

## Panthers ...continued from page 12A

Prunier for 36, and Rodriguez for 33. Gilbert had two grabs for 19 yards, while Barnett (17 yards), Dietz (18 yards), and freshman Austin Pattee (15 yards) all had one catch each.

Senior Dalton Moose had one carry for 8 yards, freshman Cole Dockery rushed three times for 8 yards, and freshman Cole Wright threw for 15 yards on one pass attempt.

Barnett led the defense with 12 tackles and one pass breakup, sophomore Chris Thompson finished with 10 tackles - one going for a loss, and senior Nic Sparks had three tackles-for-a-loss and caused two fumbles. Sophomore Zach Stone and senior Will Stone had four tackles each. Senior Reid Watson and sophomore Luke Winkler both recorded a tackle-for-a-loss.

Junior kicker Knox Kieran connected all seven of his extra point attempts.

This week the Panthers will host rival Fannin County from Class AAA and will be out for revenge after the Rebels upset Union County 43-35 in Blue Ridge last year.

"We had a better week of practice this week than we had (during the Lumpkin County week) so we're going to have to continue having good weeks and continue to improve," Coach Allison said. "I told the guys to enjoy the win, but on Saturday, we need to start focusing on Fannin."

The all-time series between the two schools is dead-even at 23-23 - West Fannin and East Fannin included - but nothing would please the Panthers' seniors more than to graduate with three wins over Fannin.

The 2014 Rebels squad won't be as experienced as the 2013 team that knocked off Union, but they'll feature plenty of talent and have some extra motivation of their own.

They are currently 2-1 under new head coach Jim Pavao (former defensive coordinator at Gainesville) with a 55-7 win over Murray County (Class AAA) and a 35-0 win over Armuchee (Class AA). Their loss came at the hands of another rival, Gilmer County (Class AAAA) in a 41-7 rout in week one. A loss to Union would

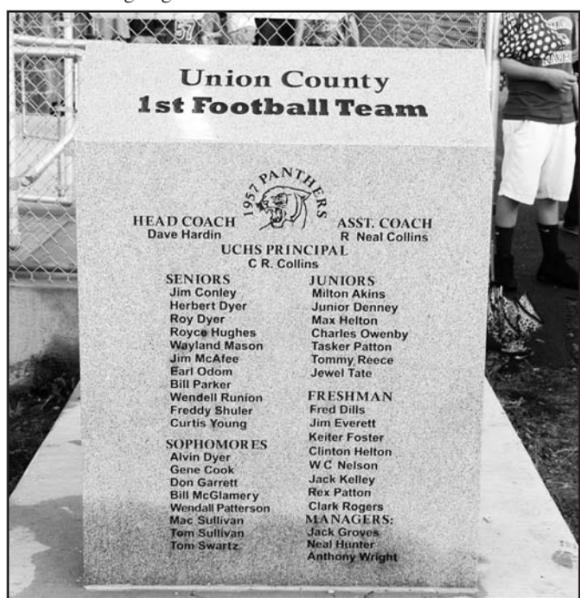
make Fannin 0-2 against its rivals so the Rebels will be hungry for a victory when they come to Blairsville.

"Fannin is a very solid football team," Coach Allison said. "They are well coached, they play hard, their quarterback doesn't make mistakes, and they have some good skill position players. Our offense will just have to take what they give us. I'd like to be able to run the ball but we're not going to force it. If

we just take what they give us, I think we'll be fine."

A win over Fannin not only gives Union the series edge but it would also be Coach Allison's 70th coaching win at Union County and 95th win overall.

Kickoff is set for 7:30 p.m. this Friday, but before the game, Union County High School will honor its future stars as the recreation department's youth football players will be announced.



The 1957 Panthers monument at Panther Alley. Photos/Todd Forrest



Panthers D: Andrew Brown, Chase Barnett, and Chris Thompson.



Members of the 1957 team with the Panther monument in front of the fieldhouse. Photos by Todd Forrest

## 4-H Shooting Sports Teams and Friends of NRA banquet

Union County 4-H Shooting Sports Teams are working with Friends of NRA to hold a banquet at the Pat Haralson Civic Center on September 27, 2014 at 6 p.m. This banquet helps to raise money for grants given by Friends of NRA to organizations like the 4H teams and church shooting sports organizations.

We will have a great dinner catered by Steve's Steakhouse, a live auction, silent auction, and many games of chance. We like to call it dinner and a show!

For more information you can call Jammie Murphy at the Union County Extension/4H office 706-439-6030 or Brad Hutson at

706-835-6484. Tickets can be purchased in advance or at the door for \$30. An (8) person table can be purchased at a discounted price of \$25 per ticket (\$200 per table).

Please come out and help support the Friends of NRA as well as the local 4-H Shooting Sports Teams Archery, BB, and Shotgun! NT(Sep17,21)CA

**North East Georgia Friends of NRA Banquet & Auction**

9/27/2014  
6:00 PM  
\$30.00

Pat Haralson Civic Center  
165 Wellborn Street  
Blairsville, GA 30512  
Contact: Brad Hutson • (706) 835-6484

**2014 Basketball registration**

**Union County Recreation Department**

Age Group	Registration Begins	Season Starts	Season Ends
5/6 yrs old	September 29	October 13	November 21
7/8 yrs old	September 29	October 13	November 21
9/10 yrs old	September 29	December 1	January 17
11/12 yrs old	September 29	December 1	January 17

Registration fee is \$50.00 and is open to both boys and girls.

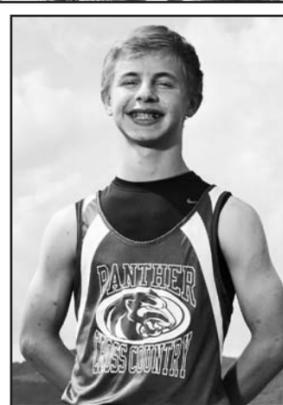
Registration can be completed online at [Meekspark.com](http://Meekspark.com) or in person at the Recreation Office at 310 Wellborn Street.

If you need any additional information, please call 706-439-6074

## Cross Country: Union County squads face tough field at West Hall Invitational



With Emma Garrison (22:17) battling shin splints and finishing 10th overall, the Lady Panthers (above) placed 11th out of 15 teams at West Hall. Stephanie Busse (25:39) placed 66th, Anna Danek (25:42) was 68th, Marissa Spaulding (25:47) 69th, and Raphaela Bauman (26:37) 75th. Freshman Lance Underwood (right) led the mens squad to an 11th place finish - out of 19 teams - with a 35th place individual finish at 18:35. Sophomore Jakob Brown (far right) finished 54th at 19:01, Cristian Garcia was 56th at 19:06, Jacob Kelley finished 72nd at 19:49, and Adam Bachman was 84th, clocking in at 20:24.



## Tri-County Junior Golfers enjoying 12th year



The Tri-County Junior Golf Association is currently holding their Fall Tournament League. Thursday, September 4, 2014 - 75 junior golfers competed at Brasstown Valley Resort. Many thanks to Young Harris College for sponsoring last week's event. This local

area junior golf league is in their 12th year. We are pleased to have local PGA professional, Matt Liss, head up this organization and hope it continues to grow and provide the children in our area the opportunity to experience the wonderful game of golf.

The Fall Tournament League continues through the end of September. If anyone is interested in joining the league for next Spring's league play, please contact Matt at Chatuge Shores Golf Course in Hayesville, NC. NT(Sep17,F)SH

## NASCAR 2014

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

### Keselowski wins chase opener

JOLIET, Ill. — The first 250 laps of Sunday's 267-lap Sprint Cup race was about as boring as it gets.

But after a restart on lap 251, Brad Keselowski brought the Chicago race fans to their feet.

Kevin Harvick and Kyle Larson were switching positions for first.

Larson was on the high side.

Harvick was running low. Like gangbusters, Keselowski sailed right between the two leaders, and said, "bye-bye" to the rest of the field.

There was one more caution after Danica Patrick slapped the wall, but Keselowski had the speed, and for the last few laps, the only question was, who would be runner-up.

There was a terrific battle for second, third, and fourth positions between Larson, Jeff Gordon, and Harvick.

At the end it was Gordon, Larson, and Joey Logano.

"I'm not sure how we pulled this off," said Keselowski. "I don't know how any of this happened, except we had one hell of a fast race car. It was awesome and doesn't get any better than this."

After the race, Gordon walked over to Larson and gave him some advice.

"Man, the way those two guys were going at it, I thought they were going to wreck in front of me," said Gordon. "I put everything I had into this race, so to come in second isn't so bad."

The third-place finish was Larson's best in the Cup Series.

"I didn't need that last caution," said Larson. "We had a good car and I think we had a chance until we got bunched up on the last restart. I scraped the wall, and after that it was hard to keep up."

Joey Logano was able to pass Harvick for fourth, while Harvick, who led the most laps (79) had to settle for fifth.

"The 42 car was better than us at the end," said Harvick. "For whatever reason, my car developed a tightness near the end of the race and I had to go in a defensive mode."

Denny Hamlin was sixth, while Kyle Busch, Kurt Busch, Jamie McMurray, and Matt Kenseth were the remaining top-10 finishers.

Top-10 Chase leaders after 1 of 10: 1. Keselowski-2059, 2. Gordon-2052, 3. Logano-2049, 4. Harvick-2047, 5. Earnhardt-2042, 6. Johnson-2041, 7. Kyle Busch-2041, 8. Hamlin-2041, 9. Kurt Busch-2039, 10. Kahne-2034.

### "HAPPY" HARVICK TAKES NATIONWIDE RACE

Kevin Harvick led twice for 42 laps on the way to victory in Saturday's Nationwide Race at Chicagoland Speedway.

Kyle Larson finished sec-

ond, and then it was Kyle Busch, Ryan Blaney, Trevor Bayne, Elliott Sadler, Ty Dillon, Regan Smith, Brian Scott, and Chase Elliott.

Top-10 leaders after 26 of 33: 1. Elliott-951, 2. Smith-933, 3. T. Dillon-911, 4. Sadler-900, 5. Scott-895, 6. Bayne-871, 7. C. Buescher-780, 8. Gaughan-751, 9. Reed-706, 10. J. Buescher-697.

### "ROWDY" KYLE BUSCH IS CHICAGO TRUCK WINNER

Kyle Busch won his 41st Truck Series race Saturday at Chicagoland.

The remaining top-10 finishers were: Matt Crafton, Austin Dillon, Tyler Reddick, Jeb Burton, Darrell Wallace Jr. Ben Kennedy, Joey Coulter, Joe Nemechek, and Bryan Silas.

Top-10 leaders after 15 of 22; 1. Crafton-560, 2. Sauter-555, 3. Blaney-544, 4. Wallace Jr.-525, 5. Quiroga-501, 6. Coulter-492, 7. Kennedy-478, 8. Peters-475, 9. Hornaday-460, 10. Burton-459.

### AMBROSE LEAVING NASCAR

Marcos Ambrose, driver of the No. 9 Richard Petty Motorsports Ford in the Sprint Cup Series will leave NASCAR at the end of this season and return to his native Australia, to compete in the V8 Supercar Series for Roger Penske.

"Marcos will always be a part of our extended racing family," said Richard Petty, co-owner of RPM. "He came over to the United States with his family and dedicated his time here to giving it the best he had each week. I couldn't ask anything more from Marcos and his commitment on and off of the track to our race team and our partners. Away from the track, he's a family person first. That's something I respect and we'll miss Marcos, Sonja and their children."

Ambrose has six NASCAR wins on the Watkins Glen road course.

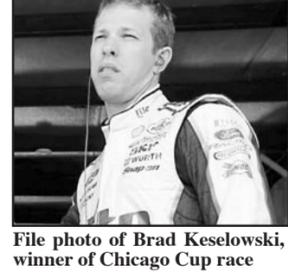
"It has been fantastic," said Marcos. "I never thought I would achieve what I have at the Sprint Cup level. I have survived here for years and I have had some wins but not enough and I feel like I was up against it early on from my background. I came from a country that doesn't have any asphalt oval racing at all and so I feel like I have achieved a lot and am really satisfied."

"There has been a lot of conjecture through the years but I just want to get my kids home to enjoy the Australian lifestyle, and be able to make good choices when they grow up. I feel like the time is right for me to stop in the U.S., and personally I think it is a great time to move back home to Australia with my family."

### WHAT THE CHASE CONSISTS OF

There are four rounds, with the first three consisting of three races each:

First round: Chicagoland,



File photo of Brad Keselowski, winner of Chicago Cup race

New Hampshire, Dover; Second round: Kansas, Charlotte, Talladega; Third round: Martinsville, Texas, Phoenix; Championship: Homestead.

Four drivers will be eliminated in each round. Race winners (as long as they are still part of the Chase) automatically advance, and the remainder of the spots are based on points scored in the three Chase races. If drivers are tied in points, ties are broken by best finish in that specific round. After the first round, the 12 remaining drivers have their points reset to 3,000. After the second round, the eight remaining drivers have their points reset to 4,000 and after the third round, the four remaining drivers have their points reset to 5,000.

Drivers do not carry over any bonus points for wins from round to round. All remaining drivers start the second, third and championship round on equal footing.

The driver who finishes best among the four finalists at Homestead is the champion. There are no bonus points for those drivers based on a lap led or leading the most laps.

Those drivers who are eliminated in the first three rounds have their points adjusted by taking their total points accumulated in Chase races and adding to their point total when they started the Chase. That way, a driver who is knocked out in the first round of the Chase can finish as high as fifth in the final standings.

**Weekend Racing:** The Cup and Truck teams will be at New Hampshire Speedway, while the Nationwide teams are at Kentucky Speedway.

Sat., Sept. 20; Truck Series, race 16 of 22; Starting time: 12:30 pm ET; TV: FoxSports1.

Sat., Sept. 20; Nationwide Series, race 27 of 33; Starting time: 7 pm ET; TV: ESPN-NEWS.

Sun., Sept. 21; Sprint Cup, race 28 of 36; Starting time: 1 pm ET; TV: ESPN.

**Racing Trivia Question:** Who has won the most Sprint Cup races this season?

**Last Week's Question:** What year did Chicagoland Speedway open? **Answer:** The first race was held in 2001.

You may contact the Racing Reporter at: [www.hodges@race500.com](http://www.hodges@race500.com). NT(Sep17,C)nc