to 9 or 18. The end result was a nine hole score. For each of the four flights a first low gross, second low gross, and low net score determined this week's winners. In the A flight, first low gross went to Judy Schmitt, second to Vicky Donaldson, and low net to Barbara Boswell. In the B flight, first low gross went to Nancy Jensen, second low to Karen Whitaker, and low net to Carol Mann. The C flight saw Mary Anderson with first low gross, Desna Jarrett with second low, and Carol Baxter with low net.

Finally, in the D flight Lynn Tinsley won low gross, Sandy Jersey was second, and low net went to Donna Workman.

Plans for the June 23 Chatuge Shores Classic were finalized, including an auction and a listing of prizes to be awarded. Proceeds from the tournament will be used for repairs and enhancements to the Chatuge Shores Golf Course.

While all the golfers are always trying to improve their playing and their scores, the main objective of the CSLGA is to have fun and enjoy being outside and on the course. Even the best players have bad shots, but it helps to remember what the golf legend Ben Hogan once said: "The most important shot in golf is the next one."

Submitted by  
Desna Wallin Jarrett  
TJum24,G1SH

## MUSA Fall Registration



Mountain United Soccer Association's Fall Registration is now open. Age groups from U6 to U16. You can register online at www.mountainsoccer.org. Registration forms are also available to print from the website. Forms can be mailed to P.O. Box 1862, Blairsville, GA 30514. Deadline to register is July 18th.

For additional information, please check our website at: www.mountainsoccer.org or email us at: musa.soccer@g.mail.com

## VFW Golf League news

This week's competition was won by Bill Long, Randy Tompkins and one of our newest members Bill Shaw. The shot was a blistering 67 which is 5 strokes under par on an equally blistering day. Congratulations guys. Additionally, we have two other new members. They are Susanna and Mel White. Welcome!



Karen Whitaker prepares to tee off on 17.

## NASCAR 2015

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

### Eric Jones Gets Nascar Doubleheader

JOLIET, Ill. — Eric Jones is a driver that's on a roll. First, he won NASCAR's Friday night Iowa Truck race, then he flew to Chicago and took Sunday's Xfinity Series race.

For the second consecutive weekend, rain caused problems for NASCAR races. One week ago at Michigan, the Sprint Cup race had to be shortened due to rain. This past Saturday night's Xfinity race at Chicagoland had to be postponed until Sunday.

Jones led 94 laps of the 200-lap race and his margin of victory was nearly two seconds. He took the lead from Ryan Blaney with 10 laps to go and held on for his second career victory. It is the second week in a row that the No. 54 car has won. Kyle Busch drove it to victory lane last week at Michigan.

"What a great weekend," Jones said. "This team has been down because of things we couldn't control, but they never gave up. I had a great car that was fun to drive. We knew early on that we could win, and it shows just how good the team is."

Ryan Blaney, the runner-up driver led 43 laps.

Polesitter Austin Dillon was third. Brendan Gaughan, Chris Buescher, Ross Kenseth, Daniel Suarez, Brian Scott, Ty Dillon, and Darrell Wallace were the remaining top-10.

Top-10 leaders after 14 of 33: 1. C. Buescher-528, 2. T. Dillon-499, 3. Elliott-485, 4. Smith-466, 5. D. Wallace-462, 6. Sadler-447, 7. Scott-430, 8. Gaughan-419, 9. Reed-410, 10. Suarez-407.

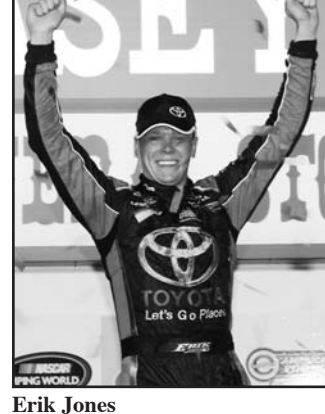
### Eric Jones Gets Convincing Iowa Victory

Eric Jones and his super fast Kyle Motorsports Toyota truck overpowered the rest of the field to win Friday night's Iowa truck race by nearly six seconds. He entered the race winless after eight starts this season after being hurt by back-to-back finishes of 23rd and 15th. But this race was different.

He led 112 laps and dominated most of the 200-lap race en route to his fifth career series triumph.

"We've had fast trucks," Jones said. "Things just haven't been happening. We're back in the swing of things. I guess the last month was just stressful all around. Stressful on me as a person. ... I kind of came to realize it doesn't come as easy as everybody thinks it does. I had a lot of success early on and definitely got into kind of a hard spot."

Brandon Jones, who notched his career-best, finished second. Tyler Reddick, Matt Crafton, Christopher Bell, Timothy Peters, Spencer Gal-



Erik Jones

lager, Daniel Hemric, Cole Custer, and John Wes Townley rounded out the top-10.

Top-10 leaders after 9 of 23: 1. Crafton-370, 2. Reddick-358, 3. E. Jones-344, 4. Sauter-327, 5. Townley-294, 6. Gallagher-288, 7. Peters-283, 8. Hemric-282, 9. Hayley-280, 10. Kennedy-269.

Note: The Sprint Cup Series did not race this past weekend.

Top-16 Sprint Cup Chase leaders after 15 of 36: 1. Harvick-576, 2. Truex-561, 3. Logano-520, 4. Earnhardt-508, 5. Johnson-506, 6. Keselowski-480, 7. McMurray-464, 8. Kenseth-456, 9. Kahne-447, 10. Gordon-434, 11. Kurt Busch-426, 12. Menard-421, 13. Hamlin-412, 14. Edwards-401, 15. Almirola-401, 16. Newman-400.

### Ross Kenseth Walking In His Dad's Footsteps

Ross Kenseth, son of Sprint Cup driver Matt Kenseth made his NASCAR debut Saturday in the Xfinity Series at Chicagoland, where he finished sixth.

Like any good father, Matt is helping promote his son's career into NASCAR's big league. During a press conference last week, Matt shared some views on his son's "coming of age" in racing.

"You know, for me, as a dad, I think you go through a little bit of a learning process," said Matt. "When Ross started driving late-model cars, I'd go to the track with him and we tested together. It took me a few weeks to learn to actually close my mouth a little bit."

"I probably gave him too much advice in the beginning. There's certain things I think you have to learn on your own. Like you go make a mistake or see something, and it benefits you. Oh, now I see it. It's hard to learn that sometimes just by talking."

"But on the other hand, I've always given Ross as much advice or as little advice as he wanted. I'm always been there to answer any questions, and provide him with as much help as he wanted."

Ross said he always wanted to be a racer. Just like his dad.

"I started racing when I

was really young," said Ross. "I was five when I started running go-karts and snowmobiles. I absolutely loved the sport of racing. I watched races as a kid, seeing my dad race in the Busch Series, up to Sprint Cup. He put me in different types of cars; from go-karts, legends cars, late models, and some ARCA starts. It's something that I feel like I've put a lot of work into, something I really love doing, really enjoy doing, feel like I'm not terrible at."

"I have a lot of fun with it. If it was up to me, I'd race two to three times a week if I could. I have a lot of fun with it. I'm looking forward to this opportunity and just hope I can make the most of it."

For both father and son, the Xfinity race at Chicagoland Speedway was a long time in the making.

"I think we talked about trying to get some races for Ross for years," said Matt. "I mean, it's not something that we say, 'hey, man, we would like to do Chicago, let's get it together.' It's not quite that easy these days."

"We've worked on that for a long time. Ross has been working on it for a long time. He's been putting in the effort. He's been getting some results."

"You know, I'm real thankful for this opportunity, and I hope it leads into more opportunities down the road. I hope it finds some sponsorship and some opportunities to get in some more cars and run some more races. But for right now, this is the only one on the schedule."

**Weekend Racing:** After a week off, the Sprint Cup teams go west to the Sonoma, California road course. The Xfinity and truck teams do not race again until the July 4th weekend.

Sun., June 28; Sprint Cup Series race 16 of 36; Starting time: 3 pm ET; TV: FoxSports1.

**Racing Trivia Question:** Dale Earnhardt Jr. visited Europe and Germany this past week, in search of family genealogy. During the trip, he proposed marriage to his girlfriend, and she accepted. He has said retirement from driving is on his horizon. Do you think he will retire after his current contract expires at the end of the 2016 season?

**Last Week's Question:** Martin Truex Jr. drives the No. 78 Chevrolet for Furniture Row Motorsports in the Sprint Cup Series. Where is the team based out of? The team is based in Denver, Colorado, and they hope to have a second team in 2016.

You may contact the Racing Reporter at: www.hodges@race500.com. NJum24,FJSH