



Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Basketball follow ups and odds and ends



Coach Lana Parker gives instructions to her Lady Indians. Photo by James Reese

By Jerry Kendall
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In having a truly unusual number of specialty articles addressing wonderful basketball accomplishments of various Lady Indians and Indians this year, it is often easy to slip up and forget to include comments or address accomplishments intended to be included but forgotten at the time of the occurrence. Further, a few follow up type events and accomplishments of interest have recently occurred perhaps worthy of mention as will follow:

BOB BRYSON

The inclusion of information about the brilliant career of Bob Bryson in the article about Dallas Manus breaking Bryson's freshman school scoring record set in 1953 brought about several comments, including from Bob Bryson himself. Bryson called your reporter to express appreciation for his having been remembered in the article with an accompanying interest in learning of Manus' talent and style of play.

Bryson was so pleased at being remembered that he called his first cousin, Zell Miller, to ask if he had seen the article with the legendary political leader also expressing his appreciation for the coverage of this stellar career. Bryson further informed your reporter that he had purchased extra newspapers to send to his son, Robert, and daughter, Sharon, who live in Florida. Bob and your reporter actually share kinship with Robert and Sharon as they are the daughters of your reporter's first cousin, the former Margaret Kendall of Hiwassee. As an addendum to the article, Robert is a very highly regarded youth coach in Brooksville, Florida.

Finally, as related to the Manus article, Jerry Hood sent your reporter an email expressing his enjoyment in reading about the exploits of his former teammate. Hood was the second leading scorer behind se-

nior Mike Hedden's 266 points with 226 as a sophomore during Bryson's freshman year.

LANA BROWN (PARKER)

When mentioning Lana Brown in the tribute to Jim Melton and Dion Eller as being the head coach of the Towns County Middle School Lady Indians team, your reporter intended to include a few details of their recently completed season but simply forgot to do this. The Lady Indians completed a 13-5 season with increasing success throughout the season while utilizing for the most part three eighth graders—Jocelyn Byers, Savanna Dyer, and Brooke Smith—and three seventh graders—Kristen Henson, Madison Landress, and Emory Patton—against teams of most, if not all, eighth graders. Most of the schools the Lady Indians faced are much larger than Towns County Middle School and have both an eighth grade and a seventh grade team.

Three of the five losses were to Rabun County but with noteworthy improvement shown as the season progressed against the Lady Wildcats. The Lady Indians lost by a 56-32 score at Rabun early in the season, by a 40-28 score at home several weeks later, and then by just a 36-30 margin much closer than the final score would indicate in the finals of the tournament at Wilbanks Middle School in Habersham County.

One of the other losses was by a 32-24 score at Union County in the season opening game before the Lady Indians took a stunning come from behind 38-36 win in the closing seconds at home and then a 41-31 victory over the Lady Panthers in the semi finals of the tournament. The other loss was by a 45-21 score in a sub par performance by the Lady Indians at Wilbanks in mid season as evidenced by the Lady Indians taking a 42-41 victory over White County two games later after the Lady Warriors had defeated Wilbanks. Fur-

ther, there was no return game played between the Lady Indians and the Wilbanks girls but the Lady Indians outlasted them in the tournament.

JIM MELTON AND DION ELLER

Although a picture of the two coaches in the newspaper made it clear that Eller was in attendance when Melton broke his career coaching wins record in basketball at TCHS, your reporter had intended to comment about Eller's presence. He graciously drove to Commerce after missing his ride with your reporter in order to congratulate Melton in anticipation of his breaking the record on that evening. Melton expressed his clearly sincere appreciation to Eller for his presence at the game.

JORDAN MOSS AND MISSY CONRAD

Two former Lady Indians, Jordan Moss and Missy Conrad, had their best games of the season in a recently played contest between Young Harris College and Barber-Scotia College of Concord, North Carolina, with your reporter having the intent to mention it soon after the event but forgetting to do so. Moss had a team leading 19 points and 11 rebounds along with 2 steals in the 69-31 victory while Conrad scored 5 points with 4 rebounds, 3 steals, and 1 assist in the game.

EZEKIEL GRIBBLE

This item is not about basketball but it is about a former Indians basketball player, Ezekiel Gribble, who is a member of the Young Harris College Mountain Lions baseball team. Gribble was red shirted as expected as a freshman two years ago and then suffered an unfortunate injury requiring surgery the first day of fall practice as a sophomore, missing all of the fall season and most of the spring but with some late season success after an earlier than expected return to action.

In last Sunday's second game of a double header against Montreat College near Asheville, North Carolina, he had his finest moment as a Mountain Lion. After lining out to right field as a pinch hitter in the fifth inning, he battled through a ten pitch at bat in the sixth in fouling off five pitches before stroking his first collegiate home run, a grand slam to right field. The Mountain Lions won the game 14-0 for their tenth straight victory and an overall 13-4 record on the still young season.

A wrap up of tournament activity for neighboring and Battle of the States girls and boys teams will be provided upon completion of the season for the Lady Indians.

Fuzion Dance Company to hold spring concert

See the Fuzion Dance Company in their only concert of the year on Saturday, March 10 at 7 p.m. at Towns County School Auditorium. They will be performing all of the special competition pieces in jazz, lyrical, contemporary, and modern for this year as well as other favorites in ballet, tap and hip hop. Also joining the company will be the young performing group of Brasstown Dance Academy in their debut concert. Both of these groups performed in The Nutcracker in December. The Fuzion Dance Company also performed in the Towns County High School musical Grease in November.

Fuzion Company members are Lindy Hollingshead and Caitlin Sheffield of Hiwassee, Sarina Kurrimbukus of Hayesville, and Ansley Vardeman of Young Harris. They are joined by former Company member Taylor Vardeman of Young Harris. Performance Group members are Tori Anderson, Mai Lim, Skylar Stephens, and Jamison Wood of Hiwassee; Jordan Smith, Montana Walker, and Ashlyn Leatherwood of Hayesville.

Fuzion is a nonprofit Dance Company supported by sponsors and company member dues as a project of Brasstown Dance Academy. The Spring Concert is sponsored by Bob Anderson of Raymond James. Admission at the door is \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. Call or visit Brasstown



The BDA Young Performers Group



L-R Taylor Vardeman, Caitlin Sheffield, Sarina Kurrimbukus, Lindy Hollingshead and Ansley Vardeman

Dance Academy for information about classes or the Fuzion Dance Company performance schedule. Studio hours are Monday-Thursday 2 - 6 p.m. and the phone number is (706) 379-2651. NT(Feb29,C)ac

NASCAR 2012

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

Buescher gets first Nationwide win

James Buescher weaved his way down the front straightaway through a mass of wrecking and spinning cars to win Saturday's Nationwide race.

He was running in the 11th position going into turn-4. As Kurt Busch, Tony Stewart, and the other leaders began smacking into each other and sliding all over the track, Buescher never let up and was somehow able to avoid the melee of cars.

However, there was some controversy surrounding his win.

According to Brad Keselowski, who finished third, NASCAR should have put out the caution earlier. He said that it was six-seconds after the big wreck occurred before the yellow flag was displayed. This allowed drivers to continue racing, which could be dangerous, given all the spinning cars.

"There's no doubt to me that the most dangerous aspect of the sport that's left is the yellow flag situation on the closing laps of the race," he said. Unlike Buescher, Keselowski let up on the gas after seeing the wreck ahead of him. Had he remained at wide-open throttle, he might have won the race, because he was ahead of Buescher when the wrecking started.

"When I look at the sport and look at the most dangerous frontier, it's not the next head and neck restraint system, it's getting hit by a car that is six or seven seconds from a wreck but has to keep going because the yellow is not out," continued Keselowski.

NASCAR officials defended their decision, saying they allowed for more time because it was the last lap, there weren't cars directly ahead of the leaders, and the leaders automatically slow down at the finish line.

Elliott Sadler, Brad Keselowski, Austin Dillon, Taylor Malsam, Tommy Hill, Cole Whitt, Tony Stewart, Kasey Kahne, and Kurt Busch were the remaining top-10 finishers.

It was certainly a bad week for Kurt Busch. He wrecked in Cup practice, the Bud Shootout, and was leading the Nationwide race when he wrecked again. The way he is demolishing cars, let's hope his team has a sponsor with deep pockets.

PATRICK HAS A TEMPER LIKE THE BOYS

Danica Patrick is getting acquainted with the walls around the Daytona track.

Just two days after hitting a retaining wall in one of Thursday's qualifying races, Patrick got clipped again, this time by her own teammate, Cole Whitt, causing her to spin and hit the inside wall.

"What the (expletive)," she shouted over her radio. "He (expletive) hit me."

Patrick was able to drive her damaged race car to the garage. Once there, she jumped

out, helmet still on, and stormed into her team hauler, ignoring the small army of reporters.

"There isn't much I can say," said Whitt. "I simply got into her. It wasn't much, but it was enough to spin her out."

On Thursday she was bumped by Aric Almirola.

The wreck on Saturday ruined what could have been a good day for Patrick, who on Friday became just the second woman ever to sit on the pole for a Nationwide Series race. She finished 38th.

KING WINS WILD DAYTONA TRUCK RACE

It required three attempts at a green-white-checkered finish for John King to win Friday night's Daytona Truck race.

King was in the lead on the third and final overtime when Joey Coulter's truck flew into the fence on the front straightaway.

This brought out the race's last caution and froze the field.

Top-10 finishers: 1. King, 2. Timothy Peters, 3. Justin Lofton, 4. Travis Kvapil, 5. Jason White, 6. Todd Bodine, 7. Chris Fontaine, 8. Ward Burton, 9. Ty Dillon, 10. Clay Greenfield.

JUNIOR IS NASCAR'S HIGHEST PAID DRIVER

Forbes.com estimated 2011 NASCAR driver annual earnings, include driving salaries, personal endorsements, share of race winnings, licensing income and bonuses. The top-10 drivers were: 1. Dale Earnhardt Jr. - \$28 million, 2. Jeff Gordon - \$24 million, 3. Tony Stewart - \$22 million, 4. Jimmie Johnson - \$21 million, 5. Carl Edwards - \$15.5 million, 6. Kevin Harvick - \$14 million, 7. Kyle Busch - \$14 million.

Recreation Department offers belly dancing classes

The Towns County Recreation Department in association with instructor Tasa Johnson will be offering Middle Eastern Dance (belly dancing) beginning Thursday, March 1. Classes will be held each Thursday in the Recreation Center from 6 to 7:30 PM for 6 weeks. Class is for females ages 18 and up. Cost for the 6-week class will be \$60. Tasa has been teaching



James Buescher celebrates his first Nationwide win

million, 8. Danica Patrick - \$12 million [indy car], 9. Matt Kenseth - \$11.5 million, 10. Kasey Kahne - \$11 million.

Weekend Racing: The Nationwide and Cup teams are at the 1-mile Phoenix, AZ track. The Trucks do not race again until Mar. 31

After the crash-filled races at Daytona, things will slow down at Phoenix. Unlike the 2.5-mile Daytona track, which has up to 31-degree banking, the one-mile Phoenix track only has 11-degrees in the corners. Qualifying speeds at Daytona reach 194 mph, while at Phoenix they are generally around 133 mph.

There will be wrecks, but it will be more like bumping and shoving, and rubbing. When wrecks do occur, they won't be as violent, or involve as many cars.

Sat., Mar. 3, Nationwide Bashas Supermarkets 200, race 2 of 33; Starting time: 4 pm ET; TV: ESPN2.

Sun., Mar. 4 Sprint Cup Subway 500, race 2 of 36; Starting time: 2:30 pm ET; TV: Fox.

Racing Trivia Question: What was the first year Dale Earnhardt Jr. won the Daytona 500?

Last Week's Question: What year did Dale Earnhardt Sr. win his first Daytona 500? **Answer:** 1998 was the only year he won it.

You may contact the Racing Reporter at hodges@race500.com. NT(Feb29,C)ac

Webelos of Scout Pack 407 "leave no trace"



Webelos pick up trash at the beach on February 22.

Leave no trace...That's what it's all about. Tuesday, February the 22nd, the Webelos of Pack 407 were working on a special badge for scouting. This course teaches them how important it is to not only pick up your trash, but pick up others' who don't care about

our properties, or grounds. Not only does this help the environment, but builds good ethics and morals in our young men, which is getting few and far between these days. Scouts is a great program for young boys to possess what is needed to have healthy minds, and

good morals to be leading citizens in our community, state and country. We would like to thank all of you who sponsor our scouts. If you're not and would like to sponsor us, or join please call 706-897-0604. Thanks to all. TFeb29,J2)SH

Class on Camera February 24, 2012



Students "build" their log cabins.

Students at Towns County Elementary School enjoyed a day off in celebration of President's Day on February 20th. While the day

was a welcome break for everyone it did not go by without focus on the significance of the day. Mrs. Lisa Cole's kindergarten class learned

about the holiday and most specifically about George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. To celebrate what they learned students used pretzels as logs in creating a log cabin to represent the type of home Lincoln grew up in. They also cut construction paper to add to their creations. This activity provided an opportunity to practice counting, spatial relations, cutting, as well as creativity. The children did a great job on their "log cabins." We are proud of their creations.

Upcoming events: March: Spring Parent Teacher Conference Month. March 2: Read Across America. March 7: 5th grade writing assessment. March 9-12: No School. March 13: Report cards go home. March 13-20: Book Fair. TFeb29,J1)SH

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