

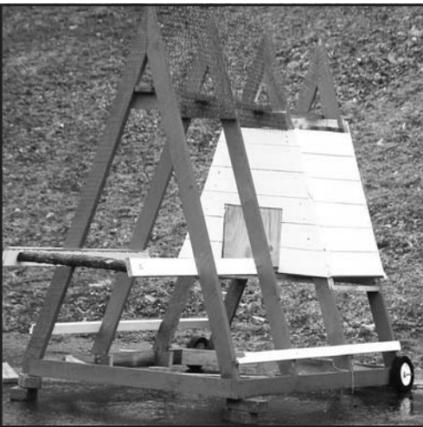
## Woody Gap Construction class wood projects



Custom-Made Corn Hole Game



Wooden Bookshelf/Toy Box



Chicken Tractor with Hutch

The Woody Gap Construction class has some incredible hand crafted wood projects available for you to kick off the spring season. We have some items already made in stock and will take orders until March 27th.

One of our new favorites is our Indoor Sliding Barn door, style and color built to your liking. Another new customer favorite is our wooden bookshelf/toy box. Other items include: picnic table, medicine cabinet, and custom-made corn hole games, ("Frozen" in stock). Also is our Chicken Tractor with hutch,



Sliding Barn Door

first one made, sold quickly.

For more information call Woody Gap at 706-747-2401 Ext. 1616 or email gbutler@uc-schools.org. NOV11Z8/CA

## NASCAR 2015

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

### Happy Harvick wins big in Vegas

LAS VEGAS, Nev.—A smiling and happy Kevin Harvick won Sunday's 267-lap Sprint Cup race for his third top-two finish of the season.

Las Vegas odds makers had posted him as a 9/2 favorite to win, but it didn't come without some anxious moments for the reigning Sprint Cup champion.

"Man, it's cool to win in front of these Las Vegas fans," said Harvick. "The last 20-laps weren't good. Something wasn't right with the car. I'm glad we had the lead that we did."

Runner-up, Martin Truex ran a strong race, even leading once, but had nothing for Harvick at the end.

"I just drove hard today," said Truex. "The car was good, and we had a good run all day. All we've got to do is keep working hard, and I think we'll get a win."

Ryan Newman was third, followed by Dale Earnhardt Jr., Denny Hamlin, A. J. Allmendinger, Brad Keselowski, Kyle Larson, Matt Kenseth, and Joey Logano.

Logano was the leader during the early laps, but in addition to handling problems his team received a pit road penalty and he had to start at the rear of the field on a restart.

Polesitter Jeff Gordon wound up 18th, Jimmie Johnson led 65 laps, but slapped the wall during lap 177, and had a DNF.

We had been having brake problems, but I don't know if that's what caused it," said Johnson. "It just took off to the right and into the wall."

During lap 182, Kasey Kahne and Carl Edwards got into a pushing and shoving match with their cars. It appeared Kahne, who was running on the outside came down into Edwards' car. Edwards retaliated by pushing Kahne up into the wall. A couple hundred yards further, Kahne came down on Edwards' No. 19, sending him into a spin. Both cars had extensive damage.

"It was definitely my fault," said Edwards. "I had gotten into him earlier, and I guess he thought I did it intentionally."

Top-16 Chase Contenders after 3 of 26: 1. Harvick-134, 2. Earnhardt-125, 3. Logano-123, 4. Truex-118, 5. Allmendinger-100, 6. Kahne-92, 7. Johnson-91, 8. Hamlin-87, 9. Mears-87, 10. Kenseth-85, 11. Biffle-84, 12. Newman-82, 13. Menard-82, 14. Bowyer-81, 15. Almirola-80, 16. Keselowski-77.

#### AUSTIN DILLON DOMINATES AT VEGAS

Austin Dillon led 183 laps of Saturday's 200-lap Xfinity race, but had to work hard to hold off a hard charging Ryan Blaney during the last four laps.

Blaney, who had fresher tires than Dillon, attempted a low pass on lap 198, but Dil-

lon drove down and blocked him. As Blaney was getting ready to try for the second time, his car bobbed in turn-4. This caused him to lose momentum and Dillon took the checkered by .664-seconds.

Following Blaney across the stripe were: Regan Smith, Denny Hamlin, Chase Elliott, Brendan Gaughan, Darrell Wallace, Ty Dillon, Brennan Poole, and Daniel Suarez.

Top-10 leaders after 3 of 32: 1. T. Dillon-119, 2. C. Buescher-113, 3. Reed-104, 4. Wallace-103, 5. Elliott-95, 6. Smith-86, 7. Gaughan-86, 8. Starr-83, 9. Sadler-82, 10. Chastain-81.

#### WHAT'S IN STORE FOR KURT BUSCH

By now most racing fans know that NASCAR and Kurt Busch have reached an agreement that will eventually allow him to return to NASCAR.

Busch was suspended by NASCAR on Feb. 20 after a civil judge found him guilty of domestic violence. A week and a half later, NASCAR announced that Busch had agreed to NASCAR terms of counseling. Upon the recommendation of his counselor, Busch will be allowed back into NASCAR's fold.

Since prosecutors have announced they won't file criminal charges against Busch, I'm not sure that his actions warranted expulsion from the sport. But that's all in the past. NASCAR said his "actions were detrimental to the sport," and threw the black flag.

After serving his penalty, will his old job at Stewart Haas Racing be available?

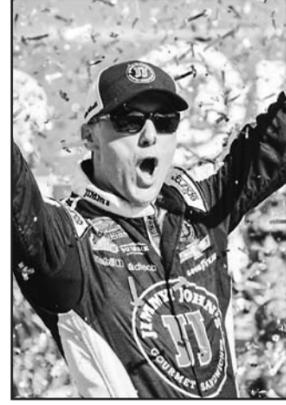
The situation is like a two-sided sword. What will Stewart Haas gain from their support of Busch? Will his return as driver of the No. 41 be in their best interest? Remember, Busch did not have a real sponsor. Car owner Gene Haas displays his company name on the side of the car.

Haas hired Busch because he thought he was one of the better drivers in the sport. The No. 41 team was formed expressly for Busch to drive. Haas has said more than one time that his goal is to win NASCAR's biggest prize; the Sprint Cup championship.

Busch might cause a little pain for the team, but no more than teammate Tony Stewart. There is now a social stigma associated with each one of them, but when it comes to winning, unrelated racing incidents are quickly forgotten.

My prediction is Kurt Busch will return as driver of the No. 41 in a few weeks. My reasoning is that while NASCAR wants to present a squeaky clean image, they can't afford to penalize individual teams too hard.

Meanwhile, just because of the growing number



"Happy" Kevin Harvick wins at Vegas Furnished by Team Chevy

of empty seats at tracks, fans shouldn't jump to the conclusion that either NASCAR or the individual race tracks are in danger of going under.

While ticket sales are down at most NASCAR tracks, all are still turning handsome profits.

According to the New York Times, tracks posted a profit of over \$100-million last year.

If the number of tickets sold is dwindling, then where does their revenue come from?

The answer is television, and it will only get better with the new TV package that went into effect in February, 2015 with NBC.

The tracks reported \$239 million in ticket sales, while they raked in \$388 million from television.

The bottom line is that television is the cash cow, and if no one but the drivers and teams showed up on race day, NASCAR and the tracks would still turn a profit.

Oh yes, don't forget, the tracks pay NASCAR a percentage of their take.

NASCAR's Jim France is among the richest people in the world, according to an annual ranking released by Forbes magazine. The magazine placed France's estimated net worth at \$2.1 billion.

**Weekend Racing:** The Cup and Xfinity teams will be at the 1-mile Phoenix International Raceway. The Trucks do not race again until March 28 at Martinsville, Virginia.

Sat., Mar 14; Xfinity Series race 4 of 32; starting time: 4 pm ET; TV: Fox.

Sun., Mar 15; Sprint Cup Series race 4 of 36; Starting time: 3:30 pm ET; TV: Fox.

**Racing Trivia Question:** What year did Jimmie Johnson win his first Cup championship?

**Last Week's Question:** What year did Dale Earnhardt Jr. move up the NASCAR Sprint Cup races behind the wheel of the No. 8. His first full Cup season didn't come until 2000.

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

## MACA mens basketball reach Semi Finals; finish third in State Tournament



The MACA Lions mens basketball squad after a successful 2014-15 campaign - just missing out on the State Finals by six points. Pictured from left to right: Jacob Nickerson, Caleb Gibson, Nathan Olver, Will Howard, Ethan Shaffer, Hunter Davenport, Francis Yellowboy, Joel Kelley, Cody Harris, Kyle Jones, Seth Taylor, Coach Wade Taylor

By Nathan Olver  
North Georgia News  
News Special

"We're where we wanted to be; we just took the long road to get there," said Mountain Area Christian Academy Head Coach, Wade Taylor.

He was addressing the boys varsity team after their victory over Appling Christian Academy of Baxley.

MACA was headed to the state final four for the first time in seven years.

The journey started long before that win in Baxley for the MACA Lions. Throughout the regular season, they had been consistently in the fight for the second spot in region and home court advantage for region playoffs.

With the final weeks of the regular season ahead, the Lions had to win only one of their final three region games for a home game in the first round of region playoffs.

The first was at Shiloh Hills who held the No. 1 spot in the region. It was a nail biter that MACA lost by a point. They dropped their next two games, and

to everyone's disbelief, MACA was traveling to Old Suwanee Christian to fight for the 4th seed in region playoffs.

After storming out to a 28-17 lead at half-time, MACA was pulsating with confidence. Old Suwanee hadn't given up though. They pulled to within four points in the fourth quarter, but the Lions powered through and won 50-43.

The Lions were headed to the region tournament to be seeded for state.

Their first region tournament game was against the number one seed, Shiloh. Outscored in the first half 34-12, MACA stepped it up in the second half. Offensively, the teams were dead even throughout the second, but the first half deficit proved too much to overcome.

Losing 56-34, MACA faced Killian Hill looking to lock in the 3rd seed for the state playoffs. After a close first half and a tight second, the Lions pulled home the victory 58-54.

The Lions would make the six-hour trek to Baxley where they played Appling Christian. MACA rolled to a 60-52 victory and prepared

for yet another long trek to Valdosta and the coveted state Final Four.

The Lions' first game was against a familiar face, Shiloh.

Shiloh won that duel and ultimately went on to take the championship.

MACA would play Victory Baptist. Also from MACA's side of the region, Victory and MACA had split wins during the regular season, so it was primed to be a good match-up.

MACA was up by one point at half-time, but Victory took the lead in the 3rd quarter. MACA wouldn't be denied though, and scored 23 points in the fourth quarter - clinching a 70-64 win.

"I'm not telling you it's going to be easy; I'm telling you it's going to be worth it," Taylor had told his team. In the end, it most certainly was worth every ounce of effort these boys put in.

A great finish to a white-knuckle season, Taylor led the MACA Lions to finish third in the state, accomplishing the best varsity boys basketball finish to date.

### Sweep ...continued from Page 12A

lousy hand by Mother Nature in the early going, but last year's squad finished the season at 8-13 with only three seniors.

Friday the 13th will feature a rivalry matchup when Towns and Union get together in Hiawassee at 5:30 p.m. The Indians are coming off a split with Fannin County on Saturday. The Rebels took round one 9-7 but the second game saw the Indians came out on top 2-1 in a pitchers duel.

Next Monday, the Panthers will host Pickens County from Class AAAA. The Dragons are currently 2-2 with one-run victories over Dawson County and Adairsville but they dropped a pair of one-sided affairs to Coosa and North Forsyth. Pickens will travel to Towns County on Tuesday.

Union won't see any more Region action until March 20th when they host Oglethorpe County, who along with Rabun County, are expected to join the Panthers in the mix for the top spot in 8-AA.

### Soccer ...continued from Page 12A

Sophomore Sam Seiler put Union on top in the 28th minute, and senior Phillippe Jennings made it a 3-1 game at the half with a goal in the 35th minute.

The depth of the Panthers began to tip the scales even more in their favor in the second half as Dietz struck seven minutes into the half, Hamby scored 10 minutes in, junior Jesus Mancillas scored on a free kick 15 minutes in and Dyer capped off the scoring with seven minutes left.

Jesus Mancillas and Seiler each added an assist.

On Tuesday, the Union will host Pickens with the JV boys beginning at 4:30 p.m. with both varsity games to follow. On Friday, Greene County pays Mike Colwell Memorial Stadium a visit at 5:30 and 7:30 p.m.

The JV girls will see action on Saturday in Pickens County in a two-game tournament.

### Union at Washington Wilkes Game Two

Union County	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO	LOB
J Daniel	6	2	2	0	0	0	6
H Hughes	4	2	2	1	0	0	4
R Banton	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
J Mancuso	5	2	2	4	0	3	3
J Sisum	5	1	4	5	0	0	0
J Burks	3	1	2	0	1	0	1
L Rich	3	1	1	0	2	2	2
A Brown	2	0	0	0	1	1	5
S Thomps...	1	1	0	0	1	0	0
C Barnette	3	1	2	1	2	0	0
R Prunier	5	1	0	1	0	1	8
<b>Totals</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>30</b>

1B: Daniel, Hughes, Sisum 2, Burks 2, Rich, Barnette 2  
2B: Hughes, Mancuso, Sisum 3B: Daniel HR: Mancuso, Sisum TB: Daniel 4, Hughes 3, Mancuso 6, Sisum 8, Burks 2, Rich, Barnette 2 SB: Hughes, Sisum, Brown, Barnette 2 Team LOB: 14

#### PITCHING

Union County	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
T Odom	3.2	4	1	1	3	6	0
J Daniel	3.1	1	0	0	0	4	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>

WP: Odom P-S: Odom 64-36, Daniel 37-26

# AUCTION

**MARKET HOGS & SMALL ANIMALS**  
**Friday, March 20, 2015 • 7 PM**  
 Union County High School Ag Barn  
 153 Panther Circle  
 Blairsville, GA 30512

**FARM EQUIPMENT**  
**Saturday, March 21, 2015 • 10 AM**  
 Union County Farmers Market  
 148 Old Smokey Road  
 Blairsville, GA 30512

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**UNION COUNTY FFA**  
 Consignments Accepted: Anyone Can Buy or Sell

**ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL:**  
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