

UCMS takes sixth overall; 13 wrestlers place at Clear Creek



Union County Middle School placed 6th as a team at Clear Creek Middle School. Seven Panthers placed in the A-Team bracket and six placed in the B-Team Bracket. "The Best we have ever done," Union Coach Michael Smith-Foot said, "Each year we get better. We are headed in the right direction. Not only impressed with the wrestlers, but the parents as well. We had the best turn out at every tournament. Very supportive parents. I am very thankful for that. Union's A-Team placers were: JJ Littles at 118 pounds, Trevor Guild at 125 pounds, Conner Cook at 132 pounds, Ben Pongetti at 155 pounds, Aaron Helton at 165 pounds, Seth Beaver at 180 pounds, and Eli Smith-Foot at 210 pounds. B-Team placers were: Katelynn Rosser at 84 pounds, Damion Chitwood at 102 pounds, Luke Spillane at 110 pounds, Hunter Payne 139 pounds, Ian Sterna 155 pounds, Wesley and Walls at 165 pounds. Congratulations to all Union County Middle School wrestlers for their superb performance.

Lady Panthers... continued from 2B

where a win would even their record at 5-5. On Thursday, at 6 p.m. Union County will host Gilmer County in a rematch from the season opener that the Lady Bobcats won handily 58-37 in Ellijay.

The following week, Union County will open the Battle of the States Christmas Tournament with Swain County, NC (Bryson City) on Wednesday, Dec. 28 at 4 p.m.

Behind Enemy Lines: Gilmer has lost three straight games by an average of 21 points following a 5-0 start. The Lady Bobcats own victories over Fannin County 48-47 and Hiwassee Dam, NC 46-42. Gilmer also defeated Pickens County at home, earlier in the season, but when the teams met in Jasper, 10 days later, the Lady Dragons dominated in a 72-47 thrashing.

The Swain County Maaron Devils currently sport a 2-3 record with wins over Highlands, NC and Rosman, NC. Their three losses came at the hands of Robbinsville, NC, Mitchell, NC, and Smoky Mountain, NC.

Panthers... continued from 2B

for a 22-10 advantage after one. Colwell trimmed the deficit to 10 but the Trojans used back-to-back treys to pull ahead by 16. Junior Cole Davis nailed a 3 from the corner but North Hall answered with a 3-point play on the other end.

Wright went coast-to-coast for two to keep his team within 14 but Union was outscored 9-3 over the final 2:14 of the second period.

A Trojan 3-ball at the 3:25 mark of the third gave them a 29-point advantage at 53-24 but the Panthers closed the frame on an 11-4 run to pull within 22. North Hall quickly erased any comeback hopes with the first nine points of the fourth quarter to open up its largest lead of the game at 66-35.

Treys by senior Parker McCombs and junior Marty Kronz were sandwiched around a Trojan basket inside of four minutes. Drake scored in the paint, Kronz hit 1-of-2 at the line, and Davis nailed another trey to pull Union within 21 at 68-47 with 1:11 left.

Crawford Colwell was the only Panther in double-figures with 13 points. Baenninger added nine, McCombs and Davis had six each, Wright scored five, Kronz scored four, and Drake had 2 points.

UC 37, GAC 75
Norcross - Crawford Colwell scored 18 of Union's 37 points as they fell victim to 49-12 Spartan onslaught during the second and third quarters following a 14-14 tie after one.

"I think (GAC) came out a little flat," Coach Jones said. "Sometimes you don't take a team serious to start but then you turn the heat up. That's what I think happened."

Baenninger chipped in 11 points for the Panthers who only managed two field goals after the

Not much can be told from their scores but both Swain and Andrews did post near identical margins-of-victory over Rosman. Swain defeated Rosman by 37, Andrews won by 36.

Swain and Hayesville also defeated Highlands by 39 points each. However, Highlands did knock off Andrews by three in the season opener.

As for Andrews, they are 3-2 on the year with a 46-43 victory over Hayesville, who gave Union all they could handle. Based on the scores, Andrews appears to be much-improved and along with Swain County, could give the Lady Panthers all they can handle, and then some.

For more details regarding Union County's Battle of the States match-ups, along with results from this week's games, check next week's *North Georgia News* prior to heading over to Hiwassee for the Battle of the States. A Battle of the States bracket will be included in the next two editions of the *North Georgia News*.

during the second and fourth quarters came at the charity stripe.

(GAC) picked up their intensity on defense after the first quarter," Jones said. "They play really good man-to-man defense. They're very disciplined and quick and that gave us trouble when we tried to penetrate, and that's what we like to do, get to the rim."

McCombs finished with 3 points, while Drake and Banton scored two each. Dockrey and sophomore post Britt Waller added one free throw a-piece.

Looking ahead: Union hosted Andrews, NC on Monday before Gilmer comes calling on Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

The Panthers will open the Battle of the States Christmas Tournament on Wednesday, Dec. 28 with unbeaten (as of now) Swain County, NC at 5:30 p.m.

Behind Enemy Lines: Andrews has already faced Hayesville this season and suffered at 57-42 loss to the Yellow Jackets. Overall the Wildcats are 2-3 and 1-2 on the road.

The Panthers and Gilmer squared off on opening night when Union went up by 10 early, then fell behind by five in the fourth quarter before eventually winning by five.

The Bobcats are currently 2-5 with a pair of wins over Pickens County.

As for Swain County, Union will have its hands full.

They are currently averaging more than 80 points-a-game and winning by 25 points-per-game. For a more in-depth preview of the Battle of the States, check out next week's *North Georgia News* before leaving for Towns County and the Battle of the States on Wednesday afternoon.

2016 23rd Annual CHRISTMAS TOURNAMENT BATTLE OF THE STATES
DEC 28-29-30, 2016

GIRLS

CONSOLATION BRACKETT DAY 1 12/28/16
Lumpkin Co., GA

DAY 2 12/29/16
1 10:00 AM
Hokes Bluff, AL
Swain, NC

DAY 2 12/29/16
2 4:00 PM
Union Co., GA

DAY 3 12/30/16
5 10:00 AM
Swain, NC

DAY 3 12/30/16
7 4:00 PM
Union Co., GA

DAY 3 12/30/16
9 10:00 AM
Polk Co., TN
Hayesville, NC
Piedmont, AL

DAY 3 12/30/16
10 1:00 PM
Towns Co., GA

DAY 3 12/30/16
11 4:00 PM
3rd Place

DAY 3 12/30/16
12 7:00 PM
CHAMPION

W6 Bottom Team in Bracket is Home Team and Will Wear White Uniforms LB

2016 23rd Annual CHRISTMAS TOURNAMENT BATTLE OF THE STATES
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BOYS

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1 11:30 AM
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3rd Place

DAY 3 12/30/16
12 8:30 PM
CHAMPION

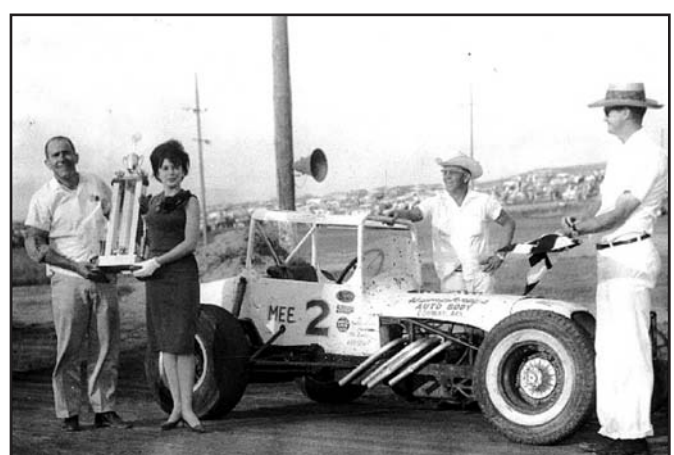
W6 Bottom Team in Bracket is Home Team and Will Wear White Uniforms LB

NASCAR 2016

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

Christmas With "The Arkansas Traveler"

Note: Each year during Christmas we break from our traditional NASCAR racing news in order to bring a timeless Christmas story from Bobby Ward, an early sprint car racer from Arkansas. While he was not well known along the east coast, he was a household name among racing fans in the Midwest and South. When Ward showed up at the race track, he was always the "one to beat."



Bobby Ward receives the trophy after winning the 1963 Soputhwest Supermodified Championship at Amarillo, TX.

He is a member of the National Sprint Car Hall of Fame. Bobby had a stroke four years ago, but is doing well. He and his wife sold their "home-place," and moved to Conway, Arkansas, so he could be closer to a medical facility.

"I think that sometimes people overvalue the things of Christmas, and forget to really focus on their friends and the actual holiday season," said Ward. "I certainly have more material things now, which I thoroughly enjoy, but as far as true happiness goes, I'm not so sure that we weren't just as happy back in my early years."

Ward was born in 1935 in the community of Bee Branch, Arkansas, about 40 miles north of Little Rock, in a one-room log cabin. His racing career began in 1956.

He raced hard, traveled long distances, won many, many championships, accumulated a large fan following, and became known as "The Arkansas Traveler."

"Christmas for us was very light," continued Ward. "Mom and dad, and sometimes all the family would go out on Christmas Eve and cut down a tree. It wasn't always a cedar tree. Sometimes it was a pine. After getting it set up in the house we would decorate it. The decorations consisted of some colorful ribbon that had been cut in strips, and strings of popcorn."

"That was all the decorations we used. There were no lights, or anything shiny."

"My three sisters and I each got one toy. That's the only time of the year we got any store-bought toys. But I don't ever remember a Christmas when we

didn't get that one toy.

"On my sixth birthday I had asked my mom for some type of Tinker Toy. On Christmas Eve, I happened by the bedroom and saw a Tinker Toy sticking out from under the bed. Mom saw me, and said, 'Son, would you believe that Santa Claus came by earlier today and left this for you? And he might even come back again tonight.'

"Well, I believed her, and sure enough, the next morning Santa had paid us a second visit and left some oranges, apples, and cookies."

"Our Christmas dinner consisted of chicken and dumplings, and dressing, along with ham and some other vegetables, plus a cake and pie."

"We never had turkey or anything you had to buy."

"Around Christmastime, daddy would kill some hogs and cure the meat. He would take some type sugar cure and put it all over the ham, and inject it all around the bone. This not only flavored the meat, but preserved it. The meat would keep in a smoke house for at least a month."

"In my very early childhood, we had Christmas by ourselves. We lived a pretty good way from our neighbors, and traveling in our wagon would have taken too long."

"As I got older, we moved and dad bought a car, and we visited my father's mother and dad on Christmas. I had a cousin that al-

ways got lots of toys and we were allowed to play with them while the rest of the family visited.

"I never said anything to mother and dad about the single toy I got, because I knew how things were with us."

"During the year, I was able to make homemade cars out of blocks of wood."

"We used our imagination and what we had, to entertain ourselves."

"We always ate well, even outside the holidays. We had pork, along with fried potatoes, pinto beans, and corn bread. Every Thursday night we had corn bread and buttermilk."

"There was no electricity in my early years. Our traditional lighting was a simple kerosene lamp. One day my dad brought home a new type of kerosene lamp, called a "Latin Lamp." It gave a much brighter light, and that was the first time my sister and I had been able to do our homework together at the kitchen table."

"Sometimes at night I would get a glass of milk, and only drink half of it. I would leave the rest of it setting in the kitchen. When it was really cold, the next morning I would have a half glass of ice cream."

"When we moved from Bee Branch to Shirley, Arkansas, there weren't any boys around to play with, just girls. Mother made me a doll on her old treadmilling sewing machine, and filled it with

straw and rags, so I would have something to play with.

"It might seem funny now, but I had the time of my life playing with that doll, along with my three sisters and the other girls."

"Whenever my dad took corn to the grist mill, to get it ground into meal and grits, I always went along. The corn was yellow. We never raised any white corn like they have now."

"My childhood was good. I thoroughly enjoyed growing up with my sisters and we were a loving family. We were also a working family. We worked hard, and loved each other. We didn't go around hugging each other, saying, "I love you," but we all shared a bond of love."

"I don't ever remember a day growing up when I didn't feel loved."

"I tried to race everyone just like I would want him to race me."

"I didn't always win, but I knew it was important for me to try and finish each race. I think in order to enjoy our success we've got to put forth effort. The races that I enjoyed winning the most were those I really had to work for."

"Greater labor leads to greater love."

"To maximize our present enjoyment in life we might need to give up some of the comforts our easy life style brings us. Instead of buying a present ready-made this Christmas, why not see what kind of physical chore you could do for your neighbor. Instead of buying a pre-cooked pie or cake for Christmas dinner, why not bake it yourself?"

"Christmas happiness can still be found. You just need to know how and where to look."

Racing Trivia Question: What famous family is Ben Kennedy, the Truck Series driver related to?

Last Week's Question: What year did Tony Stewart win the NASCAR Sprint Cup Rookie of the Year? Answer: He was Rookie of the Year in 1999, his first season with Joe Gibbs Racing.

You may contact the Racing Reporter by e-mail at: hodges@race500.com. NT(D&E)21.13/CA

Fall Golden Bowling Club winners



Golden Club Winners for the Fall Schedule

After a festive Christmas Dinner the following winners were declared: 1st Place: Holy Rollers, Capt. Jerry Clark; 2nd Place: Kevin Panter Ins. Capt. Larry Dumas; 3rd Place: Something Special, Capt. John Robinson; 4th Place: Team #6, Capt. Chris McKee; 5th Place: The Wild Bunch, Capt. Carol Shields; 6th Place: McRoberts Counseling, Capt. McRoberts. 7th Place: Blue Ridge Trophies, Capt. Rose Terry; 8th Place: Undedogs, Capt. Diane Kirkland; 9th Place: Heavenly Bake Shop, Capt. Bonna Graham; and 10th Place: Fun Crew, Capt. Gale Glascock.

High Average: Bonna Graham, 151 and John Poffenberger, 200; Most Improved: Mary Fischer +16 and Jerry Clark +19.

High Scratch Game: John Poffenberger 269; RayDasilva 257; Cleaston Burger 253; Bonna Graham 199; Diane Kirkland, 192; Tie: Denise Praizler 170 and Linda McKee 170.

High Handicap Game: Jack Abbott 306; Ed Gerhard 289; Jerry Clark 287; Susan Robinson 283; Rose Burger 272; Karen Hall 269.

High Handicap Series: Everett Hall 832; Clifton Deal 791; Ted Nesius 786; Rose Terry 739; Carol Shields 721; Jeanette Harrier 731.

The league will begin their Winter Schedule on Wednesday, January 4th at 1 p.m. We have a few vacancies for both men and women. If you would like to bowl in this league, please call Rose at 706-745-4268.

Bowling scores

Monday Night Men: Walt Whitlock 243, Bill Smith 235, 201, Taz Matetzsch 259, 233, 246 Series 738, Jer Bismhoff 209, 236, 210, Bob Matetzsch 211, Ken Thigpen 204, 200, Greg Wittenburg 209, Ryan Cuthbert 205, Ron Wingate 214, Dewey Allen 213, Bonnell Thomas 277, Curtis Corn 200, Stanley Tyler 217, 200, Brandon Hartness 278, 236, Jay Burrell 246, Ray Everett 202, 213, 213, Mel White 202, Richard Tanner 227, Bart Rodgers 209, Doug Tanner 213, 211, Del Neiffer 211, Joe Teague 224, Derick Rice 204, 247.

Monday Night Ladies: Erika Star 199, Monita Rodgers 190.

Young @ Heart Seniors: Bryan Cuthbert 221, Mel White 236, 205, Stanley Tyler 226, Bob Landis 249, 204, 224, Series 677, Del Neiffer 214, 213, Ron Wingate 235, Nell Rice 236, Bob Bischoff 244, Ron Gaucher 214, 255, Wally Sorocki 214, Gene Clopton 224.

Thursday Night Fun Mixed: Dewey Allen 236, 257, 204, Kelly Addison 211, 200, Phillip Brix 204, Candace Theriot 203, Brandon Hartness 225, Tony Lynch 235, 202, James Blackburn 215, Tee Turner 234, Ryan West 224, Tim McVay 214, Doug Roberts 234, 223, Jimmy Southern 263, 221, Brett Hogsed 211, Bonnell Thomas 215.