

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Pee-Wee team advances to YFL Semi-Final

By Joe Collins
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Fate was not kind to the Termites and the Tiny-Mites on Saturday as they were both eliminated from the YFL play-offs with a 20-0 Termite loss to Dawson County and a 32-0 Tiny-Mite loss to Flowery Branch.

However, fate was smiling on the Pee-Wee team as they earned a last minute victory over Dawson 7-6 to advance to the semi-final game against Flowery Branch on Nov. 10 at Mike Colwell Memorial Stadium in Blairsville. Game time is 1:30 p.m.

The Termites traveled to Rabun County for the second round of the YFL play-off bracket, but it was their first game in two weeks having drawn a bye last week.

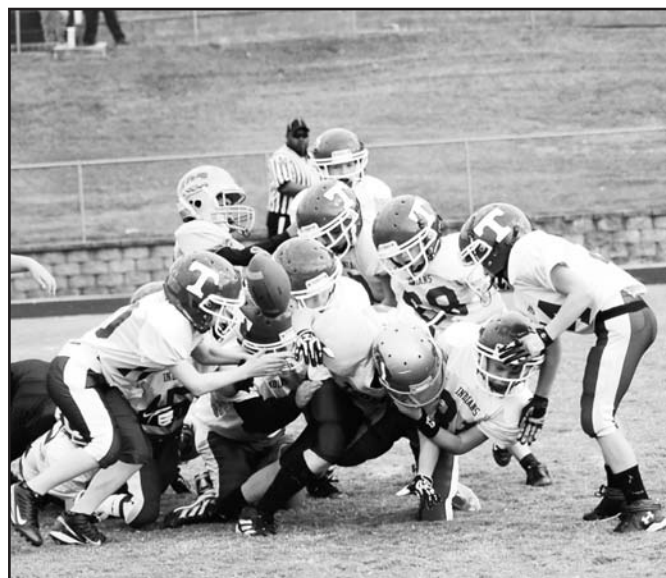
It was business as usual for the team except for turnovers.

"We hardly had any turnovers this year and then to come here and have four is hard to believe," said YFL Director Jimmy Smith.

It was hard to believe as the Indians played well enough to win but had four fumbles inside the Red Zone. Two of those were inside the 5-yard line.

"If we could have scored instead of turning the ball over that close to the goal line it would have made a big difference in the outcome," said Smith.

The weather was cold and it was early in the morning for the little guys and that may have led to the "fumbleitis" that the team faced. It was still a tough way to end the season but what a great season it was by a



Towns County strips the ball from a Dawson County Tiger last Saturday. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

very solid football team.

"We finished 0-7 in 2011 and to come back this year with a 6-3 record is just wonderful. It speaks a lot about the talent this team has and almost all of them are moving to Tiny-Mites next year so look out," said a smiling Smith.

The Tiny-Mites faced a Flowery Branch team that was big and had a lot of good-looking athletes. It was a hard day as the ground game they have depended on never could get anything going. Flowery Branch had speed and their backs could run well. The Indians defense just couldn't get a handle on their rush and ended up off balance and never could recover.

They had an exciting season finishing very well at 7-3 with some good hard-nosed football and won games just on sheer grit and determination and that is all you can ask of an athlete.

"I am really proud of

this year's 7-8 year olds. They worked hard and the coaches did a fantastic job and I appreciate the fine season their hard work turned out. The kids learned a lot and will be better people for having played this year," praised Smith.

The Pee-Wee team gave the crowd their money's worth by waiting until the last 54 seconds were left on the clock, to win the game 7-6 over Dawson County. Dawson was big and they have a strong offense and the Indians had to fight the whole game and not give up and they didn't.

"We knew that Dawson would not lay down and we had to play four quarters of football and we hung in there and stayed patient," said Head Coach Rodney Thomas.

The fans were on their feet as Colin Crowder ran the ball over the right tackle following good front line blocking. With some hard running and a will to win, he made it

into the end zone tying the game 6-6 with 54 seconds left on the clock. The excitement was almost too much for the coaches and the fans as Thomas called the play and the Indians went to the line to try and win the game with an extra point attempt. The ball went to Hayden McClure and he followed his blocking around the right end and dove into the end zone scoring the winning point for Towns County.

"We made plays all day when we had too and the guys ran that play very well," praised Thomas.

The Pee-Wee team will now move on to the Semi-Finals on Saturday Nov. 10th. Come out and support them and watch some really exciting football.

"These little guys have worked hard this year and are winning. I would like to see the stands at Blairsville turn blue next Saturday with all the Towns County fans. Come on out and watch some good football and wear your blue," requested Smith, who really would like to see a lot of blue next week in the stands.

"It's not that far to Union County and people could make the trip pretty easy. Come on out and support us," he said.

The YFL has had a successful year and regardless of what happens in the semi-finals, these guys are champions.

Make your plans now to be at Union County High School's Mike Colwell Memorial Stadium at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday and lets help these little guys get to the Championship and on to the Super Bowl.

Good luck Indians, go get 'em!



Tips from the Range

We have looked at the golf swing from the mechanics and fundamentals point of view for a while and I hope the things we have discussed have helped you with your game, but now let's talk about something that concerns every person who plays the game and can affect your score more than a faulty driver, the mental game.

Do you really know what it means to work on your mental game? Can concentration affect how you play? Does the term "mental game" get your attention or does it seem senseless to you? Does it have any affect on my swing? What is the benefit of a good mental game? Is it important to work on a solid mental process or do I need to be a low handicap player? I can answer all these questions by quoting the great Lee Trevino, "Golf is ninety percent mental and ten percent mental." In his opinion, the mental side of the game was the most important aspect to have control of.

When we talk about the mental side of the game we are talking about everything your mind is involved in while you play the game. The course, your swing, the weather, the speed of the greens, the firmness of the traps, your wife/girlfriend, the cart girl, the car payment, the house payment, oil change for the lawn mower and anything else you have on your plate for that day. Get the picture? The only way to play good golf is to be able to control what it is that you are thinking about on the course when you are playing. That is the primary purpose of the mental condition of your game.

It is impossible to concentrate totally on one thought while you are on the course and that is okay. We want to enjoy the game and the fact that we are outside and not stuck in traffic or at work or any other place that interferes with being on the course. The trick is to enjoy the surroundings but to find total concentration at the time you need to hit a shot. The atmosphere and the people you are playing with are part of the game and you should look at your round as an adventure and the act of hitting the golf ball as an enjoyment, not something that gets in the way.

Your time on the course should be cherished and not rushed or unpleasant. Many

ishers. Top-10 leaders after 20 of 22: 1. Buescher-750, 2. T. Dillon-735, 3. Peters-725, 4. Kligerman-723, 5. Coulter-707, 6. Crafton-703, 7. Piquet-669, 8. Lofton-640, 9. Sauter-620, 10. Paludo-599.

TELEVISION STILL LOVES NASCAR

There is still a loving relationship between NASCAR and television executives.

At least that's the case if you look at the new 13-race television package Fox signed with NASCAR. It's worth \$300 million per year. That's up from the current contract of \$200 million.

That averages out to \$23 million per race. Track owners get 65 per cent, teams share 25 per cent, and NASCAR gets the remaining 10 per cent.

TV has changed the sport more than anything else.

When television came onboard, the money began to roll in.

Costs went up because everyone had to have the best money could buy. The faster the cars went, the more it cost to run them.

There are many "ifs and buts," like the high cost of hotel rooms, poor economy, gasoline prices, and costs to get in the track, but it seems to me like the sport is being controlled more and more by television and a handful of car owners, who want to keep it that way.

Bruton Smith, the eccentric billionaire whose Speedway Motorsports Inc. owns eight NASCAR tracks, held court in the Texas Motor Speedway media center on Saturday and addressed a wide range of subjects.

"NASCAR needs to make the racing more exciting," he said. "They have made some good moves in recent years - notably double-file restarts - but needs to implement additional improvements, like slow the cars down and thus

golfers want to race around the course and not spend any time focusing on a shot and then wonder why they can't break ninety. They act like they have to hurry home to the wife. Your mind is very important to the hope of enjoying a round of golf. Focus on the shot when it comes your time to hit and don't rush it. It will make the day a whole lot better.

Another very important part of the mental side of the game is course management. There are times to "go for it" and there are times to hold up. You have signals in your game that will help you with those decisions. Things like am I hitting it solid today or am I struggling to make good impact? Is my accuracy better with my driver or my 3-wood to that point in your round? How do I feel about the shot?

These are the thoughts that affect the management of your shot decisions and by results, your total score. You should hit shots from round to round by how you are playing that day or the round before. Sometimes feel is your best friend and sometimes logic is the better choice. High percentage shots are just those, they work better most of the time.

Staying positive is the best way to control your emotions and by association your score. Nobody hits all their shots the way we plan but it is how you handle the results of each shot that makes you mentally tough and that is usually the one key element you see in a good competitive player. Professional touring pros, who are successful, have learned to control their feelings and use their concentration to overcome many bad shots and to play consistent golf by staying positive. They know they are not going to hit all their shots bad so they try and keep the damage to a minimum so the good shots will make up for the bad ones. The mental game can help you have a better game or it can make you never want to come to the course again. Work on using it to your advantage and take a little longer to hit your shots next time you play.

Give yourself time to understand all the elements of that particular shot and then concentrate a little more on those putts and watch your score go down. We will look at the mental side of the game over the next few weeks and you will be amazed at how you focus on your game differently next time you play. Good luck and I will see you on the course!

make it easier for drivers to make bold moves."

Races with too many long green-flag runs are not exciting, Smith said, and he suggested a smaller fuel tank would force drivers to make more pit stops. Fuel-mileage races, he said, are "boring, boring, boring." One solution could be a minimum number of cautions per race to serve as TV timeouts.

Drivers are "maybe not as eager" right now and NASCAR needs more racers who have a "mean streak."

Smith is still supportive of the Chase. He sounded concerned, though, that the play-off drivers get treated with kid gloves.

It's NASCAR's job to promote a sellable product the fans will like and want to see more of.

Apparently the television companies see something they like, but a lot of fans I hear from say the sport is stagnant, and something needs to be done.

Weekend Racing: All three of NASCAR's major series are out west at the one-mile Phoenix (Arizona) Raceway.

Fri., Nov. 9, Truck Series Phoenix 150, race 21 of 22; Starting time: 8 pm ET; TV: SPEED.

Sat., Nov. 10, Nationwide Wypall 200, race 32 of 33; Starting time: 4 pm ET; TV: ESPN.

Sun., Nov. 11, Sprint Cup Phoenix 500, race 35 of 36; Starting time: 2 pm ET; TV: ESPN.

Racing Trivia Question: Which Cup driver won Rookie of The Year over Dale Earnhardt Jr. in 2003?

Last Week's Question: What year was the Chase for the Sprint Cup Championship instituted? **Answer:** It was 2004.

You may contact the Racing Reporter at hodge@race500.com. NT/Nov7,12

Barrett leads 8th Grade Indians past Union

By Todd Forrest
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Blairsville - The Towns County 8th Grade Indian basketball team traveled to Union County on Monday night and took home a 51-34 victory thanks to 22 points from Adam Barrett.

The Indians never trailed as Barrett took over the game early and often, then finished strong with 8 points in the fourth quarter to put the Panthers away.

The Indians came out of the gates firing on all cylinders, taking an 8-2 lead with just under two minutes to play and maintained their 8-point advantage at 12-4 after one quarter.

The stingy Indian defense kept Union out of rhythm for the better part of the second quarter, holding a 19-10 advantage with 2:45 left before the break.

Union stormed back thanks to an 11-2 run and



Adam Barrett (10) patrols the paint at Union County on Monday.

knotted the score with a trey at the 1:11 mark of the first half. Following an Indian basket, the Panthers took advantage of a Towns technical foul to even things at 23-23 until Towns went back to its bread-and-butter.

Barrett, unstoppable all evening, scored a bucket as time expired to give the Indians a 25-23 advantage entering the locker room.

Union tied things up less than 80 seconds into the third quarter but that's when the Indians decided it was time to step on the Panthers' throats.

Towns County went on a 15-2 run that lasted well into the fourth quarter. A quick basket from Union wasn't enough to slow down the Indian onslaught as Towns responded with 7 straight points to take a 47-29 lead with 2:19 to play, and

disrupt any rally plans that the Panthers had in mind.

Major Moss and Will DeVries scored 8 a piece for the Indians while Brady Moss chipped in 7 points.

Union was led by Landon Beminger's 10 points and got 8 from Jordan Holloway.

Earlier in the day, Towns County's 7th Grade squad fell 45-23 to Union County.

A 26-0 crater was too massive for the Indians to dig their way out of, but Towns County continued fighting until the end.

Zach Davenport scored 12 points with two 3-pointers to keep the Indians around.

Trailing 32-6 at the break, Towns out scored Union 10-4 to get within 20 at 36-16. The deficit remained at 20 points until the 3:19 mark of the fourth quarter when Union closed the game with four of the final six points.

Trent Bradshaw connected three times from beyond the arc for 9 points.

Candler Colwell paced the Panthers with 14 points.

NASCAR 2012

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

Johnson gets second win in a row

A determined Jimmie Johnson outraced Brad Keselowski on a green-white-checker finish to win Sunday's Texas Sprint Cup race, and extended his lead by seven points over Keselowski, with two races to go.

"It was an awesome race," said Johnson. "I think our cars were pretty equal, but our four tires were a little better than his two. We got a good restart, and were able to get by him."

"That's what it takes to win championships."

Johnson led the most laps, but faded to fourth after about lap 212 of the 334-lap race. As the laps wound down, Kyle Busch and Brad Keselowski took turns leading. The race's ninth and final caution set up the green-white-checkered finish.

Johnson was lined up on the outside of the leader, Keselowski. Both drivers got a good start. As the two leaders entered turn-2, Johnson pulled ahead of Keselowski, and it was 'bye, bye,' as he headed for victory lane.

"Man, I thought I had it," said Keselowski. "I really hate to lose one that way. We raced hard. I couldn't do any better.

But we're gonna race hard all the way to Homestead."

Keselowski took only two tires on his last pit stop, while Johnson and the other leaders took four. He was barely able to stay ahead of Kyle Busch, who finished a close third.

"We were really fast today when we got up front," said Busch. "At the end I wanted to get the car out front in the clean air, but I couldn't get there."

Matt Kenseth, Tony Stewart, Clint Bowyer, Dale Earnhardt Jr., Kurt Busch, Kevin Harvick, and Greg Biffle, were the remaining top-10 finishers.

With just two races left in this year's NASCAR season, the championship is down to only two contenders, Jimmie Johnson and Brad Keselowski. All the others will have to wait until next year.

Top-12 Chase contenders after 34 of 36: 1. Johnson-2339, 2. Keselowski-2332, 3. Bowyer-2303, 4. Kahne-2281, 5. Kenseth-2267, 6. Gordon-2267, 7. Hamlin-2266, 8. Stewart-2259, 9. Truex-2259, 10. Biffle-2256, 11. Harvick-2238, 12. Earnhardt-2188.



HARVICK DOMINATES NATIONWIDE RACE

Kevin Harvick easily won Saturday's Nationwide race at Texas, crossing the finish line 1.628 seconds ahead of 18-year-old Ryan Blaney, who made the most of a pit stop for tires on Lap 178 of the 200-lap race.

"I didn't want to make a big mistake and give up a big chunk of time there, because I knew somebody was going to be faster coming through the field," Harvick said. "But it all timed itself out pretty good, and everything worked out."

Polesitter Kyle Busch ran third, followed by Ricky Stenhouse Jr., who erased the

six-point series lead Elliott Sadler held when the race began. Stenhouse, the defending Nationwide champion, is tied with Sadler with two races left in the season.

Denny Hamlin ran fifth, with Austin Dillon, Sam Hornish Jr., Justin Allgaier, Kevin Swindell and Joey Logano completing the top-10.

Top-10 leaders after 31 of 33: 1. Stenhouse-1170, 2. Sadler-1170, 3. A. Dillon-1149, 4. Hornish-1075, 5. Annett-1013, 6. Allgaier-1010, 7. Whitt-945, 8. Bliss-846, 9. Scott-780, 10. Patrick-772.

SAUTER GETS SECOND TEXAS TRUCK WIN

Johnny Sauter passed Parker Kligerman with 10 laps left, to win Friday night's Texas truck race and claim his second victory of the season. Both of Sauter's wins have come at the 1.5-mile Texas Motor Speedway.

Nelson Piquet Jr. ran third, followed by Kyle Busch and Ty Dillon, who trimmed six points off series leader James Buescher's advantage with two races left in the season.

Matt Crafton, Joey Coulter, Todd Bodine, Aric Almirola, and Timothy Peters were the remaining top-10 fin-