

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports



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Indians practice for Saturday's Blue-White Spring Football Game

The Towns County Indians endured unusual high 80s and nearing 90-degree temperatures last week as they continued preparations for Saturday's Blue-White Spring Football Game.

The Indians, 36 players-strong, put on the pads on Monday and went through full football drills.

Head Football Coach Kyle Langford and his staff focused on fundamental football, teaching the skills that they hope will become instinctive for each player.

As spring preparations continue, Coach Langford learned that Region 8-A will pretty much remain status quo in the 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 football seasons.

The Georgia High School Association voted to realign the classifications to include a sixth classification. That means the largest 15 percent of GHSA's 422 member schools will form Class AAAAAA.

The remaining schools will be split up in 15 percent region blocks, except for the final 22 percent of schools in Class A. That's because there are 27 schools included that do not play football or do not have athletic departments.

Initially, the GHSA executive committee met to vote on the 4/8 classification plan, which would have split schools into four classifications, with each having two tiers. Under that option, there would have been eight state champions in every sport. The measure lost by an overwhelming margin of 35-15.

"There will be six classifications, our region won't change any," Coach Langford said. "I don't think the state really addressed travel concerns. I don't think they helped out our initial concerns about private schools that play in Class A.

"They meet (again) on June 14th to discuss it further, so at that time we hope that we'll get something done on that end because it's not an equitable situation when you're playing a super private school with 400-450 kids and we're sitting here with 300-310 kids.

"We don't like that and we're not the only ones. Most public schools that have to be a part of Class A don't like it," he said. "So I'm sure we'll try to get our message out once again; whether they'll listen or not is highly debatable."

Coach Langford said he didn't think GHSA solved any problems by adding another classification.

"I don't understand or like it," he said. "It doesn't do anything to affect Towns County High School, so I'm sort of neutral to it. I just didn't see the purpose just to be honest."

Meanwhile, on Monday, Coach Langford shifted his focus to live, full speed contact. Looking to fill out the depth charts, the Indians will endure several camps over the upcoming summer months.

Following the Aug. 12th home scrimmage against the Fannin County Rebels, the Indians will host five home games and five away games this year. The Indians will have two open dates, Sept. 16th and Oct. 7th to work with this upcoming season.

Aiming for the Aug. 19th season home opener, a showdown with intrastate border rival Hayesville Yellow Jackets, the Indians will look to avenge a hard fought 27-7 road loss recorded in the 2010 football season. All of the Indians opponents from the 2010 schedule will remain the same.

Coach Langford and staff are hoping for a strong community showing of support on Saturday at 10 a.m. for the annual Blue and White game at Frank McClure Field.



Coach Rick Ellis gives instructions on the fundamentals. Photo by James Reese.



Indian defense tracks down Dakota Barrett during offensive organized drills. Photo by James Reese.

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Bradley Smith lines up on Sebastian Palomino during drills on Monday. Photo by James Reese.

YHC Summer Baseball Camps

2 camp weeks: June 13-17 & July 11-15. 3 camps offered each week: Instructional ~ Ages 5-12. Jr. Elite ~ Completed 5th grade - Completed 8th grade. Sr. Elite ~ Completed 9th grade - just graduated.

For more details visit our website www.TheRockSports.com. Discounts available for multi camp registration and for 2 or more siblings registering. Call 706-897-2363 for details.

NT(May18,AD)SH



The view of spring drills high above Frank McClure Stadium. Photo by James Reese.



Dakota Barrett advances on the end around sweep. Photo by James Reese.

NASCAR 2011

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

Kenseth cruises to Dover win

Matt Kenseth found victory lane for the second time this season, as he won Sunday's Fed-Ex 400 easily ahead of Mark Martin.

During the last round of pit stops, Kenseth's team elected to give him only two fresh tires, while most of the other teams took on four.

The decision was the right one, because Jimmie Johnson and Carl Edwards, two drivers that got four fresh tires were not able to gain on Kenseth.

"At the time we weren't sure two tires was the way to go, but it turned out to be the right call," said Kenseth. "There was a lot of loose rubber on the track, and we felt like the way the car was handling, we could maintain our speed for the remainder of the race."

Mark Martin, did not pit on the final round of stops, and managed to stretch his fuel and tires to a second-place finish.

"This team was good today," said Martin. "We had a fast race car, and we couldn't have won the race unless we had more speed, but the team did everything they could do to keep me up front."

"This certainly was not a win, but it was a great day for us."

Marcos Ambrose finished third, while Kyle Busch, the winner of Friday night's truck race was fourth. Brian Vickers came home fifth and Clint Bowyer edged out Carl Edwards, Saturday's Nationwide winner, for sixth while Edwards claimed seventh.

"I really thought we were making the right call," said Edwards. "I thought four tires were the way to go, because of the rubber build-up on the track. But obviously, they didn't make that much difference."

Martin Truex was eighth, followed by polesitter, Jimmie Johnson, and Kevin Harvick.

Unlike Saturday's Nationwide race when 14 cars were wrecked, Sunday's event had only a few minor wrecks with no major pileups between any drivers.

Kevin Harvick and Kyle Busch, who are under probation for rough driving tactics during the Southern 500 at Darlington drove very respectful around each other.

Top-25 Chase contenders after 11 of 36: 1. Edwards-416, 2. Johnson-392, 3. Kyle Busch-379, 4. Earnhardt-364, 5. Harvick-362, 6. Kenseth-342, 7. Newman-340, 8. Bowyer-336, 9. Kurt Busch-336, 10. Stewart-328, 11. Martin-324, 12. Biffle-311, 13. Hamlin-304, 14. J. Gordon-299, 15. Montoya-296, 16. Allmendinger-295, 17. Menard-291, 18. Kahne-286, 19. Truex-282, 20. Ambrose-281, 21. Ragan-270, 22. McMurray-267, 23. Burton-258, 24. Keselowski-251, 25. Labonte-251

EDWARDS WINS NATIONWIDE RACE IN OVERTIME

Carl Edwards needed nine laps of 'overtime' to win his third Nationwide Race of the season and his second career victory at the "Monster Mile" of Dover.

Edwards had to hold his lead against two green-white-

checked starts and the charging car of Joey Logano. In the end, Edwards hung on by a thread as Logano lost control and collected several cars behind him in one of the wildest Dover finishes ever.

At first, Edwards thought he had hit Logano to start the massive Lap 209 wreck that destroyed the cars of Logano and Clint Bowyer, among others.

"Damn it—I didn't mean to hit him," Edwards radioed after the accident. "Is everybody all right?"

Replays showed that Edwards made no contact with Logano as the two raced for the lead. Logano had a lead of almost a car-length before the rear of his car slammed the outside wall. Logano bounced off the wall and into the path of Bowyer, whose Chevrolet careened into the inside wall.

"I'm just glad it worked out," Edwards said after the race. "I'm glad that I didn't hit him. I'm glad that everyone was OK. But that's a product of what we do. When it comes down to it ... this racetrack, we're driving so hard here, and there's so much grip, and you're giving everything you can, and the cars are so close there at the end."

Kyle Busch finished second followed by, Reed Sorenson, Ricky Stenhouse, David Reutimann, Elliott Sadler, Kenny Wallace, James Buescher, Aric Almirola, and Mike Wallace.

Top-10 leaders after 11 of 34: 1. Sadler-379, 2. Sorenson-369, 3. Leffler-364, 4. Stenhouse-363, 5. Allgaier-361, 6. Almirola-339, 7. K. Wallace-307, 8. Scott-286, 9. S. Wallace-282, 10. Wise-274

KYLE BUSCH AGAIN

Kyle Busch pulled away from Cole Whitt after a restart on Lap 198 of 200, to win the Dover Truck race under caution when Nelson Piquet Jr. and Timothy Peters wrecked on the final lap.

"Cole Whitt did a really nice job," Busch said in victory lane. "I think he's got something going on over there. The guys do a really nice job, and he's fast. He's quick week in and week out, and this is the first one he's really contended for—that I've been in, anyway."

"I snookered him (Whitt) on the second-to-last restart, and I got him a little bit there, but on that last restart, he was right with me. We ran down into Turn 1 side-by-side. I chose the bottom because I felt like, running through (Turns) 1 and 2 wide open, it was the faster way around."

It was Busch's third truck series victory in five starts this season, and the 27th time in the series.

"Running second to Kyle is like winning the race for us," Whitt said. "We'll take that and move on and go to Charlotte (May 20) and try to win one there."

Matt Crafton came home third and claimed the series points lead. Austin Dillon and Kevin Harvick ran fourth and fifth, respectively. Joey Coulter, Brendan Gaughan, James Buescher, Ron Hornaday, and Justin Marks were the remaining top-10 finishers.



Matt Kenseth winner of Sunday's Dover Cup race

of 25: 1. Crafton-225, 2. Sauter-220, 3. Whitt-218, 4. Hornaday-217, 5. Peters-212, 6. Dillon-203, 7. Papis-173, 8. Rogers-168, 9. Bodine-165, 10. Gaughan-164

Racing Commentary: Where are the top Nationwide and Truck Series' drivers? There really isn't any, because 16 of the 17 races run this season have been won by Cup regulars.

This is a problem for NASCAR, and they know it.

Starting with the 2011 season, a driver had to declare which division they were going to run for the title in. The reasoning behind that rule was to prevent Cup drivers from participating in large numbers in the lower Nationwide and Truck Series'.

But so far, it hasn't happened.

Kyle Busch and Carl Edwards has practically dominated the two classes.

Track owners like for the Cup regulars to enter one of these lower series because it helps put fans in the stands. A Truck race ticket can be bought for about one-third of what one would cost for a Cup race.

While ticket sales are important, it is also imperative that younger drivers get the opportunity to compete.

As it stands now, most drivers trying to break into either the Nationwide or Truck series are finding it extremely difficult.

From where I stand, if NASCAR doesn't make another rule limiting Cup driver participation, their driver development program is going to slide downhill.

Weekend Racing: It will be Lowe's Motor Speedway in Charlotte for Sprint Cup and Truck teams. The Cup race is a non-points event, while the Trucks will be running for points. The Nationwide teams are at Newton, Iowa for a Sunday race.

Fri., May 20, Camping World Trucks, race 7 of 24, Starting time: 8 pm; TV: Speed.

Sat., May 21, Sprint Cup All-Star race, non-points, Starting time: 7 pm; TV: Speed.

Sun., May 22, Nationwide Iowa 250, race 12 of 34, Starting time: 2 pm; TV: ABC. All times are Eastern.

Racing Trivia Question: Jeff Burton drives the No. 31 Richard Childress Chevrolet. Who did he drive for before RCR?

Last Week's Question: How many Cup teams does Hendrick Motorsports have? **Answer:** Four. They are Jimmie Johnson (48), Jeff Gordon (24), Dale Earnhardt Jr. (88), and Mark Martin (5).

You may contact the Racing Reporter at hodges@race500.com. NT(May18,C)JAC

Local Racing Action
By: Carl Vanzura

Ray Cook announces details of Memorial Day Championship at Tri-County Race Track

Tri-County Race Track promoter Ray Cook is extremely excited to reveal the details of the Memorial Day Championship at the Brass-town, North Carolina facility on Monday, May 30. The first special event under Cook's tenure as promoter will be known as the Circuit World Memorial Day Championship presented by reallycheapfloors.com. Race sponsorship from Circuit World of Murphy, North Carolina and reallycheapfloors.com has allowed for increased purses in each of the five divisions that compete at Tri-County.

The Circuit World Super Late Models will be racing for \$3,000 to win and \$300 to start with an \$80 entry fee. The top six qualifiers will automatically be locked into the 53-lap feature event, while the other fourteen transfer spots will come from qualifying heats.

The reallycheapfloors.com Limited/Crate Late Model division will be competing for a \$1,000 top prize with a \$40 entry fee. The top sixteen fastest drivers in qualifying will transfer directly to the 30-lap main event, while the remaining four feature starters will come from consolation races. The Interstate Welding Modified Hobby class will draw for heats and will run a 20-lap feature event for \$300 to win. The

Street Enduro division will also draw for their heat races and compete in a 20-lap main event paying \$250 to win. The Pony class will draw for their heats as well and thrill the fans in a 20-lap A-Main paying \$250 to win. Extra money will be paid for all finishing positions.

Grandstand admission will be \$17 for adults, \$8 for kids 6-12, and children five and under will be admitted for free with a paying adult. Pit admission on May 30 will be \$30 for adults, \$15 for kids 6-12, and children five and under will once again be free with a paying adult. Pit gates will open at 3 p.m., while the grandstands will open an hour later at 4 p.m. The drivers meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. with racing action slated for 7 p.m.

Along with all of the great racing at the Tri-County Race Track on Monday, May 30, several other exciting things will truly make this a "Can't Miss Event for the Entire Family." From 5:00-6:00 p.m., there will be pit tours available for all kids ages twelve and under. Those children will be taken through the pit area to see all of the cars and get their picture taken or an autograph from their favorite driver(s). After the pit tour, the kids will receive a free t-shirt and a free meal ticket for the grandstand



Track promoter Ray Cook will bring several top drivers to Tri-County on Memorial Day

concession stand where they can get something to eat and drink. The children's pit tour is courtesy of reallycheapfloors.com.

In addition, Tri-County will also recognize all of the veterans in attendance on Memorial Day by asking them to stand, so that the entire crowd can honor them for their service and sacrifice. Also, a portion of the night's ticket sales will go towards the Clay County Relay for Life. This is a great cause and the Tri-County Race Track is excited to partner with them on Memorial Day. Last but not least, a fireworks display will light up the sky during the intermission session. The track will race this Friday night with a full regular show.

Rain over the weekend plagued tracks all over the country with 90 percent of the tracks falling to the wet stuff. In our area, only Dixie Speedway in Woodstock, GA saw Shane Clanton visit Victory Lane. In a sad moment, Smokey Mountain Speedway in Maryville, TN announced they were shutting down due to low car and fan count. North Georgia Speedway remained closed last week and it is not known when they will reopen. Toccoa Speedway is still looking for a promoter to take over management this year. NT(May18,C2)