

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

www.townscountyherald.net • E-mail: tcherald@windstream.net

Towns County Indians hold camp with youthful counterparts

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

It's an age-old story – the little kids always look up to the big kids.

And that's why the annual Towns County Youth Football Camp is always such a success.

For a couple of hours on Thursday, July 27, the Towns County High School Indians helped their youth football counterparts drill for the upcoming season.

With the help of the coaching staff of both the high school and youth football teams, the kids practiced the fundamentals of the game, such as passing, kicking, blocking and more.

"We've got awesome kids here, they're real respectful," said TCYFL Director Jimmy Smith. "We do youth football to keep kids out of trouble and get them outside, but mainly to help build the program for the high school team.

"The young ones, they know these kids play on Friday nights, and these are their heroes. One day, they're going to be playing out on a Friday night, also. It's a big deal."

For TCHS senior Luke Woody, who is known for pumping up the stands between plays on game nights, teaching how to have effort is an important part of the camp.

"If you want to be successful as a player and as a team, you have to have full effort and cooperation from your entire team," said Woody. "When I was out



Varsity and youth alike huddle up with Coach John Cornett at the end of the 2017 Towns County Youth Football League Camp. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

playing rec football, I looked up to all the guys when I was in it.

"It's very important for these guys to have somebody to look up to, especially somebody in the community."

Junior Jake Parker feels the same way as Woody about the youth football camp, and he, too, has fond memories of being a young'un in youth football.

"I'm just glad that we're able to help them any way we can, and show them things that we know and have learned," said Parker.

"That way, when they get up to our age, they can do what we do."

Indians football officially kicks off on Friday, Aug. 18, in a home game against Hayesville at 7:30 p.m., and Woody has high expectations this season.

"I'm looking forward to being the first team in Towns County history to make the playoffs," said Woody.

And that's a sentiment shared by Indians Head Coach John Cornett, who appreciates the necessity of building a program through youth recruitment.

"Of all places, in Towns, it's got to be the most important just because of our numbers," said Coach Cornett. "We're smaller than most schools, and I think it means a lot more to these young kids to see these high school kids in their lives, because they get to see them every day."

Continued Coach Cornett: "Going to the playoffs is our goal at the high school this year, and I think it's a very reachable goal. We have to play great football, and looking at our region, we just feel like there's six winnable

games out there."

The youth league held its first practice on Monday, July 31, and Smith will continue to sign up kids through Aug. 11.

Interested young athletes new to the league and their parents should bring a copy of the child's birth certificate at signup, as it will be provided to the Smoky Mountain Conference as proof of age.

Kids who played last year will not need to provide copies of their birth certificates at signup.

For all players, a one-

time payment of \$90 will be required at the time of signup to cover costs of playing during the season, including insurance, a game jersey that kids will get to keep at the end of the season, and a trophy at the end-of-year banquet.

Teams are broken down into categories according to age: Pee Wees are 5 and 6-year-olds; Termites are 7 and 8-year-olds; Mites are 9 and 10-year-olds; and Midges are 11 and 12-year-olds.

As previously reported, the 2017 season will be Director Smith's 21st and final season as director of the Towns County program.

"This will be my last year and my last camp," said Smith. "It's sad, but I'm going to try my best to enjoy this and have a good season. I hope I get more numbers out for the teams.

"I appreciate Coach Cornett and the high school varsity team for doing this. Cornett, he really cares about the football program here in Towns County, I know that for a fact."

After this season, the Towns County Rec Department will be heading up the youth football program, and Director Smith said he feels good about Rec Director Matt Youngblood leading the youth football charge in 2018.

2017 Towns County Youth Football kicks off its regular season on Saturday, Aug. 19, in a home game against the Cherokee Braves out of North Carolina, to be played at the Towns County Recreation and Conference Center at Foster Park.

All youth games begin at 9:30 a.m., starting with the Pee Wees.



Indians Head Coach John Cornett and quarterback Trent Bradshaw look on as youth football players practice passing in the July 27 camp. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

Chatuge Shores Ladies Golfers try to beat the heat



Kathy Stewart's powerful follow through.

While the scorecard said the game of the day was the best two balls of the four-some, the real game was beating the heat. On Tuesday, July 25, the afternoon heat indexes were more than 100 degrees.

The hearty dozen who braved the weather struggled into the cool confines of the clubhouse, looking for quick refreshment.

Sitting around the table is a reminder that golf is a social sport. Whether your handicap is 8 or 40, the 19th hole is where everyone is the same. It's a place to make new

friends, talking about gardens and grandkids. It's a place to glory in that approach shot that almost rolled in, and forget about that duffed chip that led to a double bogey.

This week's winners: Kathy Stewart, Glenda Geddings, Vickie Hunt, and a blind draw (thanks, Sandy Jersey). Low putts winner is Nancy Outlaw.

If you'd like to join the fun, the ladies of Chatuge Shores Golf Course are still accepting new members. Call Judy Schmitt at 828-389-7095.

and track owners are searching for a better formula to bring in new race fans while keeping the loyalty of longtime ones.

Tracks are trying new packages, and sometime gimmicks to lure fans back into the stands. They are adopting new ticket pricing for children which they hope will help bring more youth into racing.

Money is definitely the problem with a lot of fans. The people I talk with at the tracks complain about high hotel costs, and the overall cost once they get to the track. It's not just the cost of a \$50 ticket that keeps some fans away, but \$6 hot dogs and \$5 cokes. Imagine how much a family of four spent during the Brickyard 400 that lasted over five hours.

As costs go up, families have less and less to spend on entertainment. I haven't seen a lot of frustration from fans about the racing side of NASCAR, it's all about affordability. I think NASCAR and all the major sports are going to rise and fall with the economy.

For the MLB teams, they saw their average home game attendance decline by more than 10 per cent over the past decade.

Overall, NASCAR racing is holding its own, and doing better than the NBA and MLB.

Weekend Racing: The Cup and Xfinity teams are at the 2.45-mile Watkins Glen road course. The Trucks have an off week.

Sat., Aug. 5; Xfinity Series race 20 of 33; Starting time: 2 p.m. ET; TV: NBCSN.

NASCAR 2017

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

"ROWDY" KYLE IS BACK

Long Pond, PA - Kyle Busch won his first Cup Series race of the season, and the first at the Pocono track, as he coasted to victory by 6.18 seconds ahead of Kevin Harvick.

Busch led the most laps (74), which means he has now led 1,028 laps, the most of any driver this year. If he continues at his present level, he will surpass Harry Gant, the all-time lap leader.

Even though it was a convincing win for the driver of the No. 18 Gibbs Racing Toyota, it won't come without a penalty or fine. NASCAR officials discovered a loose lug nut on one of his wheels during a post race inspection, and will announce the penalty on Tuesday.

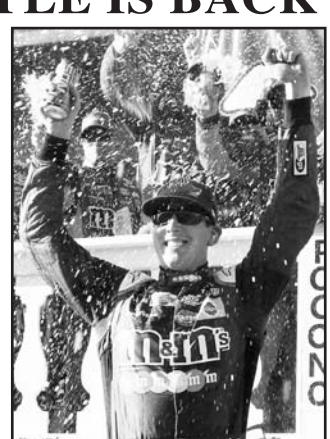
"I'm glad to see we're back," said Busch. "We had an awesome car today. It was a flying machine. It was a perfect race. Everyone has worked so hard to make it happen, and things went our way today."

Busch took the lead for the last time on lap 144 of the 160-lap race from Kevin Harvick, after giving him a bump from behind.

"Kyle got into me, but it was because I got loose in the corner," said Harvick. "We're working on things, and picking up here and there. We're going to be ready for the Chase, but Kyle was the class of the field today."

Martin Truex Jr. led 31 laps to finish third. "We had a shot at it up until near the end," said Truex. "We were just a little off today. The car would run great when we were out front in clean air, but when we had to come from back in the field it wasn't so good."

Denny Hamlin was fourth, then it was Brad Keselowski, Clint



"Rowdy" Kyle Is Back

Benjamin pushed Preece hard during the two laps, but could not make a pass and finished .054-seconds back.

"I'm at a loss for words," said Preece. "It's hard to believe I really won."

Bryan Scott was third, followed by Brennan Poole, Cole Custer, JJ Yeley, Daniel Hemric, Blake Koch, William Byron, and Brandon Jones.

Top-10 leaders after 19 of 33: 1. Sadler-707, 2. Byron-653, 3. Allgaier-564, 4. B. Poole-518, 5. Hemric-488, 6. Custer-474, 7. Tift-436, 8. Reed-424, 9. Armstrong-388, 10. Koch-374.

Results of Saturday's Truck Series race at Pocono: 1. Christopher Bell, 2. Ben Rhodes, 3. Ryan Truex, 4. John Nemechek, 5. Johnny Sauter, 6. Matt Crafton, 7. Austin Cindric, 8. Cody Coughlin, 9. Chase Briscoe, 10. Justin Haley.

Top-10 leaders after 12 of 23: 1. Bell-528, 2. Sauter-510, 3. Briscoe-470, 4. Crafton-464, 5. Nemechek-396, 6. Rhodes-387, 7. R. Truex-386, 8. Enfinger-382, 9.

Gragson-345, 10. Cindric-324.

NASCAR IS STILL ALIVE AND WELL

There has been talk that NASCAR is going down the drain, but based on independent studies, it appears the sport of racing is as healthy as other major sports.

Professional sports is big business in the United States, and NASCAR isn't the only one that has seen a drop in the number of fans. The four major team sport organizations; MLB, NHL, NBA, and NFL, have all seen significant drops.

While there have been dips in the number of fans that attend NASCAR races and watch it on television, last week's Brickyard 400 showed there are still a lot of fans attracted to the sport.

There were 5.6-million fans watching as Kasey Kahne got his first win in 102 races. Stop and think about those numbers. It's mind boggling.

The race was up 8 per cent in viewership from last year (5.2M) and up 20 per cent from 2015 (4.7M), both of which aired on NBCSN.

For the first time since 2009, the Brickyard 400 earned a larger audience than the Indianapolis 500, which takes place at the same race track (5.5M).

It used to be that most revenue came from ticket sales and concessions, but not any more. Money in these sports comes from a range of channels. While endorsements, advertising, TV deals, and merchandising all factor into team revenue, ticket sales remain important, as both a source of revenue, as well as a gauge of fan loyalty.

As NASCAR attendance continues to decline, NASCAR

VFW Golf League

The VFW Golf League plays each Thursday at the Chatuge Shores Golf Course. It is open to all members of the VFW and American Legion regardless of post affiliation. It was a little soggy on the links today but there was a good turnout of 10 teams vying for the win. Two teams posted a -7 for low scores of the day with the team of Susan Bongiovanni, Joe Generazio, Mel Halfon and Joe Proper taking first place after evaluation of the results. It was a great team effort with many long putts and a nice chip in by Mel Halfon that made the difference. Congratulations on a well played round.