

# Amber Gooch, Sosebee and McKim record wins

By Todd Forrest  
North Georgia News  
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**Ellijay** - Woody Gap tennis was in action last week at Gilmer County High School, taking two matches against the Class AAAA school.

Amber Gooch continued her winning ways in No. 1 singles action taking her match against Tori Olsen.

Gooch dropped the first set 3-6 but rallied to take the next two by scores of 6-1 and 10-3.

In No. 2 Doubles, Casey McKim and Connor Sosebee took care of business, defeating Mel Mosley and Dusty Ray in straight sets, 6-3 and 6-4.



Shelby Tumlin dropped her No. 2 Singles match to Anna Westmoreland, while Lady Falcons' No. 3 Kaniesha Martin dropped two sets to

Ally Davis.

The duo of Staci Clark and Rebecca Etheridge picked up three points against Rachel Penland and Mattie Cagle.

Dakota Etheridge and Easton Wood dropped a closely contested match in three sets.

They came up short 3-6 in the first set but bounced back to take the second set 6-1. Unfortunately, the tiebreaker set went to Gilmer's Will Luke and Joseph Hart, 10-3.

Woody Gap tennis will be off during spring break but return to action on Monday, Apr. 8th when they travel to Gainesville to take on Lakeview Academy.

Thursday, Apr. 11th will be the last match before the Area Tournament when Woody Gap visits Dawson County.

The Area Tournament will be April 22nd at The Darlington School in Rome.

Joe Collins 

### Tips from the Range

Now that we have established the proper stance, we need to look at the bodies' attachment to the swing. We are going to look at the way we hold the club, aim and position the ball in relation to the club we have chosen for the shot at hand. These are the swing mechanics that prepare you to make a solid backswing.

The most difficult of these three aspects is the grip. I know that sounds strange but the grip is the main connection we have with the club. In other words, what the hands do affects what the face of the club does. The back of the forward hand is a direct representation of how square the club is at impact, so if the grip is wrong, impact will be out of square.

To establish the correct grip for your swing, observe the actual grip on the club and notice that there is a slight rise at the very end of the club. Do not grip the club past the start of that rise. It is there to prevent the club from slipping further into your hand.

Open the forward hand and lay the clubs' grip at the base of the little finger with the end extending about an inch past the base of the hand. Now close the hand over the club shaft until you can see at least two of the knuckles on the back of the forward hand. The shaft should run through the middle of the index finger and the connection of the hand and the thumb should form a line as the hand tightens around the club. This line should point toward the back shoulder. Work with it and you will find your happy place on the club just remember

to never change your hold on the club during the swing.

Aiming is really simple. Imagine a set of railroad tracks. The rail away from you will be the target line and the inside rail will represent the tips of your toes. Now, take your club and lay it across the tops of your knees, then in front of your hips and finally across the front of the shoulders. All 4 of these lines should be parallel to the outside rail and all 4 lines should be pointed at the target. There you go; alignment set.

Ball position is even simpler. While you are in your stance, look down at the distance between your feet. Remember to keep your feet a little less than shoulder width apart. Find the center point between your feet and always play normal shots from that point, or a little forward of that point, with the ball position moving toward the front foot as the shaft gets longer. Knockdown shots or low shots will be played behind this point in order to keep the ball low. Drivers should be just inside the front foot.

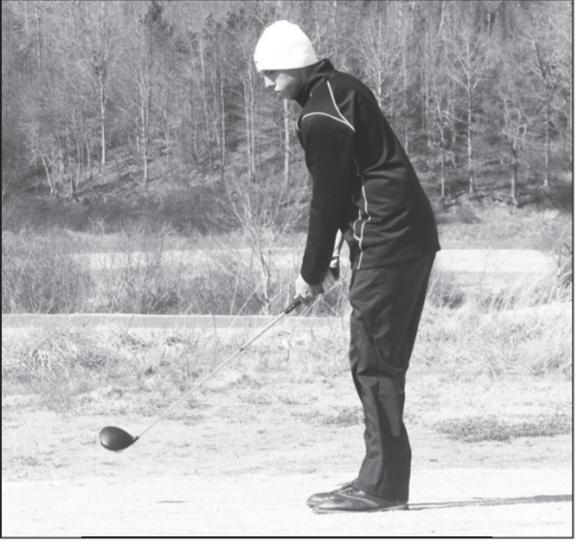
These swing mechanics are the general rule for basic golf swings. The more you practice the better it will feel but be careful to not reinvent the wheel. Stick to these simple thoughts and the process will become easy.

I hope that you have been able to establish a good comfortable stance and that these mechanics fit well with your set up. It is important to get things stable because the hard stuff is on the way.

In the next tips we will start learning how to take the club away and return it to impact so practice making your stance balanced and your swing attached.

Good luck and I will see you on the course!

# Panthers down Riverside at Old Union



The Union County Panther golf team hosted Region 8-AA foe Riverside Military Academy at Old Union Golf Course last Thursday. The Panthers prevailed 178-225 with Grant Schuette (left) and James Rowe (right) picking up Low Medalist honors for the Panthers, both shooting a 43. On Tuesday, March 19th, Union fell in both matches to Hayesville, NC at Old Union with the boys dropping their match 167-176. Rowe was Union's Low Medalist with a 39. The Lady Panthers fell 103-115. Lydia Gray led the way for Union with a 55. Union County golf will be off over Spring Break but return to the links on Monday, April 8th when they host Pickens County at Old Union. Photos by Todd Forrest.

# NASCAR 2013

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

## Larson is quite a surprise

Kyle Larson, the 20-year-old Japanese-American driver has turned out to be one of the biggest surprises in this year's Nationwide Series. After battling Kyle Busch to the finish line two weeks ago at Bristol, he is 7th in points.

That's quite an achievement for such a young driver.

In Larson's first four races of the 2013 season, also the first of his NASCAR Nationwide career, he opened the season with a pair of 13th-place finishes at Daytona and Phoenix followed by a 32nd-place finish at Las Vegas after an accident ended his day 18 laps shy of the scheduled 200.

His runner-up finish at Bristol moved Larson up five positions in the standings and has some considering him as a possible dark horse in the championship race. The way in which he raced Busch in the closing laps drew praise from the driver of the No. 54 Toyota and opened a lot of eyes throughout the garage.

"You know, you know, I just want go out there and win more races, really," said Larson. "I don't usually worry too much about points races, so this year was kind of a shocker to me that I was up there in the points just because it seems like my driving style is more of a go out there and try and win races. Just keep on winning races and running up front, and if I run for points again in something, it would be nice to win a championship."

Larson was signed for the 2012 racing season by Earnhardt Ganassi Racing (EGR) as part of the team's driver development program. In February 2012, at the Pete Orr Memorial Orange Blossom 100 at New Smyrna Speedway, Larson made his first start in a full-bodied stock car, and won the event, leading only the final lap of the race. He won again at the speedway a week later during the World Series of Asphalt.

Expect to see and hear more about this young driver.

**HAMLIN OUT SIX WEEKS**

Denny Hamlin will miss at least five races as he recovers from a compression fracture in his lower back suffered in a crash March 17 at California Speedway.

The Joe Gibbs Racing driver visited neurosurgeon Dr. Jerry Petty last week, and Petty determined that Hamlin would not need surgery but would need an "estimated around six weeks time" to heal, according to a JGR news release.

The main factors in determining when Hamlin can race will be his ability to work the pedals, the potential for a more serious injury if he is involved in another crash, and his pain threshold since NASCAR's substance-abuse policy restricts the amount of painkillers Hamlin can have in his system.

"This one is tough because it's your core, it's the whole centerpiece of your

body that really takes a lot of (G-forces) and things like that anyway," Hamlin told reporters when he left the hospital Monday.

"I just don't know how my body will react to being in a car, and obviously we've got some obstacles just as far as getting in the car with the bracing I need. There's no way at this point I could get in a car with no bracing. ... If we don't do surgery, you do have a fracture, so I don't want to make it worse. It's not worth that."

Hamlin is the second title contender in less than a year to have to miss races because of injury. Dale Earnhardt Jr. missed two races in the Chase last year after suffering two concussions within six weeks.

Missing at least five races will likely end Hamlin's Chase hopes because he does not have a victory in the first five races of this season and will fall out of the top-10 in the standings following Martinsville.

After 26 races, the top-10 drivers plus the two drivers in 11th to 20th place with the most wins make the Chase. That means a driver can miss races, but no more than three or four, and still make the Chase.

Hamlin has not missed a Cup race since he stepped into the seat of the No. 11 car with seven races left in the 2005 season, a streak of 264 races that will come to an end at Martinsville.

Mark Martin will fill in for Hamlin next weekend at Martinsville Speedway. Martin will return to the No. 55 Aaron's Dream Machine Toyota at Texas Motor Speedway on April 13 and resume his previously scheduled run of events with MWR for the remainder of the 2013 NASCAR Sprint cup season.

**DOUBLE STANDARD FOR STEWART**

Tony Stewart talks out of both sides of his mouth. Usually, his left hand doesn't know what the right one is doing.

Joey Logano did what just about any driver would have done Sunday when he blocked Tony Stewart on the final restart to keep Stewart from taking the lead. Stewart took exception and tried to start a fight after the race, even though he's done the same thing several times in the past.

I recall that Stewart intentionally crashed Brian Vickers in 2011 at Sonoma after Vickers blocked him earlier in the race.

Still, Stewart thought Logano's actions at California Speedway were completely unacceptable.

"That little &\*\$#@ runs us clear down to the infield," Stewart said. "He wants to be &\*\$#@! about everybody else; he's the one that drives like a little &\*\$#@! I'm going to bust his a--."

Whether or not Stewart actually comes through on that threat is debatable, but NASCAR could've fined him



Kyle Larson at Phoenix in 2013 Furnished by NASCAR

for the language he used in the post-race interview. In this year alone, the sanctioning body has already suspended Nationwide Series driver Jeremy Clements for inappropriate comments he made in an off-the-record conversation, and it fined Denny Hamlin \$25,000 three weeks ago for saying the Generation-6 car didn't race well.

But this type of double standard is something Stewart has been known for throughout his career.

**ART MALONE PASSES**

Art Malone, a legendary driver in drag racing and other motorsports, died March 29 at the age of 76. Few racers have enjoyed a more varied and exciting career than Malone, who not only was a successful drag-strip owner and driver, but also gained fame as a driver at the legendary Indy 500 [running two Indy 500's].

Raised in Tampa, Fla., Malone got his first taste of drag racing when he and a group of teenage buddies made a trip to the West Coast to attend the first NHRA event in Pomona in 1953. Upon returning to Florida, he began staging races at Henderson Airfield in Tampa, charging 25 cents a head to cover the cost of trophies for the winners.

After substituting as a driver for "Big Daddy" Don Garlits, who was recovering from burns suffered when a dragster engine exploded, Malone began racing on his own.

He soon ventured into the world of circle-track competition, where he became the first driver to exceed 180 mph on an oval course with a 181.561-mph lap at Daytona International Speedway in 1961.

**Weekend Racing:** The Truck and Cup teams will be at Martinsville Speedway. At .526-miles, it is the smallest NASCAR track on the circuit. The Nationwide Series does not race again until April 12.

Sat., Apr. 6, Camping World Truck Series, race 2 of 22; Starting time: 1:30 pm ET; TV: SPEED.

Sun., Apr. 7, Sprint Cup Series, race 6 of 36; Starting time: 1 pm ET; TV: Fox.

**Racing Trivia Question:** What was the first year Kasey Kahne ran the Sprint Cup series?

**Last Week's Question:** Who won the inaugural Cup race at Texas Motor Speedway? **Answer:** Jeff Burton was the winner of the 1997 inaugural race at TMS.

You may contact the Racing Reporter at hodges@race500.com. NT(APR3,C)JAC

## Panthers...continued from Page 8A

open up a 5-0 advantage.

With two outs, Duckworth, Burks, and Barnett each singled, loading the bases for Odom, who came through again with a hit, bringing in Duckworth and Burks.

Another 1-2-3 inning by Everett was followed by a sacrifice fly from Duckworth, scoring Bentley, who reached on an error, giving Union a 6-0 lead in the fifth.

Everett worked around a single and a walk to keep Rabun off the board and the Panthers would blow things wide open in the sixth with two more runs.

Odom walked, Croskey singled, and Bentley walked to load the bases for Everett, who took his base on four straight balls, allowing Odom to trot home for run number seven.

Facing a 2-2 count, Jones choked up and poked an oppo-

sition field single, scoring Croskey.

Everett put the Wildcats away with a 12-pitch inning in the sixth. Nix led off the seventh with a double and would later score Union's ninth run off an Aulet single.

Rabun's two runs finally came in their final at bat off a walk, passed ball, two singles, and an error before a 6-4-3 double play ended the game.

It was a win that will have playoff implications down the road.

"Walking into the ballpark at Rabun the older guys remembered the double header loss to them last season," Bradburn said. "We came into the game with focus and a game plan. We had a pretty good idea of their team from seeing most of them last season and the game they played at our place

not long ago."

Union will host Andrews, NC on Thursday at 5 p.m. before resuming Region play on Friday when they travel to Social Circle for a double header at 4:30 p.m.



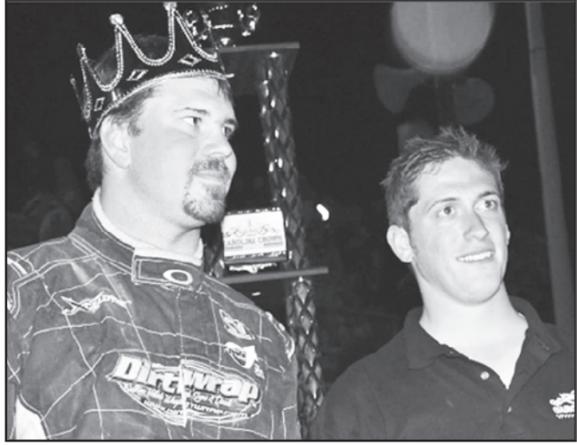
Jackson Burks

## Jonathan Davenport wins \$30,000 for dominating Carolina Crown with third straight win

Blairsville, GA resident Jonathan Davenport recorded one of the biggest wins of his career over the weekend at the Lancaster Motor Speedway in Lancaster, SC, as he banked \$30,000 for dominating the 2nd Annual 'Carolina Crown.' On Friday night, March 29, Jonathan timed in sixth quickest during the qualifying session and later took the win in his heat race. Following a third place effort in the dash on Saturday, JD rolled off starting from the inside of the second row in the 60-lap main event.

The AES Racing team competed in a \$2,000 to win NDRA Crate Late Model Series showdown on Friday evening. Jonathan timed in third fastest in qualifying, won his heat race, and later posted a fourth place effort in the A-Main.

Jonathan recorded his second straight Southern All Stars Dirt Racing Series (SAS) victory on Saturday, March 23 in his first-ever race at the Smoky Mountain Speedway in



(L-R): Jonathan Davenport and Cody Sommer

Maryville, TN! Jonathan set a New Track Record during the SAS qualifying session to earn the pole position for the 40-lap main event.

The AES Racing team ventured to the East Alabama Motor Speedway in Phenix City,

AL on Saturday, March 16 for the 28th Annual 'Jimmy Thomas Memorial.' In Southern All Stars Dirt Racing Series (SAS) action, Jonathan Davenport set fast time during the qualifying session with a lap of 14.012 seconds to earn the pole position for the 40-lapper. JD, who was behind the wheel of his #49 BWRC machine, then paced the stellar field from green to checkers to score the \$4,000 triumph. Jonathan also entered the \$1,000 to win Crate Late Model portion of the 'Jimmy Thomas Memorial' at EAMS. He started thirteenth on the grid and charged past ten competitors to score a solid third place effort.

## Fish for Food Fishing Tournament

Matthew 25 Food Ministries presents "Fish for Food Fishing Tournament" began March 9th at Lake Chatuge. 60% of tournament money goes to feed needy families in our area. The remaining 40% will go to tournament prize money. Prize money will be awarded for 1st Place, 2nd Place and 3rd Place and biggest fish. Actual prize amount will depend on number of entries.

Entry fee is \$50 per boat, the tournaments begin in March

and end in October, occurring the second Saturday of each month rotating between Lake Chatuge, Woods Grove Boat Ramp and Lake Nottely, Deaver Road Boat Ramp, from 7 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Tournament schedule: April 13 - Nottely; May 11 - Chatuge; June 8 - Nottely; July 13 - Chatuge; August 10 - Nottely; September 14 - Chatuge; and October 12 - Nottely. For contact information call David Crisp at 706-897-5347. NT(APR3,Z)ICA

 **Trout stocking sites week of March 18-29, 2013**

Fannin: Big Creek, Hemptown Creek, Hothouse Creek, Little Fightingtown Creek, Noontootla Creek, Rock Creek, Rock Creek Lake, Toccoa River Tailwaters (below Lake Blue Ridge Dam), Toccoa River, Wilscot Creek.

Gilmer: Boardtown Creek and Rock Creek.

Lumpkin: Cane Creek, Clay Creek, Dockery Lake, Etowah River, Nimblewill Creek, Ward Creek.

Union: Canada Creek, Cooper Creek, Suches Creek, Toccoa River, Wildhog Creek, Winfield Scott Lake.

Note: Information is subject to change. Please call the hatchery at 706-838-4723 for questions. The hatchery also provides trout for the state. Please contact Georgia DNR for information on sites stocked by the state. NT(APR3,Z)ICA

## Batting Cages

Meeks Park Automatic Batting Cages now open for the season. Mon, Tues, Thurs, and Fri 5:30pm-7:30pm. Sat from 10am-2pm closed on Wed.

