



Towns County Herald's Sporting News



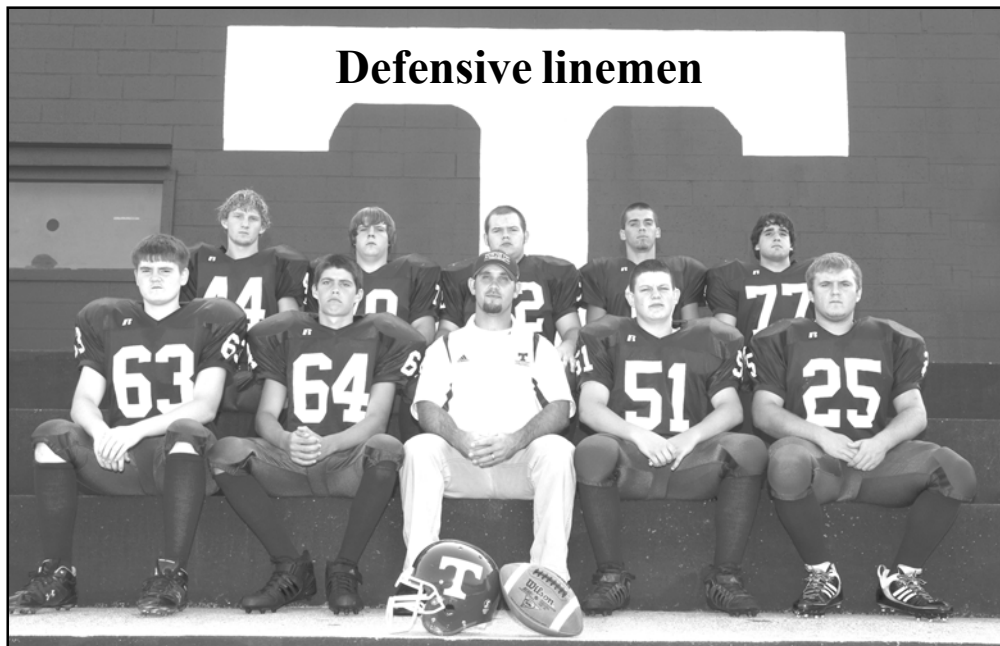
2009-10 Towns County High School Football Team

JIM BRYANT

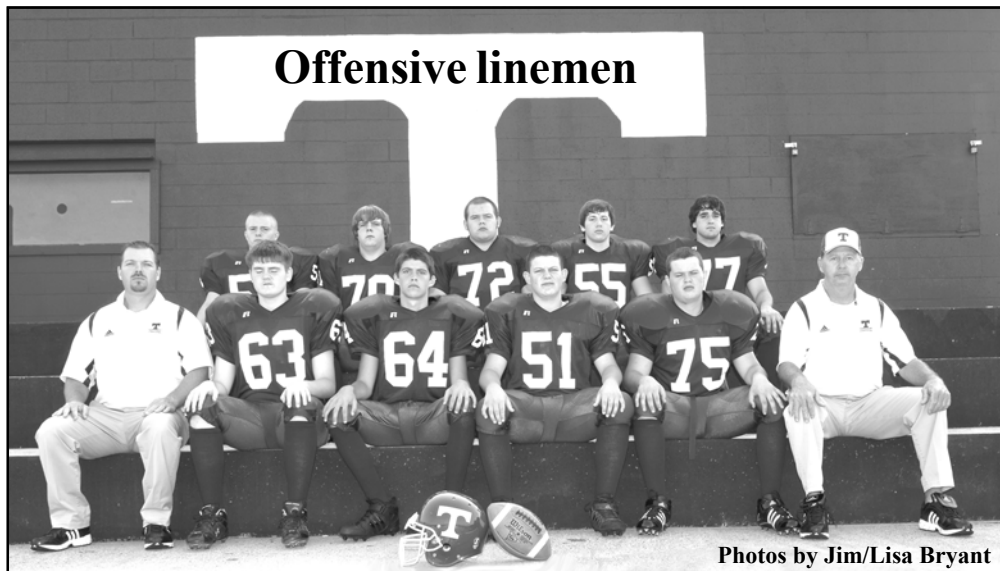
Sports Writer

Someone needs to call the pound. There are cats everywhere. Panthers, Wildcats and Lions, oh my! After a 2008 Panther scrimmage, the TCHS Indians are traveling back to the Panther lyre in Union County this Friday night for a scrimmage against the always tough Class AA Panthers. This is the first of two pre-season scrimmages against Cats in Class AA schools, the next coming against Rabun County Wildcats on August 28th.

Come out and support the Indians as they prepare to open the season against more felines, the Lions of Lakeview Academy on September 4th.



Defensive linemen



Offensive linemen

Photos by Jim/Lisa Bryant

NASCAR 2009

By Gerald Hodges
The Racing Reporter

VICKERS WINS MICHIGAN ON FUEL MILEAGE

BROOKLYN, Mich.— Brian Vickers handed Toyota their first win at Michigan. It was Vicker's second career Cup win.

"He (crew chief Ryan Pemberton) made the call, and it was the right one," said Vickers. "He asked me to give him two laps of fuel, and I gave him five.

"Man, if feels good to be in victory lane. We've been in so many down times that it was hard to believe we'd ever make it."

Vickers, whose only other Cup victory came at Talladega in the fall of 2006, moved within 12 points of the Chase For The Sprint Cup.

Vickers, who started on the pole, was running a close second when Jimmie Johnson's car sputtered on lap 198 of the 200-lap race. He took the lead and coasted home ahead of Jeff Gordon.

"I knew I had saved a lot on the last pit stop leaving pit road. I knew I had saved us a lap, maybe two laps on fuel," said Gordon. "Then when the last caution came out, I shut the engine off, and figured I got another lap or two there. I wasn't as good as Jimmie or Brian, but I felt like if I coasted, I could make it."

Dale Earnhardt Jr. finished third.

"It was a good run," he said. "We made some changes today that made the car run a lot better, and I was able to get back up to the front."

Jimmie Johnson dominated the race, but finished 33rd.

"I'm extremely frustrated, but we've only won one race of fuel mileage and that was at Phoenix," said Johnson. "We just don't do too well on fuel mileage. It's not what we're good at and I think it's too risky for us to try it."

Carl Edwards, Sam Hornish Jr., Casey Mears, Joey Logano, Clint Bowyer, David Reutimann, and Denny Hamlin were the remaining top-10 finishers.

Top-15 Chase contenders with three races left before the 10-race Chase begins: 1. Stewart-3500, 2. J. Gordon-3216, 3. Johnson-3197, 4. Edwards-2995, 5. Hamlin-2986, 6. Kurt Busch-2957, 7. Montoya-2887, 8. Kahne-2884, 9. Newman-2845, 10. Biffle-2821, 11. Kenseth-2811, 12. Martin-2791, 13. Vickers-2779, 14. Bowyer-2733, 15. Kyle Busch-2721 Note: Only 12 drivers will be included in the Chase.

KESELOWSKI WINS WITH LAST LAP PASS

BROOKLYN, Mich.-- Hometown boy Brad Keselowski took advantage of a heated battle between Kyle Busch and polesitter Brian Vickers, and made a last lap pass on both, to win Saturday's Nationwide race.

With Busch and Vickers battling on the bottom of the track, Keselowski used the outside line to pass both drivers on the final lap at Michigan International Speedway, with Vickers finishing second and Busch third.

"I saw 'em bobble in (Turns) 3 and 4 there at the one-to-go, and I had 'em," said Keselowski, who grew up in Rochester Hills, Mich. "I knew it. I knew I could get to the outside and kill the 32 (Vickers). I wasn't sure about the 18 (Busch) — I don't know what happened to him."

Vickers led Busch into

Turn 3 on the next-to-last lap and slipped in the corner. Busch drove to the inside, and Vickers side-drafted the No. 18 Toyota and forced him down onto the apron as the cars roared out of Turn 4. With momentum to the outside, Keselowski made it three-wide as the cars took the white flag for the final lap.

Busch took issue with the way Vickers had raced him on the final two laps and confronted him on pit road after the race.

"Oh, man, I am so sorry — I forgot it was the Kyle Busch show," Vickers said. "Hell, I thought we were racing for a win. ... I thought it was my job to hold him off. Apparently not. He came over to the car after we came in and knocked the fender in, which was unnecessary, and then started crying like a little baby."

"I asked him if he'd give me a minute to get out, and we could talk about it like men. If he wanted to fight, that was fine with me. When I got out, he ran off. It's a shame that it went down like that. We were racing hard. I thought it was a good race. Congratulations to the 88 (Keselowski). He snuck around both of us."

Top-10 points leaders after 23 of 35: 1. Kyle Busch-3816, 2. Edwards-3477, 3. Keselowski-3427, 4. Leffler-3203, 5. Allgaier-2756, 6. S. Wallace-2673, 7. Keller-2612, 8. Bliss-2595, 9. Gaughan-2538, 10. McDowell-2474

HELTON SAID JUNIOR FRUSTRATED

Despite what Dale Earnhardt Jr., the sport's most popular driver, has to say about the car being used in the Sprint Cup Series, Pres. Mike Helton says he doesn't foresee any noticeable changes.

"I feel like, especially right now, we need to really, really try to turn over every stone, and that includes where we are with the COT and where we feel like its development is and where we feel like its future goes and where we feel like this car goes, how it evolves," said Earnhardt Jr.

Earnhardt Jr. told the news media on Friday that a late caution is needed to create excitement during a Cup race and that 95 per cent of an event wasn't worth the price of a ticket.

However, he did say that the new double-file restarts have provided a spark that the series desperately needed.

"The media could address it a little stronger, and I think the drivers could be a little more vocal about it, and I think NASCAR could ... probably be a little more urgent in improving our product," Earnhardt Jr. continued. "The ultimate result is create exciting racing that the fans will enjoy, that the drivers enjoy, so everyone is happy. That should be our quest always, even when things are good."

On Saturday, Helton addressed the media at Michigan outside the NASCAR hauler.

"As you talk to the principals in the garage area — the team owners, the crew chiefs,

the car chiefs — there seems to be in all these conversations the consensus around: Don't make any changes right now because we don't want to tackle those; we have spent a lot of time now understanding this car, and don't throw a wrench in all of that in starting all over on something.

"There's always going to be debate on what you would do different, just as there was in previous models of cars that we raced. We will always have that. The consensus right now ... from our perspective is we'll look at things that we can do different, do better with the teams and we're working with the teams."

"In all fairness, we're always going to have somebody that says, 'I wish they would do this differently,' because it fits their moment. Tony Stewart last year wished we had done something different because he had a bad year last year. This year, it's 180 degrees different and it's the same car. We have not changed anything."

"The way I read his (Earnhardt Jr.) statements were more broad. His expression ... that we need to be working on

things to make the sport better in general, ... I agree with that. As it comes to the car, he and his team in particular ... there's some frustration there that contribute to his comments."

Weekend Racing: All three of the NASCAR series will be at the .52-mile Bristol Motor Speedway for three night races.

Wed., Aug. 19, Camping World Truck Series O'Reilly 200, race 15 of 25; Starting time: 7:30 pm (EDT); TV: Speed Channel.

Fri., Aug. 21, Nationwide Series Food City 250, race 24 of 35; Starting time: 7:30 pm (EDT); TV: ESPN2.

Sat., Aug. 22, Sprint Cup Sharpie 500, race 24 of 36; Starting time: 6:30 pm (EDT); TV: ESPN.

Racing Trivia Question: Which Cup team does Brian Vickers drive for?

Last Week's Question: Where is Cup driver Matt Kenseth's hometown? Answer: Cambridge, Wisconsin.

You may contact the Racing Reporter at: hodgesnews@earthlink.neta



Brian Vickers is congratulated by crew chief Ryan Pemberton after Sunday's win at Michigan

Swallow Creek WMA Hunt

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources will hold an archery hunt on the Swallow Creek Wildlife Management Area, Sept. 12 thru Oct. 16.

Area deer, bear, and hogs are the legal game. Hunter sign-in is required prior to hunting and sign-out of harvested game is required on date of kill. Statewide limit applies on deer and bear. No limit on hogs.

For more info, contact the Gainesville Game Management Office

770-535-5700

2008 Youth Coed Basketball

The Towns County Recreation Department will begin registration for The Youth Coed Basketball League for children ages 5 thru 7. (Must turn 5 by Nov. 1, 2009 to be eligible).

Boys and girls will be placed together on teams. Teams will have volunteer coaches who will lead, teach and direct their team.

Registration will begin on Aug. 17 and run thru Aug. 29

Fee for the program will be \$25 per child (this includes a uniform). You must register your child and volunteer to coach during this period.

For more information contact the Recreation Department at 706-896-2600 Monday thru Friday 9 a.m. till 9 p.m. And Saturday 9 a.m. till 7 p.m.

Local Racing Action

by Carl Vanzura



Knoxville's Billy Ogle Jr takes \$4000 pay day at Tri-County At the end of the night. It was a battle between, "Rocket Boy" Tommy Kerr from Maryville, TN and "Billy The Kid" Billy Ogle Jr. from Knoxville, TN for the \$4000 first place money in the Tennessee Thunder Hot Summer Night's 40 at Tri-County Race Track in Brasstown, NC.

The night started with Kayne Hickman taking fast time out of the 22 cars qualifying around the third mile clay oval. The top 12 drivers ran two fast six dashes with Ogle taking the first one in a close finish over Hickman and Casey Roberts. In the second dash, it was Kerr edging out Shawn and Johnny Chastain in that order.

As the green flag dropped Kerr took the lead followed by Hickman, Ogle, Roberts and the Chastain brothers until the caution fell for debris on the track on the 11th lap. When racing resumed both Shawn and Johnny moved forward in the running order to challenge the "Rocker Man" as Ogle and Roberts battled for fourth and fifth. With just five laps to go, Kerr and Johnny Chastain who now was in second place, nose to tail, came up on a lapped car and just slowed enough to let Ogle dip to the bottom of the track to fly by and take the lead.

Ogle held off a final charge from Kerr and the Chastain's as the checkered flag dropped for his first win at the "County". The group known as the "Murphy Mafia" in the racing world placed four drivers in the top 10 with the Chastain's in third (Johnny) (Shawn in fourth), (Jamie Oliver in sixth) and (David Payne in seventh).

Sportsman feature had the crowd on their feet as the action changed lap after lap with Bobby Panter and Devin Dillbeck running side by side until Dillbeck moved to the front on a great high side pass. Panter looked like he was having problems and eventually pulled in to the pits. Preston Crisp moved on to Dillbeck's rear bumper when Dillbeck then slowed and also went to the pits. Jamie Lunsford, Doug Sneed, Kurt English and Jacob Anderson rounded out the top five.

Morganton, GA brothers Brad and Justin Thomas raced to a one-two finish in the Modified Street feature followed by Greg Sudderth, Heather Taylor and Mike Bryson.

In a close duel that lasted all 15 laps in the Mini Stock feature, Andrews driver Marty Clark and Sylva ace Justin Woodard ran door-to-door with Clark taking the win over Woodard, Lynn Burchfield, Adam Creekmore and Franklin Burk.

Racing returns to Tri-County with a points race for the go karts Friday night and stock cars Saturday night.

In other action at nearby tracks, Jonathan Davenport set fast time among 68 cars running the Topless 100 (a race where cars run without roofs) in Batesville, Arkansas. He finished 8th in the race that pays \$40,000 to win. Ray Cook had problems while running 10th and pulled into the pits for the night. At Dixie Speedway, Jake Knowles had another win. Melvin English took his first win as a Super Late Model driver at Toccoa Speedway Saturday night. Hunter Young took his Blairsville based go kart to victory in the Purple Plate Friday night at Tri-County. Hiawasse's Colton Stroud won the Raptor 330 feature. Next week Mountain Speedway in Maryville, TN, about an hour and a half drive from here will be running a Tennessee Thunder show which is always a good show. In two weeks on the 29th of August, Tri-County will have the Georgia Mini Sprints at the track. The last time they were there, they put on a great show.



Johnny and Shawn Chastain race at the front of the pack all night Saturday night.



Hiawasse's Colton Stroud won at Tri-County in his go kart Friday night. Photos by Jack Appleget

Herald's sports quote of the week

"A lie has speed, but truth has endurance."

- Edgar J. Mohn

Chatuge Shores golf scores

The winning team is: 8-13-09

Oleta & Jim Taylor, J.C. Berrong, Glenda Geddings, - 5 Under, Score 67

Adult Coed Softball League

The Towns County Recreation Department and The Towns County Drug Coalition together will be offering an Adult Coed Softball program. The League will be for men and women 18 & over (You must be 18 before October 1 of current year).

Each team will consist of a minimum of 12 players with at least 3 females on the team's roster. When playing games, teams must have a minimum of 3 females continuously entered in the game.

You may form your team

and register or if you are an individual wishing to participate. The Recreation Department will take your name and then place you on a team.

Registration for the program will begin Aug. 24 and run thru Sept. 5, 2009. To register or for more information you may come by the Recreation Center or call us at 706-896-2600. Please remember deadline to register will be September 5. All games will be played at The Towns County Recreation Ballfields.