

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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TCMS Indians pound Lakeview 34-14 in home opener

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Towns County Middle School Indians beat Lakeview Academy 34-14 in their first home game of the season on Thursday, boosting their record to 2-1 for the year.

And the Indians wanted to win this game.

"Last year we played Lakeview Academy, and it was a heartbreaker," said Head Coach Chris Vardo. "We lost by two points at their place. And a lot of our kids that we have this year are basically returning from that one."

Rain kept the crowds down at Frank McClure Stadium Thursday, but it couldn't keep the Indians down, as they came out strong on the very first drive of the game.

Third-and-17 from Towns County's own 29 yard line, the boys made a big play when eighth-grader Brett Denton shot out and down the sideline for a 71-yard touchdown.

"Our type of offense, it's not engineered for those long - it's supposed to be 3 yards and a pile of dust," said Vardo. "And we had some great blocks on the edge. And of course, a kid like Denton with the speed that he has, he was really able to turn the corner, and I think that really turned the tide."

Eighth-grader Blaine Rogers had a big sack on the Lions' quarterback, and the Indian defense did its job holding Lakeview scoreless to end the first quarter.

Unfortunately, Towns County turned the ball over on its next possession, and the Lions pounced on the chance and scored on a 5-play drive. Lakeview took the lead with a



Towns County Middle School football photos by Lowell Nicholson

successful 2-point conversion, and all of a sudden the Indians found themselves behind, 6-8, with 4:51 left in the half.

The boys in blue took it in stride, however, and answered a mere 25 seconds later to take the lead back when Denton made another huge touchdown run of 61 yards.

And the hits just kept coming, as Indian defenders Devin Burrell and Danny Reagan, both eighth-graders, dropped the Lions' quarterback, forcing a punt on a Lakeview fourth down.

Eighth-grader Will Travis scooped up the punt and ran it in for a score with only 1:22 in the half, and the Lions were in a world of hurt trail-

ing 18-8.

"TCMS - the mighty Indians are the best!" cried the Indian cheerleaders to start Lakeview's next drive.

And the cheer rang true, as the Lions threw a beautiful interception to seventh-grader Hunter Barnhart, who undoubtedly made his father, Head Coach Billy Barnhart, proud on that play.

That drive ended when eighth-grade quarterback Trent Bradshaw went looking for a needle in a haystack and found it in Denton in the end zone, who was covered on all sides, just as the half ran out. Bradshaw connected with eighth-grader Andrew Griffin for the 2-point conversion, and

the Indians went into the half leading 26-8.

The second half was a little less rowdy, but still chock full of great plays.

Bradshaw sacked the Lions' quarterback, whose very next throw ended up in the hands of Towns County defender Burrell for an interception.

That particular turnover ended up costing Lakeview, as eighth-grader Jake Parker was able to take the ball in for a touchdown, with Rogers taking home the second successful 2-point conversion of the day.

Lakeview put one more score on the board, but as the rain went from pitter patter to



gully-washer, the rest of the fourth quarter went scoreless.

"The weather is always the element, and you wonder how we're going to perform in a situation like that," said Coach Vardo. "They developed admirably."

Offensively, Denton led the game with three of the five Indian touchdowns.

"He's been a big asset. He's a big kid, physical kid," said Coach Vardo.

Blaine Rogers had a big 56-yard run and executed well on defense, and Bradshaw was all over the field.

"He's a competitor," said Coach Vardo. "Offense, he's the quarterback. Kick return, he's a returner. Kickoff,

he's our gunner. Punt, he's our punter. He just doesn't come off, he can do it all."

But Vardo couldn't help the boys excel without the help of his ace assistant coaches.

"Darryl and Jason McClure did a great job helping getting the kids ready," said Coach Vardo. "They developed a game plan and made game adjustments - they were huge. Especially at this level, it's about who can adjust first to the situation. And we did do a great job adjusting, finding their weaknesses and making the adjustments that we need to do."

The next game is away Sept. 11th at Athens Christian at 4:30 p.m.

NASCAR 2014

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

Keselowski wins race, chase field is set

RICHMOND, Vir.—Brad Keselowski won Saturday night's Sprint Cup race while Ryan Newman claimed the 16th and final Chase spot.

Keselowski led 383 laps of the 400-lap race, the most ever for a Richmond race, while the win was the 400th for Penske Racing.

"What a night," said Keselowski, who started on the pole. "I couldn't ask for better luck to get my fourth win and start the Chase. What an awesome car the team gave me. The whole team did a great job getting me in and out of the pits first."

Jeff Gordon did not lead a lap, but was running a strong second when the checkered flag waved.

"This wasn't a win, but I'm very confident of our chances the rest of the year," said Gordon. "I'm ready for the Chase. I can't wait until next weekend."

Clint Bowyer realized going into the race that he needed a win in order to make the Chase. He was unable to challenge the leaders and finished third.

"You know we would have liked to have made this year's Chase, but all we can do is build on what we have done so far," said Bowyer. "There's still enough races left, that maybe we can win a couple to show how determined we are."

Jamie McMurray was fourth, followed by Kevin Harvick, Joey Logano, and Kurt Busch.

Jimmie Johnson finished 8th. After getting out of his car on pit road under his own power, he sat down on pit road. He tried to get up and collapsed. He was taken to the infield care center where he was administered an IV for dehydration and released.

"I was definitely dry," said Johnson. "I will have to dig in and understand what happened in the car. I was hot in the car so I will have to make sure all my fans were working and stuff like that. Scary moment and I hate that it happened, but have to learn from it and make sure it doesn't happen again."

Ryan Newman, who finished ninth claimed the 16th, and last starting position in the Chase.

"We've had some good calls, and I think we've done the best with what we've got," said Newman. "We're in the Chase and we'll see what we can do. This team is 100 per cent right now and getting better."



Brad Keselowski won his fourth Cup race of the season at Richmond



2014 Chase Contenders: Back Row, L-R: Jeff Gordon, Denny Hamlin, Kyle Busch, Carl Edwards, Ryan Newman, Joey Logano, Kurt Busch, Matt Kenseth, Eric Almirola. Front Row: Brad Keselowski, Greg Biffle, A. J. Allmendinger, Kasey Kahne, Dale Earnhardt Jr., Kevin Harvick. Furnished by NASCAR

made the Chase finished 10th.

Here is the 2014 Chase field for the final 10-races with the Chase points reset. 1. Keselowski-2012, 2. Gordon-2009, 3. Earnhardt-2009, 4. Johnson-2009, 5. Logano-2009, 6. Harvick-2006, 7. Edwards-2006, 8. Kyle Busch-2003, 9. Hamlin-2003, 10. Kurt Busch-2003, 11. Kahne-2003, 12. Almirola-2003, 13. Allmendinger-2003, 14. Kenseth-2000, 15. Biffle-2000, 16. Newman-2000.

KYLE BUSCH GOES WIRE TO WIRE

Kyle Busch started on the pole in Friday's Nationwide Series race, and led all 250 laps on the way to his fourth win of the season and 67th of his career.

"Had a good car and good execution all night," said Busch. "I knew that going into tonight's race it was going to be different than some of the others. We had a good race car from the beginning, and it showed."

Busch completely dominated the field, and finished over 2-seconds ahead of Chase Elliott.

"I thought we had a good car," said Elliott. "We got better there at the end, but so did Kyle."

an Scott, Regan Smith, Dakota Armstrong, Elliott Sadler, Ty Dillon and Chris Buescher.

Top-10 leaders after 25 of 33: 1. Elliott-916, 2. Smith-897, 3. T. Dillon-874, 4. Sadler-862, 5. Scott-859, 6. Bayne-832, 7. C. Buescher-747, 8. Gaughan-720, 9. Reed-686, 10. J. Buescher-671.

NATIONWIDE SERIES TO CHANGE TO XFINITY

The Nationwide Series will become the Xfinity Series in 2015.

NASCAR and Comcast announced an agreement that will make Comcast's XFINITY brand the title sponsor of what is now known as the NASCAR Nationwide Series through 2024. The 10-year deal is worth over 200-million dollars.

XFINITY is Comcast's residential service brand and is the nation's largest video and high-speed Internet provider.

Nationwide, which has served as title sponsor for the past seven years will continue its relationship in NASCAR as a sponsor on Dale Earnhardt's No. 88 and remain the official insurance company of NASCAR.

SOUVENIR ROW MIGHT BE ON WAY OUT

For decades, walking along "Souvenir Row" prior to

the start of a race has been part of a race fan's day at the track. Large haulers, loaded with racing merchandise line up end-to-end outside the track, forming a chain of retail outlets. Fans can buy goods emblazoned with images of their favorite driver and his car.

After two decades of growth, the bottom has dropped out of the souvenir business. In June, Street & Smith's Sports Business Journal reported that sales dropped from more than \$2 billion in 2008 to \$1 billion in 2010. Since then, it has dropped even more.

This past week NASCAR and other business executives met in Daytona, to discuss the future track souvenir business. Sales of T-shirts, caps, jackets, miniature die-cast cars and other racing souvenirs have lagged as NASCAR race attendance has diminished and fans have grown more reluctant to spend big bucks for their favorite driver paraphernalia. As a result, stock car racing's leaders are contemplating changes to the on-site merchandising of apparel and other souvenirs.

This is just one of several changes that you might see at tracks in the future.

The legacy of Junie Donlavey was honored at Richmond this past week. The Sprint Cup garage has been named the Junie Donlavey garage in honor of the owner who was a competitor at NASCAR's highest level for more than 50 years. The track placed a sign over the entrance to the garage that says "Donlavey Garage" with the words separated by the number "90." That was the number on Donlavey's cars for almost all of his races. Above the "90" is "Junie" and below it is "Chief". Donlavey died June 9 at 90.

David Stremme drove the No. 90 car in Sunday's Cup race in honor of Donlavey.

Weekend Racing: All three of NASCAR's major series will be at the 1.5-mile Chicagoland Speedway. Fri., Sept 12; Truck Series race 15 of 22; Starting time: 8 pm ET; TV: FoxSports1.

Sat., Sept. 13; Nationwide Series race 26 of 33; Starting time: 3:30 pm ET; TV: ESPN2.

Sun., Sept. 14; Sprint Cup race 27 of 36; Starting time: 1 pm ET; TV: ESPN.

Racing Trivia Question: What year did Chicagoland Speedway open?

Last Week's Question: Who won the September 2013 Cup race at Richmond? Answer: It was Carl Edwards.

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

Pickleball comes to Towns County

Pickleball has come to Towns County! What is Pickleball? Pickleball is a fun paddle sport that's best described as a cross between tennis, badminton and ping pong.

It is the fastest growing sport in the country and can be played by people of all ages and athletic ability levels. It's played on a badminton-sized court and is a great way to stay, or get, active and fit. There are 4 indoor courts available at the Towns County Recreation Center, 4 outdoor courts at the GA Mountain Fairgrounds tennis court complex (which is located behind Anderson Music Hall), and 4 more outdoor courts in Hayesville, NC adjacent to the ball fields at

the high school. The Mountain Lakes Pickleball Association was formed last year with just 6 members from Clay and Towns Counties. There are now close to 100 members, most of them from Towns County. We invite all interested citizens to come out and see what this fun game is all about and play a game or two with some very patient instructors, or, just watch! It's very easy to learn and we have the paddles, balls, and nets for you to use. We play every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8 AM to about noon at the GA Mountain Fairgrounds courts.

For more information contact Tammy or Wayne Lentini at 706-435-9959.

Wounded Warriors Golf Tournament

It is not too late to register for the Warriors-Scholarship Fund golf tournament for our wounded warriors! It is a fun tournament with unique individual awards for Longest Drives and Closest to the Pins. Registration begins at 11 a.m.

Format: Teams of four - 1st, 2nd and 3rd place trophies; Longest Drives and Closest to the Pins. Cost per team \$220, per player \$55. Companies, businesses and organizations

\$200. We will have a raffle for Round of Golf for two guests at Brasstown Resort, value \$150 and an electric drill from Home Depot value \$100.

Just give us a call if you are interested: Marine Sgt. Charlie Sowers at 706-745-5123 or Marine Sgt. Skip Belton at 706-745-2273.

Members of the 1957 Panthers football team, you're number one in our book!

Fish for Food Fishing Tournament

Matthew 25 Food Ministries presents "Fish for Food Fishing Tournament". 50% of tournament money goes to feed needy families in our area. The remaining 50% will go to tournament prize money. Prize money will be awarded for 1st Place, 2nd Place, 3rd Place and biggest fish. Actual prize amount will depend on number of entries.

Entry fee is \$40 per boat, the tournaments began in March and will end in October, occurring on Saturdays and rotating between Lake Chatuge, Woods Grove Boat Ramp and Lake Nottely, Deaver Road Boat Ramp, from 7 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Tournament schedule: September 13 - Chatuge; October 11 - Nottely.

YHC to hold baseball showcase camp September 27-28

Young Harris College baseball coach Travis Huffman announced the Mountain Lions will hold a Showcase Camp Sept. 27-28 at Zell B. Miller Field.

The showcase is designed to instruct participants in all major aspects of the game: hitting, fielding, pitching, and catching. Campers will also be able to participate in a pro style workout as well as competitive games throughout the two day camp.

The players will be instructed on their skills and then have the opportunity to demonstrate their skills in a workout type of setting Sept. 27. The camp will provide instruction in all areas of baseball mechanics and game

situations. Coaches from all levels of play, will be on the field to supervise and observe. If a player has more than one position, they will play their primary position and then have the opportunity to receive instruction on their secondary position if they are a pitcher for their secondary position.

All players will have the opportunity to play in one game Sept. 28. This gives the participating coaches an opportunity to see the players in live action.

The cost of the camp is \$250 per person. For more information, please visit www.tripleplayga.org or contact Huffman by phone at 706.897.6237 or by email at trhuffman@yhc.edu.