

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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MGC has first meet at Woodstock



The Mountain Gymnastics USA Level 4 squad (top) competed on Sept. 8th at Woodstock. Addicyn Dockery placed first on the vault and fourth on floor exercises. Evelyn McBride was second on the beam and first on the floor. Kaylie Kendall was fifth on the vault and Reagan Ledford was third on the bars. All the competitive gymnasts will be in action later this year. Photos by Todd Forrest

Youth Football goes two-for-two

By Mason Mitcham
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Saturday was a victorious day for both Director Jimmy Smith's youth football teams. The 5-6 year olds and the 9-10 year-olds both won close games.

The 5-6 year olds won 26-13 against North Hall. Brett Young ran 149 total yards for three touchdowns and two 2-pt conversions. Dawson Devane ran 93 Yards for a touchdown. Robert Burns got three sacks. Cooper Floyd had 14 all-purpose yards and eight tackles, and Nathan Hunter had five tackles. Coach Floyd said that there was good defense by all players and good blocking all day.

Used to dominating, the 9-10 year olds had to work for their victory. They faced Habersham County's secondary youth team, and had to fight their way back from a 7-0 disadvantage to win 20-14.

Hayden McClure ran 70 yards for a score, tying the score at 7-7.

In the third quarter, Peyton Allister ran for a 50-yd touchdown, but missed the extra point, bringing the score to 13-7. In the fourth, Allister ran again for a 35-yd touchdown, bringing the score up to 20-13. Coach Rodney Thomas commented that Habersham was very good and gave Towns County their best shot, and added that "it was a battle from kickoff to the end."

"I'm proud of my nine- and ten-year olds," Director Smith said. "They're still undefeated. Habersham's offense line was unreal." He laughed. "But we have our own."

Smith wanted to extend his gratitude to all involved in the football games, including the cheerleaders and their coaches.

"I'm proud of our cheerleaders, too. They come out every game to support us. I appreciate them and their coaches," he said.

The 9-10 year olds have a bye next week, but the 7-8 year olds play away at White County at 10:30 a.m., and the 5-6 year olds play away at Gilmer County at 9 a.m.



Towns County's Youth Football teams during a game at TCHS. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

NASCAR 2013

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

KENSETH WINS FIRST CHASE RACE

Matt Kenseth won Sunday's rain-delayed Sprint Cup race at Chicagoland Speedway.

Kenseth took the lead from his teammate Kyle Busch during a restart on lap 247 of the 267-lap race.

"We fought for this one," said Kenseth. "The car wasn't that great to start with, but they worked on it, and turned it into a great car."

"I wasn't sure that I could pass Kyle, but after I got a push from Kevin (Harvick) on that restart, I was able to stay out front."

The win was Kenseth's sixth of the season, and allows him to remain the Chase leader.

His teammate, Kyle Busch, winner of the weekend Truck and Nationwide races, seemed to have the faster car, but after losing the lead, had to settle for second.

"We had a great car," said Kyle. "He (Kenseth) beat me into the first corner on that last restart, and that was the race."

Kevin Harvick, Kurt Busch, and Jimmie Johnson rounded out the top-5.

"What an awesome night," said Jeff Gordon, the sixth-place finisher. "We were really down at one point. Being down like we were and coming back to finish where we did was just awesome."

Brad Keselowski, Ricky Stenhouse Jr., Clint Bowyer and Ryan Newman were the remaining top-10 finishers.

Dale Earnhardt Jr. lost the engine in his car during lap 225.

Joey Logano, another Chase contender had engine problems early in the race and did not finish.

Due to a wet track, the start of the race was delayed for nearly 90 minutes before the green flag dropped at 3:40 p.m.

After roughly an hour of racing, the red flag for rain came out on lap 110. There was officially five hours, 10 minutes and 21 seconds of red flag time, before it was restarted.

The race did not end until after midnight Eastern time.

Top-13 Chase leaders with 9 races left: 1. Kenseth-2063, 2. Kyle Busch-2055, 3. Johnson-2052, 4. Harvick-2048, 5. Edwards-2040, 6. Kurt Busch-2040, 7. Gordon-2039, 8. Newman-2035, 9. Bowyer-2035, 10. Kahne-2032, 11. Biffle-2032, 12. Logano-2011, 13. Earnhardt-2010.

KYLE BUSCH DOMINATES NATIONWIDE RACE

After winning Friday night's Truck, Kyle Busch led 195 laps of Saturday night's 200-lap Nationwide race ahead of Joey Logano for his second straight win at the Chicago track.

Sam Hornish finished third, followed by Austin Dillon, Dale Earnhardt Jr., Brian Vickers, Matt Kenseth, Parker Kligerman, Kevin Harvick, and Nelson Piquet.

Top-10 leaders after: 26 of 33: 1. Hornish-921, 2. A. Dillon-904, 3. Smith-885, 4. Sadler-977, 5. Vickers-865, 6. Allgaier-860, 7. Scott-849, 8. Bayne-839, 9. Larson-811,

10. Kligerman-768.

"ROWDY KYLE" WINS CHICAGO TRUCK RACE

Kyle Busch took the lead from fellow Cup driver Brad Keselowski with 17-laps remaining to win Friday night's Truck race at Chicagoland speedway.

Keselowski pulled even with Busch several times during the closing laps, but each time Busch was able to hold him off. Finally, Keselowski either decided he couldn't make the pass, or it wasn't worth wrecking his truck, and settled for second place.

The remaining top-10 drivers: 3. Ryan Blaney, 4. Matt Crafton, 5. Ty Dillon, 6. John Wes Townley, 7. Austin Dillon, 8. James Buescher, 9. Jeb Burton, 10. Johnny Sauter.

Top-10 leaders after 16 of 22: 1. Crafton-609, 2. Buescher-568, 3. T. Dillon-550, 4. Burton-539, 5. Blaney-527, 6. Paludo-526, 7. Peters-512, 8. Sauter-499, 9. D. Wallace-498, 10. Gaughan-483.

NASCAR CHASE CONTROVERSY CONTINUES

Will NASCAR be able to rebound from last week's racing events that bordered on cheating, and did the sanctioning body issue appropriate penalties?

During the Sept. 8 Sprint Cup race at Richmond, Michael Waltrip Racing attempted to rig the outcome in order to help their driver Martin Truex and Penske Racing's Joey Logano make the 12-driver Chase field for this year's Cup championship.

In the final seven laps, with Ryan Newman leading, MWR's Clint Bowyer deliberately spun to bring out a caution. Teammate Brian Vickers made unnecessary pit stops under the caution that allowed Joey Logano to pass him on the track. Logano ended up with one more point than Jeff Gordon to remain in the top-10 and secure a Chase slot.

During the caution, Newman pitted for four fresh tires. On the restart, he was not able to regain the lead and finished third behind Carl Edwards and Kurt Busch. This knocked Newman out of the 12th Chase spot, and allowed Truex to get in.

Initially, NASCAR said it saw nothing wrong with what MWR did, but later removed Truex from the Chase with a penalty, and replaced him with Newman.

Car owner Michael Waltrip said that there was no advance plan to ensure that Truex made the Chase last weekend at Richmond, and denies that Clint Bowyer spun on purpose.

Last week, NASCAR fined MWR \$300,000. Spotter and General Manager, Ty Norris was suspended indefinitely, while the three crew chiefs were put on probation until Dec. 31.

So far, so good. Jeff Gordon said, "Not so fast. What about me? I was a victim too. I should be in the Chase."

Brian France, the CEO of NASCAR agreed with Gordon and on Friday, issued another statement, creating



Kenseth wins first chase race

a 13th Chase driver spot for Gordon.

He said Friday he believed Gordon was the victim of foul play and was at a disadvantage during Saturday night's Chase-setting race at Richmond.

So instead of a 12-driver Chase field, this year's field will consist of 13 drivers.

But what about Martin Truex, the driver that was kicked out?

"All I did the last two weeks was drive my heart out," said Truex. "I broke my wrist at Bristol. I found out this week that I have two broken bones in there, not just one, which makes things even more difficult."

"I wasn't aware of what happened, what the cautions were for. I didn't know the No. 55 (Brian Vickers) pitted at the end. It's tough to swallow, but we have to move on."

The races will go on. Whether the penalties fit the circumstances, depends on who you ask.

"I was probably just as surprised as anybody that this happened," Dale Earnhardt Jr. said. "It's just really extraordinary and unprecedented. I don't know what's fair anymore, you know what I mean?"

Meanwhile Clint Bowyer, the driver that started it all was not penalized.

"It wasn't any one set of circumstances that led us to these decisions," Brian France said. "It's a multiple set of circumstances, but we are trying to be as fair and equitable as we can with all the teams."

Weekend Racing: The Nationwide teams are at Kentucky Speedway, while the Cup series is at New Hampshire. The Trucks have an off weekend.

Sat., Sept. 21, Nationwide Series, race 27 of 33; Starting time: 7:30 pm ET; TV:ESPNNEWS.

Sun., Sept. 22, Sprint Cup race 28 of 36; Starting time: 2 pm ET; TV: ESPN.

Racing Trivia Question: Who was the first African-American to drive in NASCAR?

Last Week's Question: Kurt Busch recently signed a contract to drive a Cup car for Stewart-Haas Racing. How many other teams will SHR have in 2014? **Answer:** There will be three other teams, driven by Tony Stewart, Kevin Harvick, and Danica Patrick.

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