

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Towns County basketball hits the court during summer camps

Photos by Lowell Nicholson



Towns County Youth Football gearing up for another exciting season

Towns County Youth Football League signups begin June 4, from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. at the Towns County Recreation and Conference Center. Signups will continue at the Rec Center on June 11, from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m., and on June 25, from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. July 9 will be the Annual Youth Football Camp at the High School Practice Field, starting at 8 a.m. until noon that Saturday. Football camp will be free of charge, and will feature drills put on by all the youth football coaches, the new Towns County Indians Head Football Coach John Cornett, as well as the Towns County Indians players themselves. TCYFL Director Jimmy Smith will be signing up youth football players

after the camp on July 9, and signups will continue for two weeks after the football camp. Required at time of signup will be \$90 to play for the season, which covers the game jersey, insurance and a trophy at the end of the season. Also, kids new to youth football will need to bring a copy – not the original – of their birth certificates. If youth athletes played last year, they will not need to bring a copy of their birth certificates. "I'm looking forward to an exciting year," said Director Smith, now in his 20th year directing youth football. "We had a great year last year, but this year is going to be even better. "I've been waiting for this since last season came to an end. We're looking for



NASCAR 2016

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

Logano Powers to Michigan Win

Brooklyn, MI - Joey Logano got a jump on the rest of the field during the race's last restart on lap 192 and went on to score his first Sprint Cup win of the season, leading 138 laps of the 200-lap race. Logano, the polesitter, along with all the other drivers had to fight a new aerodynamics package, NASCAR had instituted just for this race. The restarts were especially difficult, with cars bunched up and sliding as they entered the turns. Logano was among the first to learn the handling of the NASCAR-mandated smaller spoilers and splitters, along with other items that had been changed. All drivers had more slipping and sliding, which made for harder to handle driving conditions. "I'll remember that one for sure," Logano said in victory lane. "What a crazy race with the low downforce, more cautions and more chances to screw up. There were times I wasn't sure what the car was going to do. The team kept telling me how good we were doing, but I wasn't sure about whether the car would do what I needed it to."

was all it took to set off a chain reaction, as Earnhardt's car immediately got loose and into the No. 47 of Allmendinger -- sending both cars hard into the outside wall. Earnhardt then spun and slid down the track before taking his heavily-damaged car to the garage. He blamed Buescher for the incident and was not too happy about it. "We've got a responsibility to take care of each other when we're three-wide, so I'm disappointed in that," Earnhardt said. "We had a pretty good car and we were just kind of taking our time. The car was great, so it's a shame." Kyle Busch lost an engine in his car and was the first driver out of the race (40th). Tony Stewart's sixth-place finish was his best of the season. Top-10 leaders after 15 of 36: 1. Harvick-526, 2. Kurt Busch-496, 3. Keselowski-480, 4. Edwards-472, 5. Logano-455, 6. Elliott-453, 7. Johnson-441, 8. Truex-433, 9. Kyle Busch-417, 10. Kenseth-409.



Joey Logano

MORE RULES CHANGES There is an old saying among NASCAR teams, that if you don't like the rules, just wait, and there will be some new ones next week. That was exactly the case after the Charlotte race on May 29. One week later, after the June 5th Pocono race weekend, NASCAR issued a second aerodynamic package to further reduce downforce and sideforce for this past weekend's Michigan race. The bad part about an abrupt rule change isn't the rule itself, but how quickly teams must make adjustments. In the case of NASCAR's two latest changes, teams had only three days to prepare. As a result, several teams had problems getting their cars to pass qualifying prior to practice at Michigan. "It's different from what it was, no doubt," said Jack Roush, who has three Cup teams. "Nobody had been on the race track with this package before. Everybody is struggling to find out where the sensitive adjustments are. The car has not been as loose as we expected. We thought that the problem would be flying out from underneath of you, loose on exit and entry. The entry has been a little bit of a problem, but the exit and center has not been a bigger problem than normal. "The cars have gone from 3,000 pounds of downforce in 2014 to 2,700 last season, then 2,000 for the 2016 season before yet another reduction to 1,500 for MIS. "It's a big turn and it's also disappointing to me that they decided to pick one of the races that I consider to be pivotal to my year and not make such a jump ball out of it. I wish they had left the rules the same and give us a practice session somewhere to really evaluate them, or a test session, but they decided to use the race to do it, so we'll have to see what we can get."

Chase Elliott continues to push for his first Sprint Cup win. He led 38 laps on the way to a runner-up finish. Kyle Larson was third, with Brad Keselowski, Kevin Harvick, Carl Edwards, Tony Stewart, Austin Dillon, Jamie McMurray, and Kurt Busch finishing out the top-10. Jimmie Johnson, who finished 16th slapped the outside wall and blamed it on Trevor Bayne. Dale Earnhardt Jr. got tangled up in a wreck that involved AJ Allmendinger and Chris Buescher during lap 61, and could not continue. He was credited with a 39th place finish. Earnhardt was attempting to shoot the gap between the cars of Allmendinger on his outside and Chris Buescher on the inside when Buescher appeared to slide up into Earnhardt's No. 88. That

was good in points, but not very good in wins. I was just very hungry and I know this team was at the same spot, we were very hungry to win races and finally we got the first one." When asked how it felt to pass Kyle Busch, his teammate, Suarez replied, "Well, definitely Kyle has been super helpful to me, not just in the XFINITY Series but as well in the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series. Since last year, he started to support me a lot, to give me information, advice, so many different kinds of information just to try to be a little bit more prepared. "Last year I went to more than 80 per cent of the racetracks for first time. He was super helpful. This year hasn't been the exception. He been super helpful as well. We share a lot of information. He's just been a good friend. I can call him a good friend. Busch finished second, followed by Paul Menard, Erik Jones, Elliott Sadler, Joey Logano, Alex Bowman, Justin Allgaier, Darrell Wallace Jr., and Brandon Jones. Top-10 leaders after 13 of 33: 1. Suarez-452, 2. Sadler-434, 3. T. Dillon-416, 4. E. Jones-397, 5. Allgaier-388, 6. B. Jones-388, 7. Gaughan-386, 8. Poole-373, 9. Wallace-340, 10. Reed-301. **BYRON GETS TEXAS TRUCK RACE** William Byron won Friday night's Texas truck race after taking the lead from Matt Crafton with five laps to go. "It's huge," said Byron, who drives for Kyle Busch Motorsports. "For our race team to get another win this year really solidifies us. We didn't leave any doubt out there that we deserved to win." Matt Crafton, who held on for second, led 133 laps of the 167-lap race, but was unable to withstand the late charge by Byron. Johnny Sauter was third, and then Ben Kennedy, Tyler Reddick, Timothy Peters, John Nemecek, German Quiroga, Rico Abreu, and Daniel Hemric were the remaining top-10 drivers. Top-10 leaders after 7 of 23: 1. Crafton-194, 2. Peters-176, 3. Byron-171, 4. Hemric-168, 5. Nemecek-153, 6. Reddick-153, 7. Sauter-151, 8. Gallagher-145, 9. Kennedy-142, 10. R. Truex-129.

Towns County Touchdown Club Bass Tournament
 Lake Chatuge June 18, 2016
 6:30 PM - Midnight
 Georgia Mountain Fairground Boat Ramp
 1st, 2nd, 3rd and Big Fish!
 Entry fee \$60 per boat
 50/50 payout!
 Rules: Posted at sign up

Rec Department Summer Day Camp

This summer The Recreation Department will offer day camp for 3 sessions, each session being two weeks, running Monday thru Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sessions will be as follows: Session I June 6th thru June 17th; Session II June 20th thru July 1st; Session III July 11th thru July 22nd. Day Camp offers children sports game activities, social game activities, field trips, nature hikes and much more. You may send your child to any or all of the sessions. Campers will be provided free breakfast at drop off (Monday-Thursday, Friday drop off at Towns County Beach-no breakfast served).

Based on the day's activities, campers need to bring a swimsuit, towel, sprayable sunscreen, sack lunch, and flotation device (if needed). The Recreation Department will furnish ice water for the campers. Registration will be the first Monday of each session at the middle/high school entrance of Towns County Schools. The fee for the two week session is \$120 or \$60 per week (additional discounts for more than one child in immediate family). The fee is payable to Towns County Recreation Department. For more information please call the Recreation Department at 706-896-2600.

Memorial Day 5K a huge success



The 1st annual Lake Chatuge Memorial Day 5k to benefit the Towns County Senior Center was a huge success! Special thanks for the Towns County Volunteer Fire Department and the City of Hiawassee Police Department and all of the various volunteers that helped make the day great! Overall Winner - Noah Emerich, age 19 of Snellville, GA. We had 93 participants and the weather was a perfect morning for a Fun Run & Walk. Hope to see you all next Memorial Day for our 2nd annual Lake Chatuge Memorial Day 5k.

Weekend Racing: The Trucks and Xfinity teams are at the seven-eighths mile Newton, Iowa facility. The Sprint Cup teams have an off week. Sat., June 18; Truck Series race 8 of 23; Starting time: 8:30 p.m. ET; TV: Foxsports1. Sun., June 19; Xfinity Series race 14 of 33; Starting time: 1:30 p.m. ET; TV: Foxsports1. **Racing Trivia Question!** What year did the Iowa Speedway open? **Last Week's Question?** The Wood Brothers team won the first NASCAR race held at Michigan in 1969. Who was the driver? Answer: It was Cale Yarborough. You may contact the Racing Reporter by e-mail at: hodges@race500.com. NTJUN15.27/CA