

UC 12&U Softball Team wins District Tournament

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The 11/12 Union County Lady Panther Softball All-Stars brought home first place in the District Dizzy Dean Tournament. Union County defeated host Jackson County, 8-7 in the Championship Game.

The Lady Panthers defeated Jackson County two-out-of-three times to finish in first. Union defeated Jackson County 6-5 in the first meeting, before dropping the second game, 8-7 to Jackson County.

In the opening game of the tournament, Union County clobbered Dawson County, 14-3. In the Dawson County game, Union took advantage of nine Dawson walks and two hit-by-pitches and eight runs in the fourth and fifth innings to put Dawson away for good.

Madeline Tanner went 3-for-3 with three RBIs and Maci Everett also drove in two runs.

During Union's 6-5, Game Two win over Jackson County, Ally Horinek finished



Back Row: Left to Right - Coach Jeff Tanner, Skylar Ludlum, Maci Everett, Coach Joe Horinek, Channa Carroll, Logan Seabolt, Coach Dean Everett, Braden Poteete, Aladriel Arnold. 2nd Row: Left to Right - Karlee Payne, Jaylyn Milam, Madeline Tanner, Reagan Davis. Front: Allie Horinek

3-for-3 with a double and scored twice, Maci Everett also finished 3-for-3 with a run, and Madeline Tanner went 1-for-2 with a walk and an RBI.

Despite trailing 3-1 and 4-2, Union scored two in the fourth and two in the sixth to rally past Jackson County and punch their ticket to the title game.

Jackson got one of their

runs back in the sixth but it wasn't enough to overcome the Lady Panthers.

In the second meeting, Union trailed 5-1 entering the bottom of the fifth when they exploded for five runs in the fifth for a 6-5 advantage. Jackson County would respond with three runs of their own in the sixth to take an 8-6 advantage into Union's final

at-bat.

Aladriel Arnold singled with one out and Skyler Ludlum singled but it wasn't enough as Union fell by one run, 8-7.

Horinek, Arnold, and Everett each finished with two hits for the Lady Panthers.

In the third and deciding game, Union responded to it's only loss with four runs in the first and three in the second for a 7-3 lead.

Tanner recorded two hits and two runs in the first two innings, Ludlum and Arnold each doubled in a run and Union seemed to be in control before Jackson scored three in the third to cut it to a 7-6 game.

Karlee Payne gave Union an important insurance run in the top of the sixth that they surely would need.

Jackson scored a run in their final at-bat and had a runner on first base when the Jackson County runner was cut down by Horinek, trying to steal second.

Union County now advances to the State Playoffs, to be held in Chickamauga beginning on Friday.

UC 9-year old All-Stars going to state



Left to Right Back Row: Isaak Mullanack, Zeke Swartz, Kaston Hemphill, Joseph Rockenbaugh, Colten Day and Zion Ross Front Row: Braylen Gray, Damien Chitwood, Jonah Daniel, Cooper Colwell, Cole Jenkins and Ryan Lockwood Not Pictured: Coaches Shane Mullanack, Joe Colwell and Jeff Daniel

The 2012 Nine Year Old Union County All Star Baseball Team sealed a slot in the State Tournament two weekends ago. The team won their first game Friday, June 15th against Jackson County by a score of 18-2. Then the All Stars took another win on Saturday against the Jefferson Dragons, 10-9.

After a loss on Sunday against the Dragons, the

Union County All Star Panthers secured second place in the District on Monday with a tie breaker game against the Dragons, placing them in the State Tournament. The team will now play in the 2012 State Tournament June 29th - July 2nd in Canton, Georgia. We are so very proud of the team and all their hard work! Go All-Star Panthers!

NASCAR 2012

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

BOWYER WINS CALIFORNIA ROAD RACE

Clint Bowyer powered his way to victory Sunday in the Sprint Cup SaveMart 350, ahead of Tony Stewart.

"I knew it was a huge risk switching teams during the off season, but it has sure paid off," said Bowyer. "It's all about working together, and this team has really put it all together."

Even though Stewart finished second, it was Kurt Busch, the third-place driver that pushed Bowyer the most. Busch stayed on Bowyer's rear bumper, even giving him a nudge several times.

The race's second caution came on lap 107 of the 110-lap race, sending it into a green-white-checked finish.

"It was an amazing day," said Busch. "I tried to be considerate of the way I drove Clint. I hit some speed bumps on the restart that weren't fastened down, and broke the pan hard bar on the car which allowed Tony to get by me."

Brian Vickers and Jimmie Johnson were fourth and fifth, respectively.

Even though Jeff Gordon finished sixth, he continued to experience problems. He ran out of gas on lap 73 and had to coast about one-half mile into his pit stall. He was third at the time, but dropped back to fifteenth.

Near the end of the race, he had the fastest car, but ran out of laps.

Greg Biffle, Marcos Ambrose, AJ Allmendinger, and Joey Logano were the remaining top-10 finishers.

Dale Earnhardt Jr. never ran up front, and on the last lap, he and several other cars got together, and he wound up 23rd.

Top-12 Chase contenders after 16 of 36: 1. Kenseth-596, 2. Biffle-585, 3. Earnhardt-582, 4. Johnson-571, 5. Stewart-533, 6. Harvick-532, 7. Bowyer-529, 8. Hamlin-523, 9. Truex-520, 10. Keselowski-490, 11. Edwards-479, 12. Kyle Busch-459.

Nelson Piquet is Nationwide Winner

Nelson Piquet Jr. of Brazil won Saturday's Nationwide race at Road America in only



Clint Bowyer, Sunday's Cup winner at Sonoma Furnished by Toyota

his third series start. "I knew I could do it," said Piquet. "It was a matter of getting the right people together."

"Once I opened a little gap over the second-place car, I knew it was my race. I was in control."

He started on the pole and led the most laps. In addition to running selected Nationwide races, Piquet is a regular in the truck series.

The remaining top-10 finishers were: Michael McDowell, Ron Fellows, Max Papis, Sam Hornish, Jacques Villeneuve, Brian Scott, Kurt Busch, Cole Whitt, and Justin Allgaier.

Villeneuve collided with Danica Patrick on the last lap as the two drivers were battling for a top-five finish, causing Patrick's car to spin out. Villeneuve finished sixth, while Patrick recovered and finished 12th.

"Where Villeneuve goes, there tends to be cars that have problems, whether it's his fault or the other car's fault or (just) stock car racing at the end of the race," Patrick said.

Top-10 points leaders after 14 of 33: 1. Sadler-517, 2. A. Dillon-507, 3. Stenhouse-494, 4. Hornish-483, 5. Whitt-442, 6. Allgaier-441, 7. Annett-414, 8. Bliss-364, 9. Scott-339, 10. Patrick-337.

Gordon and Edwards in big slump

Until the checkered flag was dropped on the last lap of the 2011 Cup season, Carl Edwards was in contention to win the Sprint Cup champion-

ship. Instead, he lost it to Tony Stewart by only three points.

But the 2012 season is a different story.

Edwards is 11th in the standings, 11 points outside the top-10. But the fact is he has not been the same racer who led the standings for 21 weeks last year and had a record average finish of 4.9 in the Chase.

"I can't really tell you what our problems are," said Edwards. "It's not that I'm not trying, or the team doesn't want to win. A lot of folks have said because of the intensity of last year's championship drive, it has deflated us this year. But that's not so."

"I look forward to each race, and I can honestly say that my heart is as much in it as it ever was."

Edwards has just two top-fives and eight top-10 finishes. He's led just only races and struggled to finish in the top-10 in most races. He's also been in a couple of wrecks and suffered the kind of misfortune he managed to avoid last season.

While Edwards is in line to make the Chase, Jeff Gordon is having his worst season ever.

After 16 races into the season, Gordon is 18th in points. His sixth-place win at Sonoma moved him up two spots. The four-time Cup champion has never been this low in points at this point of the season in his 20-year career, not even as a rookie in 1993.

Gordon's luck has perhaps been worse than any driver this year, mirroring him in the standings and leaving him desperate for wins just to earn a wild card into the Chase. If not, he will miss the playoffs and finish outside the top-10 in points for only the second time in his career.

Gordon, who has 85 career victories, could still reel off a couple of wins and make the Chase, but the way this season has gone, it's a long shot. Not only have he and his Hendrick Motorsports team made critical mistakes and been the victims of horrible luck, he has been inconsistent and has not run up front as he usually does.

And it's very ironic that Gordon's other three teammates are in contention for the Chase.

Does he have some type of "monkey" on his back? If something doesn't happen, and soon, he is going to be on the outside of this year's Chase.

Weekend Racing: All three of NASCAR's major series are at the 1.5-mile Kentucky Speedway.

Thurs., June 28, Camping World Trucks UNOH 225, race 8 of 22; Starting time: 7:30 pm ET; TV: SPEED.

Fri., June 29, Nationwide Feed the Children 300, race 15 of 33; Starting time: 7 pm ET; TV: ESPN2.

Sat., June 30, Sprint Cup Quaker State 400, race 17 of 36; Starting time: 6:30 pm ET; TV: TNT.

Racing Trivia Question: Where is Carl Edwards' hometown?

Last Week's Question: Which Cup team does Greg Biffle drive for? Answer: The No. 16 Roush Fenway Ford.

You may contact the Racing Reporter at hodge@race500.com. NT(Jun27,Z21)gg

June events at Union County Saddle Club

Union County Saddle Club is pleased to announce another successful month under our covered arena. On June 9th, UCSC hosted our first annual National Barrel Horse Association Show. It was a huge success with large turn out of competitors and spectators, as well as numerous volunteers to help operate the show. The NBHA Georgia 01 district brings competitors from the north and northwest Georgia area. We had 193 competition runs and 127 exhibition runs on this particular day. Our marvelous concession stand provided a special dessert of Hummingbird cake to top of their great entrees for the long day. There will be another NBHA event at the saddle club in the fall. Our regular open horse show was held on June 16th with a great turn out throughout the day. Open horse shows are compiled of western classes, racking classes, trail course, speed events, and the very special lead line class.

Please mark your calendars for two special events coming to Union County Saddle Club; Hope for the Warriors Benefit on June 30th and UCSC Fun Show Benefit on July 7th. Hope for the Warriors is an organization with community involved programs designed to help our military and their families who have been wounded or killed in the line of duty. On June 30th, UCSC



2012 Season for BJOG has been a busy one! With a kick off on Flag Day, June 14th at the secluded spot at the end of Forest Service Road 300 where we raised the flag and our DAV member lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance. After the ceremony Ervin Fortenberry played several patriotic tunes on the fiddle while members enjoyed sausage biscuit and hot perked coffee.

This type of event is an example of the activities we enjoy and the freedom we appreciate. Our off road advisors have taken us on the trails of the Beasley Knob OHV and we held our regular meeting on June 21st at Cadence Bank Community Room where regular meetings will be held monthly on the third Thursday of each month. Thanks Cadence Bank for providing us a place for our meetings.

Other activities planned soon are a morning drive to Suches swinging bridge and a visit to Cohutta Wilderness.

Check out our website at www.blairvillejeepownersgroup.com for information on our group and all upcoming events. NT(Jun27,Z19)gg

Amateur and HAM radio meeting

The North Georgia Tri-State A.R.C. (Amateur Radio Club) meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at Branan Lodge on Wesley Mountain Road in Blairsville. All of our meetings are open to the public. Our next meeting will be held July 3. For more information about joining the Club or becoming a HAM, contact Alan Zimmerman (AJ4YH) 706-781-3160.



Marissa McFarland

will host a barrel race, an auction, and team roping with all proceeds to be donated to Hope for the Warriors. Please come out and join us as we support, honor, and meet a few of our wounded heroes. Our July 7th Fun Show will benefit the Sassin-Saddles Precession Drill Team. Please come join us for an entertaining day of fun competition including the cupcake race, wheel barrow race, etc.

The arena and show grounds are located on the corner of Hwy. 515 and 325 in Blairsville. All shows are open to the public and there is no charge for admission. If you need further information on any of these events, please call Gerald Patterson President at 706-897-7463, Art Miller, Vice President at 706-435-8298 or visit the website at www.UnionCountySaddleClub.org to view the show sheet and the calendar for the year. Also, look for us on Fa-

Run for Rover 5K

The Humane Society's Mountain Shelter invites runners of all ages to compete in the Saturday, June 30 "Run for Rover 5K" and "Kids for Canines 1K Fun Run." Both runs will begin at pavilion 4 near the ball fields at Blairsville's Meeks Park.

Awards will be given to 1st, 2nd place Overall - male and female; top 2 male and top 2 female in each age group: under 14, 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70+.

The Kids for Canines Fun Run will begin at 8 a.m. and the Run for Rover 5K will begin at 8:15 a.m. Registration begins at 7 a.m.

Online registration is available at www.active.com/mountainshelter or by phone 706-897-5669. Pre-registration of \$20 must be received before June 28. Registration at the park is \$25. Registration and packet pick-up begins at 7 a.m. on race day.

Kids pre-registration fee is \$10 or \$15 at the park on race day.

The race is being coordinated by Young Harris College's Cross Country Coach Barry Brown and members of the varsity cross country team for the benefit of the Mountain Shelter. NT(Jun27,Z16)CA

Veteran's Lunch and Learn

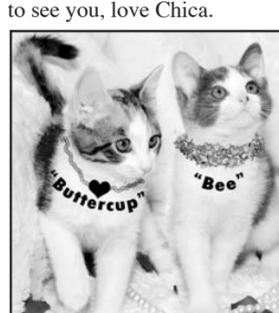
Veteran's Lunch and Learn will be held on Wednesday the 27th at 12 noon. Focus is on healthy lunch choices. Lunch will be served in the meeting room at the Union County Library. All Veterans and spouses and caregivers are invited. NT(Jun27,Z6)CA

cebook and become a "Fan."

Future events are: Saturday, June 30th, Hope for the Warriors Benefit Barrel Race and Team Roping, opening ceremonies at 9 a.m., www.hopeforwarriors.org; Saturday, July 7th, UCSC Fun Show to Benefit our Sassin-Saddle Precision Drill Team, sign up at 10 a.m.; and Saturday, July 21st, UCSC Open Horse Show, sign up at 10 a.m. NT(Jun27,Z4)CA



Hi, I am "Chica" they say I am the cutest, prettiest little lap princess around. They take real good care of me here but it's time for me to get new digs. Brown and black are my colors and I have a face to die for. I am a year old and have kind of long hair. They tell me I am Chihuahua/Pomeranian mix with a heart of gold. I am kind of quite and am looking for someone special to love me. Please come visit and we can have our private room to get acquainted. I'll be waiting to see you, love Chica.



Hi Folks, our names are "Buttercup" and "Bee". We are sisters and adorable 9 week old calico kittens. We have a lot of love to give and want to share it with someone special. We would like to stay together but understand if we can't. Our accommodations here are super but we want to make room for a new kitty. We are both black, white and beige and have gorgeous yellow eyes that sparkle (I like to show off a little). If you would like to come to our pad and hold us and love us (and any of our buddies) we would be so happy.

Hours are Monday thru Saturday 10:30 to 3:30. Please come visit, you won't be disappointed. The shelter's number is 706-781-3843. NT(Jun27,Z2)CA