

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Lady Indians' JV overwhelmed at Rabun County

By Jerry Kendall
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer


It was a tough afternoon for the Towns County Lady Indian JV's Basketball Team in their only action last week at Class AA Rabun County. A scheduled game against Prince Avenue on Tuesday was canceled due to the Wolverines not having enough players to field a team. The loss ended a four game winning streak by the Lady Indians and left them with a 6-6 record on the season. The Lady Indians took a 2-0 lead on a coast to coast run by Brooke Smith less than a minute into the game but the Lady Wildcats responded with a 16-2 finish, interrupted only by an Alyssa Pyle field goal at the forty six seconds mark, and held a 16-4 lead on a buzzer beater after one quarter. Jocelyn Byers drove the lane for two points and sank



Lady Indians' JV in action during the third quarter of their game at Rabun. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

a trey while Taylor McCarter sank two deuces and Smith beat the halftime buzzer with a trey in second quarter action but the Lady Cats held a 35-16 lead at intermission. The Lady Indians edged to within 37-20 on baskets by Pyle and Smith by the 4:37 mark of the third quarter and to within 44-26 on two free throws and a basket by Carly Gilfilian at 1:45 but the Lady Cats struck for 17-straight points after that and took a 61-28 victory. Scoring leaders for the Lady Indians were Byers and Smith with 7 points each and McCarter with 6 while Gilfilian led in assists with 3 and Savannah Dyer followed with 2.

Joe Collins



Tips from the Range

Every golfer's swing is different and therefore each individual player hits the ball differently. Some golfers hit the ball high and others hit the ball low. It all depends on whether or not you swing with a steep arc or if you swing with a flat arc. A player's height plays a major role in ball flight but so does wrist action, center of gravity, arm rotation and shoulder turn. All these mechanics can affect the flight of the ball but none more so than shoulder rotation. The shoulder's rotation around the spine has a direct influence on the height that a player hits the ball, so it stands to reason that if you are looking to change your normal ball flight then change the plane of your shoulder rotation. To understand how this works we must first look at how the shoulder rotation affects the arm path in relation to the backswing.

on keeping the front shoulder higher on the backswing as opposed to letting it drop down and under the chin. The higher shoulder position makes the path of the arms lower in the backswing which promotes a flatter plane and a lower ball flight. You can see a good example of this in Ian Poulter's swing. His hands will finish lower than Watson's and this causes him to hit it much lower. You can see the differences on the Youtube video of them teeing off together in the 2011 Ryder Cup. When you are working on this, beware that making a steeper turn in the backswing will tend to move your center of gravity to the balls of your feet. This will cause balance issues and that must be avoided at all cost. Bubba's tee ball on hole #10 in the Masters playoff this year is an example of this balance issue. His steep shoulder turn caused his center of gravity to move to the balls of his feet and he came over the top and pulled his drive into the woods on the right side of the fairway. He was trying to hit a high fade and he simply lost it out of the top. But, his recovery was very high caused by a proper steep turn with the shoulders and good balance and thus he won his first major championship. It is vital that you stay away from the ball on the backswing in order for the path of the arms to move from the inside on the downswing which promotes good extension through impact. A higher front shoulder on the backswing helps you stay in balance better but it tends to cause you to hit the ball lower. If you use a higher front shoulder on the backswing and you want to hit it higher, you will throw the hands through impact and that will cause all sorts of problems. Many will tell you that if you want to hit the ball lower that you should move the ball back in your stance and that is correct. However, you have to do this in conjunction with another swing thought to reduce spin and I will cover that next week. Remember the old cliché that practice makes perfect so get out and practice so that your time on the links will be more enjoyable. Good luck and I will see you on the course!

NASCAR 2013

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

Can NASCAR return to its roots

"I really believe we're going to see some of the most competitive, intense and exciting racing we've seen in quite some time," Robin Pemberton, NASCAR's vice president of operations told reporters during last week's Charlotte Media Tour. We've heard that almost every year prior to the start of racing. Based on driver and team comments, this year could be different. No previous new car design has received as much praise among drivers, manufacturers, or race teams as the new Gen-6 car. That is a leap forward from the Car of Tomorrow. The COT was despised by drivers and fans from the first day to the last. It was ugly, boxy-looking and hard to race on certain tracks. The new car is closer to the look of a real car than any other since the 1980s. NASCAR chairman Brian France admitted it was a mistake to get away from individual looking cars. "We certainly didn't intend to do that," said France. "We were looking to cut costs and increase safety, and we significantly improved that. But it would be fair to say that in doing those things, we weren't as in step with the manufacturers as we are today. Obviously, we got away from some things that historically had worked well for us. "The collaborative effort between NASCAR, its teams and the auto manufacturers was unprecedented in designing this car. The entries for the three manufacturers are dramatically different from each other, just like the good old days." For the first time in a long time, the Cup cars look like a car you could drive around town. More importantly, they look like a car you would want to drive. It's a simple concept, but one that NASCAR misplaced along the way. "We had a car (Gen-4) that looked really similar to the manufacturer vehicle that was in the showroom," Jeff Gordon said. "We went completely away from that in every which way, from having a splitter, we had the wing, and we just had this blocky looking car that wasn't a sexy looking car.



The new Gen-6 Chevrolets of Hendrick Motorsports.

"We made the COT car a really good race car. It took a while, but we did. Now I look at this (Gen-6) race car and see where we're starting out with this car -- and it feels good. It drives good, it's forgiving, and it's got a great aerodynamic balance. So far, I'm a big fan. I love it. I like what's happening underneath the car. I like the body style." That doesn't mean, however, that the transition to the new car will be easy. "Any time you start to get used to something and there's a change, it's a learning curve," Gordon continued. "In my opinion, the older you get in this sport, and the more you've been around, the harder it is to switch to new things. "There's going to be times, I think, that we're going to be challenged. But it seems like this car is going to be an improvement for everyone in the sport." There were also a lot of mixed signals during last week's Media Tour. In addition to all the positives about the new car, Hendrick Motorsports announced the No. 88 driven by Dale Earnhardt Jr. will enter the 2013 season with 13 unsponsored races. Rick Hendrick said there has been plenty of interest from sponsors and that he is more concerned with finding a match that will work beyond 2013. "We've got a lot of good opportunities," Hendrick said. "The way we're positioned, the car is covered until the end of the summer. I don't have a deadline [for a deal]. I'm not looking at a timeline. I'm looking at the right deal. "We are working on two or three deals, but we haven't

tour to go public with their relationship, which started as a friendship as they raced each other the last two seasons in the Nationwide Series. Stenhouse became a mentor of sorts to the 30-year-old Patrick, who left IndyCar after the 2011 season to make the full-time switch to NASCAR. Stenhouse, 25, confirmed the relationship. "Yes we are dating," he said. "I don't normally say too much about my private life, always been focused on the track. I didn't want to confirm at media day so that we could keep the focus on the season, the Gen-6 car, my sponsors and team. That's what it's all about for me." Patrick announced in November she and husband Paul Hophenthal were divorcing after seven years, and said in the Jan. 3 filing that her marriage was "irretrievably broken." Meanwhile Patrick, driver of the No. 10 in this year's Sprint Cup series will not be using Tony Stewart's owner points to start the year. Stewart said, "I worked hard for my points. I believe Patrick will be fine." The No. 10 team finished the 2012 season 33rd in owner points but has been told those owner points will be used for Tommy Baldwin's No. 7 team with driver Dave Blaney. Baldwin will use the No. 36 owner points for his 2nd team, even though no driver has been announced. So Patrick goes into the season with no owners points and will have to make the races via speed. There is no top-35 or guaranteed spots in 2013, but owner points will be used for 6 cars each race for provisional starting spots 37th thru 42nd and possibly the 43rd spot, if no past champion is entered. Patrick has not finalized a deal to run any Nationwide Series races in 2013 but is hoping to do a 10-race deal with Turner Scott Motorsports. **Racing Trivia Question:** Kevin Harvick said next year will be his last season at Richard Childress Racing. Who will he be with in 2014? **Last Week's Question:** How long (number of laps) is the Daytona 500? **Answer:** 200 laps. You may contact the Racing Reporter at hodges@race500.com. NT(Jan30,C1)ac



Dale Earnhardt Jr. talks to media on Jan. 23

put any line in the sand." Hendrick said his other three Cup cars are fully sponsored. He doesn't believe that the open inventory on Earnhardt's car is an indicator that the economy hasn't turned around. He noted that more Fortune 500 companies entered the sport over the past year than in 2008. "We have got the majority of the season with the Guard and then Diet Mountain Dew is going to back off a little bit, and that makes it a bit of a challenge to fill that small of a gap," said Earnhardt. "If it were a bit larger gap, it would be easier to fill." **NASCAR HAS ITS OWN DATING GAME** Danica Patrick revealed to the Associated Press that she and Ricky Stenhouse Jr. are a couple, ending widespread speculation about the nature of their relationship. "I have a boyfriend, his name is Richard," she said during a telephone interview with AP. The couple waited until the end of Charlotte Motor Speedway's weeklong annual media

MUSA Spring Registration

The Mountain United Soccer Association is ready for Spring Soccer. Registrations are now being accepted. Registration forms will be mailed to past registered players. You can also get forms at www.mountainsoccer.org. The Fall 2012 season was a big success. Younger teams played in Blairsville, Hiawassee, and Blue Ridge. The older age groups competed throughout Georgia. In Blairsville, Cott Beverage is our community host for the soccer fields. In Hiawassee, the fairgrounds through the recreation department have been the host. The league is grateful for their commitment and support for the youth in our communities. The Spring season will begin in April. Anyone who is interested in playing needs to get a registration form in as soon as possible, in some cases space is limited. The league is a volunteer run organization and is also a 501C3 non profit. Any and all donations are directed to the youth player to make it possible. Field Sponsors, Sign Sponsors, and Team Sponsors are always needed. If you are interested in being a sponsor, please contact the Association. For more information contact the league at 706-835-1077 or www.mountainsoccer.org.



TCHS band members named to All-District; Color Guard participates in clinic



Members of Towns County High School Band selected for district and UGA honors.

Celeena Corbin and Nathaniel Arnold have been chosen to perform with the Georgia Ninth All-District Band! The pair, both senior percussionists in the Towns County High School Band, had auditioned last December on snare, xylophone and timpani. A panel of music adjudicators from the Georgia Music Educators Association selects the top high

school band musicians from throughout north Georgia to participate in this All-Star Band. The All-District Band will rehearse February 7-9 and then present a 2 PM concert for the public at the Fannin Performing Arts Center on February 9th. Three Towns County High School band members were selected to perform in the University of Georgia's JanFest this past week. This group rehearsed with promi-



Towns County Color Guard members attend JanFest.

Our TCHS Color Guard, along with its sponsor Mrs. Lisa Sofield, also participated in a one-day JanFest clinic with the UGA Color Guard staff. Members attending were Jade Ledford, Kari Sofield, Kaelyn Smith, Emma Watkins, Brianna White and Barbie Wright. TJ(Jan30,J1)SH

AHT Hoops Basketball Camp

AHT Hoops basketball camp will be in Union County on Feb. 9th and 10th. Coach A.J. Gwyn and Michael Ross will be hosting a boys session and girls session each day (2 hours per session). Registration ends Feb. 6th or when 25 slots have been filled for each group. This camp will be for 6th-8th grade athletes. Registration has already begun and will be \$50 per athlete and will be held at the Union County Recreation Department gymnasium (rubber floor gym). Contact Coach A.J. Gwyn at aht hoops@aol.com for additional information. You can also visit AHT Hoops' Facebook page at http://www.facebook.com/AhtHoops.

Kiss-o-grams to benefit TC tennis team

The Towns County High School tennis team is selling Hershey Kiss-o-grams to any teachers, students or staff on our school campus. The kisses are 50 cents each and orders can be placed with any tennis player or with Coach Heather Moss at TCHS. All kisses with mes-

sages will be delivered on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14. If you would like to order, please send money and a note including To, From, and Location to deliver in an envelope marked Heather Moss, TCHS Tennis and we will take care of the rest! Thanks for your support! TJ(Jan30,G1)SH