

Suches' annual Run Above the Clouds draws record turnout

By Todd Forrest
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SUCHES - With a time of just under 40 minutes, 15-year old Hunter Hartzog of Blairsville turned in the fastest time at Saturday's Run Above the Clouds 10K race.

Hartzog, a freshman on the Union County High School Cross Country squad and a first-time RATC participant, crossed the finish line in 39:36, more than two minutes faster than last year's overall champion's time of 41:42.

"All praise goes to God," Hartzog said following the race. "It was a very challenging race with the ups and downs and changes of terrain. I've ran in cross country races and other 5K events but this was my first 10K."

"It was a great morning to run and there was a nice breeze," he added. "I came here with a friend and I really enjoyed it. It's something that I'll definitely do again."

The overall female champion was Sancha Daust, who posted a time of 48:45 -- more than three minutes faster than last year's female champion's time of 52:06.

Saturday's Run Above the Clouds drew a record 162 competitors to Suches for the 10K, 5K, 1-mile Fun Run and Dog Jog races.

At more than 2,800 feet above sea level, the event is the highest 10K race in Georgia and offers a vigorous challenge for even the most experienced runners.

The race course begins at Woody Gap School on Hwy. 60 before meandering approximately 10 kilometers (6.2 miles) through the beautiful Suches Valley. Traveling south on Hwy. 60, the course passes scenic Lake Woody before turning right onto Cooper Gap



(Left) The Run Above the Clouds overall winners (10K) Hunter Hartzog and Sancha Daust on the medal stand at the Suches Community Center. (Right) The RATC 5K race winners Emerson Murphy and Abbie Hilchie. Photos/Todd Forrest

Road just before the 1-mile mark. The turnaround is located in the small community of Mt. Airy - home of the race's trademark "Cooper Climb" -- a 230-foot elevation change over a one-mile stretch.

Following the races, the participants gather at the Suches Community Center for refreshments, the medal presentation, raffle prizes, and most importantly, a little R-and-R after a grueling workout.

The 5K race winners were Emerson Murphy (male - 27:39) and Abbie Hilchie (female - 23:37).

Beginning with the 10K race, the winners of each age group (with finishing times) are as follows:

MALE: 14U: Brian Popko (1:08:45); 15-19: Thomas Mellendorf (42:15); 20-29: Paul Anderson (43:52); 30-39: Seth Alhadeff (45:43); 40-49: Jason Schott (39:53); 50-59: David Johnson (47:54); 60-69:

Bob Buckner (55:22); 70-plus: Johnny Hinman 1:02:39.

FEMALE: 20-29: Kristen Nelson (53:42); 30-39: Jessica Dillard (1:01:23); 40-49: Shelli Fuller (1:01:22); 50-59: Bonnie Phillips (55:10); 60-69: Susan Breeding (55:19);

70-plus: Judie Kean (N/A).

5K MALE: 14U: Griffin Disser (30:19); 15-19: Duncan Lee (40:05); 30-39: Doug Pruitt (29:30); 40-49: Derrick Carter (29:13); 50-59: Greg Goldman (27:31); 60-69: Stan Kelley (31:41); 70-plus:

George Southgate (32:58)

FEMALE: 14U: Maggie Welp (25:31); 15-19: Chayil Aponte (29:50) 20-29: Tiffany Sims (24:37); 30-39: Katie Howard (30:00); 40-49: Terry Hilchie (24:56); 50-59: Judy Powell (30:02) 60-69:

Lorraine Wiggins (52:10); 70-plus: Penny Lively (47:20).

For additional information on the Run Above the Clouds you can visit the webpage at www.runabovetheclouds.org.



Last weekend's Run Above the Clouds 5K and 10K races featured plenty of local participants from the Blairsville and Suches area. Run Above the Clouds photos by Todd Forrest

Local Racing report: Blue Ridge

By Blake Lynch
Staff Writer
North Georgia News

BLUE RIDGE - Blue Ridge Motorsports Park hosted its Fall Bash Race on October 6. Here's the top five from each class.

Crate - Coming in first place was No. 24 Seth Wimpey. Coming in second place was No. 200 Jacob Anderson. Coming in third place was No. 12 Drew Deaver. Finishing in fourth place was No. 88 Ricky Smith. Coming in fifth place was No. R12 Rodney Weeks.

Limited - Coming in first place was No. 66 Jordon Rodbaugh. Coming in second place was No. 12 Daniel Wilson. Finishing in third place was No. 16w Wesley English. Coming in fourth place was No. 87 Andrew Littleton. Coming in fifth place was No. 30 Daven Dilbeck.

Beginner 602 - Coming in first place was No. E-7 Evan Winkler Jr. Coming in second place was No. 25 Jacob Hamby. Coming in third place

was No. 22 Matt Sandefur. Coming in fourth place was No. 20 Anthony Franklin. Finishing in fifth place was No. 8 Colby Parris.

Modified Street - Coming in first place was No. 17 Brad Thomas. Coming in second place was No. 81 John Howard. Finishing in third place was No. 28 Dannie Patterson. Coming in fourth place was No. 4 Jacob Parris. Coming in fifth place was No. 20 Chris Sizemore.

Street Stock - Coming in first place was No. 00 Charles Devine Jr. Coming in second place was No. 7d Dylan Turhan. Coming in third place was No. J69 Jim Weller. Coming fourth place was No. 14 Brandon Francis. Coming in fifth place was No. 5 Carson Shields.

Pony - Coming in first place was No. 32 Franklin Burk. Coming in second place was No. 43 Tain Ross. Coming in third place was No. D1 Nathan Davis. Coming in fourth place was No. 8 Johnny McClure. Coming in fifth place was No. 11 Ricky Dyer.

UC Youth Football dedicating the season to Lassiter Windsor



Jaxon Totherow carrying the 'No. 00' flag for Lassiter Windsor.

By Blake Lynch
Staff Writer
North Georgia News

9U Panthers - Union County took on the Dawson County Tigers and here is how it went down.

No. 31 Kevin Kilpatrick scored a touchdown then No. 44 Chetley Cox added the extra point for an early lead. Later in the game No.1 Brandon Lynch scored a touchdown but the extra point was no good.

No.30 Kingston Jones

scored a touchdown then Kilpatrick scored his second touchdown of the day.

Union sealed the victory when Jones scored again and Cox added the extra point as the Panthers went on to win 35-0 to improve to 5-1 on the year.

The Panthers continue to dedicate each game to No. 00 Lassiter Windsor as they face Chestatee next week at Pickens County.

11U Panthers - The Panthers also took on Dawson but it was a rough game as they lost 38-0 to fall to 0-6.

XC: Sanchez places fourth; Seiler 48th at RFM Invitational

By Todd Forrest
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HELEN - Unicoi State Park's Runners Fit Mountain Invitational a race that gets circled on a lot of calendars before the season.

Drawing the best of the best to White County just weeks before the region meets get underway, the RFM Invitational is when most coaches like to see their squads begin to peak.

And for Union County, junior Zoe Sanchez appears to already be in the zone.

With a time of 19:25, Sanchez took home fourth place behind three elite seniors: Carlyne McArthur of Oconee County -- fourth place in the last two Class AAAA State meets -- who took home first with a time of 18:24.

Frankie Muldoon of Dawson County -- sixth at state in AAAA last year -- was second at White County with a time of 18:26. White County's Jaelyn Alexander was third at 19:15 after placing seventh in AAAA two years ago and 11th last year.

Rounding out the rest of Union County's top seven were: Sadie Underwood in 47th at 22:00; Latty Ryals in 76th at 23:16; Lexie Ochoa was 99th with a time of 23:52; Jessie



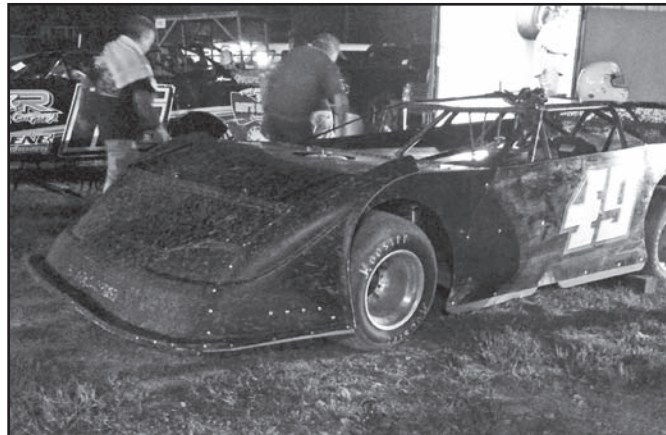
Zoe Sanchez

Holbrook placed 139th at 25:04; Rachel Reid was 149th at 25:32 and Campbell Chambers was 169th at 26:42.

In the guys race, Steven Seiler continued to pace the Panthers with a time of 17:28, good enough for 48th.

Hunter Hartzog was 88th at 18:16; Marcus Forrester was 92nd at 18:18; Gauge Shumaker was 109th at 18:34; Nolan Bachman placed 110th with a time of 18:35; Malachi Patrick finished 132nd at 18:56 and Thomas Mellendorf was 135th at 18:58.

Union County will visit Banks County on Tuesday -- the final race before the Oct. 25 Region Championship at Oglethorpe County.



Union County Recreation Department 2018 Fall Chair Aerobics and Regular Aerobics! Ages: 50 and over

Union County Recreation Department is going to continue to offer Regular Aerobics and Chair Aerobics fitness classes for the Fall! These classes are in high demand, so don't wait to sign up and miss out on the fun. If you are looking for an indoor exercise program to fit your specific needs, then come on down and sign up for one or both of our late Fall sessions of aerobics. The Program Director of Union County Parks and Recreation will be leading Regular aerobics sessions two times a week and Chair Aerobics sessions two times a week for November and December for 45 minutes each class. This is a great time to socialize and exercise with a fun group for a very low cost of \$10 for 8 weeks!

Regular and Chair Aerobics Registration begins on October 1, 2018 and ends October 26, 2018 (or until class is full) at the Recreation Office (310 Wellborn St.)

Registration must be done in person due to class size limits. If you have any questions, please call our office at (706) 439-6074.



Union County Recreation Department 2018 New Strength and Core Fitness Class! Ages: 50 and over

Time to get your "Gut in Gear"! Union County Recreation Department will now be offering a new fitness class addressing upper body/middle core strength, flexibility and balance! These classes are in high demand and we have limited enrollment, so don't wait to sign up and miss out on the fun! If you are looking for an indoor exercise program to fit your specific needs, then come on down and sign up for this new class. The Program Director of Union County Parks and Recreation will be leading these core fitness classes two times a week for November and December. Each class is approximately 40 minutes each class. This is a great time to socialize and exercise with a fun group for a very low cost of \$10 for 8 weeks!

Registration begins on October 3, 2018 and ends October 26, 2018 (or until class is full) at the Recreation Office (310 Wellborn Street.)

Registration must be done in person due to class size limits. If you have any questions, please call our office at (706) 439-6074.

