



Towns County Herald's Sporting News



Mariners come from behind to defeat Mountain Lions in first DH

JIM BRYANT

Sports Writer

Robinson HR gives Cats the early lead, extra innings give win in second.

After jumping out to a 2-0 lead in the first inning it looked like the Cats were in for an easy day against the Lady Mariners from Coastal Georgia College. Despite the boomer over left-center by YHC pitcher, Whitney Robinson, and a loaded diamond, the Cats could only plate two runs in the first inning. The scoreboard went quiet for the next three innings as the Cats stranded runners in each inning off doubles by Robinson and Tara Mullinax and another loaded diamond when Robinson drew a walk. The Mountain Lions left a total of six runners on the field during three scoreless innings.

In the top of the fifth inning, the Mariner bats came alive and they punched across two runs to tie the game at 2-2. Still not satisfied, they loaded the bases and added two more runs in the inning to take a 4-2 lead through five innings. The Cats clawed their way back

in the sixth to tie the game 4-4 with two dirt spraying plays at home by Chelsea Davidson and Jennifer Watford. The wheels came off the wagon in the top of the seventh for the Mountain Lions when they had two straight defensive miscues to give the visitors a 6-4 lead and the eventual win when the Cats failed to plate any runs in the bottom of the inning.

In game two, the Cats sent Caitlin Duval to the hill and the M'Lions took the second game 9-8 in a see-saw extra innings affair after an early lead.



Chelsea Davidson nearly gets her head taken off but the Lady Mariner dropped the ball.



Jennifer Watford sends the power flying in a sliding play at home against the Mariners.



Whitney Robinson smashed a 2-run homerun in the first inning.



Kacie Shields tries for the tag in a pick play at second base in loss to Coastal Georgia. Photos by Jim and Lisa Bryant

Herald's sports quote of the week

"I have heard there are troubles of more than one kind. Some come from ahead and some come from behind."

- Dr. Suess, writer & cartoonist

Sons of the American Legion

Commander Bobby Jarrard hands Recreation Department director Wes Hooper and Coach Rainer Arnold each a check to sponsor the youth ball teams and girl's soccer team. This is the third time the S.A.L. has sponsored two teams each year and the third year the S.A.L. has sponsored girl's soccer.



Photos by Lowell Nicholson

Mountain Lions split road games against Hurricanes

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Lowery hammers eleventh HR of the season.

The YHC Mountain Lions split a double header on the road this week against the Hurricanes of Louisburg, NC. After taking the first game 9-3, the purple Cats fell in a hurricane to Louisburg 11-6. In game one, Derrick Lowery smashed his eleventh homerun of the season when he plated three runs. Pitcher, Daniel Warzon toed the hill for just over three innings and allowed only five Hurricane hits. Andrew Chilcoat and Jeff Brown each came in relief and set the Canes down for the 9-3 win.

In the second game of the mid-week series, it was Kenny Swab with the big stick as he

blasted a 2-run HR in the top of the first inning. Travis Echols went 3-3 as the Cats had nine hits and plated six runs. Unfortunately, the Cat pitching faltered and the Canes took the final game 11-6.



Derrick Lowery gets the hand after hitting his eleventh HR of the season. Photo by Jim Bryant



Local travel team wins AAU tournament



On March 22 the local 11 and under girls traveling basketball team placed 2nd in the 15th Annual Blitz Tournament in Cleveland, Tennessee. After winning 6 games with the last two games back to back, the girls lost by 4 to the 2nd team in the Nation. The team is composed of girls from the tri-state area. The players from Hiwassee are Madison Johnson, Stephanie Patton, Misty Lindemuth, and Karlie Albach. The players from Ranger, N.C. are Kylee Bryson, Haley, Shope, Morgan Helton, and Ashley Crisp. The player from Hayesville, N.C. is Brice Graves, and the player from Copper Basin, T.N. is Kayla Chancey (Not Pictured). Coaching the girls are Frank Johnson and Steve Patton. We wish the girls the best of luck in their next tournament this weekend located in Woodstock, G.A.

Aerobics with Coach Ledford at Towns County Recreation Department

Beginning Tuesday, March 10, Jeannie Ledford will bring her challenging, fun, motivation and supportive aerobic classes back to Towns County Recreation Department Gym. Classes are a high energy mix of: step, weight training, cardio training, circuit training, kick boxing, yoga, pilates, and stretch. These classes are for all fitness and experience levels. Jeannie has a Bachelors Degree in Physical Education and over 13 years of aerobic and personal training experience. Classes will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30-6:30 pm. The cost for aerobics is \$5 per class or pay by the month and receive a class free. Come be a part of this annual exercise tradition!

Local Racing Action

by Carl Vanzura



Racing returns to the area

Well the off season is finally over and its time to hit the short tracks in our area. As in the past we will once again be letting the readers know now the drivers from Union and Towns counties do around the state, and we have plenty of them.

Tri-County Race Track in Brasstown, NC will start over 50 years of racing with a practice April 4th and the first race of the April 11th. They will be running Super Late Models, Sportsman, Crate Late Models, Modified Street, Street Stock, Mini Stock and Modified 4 Cylinders on Saturday nights.

Sugar Creek Speedway in Blue Ridge has a new promoter and is set to race this year on Friday nights running basically the same rules as Tri-County, giving the drivers two tracks to race at.

With the weather finally cooperation this weekend, there was several big race for some of the area driver to go to. Ray Cook raced at Clarksville, TN at the Toilet Bowl Classic and finished sixth. The next night he race in the Icebreaker in Indian and let several laps against some of the countries top drivers before fading to a eighth place finish.

Jonathan Davenport had a good weekend with two second place finishes in Southern Allstar event. He finished behind Chris Madden Saturday night at Lavonia Speedway, then on Sunday at Travelers Rest in SC was right behind "Rambo" Franklin as the checkers dropped.

Derek Ellis was the winner at North Georgia Speedway and Blairsville's Brian Kinnersley had a strong 10th place finish in the Crate Late Model feature at Boyds Speedway in Ringold, GA.

Brasstown's Tri-County Race Track signs with national series Tri-County Race Track will enter over 50 years of racing in the small mountain town of Brasstown, North Carolina, April 11th when the popular Crate Late Model,s will be racing under the Nesmith Chevrolet sanction.

The competitors in the NeSmith Chevrolet Weekly Racing Series Late Model Division at Tri-County Race Track will compete for a track point fund, regional point fund, and other special contingency awards during the 2009 season that runs from April 3 through October 4.

"We feel the NeSmith Chevrolet Weekly Racing Series will give our local racers more publicity and exposure than any other sanctioning body for weekly racers," Tri-County Race Track promoter Steve Morris said. "In addition to helping the racers, the officials of the NeSmith Chevrolet Dirt Late Model Series make themselves available to help the track, and work hard for the betterment of Crate Late Model racing."

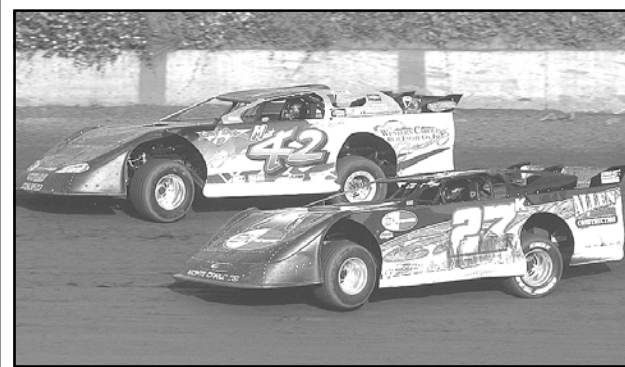
In competing for NeSmith Chevrolet Weekly Racing Series Regional points, Tri-County Race Track drivers will put their best 16 finishes of the season up against drivers at other series tracks in the region through a points system. The NeSmith Chevrolet WRS Regional Champions will receive a \$1,500 cash award, a new GM Performance 604 Crate Engine, and a new race car chassis.

The top 10 drivers in the NeSmith Chevrolet Weekly Racing Series Late Model Division at Tri-County Race Track will also be eligible for post-season competition with an invitation to the 4th Annual NeSmith Chevrolet WRS Fall Nationals at Columbus Speedway in Columbus, MS on November 27-28, and the Track Champion will compete in the Race of Champions.

"There are a lot of talented drivers racing at Tri-County Race Track, and we're looking forward to showcasing them on a weekly basis," NeSmith Chevrolet Weekly Racing Series Director Roby Helm said. "Steve Morris is doing a lot of work at the track and upgrading the facility. We're looking forward to working with Steve, his staff, and the competitors at Tri-County Race Track in 2009."

Among the improvements being done for this season at Tri-County include new walls, guardrails, lights, fencing and refurbished bleacher seats. Morris said the same great food in the concession stand that Tri-County is famous for will be continued.

Tri-County Race Track is located 2.5 miles south of Brasstown, NC on Old Highway 64. For more information, visit the Tri-County Racetrack web site at www.tricountyracetrack.com.



Murphy's Josh Morrow #42 and Blairsville's Brian Kinnersley #27 will be going after the Nesmith championship at Tri-County in 2009 at Tri-County Race Track

Qigong classes at Recreation Center

Qigong is an ancient Chinese health care system that integrates physical posture, breathing techniques and focused attention.

Qigong practices can be classified as martial (KungFu, Karate, etc.) medical, or spiritual. All styles have three things in common: they all involve a posture, breathing techniques, and mental focus. The slow gentle movements of Qigong can be easily adapted, even for the physically challenged and can be practiced by

all age groups. Qigong's great appeal is that everyone can benefit, regardless of ability, age, and belief system or life circumstances.

Qigong is held at the Towns County Recreation Center every Tuesday Morning from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Our instructor is Michelle Holmes. The cost is only \$5 per session.

For more info, please contact the Towns County Recreation Department at 706-896-2600 or Michelle Holmes at 706-835-7658.

2009 T-Ball and Farm League Baseball & Softball Registration

The Towns County Recreation Department will be holding registration for T-Ball and Farm League the week of March 14 thru March 21 also the week of March 23 thru March 28.

T-Ball is for boys and girls ages 4 and 5. Farm League baseball is for boys ages 6, 7 and 8. Farm League softball is for girls ages 6, 7 and 8. The age control date will

be prior to August 1 for boys and girls. Boys and girls ages 6 may play in either the T-Ball or the Farm League programs.

Cost for these programs will be \$25 per participant. All registration will be held at the Recreation Department. Our hours of operation are: Monday thru Friday 9 a.m. til 9 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. til 7 p.m. For more info, please call the Rec. Dept. at 706-896-2600.

Cub Scout Pinewood Derby 2009



The Annual Pack 407 Pinewood Derby was held at the Hiwassee United Methodist Church on Saturday, March 21st.

The Cubs did a great job of designing and building their cars. Although many races were close, the final results are as follows:

The Cars judged on speed, winners are:

Tigers:
Clyde Ledford
Calvin Holton
Dylan Walls

Bears/Wolves:
James Fagin
Evan Phillips
Evan Berrong

Webelos:
Tyler Hardin
Michael Sams
Gavin Langelier

Pack 407:
Tyler Hardin
Clyde Ledford
James Fagin
The cars judged on de-

sign, the winners are:

Tigers:
Calvin Holton
Matthew Spellman
Clyde Ledford

Bears/Wolves:
Chase Williams
Evan Phillips
Jared Edwards

Webelos:
Michael Sams
Gavin Langelier
Tyler Hardin

Pack 407:
Michael Sams
Matthew Spellman
Jared Edwards

Pinewood Derby Officials:
Ashley Langelier, Steve Phillips, Mr. Berrong, Mrs. Berrong, Brian Kinsey, Joe Spellman, Sharon Roach, Mark Ledford, Bob Lambert, Rex Walls, Richard Everhart

Pinewood Judges:
Donna Frick, Fred Frick, Hayward Wilson, Matt Holton, Dan Sams