

# Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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## Towns County football impressive in first showing under Coach Cornett

By Todd Forrest  
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Washington - The John Cornett era is underway at Towns County High School and after traveling almost four hours to play a scrimmage game against perennial Central-Georgia power Washington Wilkes, the Indians woke up Saturday morning with a substantial increase in confidence and team pride.

"We've only had four days of practice but the guys have bought in to our new system," Head Coach John Cornett said. "It was tough entering Friday not fully understanding the offense and defense, but the kids did great."

"Our offense and defense are completely different than (what these players ran) last year, but by (last) Friday, everybody knew their assignments and they adjusted well to Wilkes, who threw a lot of different formations at us. Our linebackers, Nick Shook and Harold Cox did a great job of making sure everyone was where they needed to be."

The Washington Wilkes Tigers have reached the State



Playoffs in five straight years and advanced past the first round three of those years. In 2013, they unseated defending State Champion Jefferson as the 8-AA Region Champs.

After spending the last four years in Region 8-AA, the Tigers have returned to Class A where they expect nothing less than to

compete for Region titles on a yearly basis.

But don't tell that to the 2016 edition of the Towns County Indians.

Last Friday night, the Indians refused to back down and met Wilkes on their home turf, and though it was only a scrimmage, the Indians outscored the Tigers

28-21. Towns' varsity outscored Wilkes 28-14.

During the contest, the varsity played the first half and the junior varsity took over at the start of the third quarter and played the entire second half.

Each team played offense for 10 plays, regardless of scores or turnovers, before the other team



took over for 10 plays.

Fullback Russell Cox scored twice for Towns, including one run that he took to the house from nearly 50 yards out.

Tailbacks Andy Chambers and Cole Ledford also added scores for the Indians, who seized control of the game after Wilkes found paydirt on the first play of

the game.

"We played really well, said Cornett. "Other than Cox's big run, we scored from inside the 10 each time after sustaining long drives."

This Friday, Towns will host Butler High from Augusta at 7:30 p.m. in the final scrimmage before the regular season begins next week.

## Chatuge Shores Ladies Golfers play Shamble Golf

So what is shamble golf? According to 'golf.about.com', "a shamble is a type of golf tournament format in which a team of golfers selects the one best drive among them after teeing off, then all four play their own golf balls from that position into the hole. You can think of a shamble as a scramble of the tee and then regular stroke play into the hole." The format was a different one than usually played and provided all

### VFW Golf League

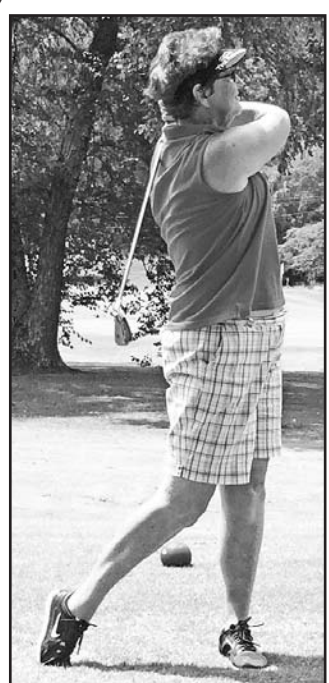
Each year the VFW Golf League has a par 3 tournament in honor of the founder, Gene Henson. This year's tournament was also played in honor of Bill Long who passed away last year. The winners in the two divisions are as follows: Low Gross Score Division, 1st Bill Kiser, 2nd Ray Ide, 3rd Harvey Vanadoe, 4th Danny Barrett. The winners of the Low Net Score Division were: 1st Gary Nicholson, 2nd Susan Bongiovanni, 3rd Ed Gosnell, 4th Bill Bongiovanni. Congratulations! T(Aug10,G)SH

players with the opportunity to hit their second shot from a long-ball tee shot. The scoring was a two best balls for the foursome. Lots of fun for all and everyone had a chance to score well.

The winning shamble foursomes were: 1st place - Lorene Avery, Cathy Clement, Pat Seeley, and Kathy Stewart with a 92 net; 2nd place - Mary Anderson, Barb Boswell, Star Glock, and Vickie Hunt with a 100 net score; 3rd place - Susan Palmich (blind draw), Sandy Jersey, Opal Rose, and Nancy Steck with 104 net.

Following play, the members enjoyed the regular first Tuesday luncheon and general meeting. The Ace of the Month award was announced with Kathy Stewart winning for low gross and Nancy Steck for low net.

Members were also reminded that August is Food Pantry month. Members may bring contributions of non-perishable food items, as well as soap, shampoo, diapers, and similar items and place them in the barrel at the front of the Pro Shop. Those who would



Loretta Hughes sends her drive down the fairway.

rather write a check are welcome to do so and turn it in to Judy Schmitt or Sandy Jersey. Items will be distributed to food pantries in Clay, Towns, and Cherokee counties.

## NASCAR 2016

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

### HAMLIN GETS ROAD COURSE VICTORY

Watkins Glen, NY--Denny Hamlin's win in Sunday's Sprint Cup race was his first career road course victory and second win of the season.

Hamlin took the lead for the last time with five laps remaining and finished nearly three seconds ahead of Joey Logano.

"We really had a great race car there at the end," said Hamlin. "Being first on that last restart, I knew the race was mine to win or lose."

On the last lap Martin Truex was running a close second behind Hamlin. Third-place driver Brad Keselowski spun Truex in the last turn before the checkered flag. Keselowski had to slow for Truex's spinning car and this allowed Joey Logano, winner of Saturday's Xfinity race to speed by for second.

After the race Truex showed his displeasure to Keselowski by bumping and shoving his car a couple times.

"I never like to run into the back of anyone," said Keselowski after the race. "But I had made a commitment to a crossover move. I didn't think he would come back over. He got the bad part of it, but it was my fault."

Their were more than the usual amount of cars caught up in accidents during the 90 lap race.

The first major incident came during lap 54. Ricky Stenhouse had spun out and Jimmie Johnson did not see him. Both cars were damaged beyond repair, and neither driver finished the race. Other cars involved were Greg Biffle and Austin Dillon.

"Going into that area there were a couple cars ahead of me," said Stenhouse. "I couldn't see real well and went too high. When I tried to come back down the back end came around."

The race was red flagged for about 15 minutes while speedway crews cleared debris from the track.

Five laps after the restart, there was a four car pileup.

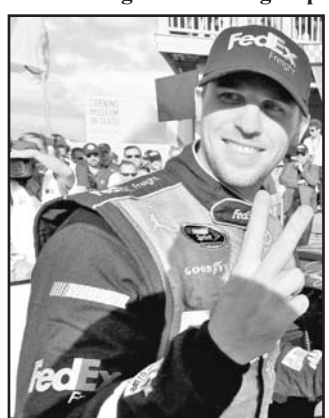
Before a lap had been completed on the next restart, seven cars got together. One of them was Kevin Harvick, who wound up with a DNF.

Top-10 finishers: 1. Hamlin, 2. Logano, 3. Keselowski, 4. A J Allmendinger, 5. Tony Stewart, 6. Kyle Busch, 7. Martin Truex, 8. Jamie McMurray, 9. Trevor Bayne, 10. Matt Kenseth.

Top-16 Chase leaders after 22 of 36 (Note: this is the official NASCAR scoring based on the number of driver wins and points): 1. Keselowski-727, 2. Kyle Busch-670, 3. Edwards-653, 4. Hamlin-620, 5. Kenseth-600, 6. Johnson-578, 7. Harvick-718, 8. Kurt Busch-689, 9. Logano-652, 10. Truex-612, 11. Buescher-292, 12. Newman-562, 13. Elliott-561, 14. A. Dillon-559, 15. McMurray-550, 16. Larson-520.

### LOGANO OUTLASTS TEAMMATE FOR WIN

Penske Racing driver Joey Logano led 73 laps of the 82 lap Watkins Glen Xfinity race as his teammate Brad Keselowski experienced a mechanical issue late in the race. Logano and Keselowski



Denny Hamlin Gets Second Win of Season. Photo furnished by NASCAR

were running 1-2, when Keselowski's Ford developed a rear-end problem that forced him to pit with six laps remaining.

Logano stayed in the lead and went on to an easy win over runner-up Paul Menard.

Kyle Larson was third, followed by Daniel Suarez, Trevor Bayne, Elliott Sadler, Justin Allgaier, Brendan Gaughan, Ryan Reed, and Brendan Poole.

Top-10 leaders after 20 of 33: 1. Sadler-668, 2. Suarez-657, 3. T. Dillon-629, 4. E. Jones-613, 5. Allgaier-610, 6. Gaughan-598, 7. B. Poole-587, 8. B. Jones-573, 9. Wallace Jr.-512, 10. Reed-496.

### EARNHARDT STILL SIDELINED, BUT PLANS TO RETURN

Dale Earnhardt Jr. talked to the media at Watkins Glen to answer questions about his situation of missing races and when he might get back on the track.

"I have every intention of honoring my current contract (which runs through 2017)," Earnhardt said. "I sat with (team owner) Rick (Hendrick) before this happened a couple of months ago to talk about an extension. That's the direction that we are going. As soon as I can get healthy and get confident in how I feel and feel like I can drive a car and be great driving it, then I want to drive. I want to race. I miss the competition. I miss being here. I miss the people and, as Rick likes to say, 'We've got unfinished business.' I'm not ready to stop racing. I'm not ready to quit. It's a slower process, I wish it wasn't. I don't know how long it's going to take."

Until Earnhardt receives medical clearance, he won't be allowed to race. He's working with his doctors to suppress the symptoms that forced him out of the car for the mid-July Sprint Cup race at New Hampshire and will keep him on the sidelines at least through the Aug. 20 event at Bristol Motor Speedway.

"I'm not going to get in the car until the doctors clear me," Earnhardt continued. "The doctors won't let me race. This is not my decision, but it's the right decision, and I trust what my doctors are telling me. When they say I'm good to go, I believe them. If they say I'm healthy and I can race, I'm going to race."

Doctors concluded that the onset of Earnhardt's concussion-like symptoms, which involve issues with gaze stability, dizziness and balance, began with a wreck at Michigan in mid-June, though Earnhardt said the intensification of the symptoms was gradual. After

he raced at Kentucky Speedway on July 9, he sought medical attention. What he thought might be a sinus infection instead resulted in the diagnosis that forced him out of the car. Earnhardt receives medical evaluations every two to three weeks and will continue to do so until he is symptom-free.

He said he would like to get in a race car once cleared from concussion symptoms, maybe a late model, and run for a day before he deals with a race weekend.

In the meantime, Jeff Gordon will continue as driver of the No. 88 Hendrick Chevrolet.

### FURNITURE ROW TO ADD SECOND CUP TEAM

The small Furniture Row race team which has fielded the No. 78 Chevrolet driven by Martin Truex Jr. will run a second team in 2017 driven by Eric Jones.

Jones, a former Truck Series champion, who is currently fourth in the Xfinity Series will drive the No. 77 Toyota. The car is expected to be sponsored by 5-hour Energy which will serve as the primary sponsor for 22 races.

Furniture Row Racing switched from Chevrolet to Toyota at the end of the 2015 season, and formed an alliance with Joe Gibbs Racing. The partnership has worked well, because week after week, Truex has ran near the front.

Truex, who has already clinched a 2016 Chase berth, has been the Furniture Row Racing driver since the start of the 2014 season. As a Chase participant last year, he advanced to the final four.

After 21 races into the current season he has one win, three top fives, nine top 10s, three poles, ranks No. 1 with laps led (1005), and is eighth in Sprint Cup driver points.

"I am pleased that we're going to continue our momentum from this season," said Truex. "This is where I want to be, driving the No. 78. We've come a long way in a short period of time. There are many reasons to feel excited and optimistic about the future of our racing program. We definitely have the resources and talent to go after victories and championships. The addition of Erik can only help us get even better."

**Weekend Racing:** The only racing in NASCAR will be the Xfinity Series at the Mid Ohio Car Course, a road course in Lexington, Ohio. The track is 2.4 miles in length, with 13 turns.

The Sprint Cup and truck teams have an off week.

Sat., Aug. 13, Xfinity Series race 21 of 33; Starting time: 3:30 p.m. ET; TV: USA.

**Racing Trivia Question:** Mark Martin won 35 Cup races. How many times did he finish second for the Sprint Cup championship?

**Last Week's Question?** Who are Denny Hamlin's Cup teammates? Answer: Hamlin drives for Joe Gibbs Racing. His teammates are Matt Kenseth, Carl Edwards, and Kyle Busch.

You may contact the Racing Reporter by e-mail at: hodges@race500.com

## TC Youth Football at home this Saturday

2016 Smokey Mountain Youth Football League Schedule			
Andrews - Cherokee - Franklin - Hayesville - Jackson Co - Murphy - Robbinsville - Swain Co - Towns Co			
Regular Season Games	Pee Wees	11:00 AM	Termites
& Crackerbowl Times:	Mites	1:30 PM	Midgets
			12:00 PM
			3:00 PM
AUGUST 13th		SEPTEMBER 24th	
Andrews	at Towns Co.	Towns Co.	at Swain Co.
Robbinsville	at Murphy	Andrews	at Murphy
Swain Co.	at Cherokee	Franklin	at Cherokee
Franklin	at Jackson Co.	Robbinsville	at Hayesville
Copper Basin	at Hayesville	Jackson Co.	at Copper Basin
AUGUST 20th		OCTOBER 1st	
Towns Co.	at Franklin	Murphy	at Towns Co.
Jackson Co.	at Murphy	Swain Co.	at Hayesville
Robbinsville	at Swain Co.	Cherokee	at Robbinsville
Hayesville	at Andrews	Jackson Co.	at Andrews
Cherokee	at Copper Basin	Copper Basin	at Franklin
AUGUST 27th		OCTOBER 8th	
Swain Co.	at Murphy	Towns Co.	at Cherokee
Cherokee	at Jackson Co.	Murphy	at Hayesville
Andrews	at Robbinsville	Robbinsville	at Jackson Co.
Hayesville	at Franklin	Franklin	at Swain Co.
Copper Basin	at Towns Co.	Andrews	at Copper Basin
SEPTEMBER 3rd		OCTOBER 13TH	
Hayesville	at Towns Co.	RAIN OUT GAMES	
Murphy	at Cherokee	OCTOBER 22nd	
Jackson Co.	at Swain	PLAY-OFF GAMES	
Andrews	at Franklin	1st vs 4th Teams	at Home of 1st Place TERMITES
Robbinsville	at Copper Basin	2nd vs 3rd Teams	at Home of 2nd Place TERMITES
SEPTEMBER 10th		OCTOBER 29th	
Towns Co.	at Robbinsville	2016 CRACKER BOWL CHAMPIONSHIPS	
Hayesville	at Jackson Co.	NOVEMBER 5TH	
Cherokee	at Andrews	WCU hosts SMOKEY MTN.	
Murphy	at Franklin	YOUTH FOOTBALL DAY	
Copper Basin	at Swain Co.		
SEPTEMBER 17th			
Jackson Co.	at Towns Co.		
Swain Co.	at Andrews		
Cherokee	at Hayesville		
Franklin	at Robbinsville		
Copper Basin	at Murphy		