

MACA men claim another GCAA Cross Country State Championship



Last month, the Mountain Area Christian Academy cross country team won the varsity boys GCAA State Cross Country Championship. Team members include juniors, Francis Yellow Boy and Kyle Jones; senior, Joel Kelley; sophomore, Austin Urban; and freshman, Jordan DiBenedetto. Francis Yellow Boy led the team with a first place victory, and Joel Kelley followed closely behind as runner up. MACA's junior varsity team celebrated as state runner up. Hayden Lynch brought home the first place medal in the GCAA junior varsity state championships. MACA's junior varsity boys' team includes Hayden Lynch, Thomas Mellendorf, Timothy Richter, and Timothy Stone.

Union splits at Philips Arena

By Todd Forrest
North Georgia News
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Atlanta - The Union County Lady Panthers got their season off on the right foot with a 61-53 victory over the Banks County Lady Leopards from AAA.

Meanwhile the Panthers weren't as fortunate as they went up against a Banks County squad that could easily be the best Leopard team since 1995 when they reached the Elite 8.

The action tipped off at Philips Arena on Friday afternoon with the Lady Panthers playing their season opener against a Banks team that already had its way with one mountain school.

Last Tuesday, Banks dismantled the Towns County Lady Indians, 68-20. But they wouldn't be as fortunate against Union.

The Lady Panthers opened



Senior Lisa Nalaschi scored 16 in Union's win over Banks.

up a 31-21 advantage at the break but Banks stormed back to get within two at 41-39 entering the fourth. But the fourth quarter

belonged to Union as they pulled away 61-53.

Senior Brooke Maddox led the way with 22 points and fellow senior Lisa Nalaschi finished with 16.

The Union County men were unable to overcome the size of Banks' frontline, who feature a 6-7 and a 6-6 starter. At 6-7, Austin Venable is the Class of 2015's No. 68 ranked prospect in Georgia.

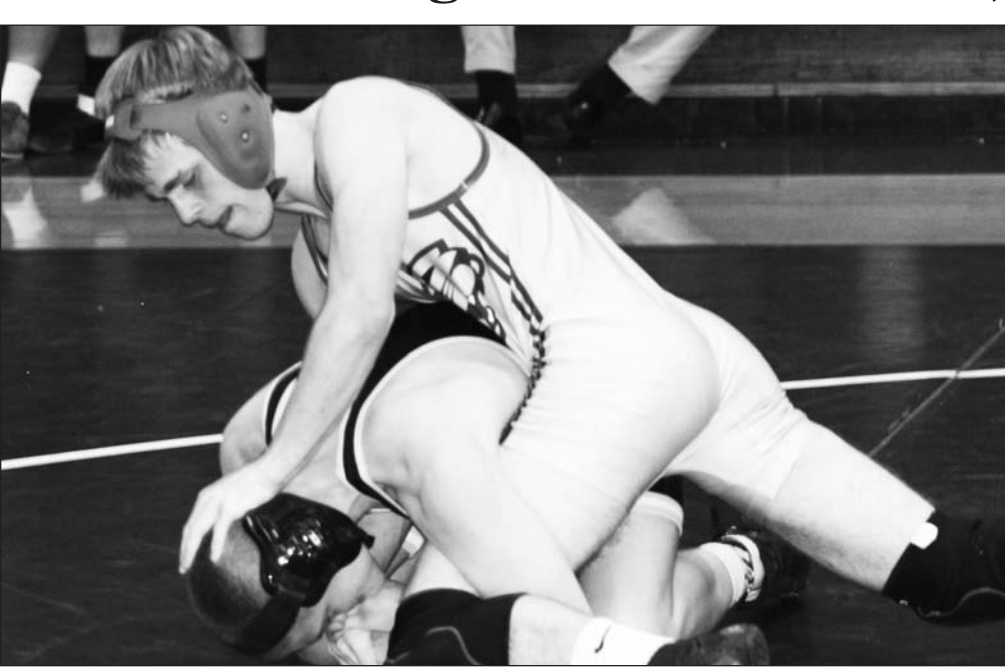
The Leopards held a 30-26 lead at the break before pulling away in a 64-53 victory.

Hunter Hughes hit 14-of-15 from the foul line and led the Panthers with 23 points.

Lady Panthers stats:
POINTS: Maddox 22, Nalaschi 16, Larisay 7, Colwell 6, Daniel 4, Day 3, Lawn 3

Panthers stats:
POINTS: Hughes 23, Hamby 11, Odom 10, Arnick 4, Crawford Colwell 2, Rich 1, Shook 1, Drake 1

Union wrestling hosts tournament; places fifth



Senior Adam Williams (top left) placed third at 145 pounds in the Union County Tournament over the weekend. The Panthers placed seven wrestlers (bottom left) and finished in fifth place overall. Freshman Brendan Mason placed second in the 106-pound weight class. Another freshman, Grizzly Breedlove came in fourth place in the 170-pound weight class. Finally, freshman Tyler Mask took fourth place at 285 pounds. Sophomore Zach Payton came in third place at 182 pounds and Noah Bierce, a sophomore, placed fourth at 152 pounds. Joining Williams as representatives for the senior class was Tulsa Queen who took home third place at 220 pounds. Freshmen Bryan Nelson, James Rosser, Brandon Mickens, Evan Browning, and sophomore Jared Herum also had great showings for Union County.

After the holidays, Union will be back in action at Riverside Military Academy on Dec. 3rd. On December 9th, both the high school and middle school squads will take the mat at Fannin County. Photos/Shawn Jarrard and Michael Smith Foot



2nd Annual FFA 'Coon Hunt

COME HUNT TO SUPPORT THE UNION COUNTY FFA!!

WHEN: December 6th

LOCATION: Union County Agriculture Barn

CHECK-IN: 4:30pm-6:30pm

WEIGH-IN: Midnight

COST: \$15 per dog/ meal ticket provided per dog

FOOD WILL BE PROVIDED AT CHECK IN!!

Prizes will be awarded!!

For more information call:

Austin Dyer (706) 994-1445

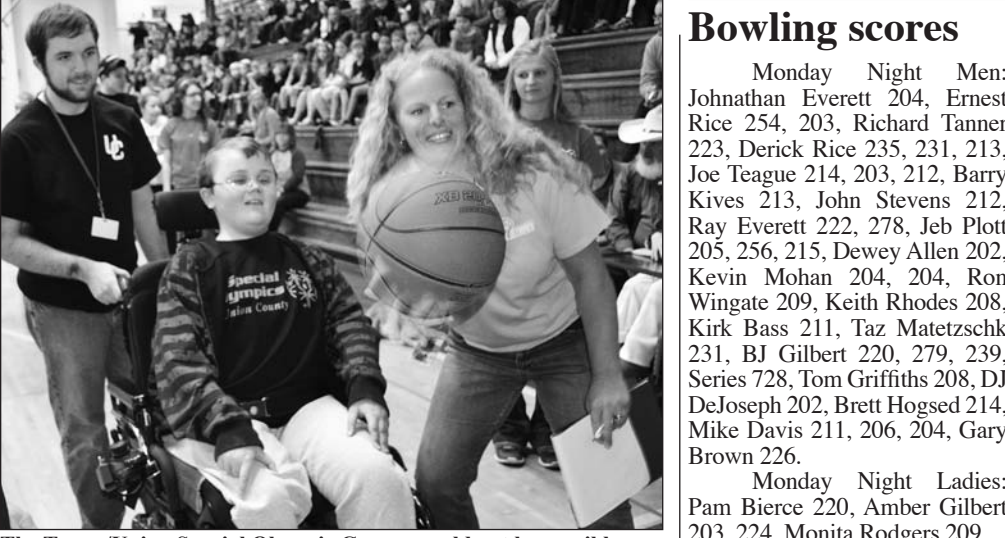
Jake McClure (706) 994-7982

John Clark Pettit: (706) 273-8457

Union County Elementary, Galaxy Bowling host Towns/Union Special Olympic's Fall Games



After a morning at Galaxy Bowling, the athletes from Towns and Union County were welcomed at Union County Elementary School. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



The Towns/Union Special Olympic Games would not be possible without the effort of its volunteers. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



Union County Softball Coach Jessica Stewart lends a helping hand at the games. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Bowling scores

Monday Night Men: Johnathan Everett 204, Ernest Rice 254, 203, Richard Tanner 223, Derick Rice 235, 231, 213, Joe Teague 214, 203, 212, Barry Kives 213, John Stevens 212, Ray Everett 222, 278, Jeb Plott 205, 256, 215, Dewey Allen 202, Kevin Mohan 204, 204, Ron Wingate 209, Keith Rhodes 208, Kirk Bass 211, Taz Matetzschk 231, BJ Gilbert 220, 279, 239, Series 728, Tom Griffiths 208, DJ DeJoseph 202, Brett Hogsed 214, Mike Davis 211, 206, 204, Gary Brown 226.

Monday Night Ladies: Pam Bierce 220, Amber Gilbert 203, 224, Monita Rodgers 209.

Hazel Farmer League: Daniel Emerson 201, Paul Napolitano 213, Ernest Rice 203, Bart Rodgers 214, Dewey Allen 214.

Thursday Night Fun Mixed: Chuck Reeves 203, Daniel Brown 201, Shay Roberts 203, Jeb Plott 237, 211, 299, Series 747, Ken Clark 225, 238, 212, Mike Davis 210, 223, Larry Canaan 215, Bob Landis 202, 264, John Moore 211, Denise Baldwin 211, Zach Moore 236, 201, 238, Tim Moore 226, 224, Mike Pope 211, Jordan Moore 213, 215, Ray Everett 216, Stanley Tyler 225, 222, Taz Matetzschk 210, 213, Rainy Hughes 204, Mike Arnold 225, Jerry Thomas 215, Doug Roberts 207, Dewey Allen 209, 216, Jaythan Burrell 222.

NASCAR 2014

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

Stewart's season ends on high note

Tony Stewart has had more downs than ups in the last two years.

In 2013 he broke his leg in a sprint car accident and missed 15 races during the latter part of the season, and was not fully healed when the 2014 season started.

On August 9, 2015, Stewart was involved in another sprint car accident that took the life of Kevin Ward after being hit by Stewart's machine.

There has been a tremendous amount of emotional pain that has not allowed Stewart to regain his old racing form.

But Kevin Harvick's championship brought an uplifting end to a tumultuous 2014 season for Stewart, who missed three races after his involvement in that tragic racing accident, involving Kevin Ward.

After Harvick's win, Stewart spoke about his role as team owner, his season and his thoughts on Harvick's first championship to the Charlotte Observer.

"You know, I think more than anything, I'm happy for this organization and happy for this team," he said. "It's not about me right now; it's about us as a group. It's about everybody at Stewart-Haas Racing. You know, you learn when you're in these situations that it's about a larger group of people and a bigger picture that's in play. I'm grateful that I have a co-owner and co-workers and teammates that are such great people that no matter what's been thrown at us the last year and a half that this organization was able to thrive and continue to prosper and be successful through this."

"It shows the depth of this organization and what these people are capable of. Nights like tonight are when you sit back and you reflect on everything and you realize how proud you are of your entire group and everybody that you surround yourself with."

"The hard part is you've got to do the things that got you here in the first place and not get caught up in the moment, not get out of that rhythm that got you here. I didn't tell them anything they haven't been doing all year, but sometimes going into that last deal, it's nice to just remind them why they're here and why they do what they do."

Stewart now has claimed three Sprint Cup driving championships and two owner titles.

"This has been the toughest and most emotional year of my life," Stewart continued.

MISTAKE PROBABLY COST GORDON A WIN
It is what it is.

It we could use hindsight to help direct our future course of action, what a wonderful world this would be.

Such was the case with Jeff Gordon and his team during the latter part of the Homestead Cup race.

Gordon was leading the race when a caution came out with 20 laps remaining. Most of the other leaders, along with race-winner Kevin Harvick pitted for four fresh



Kevin Harvick hugs car owner Tony Stewart after winning the 2014 Sprint Cup championship.

tires. Gordon and Denny Hamlin did not. They stayed on the track.

The decision not to pit kept Gordon first but with most of the field taking tires, it left him at a disadvantage. During the next caution with six laps to go, Gordon pitted to get four new tires. He didn't have time to recover, and finished 10th despite leading a race-high 161 laps.

So what happened?

Crew chief Alan Gustafson said his mistake late in Sunday's race at Homestead-Miami Speedway cost Gordon a chance to win. Gustafson discussed his late-race strategy on SiriusXM Radio.

"Really, the error was made," said Gustafson. "I told Jeff to stay out when the majority of the field pitted and that put us in a bad situation. Jeff felt like (on the following caution) we weren't in a very good position to succeed, so we made a decision to come pit. Really the first stop, when us and Denny (Hamlin) and ... a few other cars stayed out, that was the one that really hurt us."

"That's on me. It was a mistake I made. I tried to keep the track position. I felt like that was going to be the highest percentage decision and it ended up not being. That put us behind unfortunately. I think we had the best car. The team deserved to win the race. It was a bad decision from my part and I'm going to learn from it. It would be really easy for me to make a lot of excuses and say, 'Hey there's a lot of circumstances that play into it - and there are and it is a very tough thing to do,' but that's my job and in that situation I feel like I didn't do it to the best of my capabilities."

You win some and you lose some. But wouldn't we all like to have the advantage of hindsight in our lives.

BUSCH MEETS WITH POLICE

On November 5, the Dover (Delaware) Police Department confirmed that an investigation was being conducted based on an allegation of domestic assault involving Kurt Busch, and his former girlfriend.

This past week Busch and his attorney met with police and de-

nied all allegations that he assaulted her inside Busch's motor home at Dover International Speedway in September; just days after the couple broke up.

Police spokesman Mark Hoffman says the investigation is continuing and that no decision on whether to file charges has been made.

Two female members of the U. S. Congress have sent a letter to NASCAR asking that Busch be suspended. NASCAR said in a statement, "We take charges like this very seriously. We are monitoring the situation, but until we receive further clarification and additional information, we will not make any decision."

FINAL DRIVER RANKINGS

Final top-16 Sprint Cup standings: 1. Harvick-5,043, 2. Newman-5,042, 3. Hamlin-5,037, 4. Logano-5,028, 5. Keselowski-2,361, 6. Gordon-2,348, 7. Kenseth-2,334, 8. Earnhardt-2,301, 9. Edwards-2,288, 10. Kyle Busch-2,285, 11. Johnson-2,274, 12. Kurt Busch-2,263, 13. Allmendinger-2,260, 14. Biffle-2,247, 15. Kahne-2,234, 16. Almirola-2,195.

Final top-10 Nationwide Series leaders: 1. Elliott, 2. Smith, 3. Sadler, 4. Scott, 5. T. Dillon, 6. Bayne, 7. C. Buescher, 8. Gaughan, 9. Reed, 10. J. Buescher.

Final top-10 Truck Series standings: 1. Crafton, 2. Blaney, 3. Wallace Jr., 4. Sauter, 5. Peters, 6. Quiroga, 7. Coulter, 8. Burton, 9. Kennedy, 10. Silas.

Racing Trivia Question: In what years did Stewart win his three Cup championships?

Last Week's Question: Marcos Ambros is returning to his native Australia, but he plans to stay in racing. What are his racing plans for 2015? He will race in the V8 Supercars Series. Note: The V8 Supercars is a touring car racing category based in Australia and run as an International Series under Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile.

You may contact the Racing Reporter at: www.hodges@race500.com