



Towns County Herald's Sporting News



Lady Mtn Lions to play in GJCAA Softball Tournament

JIM BRYANT

Sports Writer

Cats forced to play five series in five days to make tourney.

The 24-20 over-all and 11-9 conference YHC Lady Mountain Lions had their work cut out for them in order to make tournament play. The sixth place Cats had to play a grueling five games in five days and win at least four wins to go to Covington, GA for the GJCAA Tournament. With the writing on the wall, the Mountain Lions squared off first against the first place tied Middle Georgia Warriors. The Cats swept both games so they were half way home.

Day two saw them take on the always powerful ABAC Fillies for a split that gave them one needed win to make the tourney play-offs. They Mountain Lions split with Truett McConnell but the split was the one game needed to make the GJCAA road trip.

Still on the road on day four, the Cats traveled south to meet the Jaguars from Georgia Perimeter College only to drop both ends of the series. The final home game on the fifth day of play saw the M'Lions drop both games to the Darton Lady Cavaliers to seal their place as the regular season conference champions. The YHC season record of 24-20 would be enough to get them into the GJCAA tournament, again to face the Jags from Georgia Perimeter.



Tara Mullenax makes a play against an ABAC Filly in 6-4 & 0-4 split.



Brittany Allen waits for the throw to home in 2-3 & 10-2 split with Truett McConnell.



Sam Woolf stretches for the ball against Middle Georgia.



Jamey Chapman goes in at second base in 0-3 & 1-5 losses to Darton College.



Sam Woolf gets the out signal at the plate in 0-11 & 4-8 losses to Georgia Perimeter. Photos by Jim and Lisa Bryant



by Jim Bryant

Prep Baseball State Previews

Class A
#1 Lakeview Academy vs #2 Bremen
Region 8-A vs Region 6-A
25-1 17-5

Class AA
#1 Jefferson vs #2 Blessed Trinity
Region 8-AA vs Region 6-AA
22-3 20-8

#2 Banks County vs #4 Westminster
Region 8-AA vs Region 6-AA
18-8 16-10

Prep Baseball State Play-offs

Class A
Lakeview Academy 3/4/4 vs Bremen 13/3/8

Class AA
Jefferson 8/1 vs Blessed Trinity 10/3
Banks County 2/2/6 vs Westminster 1/3/7

Lady Mountain Lions go to GJCAA Tennis Tournament

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Victoria Milli wins at the #5 seed position.

The GJCAA Tennis Tournament was hosted this season by the Lady Fillies from ABAC. The Mountain Lions had qualifiers in the # 4, #5 and #6 seeded singles positions and #3 doubles position at the tournament.

#4 Singles Results:
ABAC Calli Robinson defeated YHC Megan Wheatley, 6-3, 6-2.

#5 Singles Results:
YHC Victoria Milli defeated ABAC Jahyna Pope 7-5, 6-2.

#6 Singles Results:
ABAC Marley Myers defeated YHC Nichole Richardson 6-2, 6-3.

#3 Doubles Results:
ABAC Pope/Myers defeated YHC Milli/Richardson 6-1, 6-0.



Victoria Milli shown in action during a match at the YHC campus, won at #5 seeded singles. Photo by Jim and Lisa Bryant

asked about it at Darlington.

"I know everybody's impatient," said Hendrick. "I'm impatient. I'm by nature a little bit of a procrastinator. And until I can see that we've done everything we can, the last thing I want to do is tear something down because it's been good before. ... I'm doing everything I can do right now. Hopefully, after the next two or three races, we're going to see big improvement."

His fans can only wait and hope.

Next Week: Stewart/Haas Racing; A Big Surprise

Weekend Racing: The Sprint Cup and Nationwide teams are at the 1.5-mile Lowe's Motor Speedway. For the Cup teams, this weekend's Coca Cola 600 will be their longest race of the year (600 miles).

Sat., May 23, Nationwide Series Carquest Auto Parts 300, Starting time: 7:30 p.m. (EDT); TV: ESPN2.

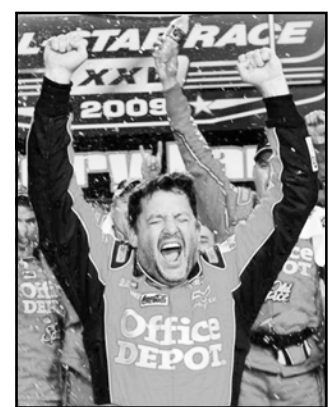
Sun., May 24, Sprint Cup Coca Cola 600, Starting time: 5

p.m. (EDT); TV: FOX.

Racing Trivia Question: Why has NASCAR suspended Cup driver Jeremy Mayfield?

Last Week's Question: How many Cup wins does Casey Mears, driver of the 07 Chevrolet have? Answer: His only cup win came at Charlotte in 2007.

You may contact the Racing Reporter at: hodgejnews@earthlink.net.



Tony Stewart

NASCAR 2009 By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

STEWART WINS ALL-STAR RACE

CONCORD, N.C. -- Tony Stewart led only once for two laps in Saturday night's NASCAR Sprint All-Star Race at Lowe's Motor Speedway, but they were the most important ones, as he paced the final two circuits around the 1.5-mile oval after getting by Matt Kenseth for the lead on lap 98 of the 100-lap event.

Stewart, who started 15th, was in the top-10 for much of the night, but didn't become a factor at the front of the pack until he began battling with Kenseth in the final five laps of the event.

"I can't believe he (Kenseth) gave me the bottom," Stewart said. "We got a run on him two laps before and got a run off of (turn) two at the bottom and got beside him. I overdrove it in (turn) three and just got down there and got loose trying to clear him, and he was able to get back by us. Then he went to the bottom in (turns) one and two the next lap. I don't think he was great down there, but he was good enough, I think, to hold us off. But the next lap we go back through there and we got a run off of (turn) four on him."

It was Stewart's first victory as driver/owner for Stewart-Haas Racing. It was also the first All-Star race win for Stewart, who had four top-10 finishes in 10 previous starts in the event. Stewart became the second driver/owner to win the All-Star Race, joining Geoff Bodine, who accomplished the feat in 1994.

Matt Kenseth, who ran in second position the majority of the race's second half, took the lead with five laps remaining, but was unable to hold off

the advance of Stewart's No. 14 car.

"It's better to run second than anywhere else but first," said Kenseth. "On the other hand, it's disappointing when you take two to go on the track and you're in the lead and you come home second. I feel bad that we got beat, but I think I could do it 100 times and I couldn't hold him off."

Stewart's teammate, Ryan Newman, driver of the No. 39 U.S. Army/Haas Automation Chevrolet, finished a disappointing 18th after battling with the leaders in the closing stages of the race. On lap 93, Newman made contact with the wall while engaging in a three-way battle for the lead with Jeff Gordon and Kyle Busch. The damage to Newman's car sent him to the garage, seven laps shy of the finish.

Following Stewart and Kenseth across the stripe was Kurt Busch, while Denny Hamlin and Carl Edwards rounded out the top-five. Mark Martin, Kyle Busch, rookie Joey Logano, Jamie McMurray and Dale Earnhardt Jr., comprised the remainder of the top-10.

Sam Hornish won the preliminary Sprint Showdown to advance to the Sprint All-Star Race.

HORNADAY RALLIES FOR LOWE'S WIN

Ron Hornaday rallied from a lap down to win the Craftsman Truck Series race at Lowe's Motor Speedway over Kyle Busch. The win was Hornaday's first of the 2009 season, and moved him into the points lead over Mike Skinner.

Top-10 leaders after 6 of 25: 1. Hornaday-966, 2. Skinner-882, 3. Crafton-877, 4. Ky. Busch-852, 5. Bodine-837, 6. Cook-786, 7. Benson-779, 8. McCumbee-770, 9. Compton-

762, 10. Scott-759 WHAT'S THE STORY ON DALE JR.

What has happened to Dale Earnhardt Jr. and his team this season? Week after week, they turn in a poor performance. He faces many questions for which he still has no answers, like why isn't he up front and challenging for wins?

He headed into last weekend's Southern 500 at Darlington Raceway 18th in the Sprint Cup points standings after a 27th-place finish at Richmond. He has not won in nearly a year, dating back to June 15, 2008 at Michigan, and has only one top-five finish this season.

At Darlington, he missed his pit stall - again - during his first pit stop. Then he fell behind when his crew let a tire get away during another pit stop. Later, to cap things off, he wrecked.

Two pit mistakes and a wreck. Sadly, it was pretty much par for the course for Junior and his beleaguered team. He finished 27th and dropped two spots to 18th in points. About what you've come to expect from this disappointing driver and crew.

This mediocre performance is not what anyone had in mind when he left Dale Earnhardt Inc., to join powerhouse Hendrick Motorsports at the start of 2008. The assump-

tion that wins and championship runs would follow now seems hopelessly optimistic.

But the pressure of expectations remains, and the strain might be showing.

Asked by reporters at Darlington why he was frustrated or on edge, Earnhardt said, "You go sit in that car. It's not fun."

There has been plenty of criticism of Earnhardt's crew chief, Tony Eury Jr. Earnhardt has mostly offered public support for his cousin. But he was critical of his racecar at Richmond, and not merely because there were problems making adjustments to the car during the race.

"We'll, ya'll saw what happened," Earnhardt said. "Why do I got to comment on it? It don't help nothing to talk about it. Not for me. My team has had enough crap from everybody else. I don't need to weigh in on it. Ya'll saw what happened and ya'll can say what you want to say. We're working on it and we're trying to fix it."

There have been rumors that team owner Rick Hendrick will make a drastic change in the No. 88 race team, swapping Eury with Alan Gustafson, the crew chief for Mark Martin in the No. 5. Both Martin and Gustafson downplayed that scenario when

2009 Rec Dept Summer Day Camp

Summer is just around the corner and that means hot weather and Summer Day Camp for boys and girls ages 6 thru 12. This summer The Recreation Department will offer day camp for 4 sessions, each session being two weeks, running Monday thru Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sessions will be as follows: Session I June 1 - June 12 Session II June 15 - June 26 Session III July 6 - July 17 Session IV July 20 - July 31

The fee for the two week session is \$120, payable to the Towns County Recreation Department the first Monday of each session. Day Camp offers chil-

dren sports game activities, social game activities, field trips, nature hikes and much more. Give your child a lot to do this summer and sign them up for Day Camp. You may send your child to any or all of the sessions.

Children need to bring a swimsuit, towel, sprayable sunscreen and sack lunch. The Recreation department will furnish the drinks for the campers.

Registration will be the first Monday of each session at the Recreation Department located on Hwy. 76 west of Hiawassee. For more information please call the Recreation Department at 706-896-2600.

The Rock Regional Sports Academy

The Rock Regional Sports Academy (formerly Baseball Instructional Camps @ YHC) has set dates for summer camps for baseball, soccer and tennis. Our 2009 Cross-Training for Christ Multi-Sport camp and Leadership Training

Camp dates are July 6-10. New to The Rock are Tennis, Soccer & Baseball lessons ranging from individual to small group to team. For more information or for a registration form, call 706-897-2363 or e-mail LuannR36@yahoo.com

Indian Basketball Camp in June

Girls and Boys entering Grades 2-8 for the 2009-2010 school year are invited to attend.

Indian Basketball Camp is divided into two sessions. Session I is for grades 2-5 from 9am-11:30am and Session II is for grades 6-8 from 12:30pm-3pm.

Camp features include agility and quickness drills, shooting techniques, ball handling, basic offensive moves, defensive positioning, drib-

bling contest, free throw contest, hot shot contest, and team play.

Camp dates are June 1, 2, & 3 and cost of camp is \$60 each (or \$50 each for 2 or more from same family).

Registration deadline is May 20. Camp Forms can be picked up at Elementary or Middle/High School Office or call Coach Melton at 706-896-4131 ext 1231.