



Towns County Herald's Sporting News



Mountain Lions split with Catamounts on the road

JIM BRYANT
Sports Writer

Near identical scores, near identical Cats in DH battles.

After a dismal weekend against Jaguars, the YHC Mountain Lions took on another cat foe, the Catamounts from Potomac State of West Virginia. Ironically, the identical animals (named differently in different parts of the country) split with near identical scores. The YHC offense got back on track, scoring 11 runs off 14 hits to back up a good mound performance by Bryan Cole (2K). Matt Lowery and Scoop Pharr found the fence for HRs, Lowery in the 4-run second inning and Pharr in the 3-run seventh inning. In between homerun innings the Cats had a big 3-run fifth inning. Adding to the Cat hit tally were Daniel Warzon and Adam King. Kurt Frisee (4K) and Justin Crosby

(1K) pitched the Cats out of the game in the 11-1 victory. Game two saw the Cats go to the pitching carousel again with Matt Crouse starting with a couple of innings then being followed by Chris George, Sean Kelly, Andrew Chilcoat, Ben Watson and finishing with Daniel Warzon, each with one inning. Unfortunately this time around the Catamount starting pitcher stifled the Cats at the plate, allowing only two hits in the game as the Mountain Lions dropped the nightcap, 10-1.



Scoop Pharr gets the hand after hitting a HR in the seventh inning over the Catamounts. Photos by Jim and Lisa Bryant



Matt Lowery had a good day on defense but also tagged a HR in the second inning.

Hebron Academy Lions roar past TCHS Indians 13-2

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Sports Writer

Lions utilize outfield fence in come-from-behind win.

The TCHS baseball game started out on a great note Thursday when the Indians jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the first inning against the Lions from Hebron Academy. Charles Corn opened with a stand-D to left and was plated by Kyle McConnell with an RBI single, 1-0. Pinch runner for Cody Harkins, Billy Meier took off home on a wild pitch to first base and it was a quick 2-0 lead after one inning. It all went south for starting pitcher Andy Page in the second inning. The Lions started with an RBI single that eventually plated the 2-1 score. The Tribe pulled off the best offensive play of the year when Charles Corn took a long bouncer in center field, rifled a shot to Ezekiel Gribble at home for the out at the plate. Gribble then jumped up and threw the ball to Trystan Drummond at third to catch another sliding Lion for the DP to get the Indians out of the inning.

The game completely fell apart for the Indians in the third inning when the Lions tallied five runs to take a commanding lead. It all started when the alert Lion on third caught the Indians asleep on a throw

back to the pitcher and raced home to knot the score 2-2. The next batter rubbed salt in the wound when he jacked a HR shot off the light pole in center field, 3-2. An RBI double made it 4-2, the a little looper to center made it 5-2 and a final plated Lion made it 6-2 in the top of the third inning. After a long sliding catch off a Charles Corn fly ball, the fans were on their feet when Ezekiel Gribble ran to first and on the way collided violently with a Lion chasing Gribble's foul ball. The Hebron player hit the ground and lay there for several minutes too stunned to get up.

The Lions recovered and the first batter in the fourth jacked the second Lion HR over the left field fence, 7-2. Charles corn then went in relief on the mound but immediately got into trouble when the Lions loaded. A 2-run RBI double made it 9-2 and the bases were loaded. Corn

walked in a run, 10-2 and the bases remained loaded for another reliever, Taylor Denton. Denton also met with difficulty when an RBI single plated a run and by the end of the inning,

the Lions sat on a comfortable 12-2 lead. In the seventh, the Cats came back with their final run, 31-2 in the game shortened "mercy rule" win over the Indians.



Ezekiel Gribble takes a Charles Corn throw at home for the put-out.



Kyle McConnell dives in the dirt to try for a grounder towards right field.



Ezekiel Gribble jumps up after the tag at home and rifles a shot to third for the DP.



Trystan Drummond takes a throw from home for the out on the backend of the DP.

NASCAR 2009 By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

KESELOWSKI CLIPS EDWARDS FOR WILD WIN TALLADEGA, Ala.—Brad Keselowski got his first career Sprint Cup win Sunday in dramatic fashion in the Aaron's 499 at Talladega Superspeedway.

"Wow, how about this team," said Keselowski. "I want to thank all the fans for coming and apologize to Carl Edwards for wrecking him, but man, the rule is you can't go beyond the yellow line. He blocked me and I wasn't going below it."

"I don't want to wreck a guy, but you're forced into that situation. There was nothing else I could do."

With four laps to go in the 188-lap race, Keselowski was running eighth behind Edwards.

One lap later, Edwards was third and Keselowski was fourth.

Keselowski continued to push Edwards toward the front. When the white flag was

given, signaling one lap remaining, Edwards and Keselowski had passed Dale Earnhardt Jr. and Ryan Newman for the lead.

Keselowski remained right on Edwards rear bumper. As the two cars exited turn four and headed to the finish line, Keselowski pretended to move up the track. Edwards moved up to block, then Keselowski went low. Edwards attempted to block him again, but this time the nose of Keselowski's No. 1 James Finch Chevrolet was under Edwards.

Edwards' car spun sideways and then went airborne, and into the grandstand chain link fence. Ryan Newman, who was running third, had the roof of his No. 39 torn off as he passed under Edwards' flying car.

Edwards climbed from his burning car and jogged across the finish line.

"I didn't know if it mattered, but I wanted to say I finished the race," said Edwards. "I'm very fortunate that I didn't

hit the wall where it would crush my roll-cage down on my neck. NASCAR just puts us in this box. We'll race like this until we kill somebody and then we'll see what happens."

"I congratulate Brad on his win."

Talladega officials said there were at least eight relatively minor injuries caused by flying debris from Edwards' car. Track medical director Dr. Bobby Lewis said a woman suffered an apparent fractured jaw and a mouth laceration. She had bloody smears across the front of her shirt as medical workers treated her near the accident site.

Dale Earnhardt Jr. finished second. It was his first top-5 finish this season.

"We were staying close together, and I was thinking there is no way anyone is going to catch us there at the end," said Dale Jr. "They were smart enough to move up into the higher lane, which had been easier and faster all day."

There were two big wrecks. The first one came just seven laps into the race and involved at least 14 cars. Nine of the cars went to the garage area. Five did not return to the track.

Drivers that had heavily damaged cars included Jeff Gordon, Kevin Harvick, Kasey Kahne, Jamie McMurray, Mark Martin, and AJ Allmendinger.

The second one occurred during lap 180 and involved nine cars.

The top-10 finishers: 1. Brad Keselowski, 2. Dale Earnhardt Jr., 3. Ryan Newman, 4. Marcos Ambrose, 5. Scott Speed, 6. Kurt Busch, 7. Greg Biffle, 8. Brian Vickers, 9. Joey Logano, 10. Jeff Burton

Top-12 Chase Contenders after 9 of 36: 1. Kurt Busch-1299, 2. J. Gordon-1294, 3. Johnson-1235, 4. Stewart-1232, 5. Hamlin-1193, 6. Kyle Busch-1124, 7. Edwards-1119, 8. Bowyer-1098, 9. Burton-1092, 10. Biffle-1081, 11. Reutimann-1077, 12. Kenseth-1063

Local Racing Action



by Carl Vanzura

Rodney Weeks holds on for victory at Tri-County

Blue Ridge driver Rodney Weeks battled Jamie Oliver for the last ten laps as the cars rubbed, banged and slid through the turn and finished glued to each others bumpers. The night started with six out of the nine cars entered in the Super Late Model class timing in the mid 13s around the 3/10s high banked oval.

Russell Thomas had fast time with Shawn Chastain on the outside pole. Chastain took the lead at the drop of the green, with Thomas flying down the back stretch as Johnny Chastain was tucked right behind the leading duo. On lap six, Johnny Chastain slowed bringing out the first caution. After he went to the pits and the race restarted, the other Chastain held a slight lead over Thomas until lap 10 when he also slowed and went to the pits. Two laps later, Thomas pulled into the pits. Kevin Sutton finished third, followed by Thomas, Shawn Chastain and Johnny Chastain. Chip Williams, George Mashburn and Glenn Barnett fail to take the green flag.

The Sportsman class saw 10 speedsters signed in as Devin Dillbeck and Bobby Panter dueled in out for 20 laps of fast packed action. Jamie Lunsford, Preston Crisp and Randy Dillard rounded out the top five.

Murphy driver Jacob Anderson won the Nesmith Crate Late Model feature followed by Josh Morrow, Jason Deal and Terry Ledford.

Greg Sudderth was the winner in the Modified Street main event as Kurt Kelly, Junior Dillinger, Jeffery Wood and Jonathan Cope filled the top five spots.

The Street Stock feature only had four cars entered, but what a race the fans witnessed as Jeremy Woody held off two time winner Stephen Sofield for 14 laps until a lapped car slowed him just enough for Sofield to slip by for the win. Charles Toomey and Josh Roberts rounded out the field.

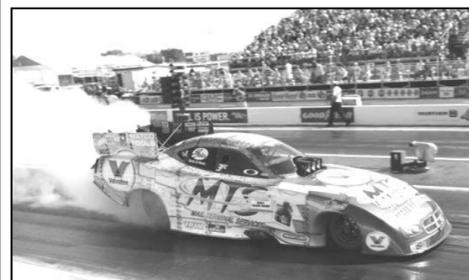
The Mini Stock feature was another extremely close exciting event as Franklin driver Phil Henderson and Sylvia's Juston Woodard changed leads while racing inches apart till the drop of the checked flag. June Cross, Kasey Carter and Ricky Dyer rounded out the top five.

At Sugar Creek Friday night, Danny Ledford took the Super Late Model feature over Russell Thomas and Johnny Chastain. They has seven of the Supers entered. Blairsville's Brian Kinnersley won the Crate feature. Sugar Creek races every Friday night starting at 7 p.m. David Payne won at Cleveland Speedway.

Atlanta Dragway held the Southern Nationals last week to three standing room crowds and the racing was action packed. After a rain delayed Sunday, they got the track dried and was able to get the show in. Morgan Lucas won his first national event in Top Fuel. Jack Beckman beat crowd favorite Ashley Force to take Funny Car honors. Mike Edwards made it two Pro Stock wins in a row with his win.



Morgan Lucas won his first Top Fuel national title.



Jack Beckman won his second Funny Car title this year. Photos by Mike Smith

First RPAC Softball Tournament

While the Atlanta Braves were playing their first game of the season, Gilmer County hosted a different type of entertainment as Realtors®

Teams were from all six counties in the board's region: Clay NC, Cherokee NC, Fannin, Gilmer, Towns and Union. When the day was over and muscles were sore, Fannin won the "A" single elimination and Towns won the "B" single elimination tournament. Later in the day, Fannin beat Cherokee in the "A" and Towns beat Cherokee in the "B" during the playoffs.

nized the event on behalf of the RPAC Committee for NE Georgia Board of Realtors.

Magi Williams (Realtor, Coldwell Banker High Country Realty) and Faron King (Owner/Broker, Georgia Carolina Premier Properties) orga-

RPAC is the Realtor Political Action Committee is

Submitted photo



Sharon Roberson scores another run for Towns County against Union.

Herald's sports quote of the week

"My motto was always to keep swinging. Whether I was in a slump or feeling badly or having trouble off the field, the only thing to do was keep swinging."

- Hank Aaron, baseball player