

Adams picks Truett-McConnell

By Todd Forrest
North Georgia News
sports@nganews.com

This time next year, Union County's Carly Adams will be prepping for her inaugural softball season as a Truett-McConnell College Bear.

Adams, the starting center fielder for the Union County Lady Panthers will take her tools to Cleveland and play for eighth year Head Coach Jenni Shepard. According to Coach Shepard, Adams' athletic abilities were obvious, but it was her character and excellence in the classroom that convinced the coach that Adams was a perfect fit for the Southern Baptist school.

"I got a lot of calls from people who had seen her play and known her for a long time, and it wasn't just about how she played, but it was mainly her as a person and her spiritual side of things," Coach Shepard said. "We're a Christian institution and that's one of the things that's most important to us, along with athletic ability. I heard nothing but good things about her as a person and as a student. She has good grades and we expect for her to come in and be a leader both on the field and off the field. She has a lot of speed, a good strong arm. I would have never known this was her first year in the outfield."



Carly Adams inks her deal to play at Truett. Photo/Todd Forrest

Adams, who could play infield or outfield, was sold on Truett-McConnell as soon as she met the team and felt the camaraderie at Truett-McConnell.

"When I went to try out the whole team was there trying out with me so I felt comfortable," Adams said. "They cheered me on and never tried to down me."

Despite not knowing any of her future Bear teammates, Adams is looking forward to making new friends and with her team-first attitude, Adams should carry her winning ways from Blairsville to her new home.

"Carly will be successful there because she works so hard," Union County Head

Softball Coach Jessica Stewart said. "She does everything you ask her to do. She will play any position you need her to. She's solid all around and is one of the best outfielders that I've ever had."

In 2012, Adams, the daughter of Scott and Camella Adams, was third on the team with a .349 batting average, scoring 13 runs and drawing 7 walks to earn All-Region First Team honors. While playing second base and center field at Union County, Adams won two Region 8-AA Championships, played in three 8-AA title games, appeared in four state tournaments, twice reached the State Elite Eight and was a member of the 2010 State Runner-Up squad.

Union County wrestling goes one-for-three at Andrews, NC meet



On Saturday Union County's wrestling team went 1-for-3 at Andrews, NC. The Panthers fell 36-30 to Hayesville, NC and 42-30 to Asheville, NC. 52-15 against Murphy, NC and we defeated Andrews, NC 88-0. Colton Harkins went undefeated as well as Tulsa Queen and Chase Barnett. Jon Floyd and Justin Eigel and Sam Whitmer went three and one. Eddie Kemp, Alyssa Sinkler, Macy Hayes, Adam Williams, Dylan Byers, Orlando Lara, and Keith Brewer also had wins.

Swimmers qualify for State

By Todd Forrest
North Georgia News
sports@nganews.com

The Union County boys' 200-Yard Freestyle Relay team has qualified for the State Tournament, becoming the first boys relay team to accomplish the feat.

The team of Tanner Gay, Joseph Mancuso, Austin Norton, and Brennen Wilkes finished first out of seven teams with a time of 1:39.39.

Nicole Gautieri and Anna Knight picked up first and second in the 50-Yard Freestyle. Gautieri clocked in at 26:82 and Knight at 27:16.

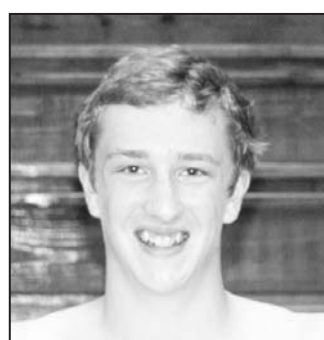
Gautieri also came in first in the 100-Yard Freestyle with a time of 59:24.

The girls' 200-Yard Freestyle relay team brought back a second place finish. Gautieri, Knight, Lindsey McCann, and Ansley Garrison finished with a time of 1:53.94 - their best time of the season.

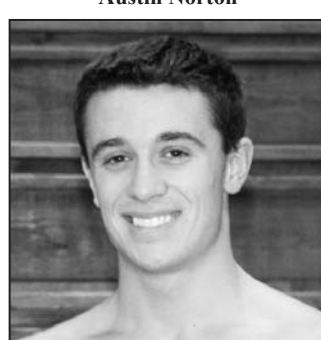
Gay added another first



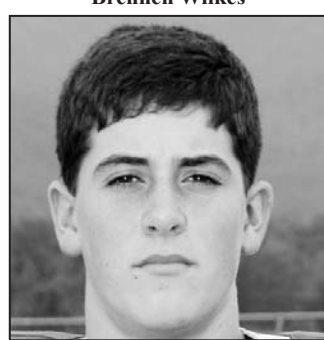
Austin Norton



Brennen Wilkes



Tanner Gay



Joseph Mancuso

place finish in the 50-Yard Freestyle at 23:96. Wilkes was third at 25:58.

Norton picked up third in

the 500-Yard Freestyle at 6:55.51. Meanwhile, Gay came in second place in the 100-Yard Backstroke at 1:02.45.

NASCAR 2013

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

Speeds up in Daytona testing

Speeds were up during last week's preseason testing of the new car at Daytona.

Several times cars running in packs were timed at nearly 200 miles per hour.

Jeff Burton had the fastest speed of the three-day test at 194.620 mph. In the draft, the top speeds were 199.650. The top 10-lap average in the draft was 195 mph.

"I think they want us going faster," Burton said. "I think they have a higher comfort level with the roof flaps and all that (and) they think they can get our speeds up."

"They kept inching us up at Talladega (in the test in October) and they got us to this speed, and they seem comfortable with it."

Robin Pemberton NASCAR Vice President of Competition Robin Pemberton said NASCAR had met its goal of slightly higher speeds.

"We know the teams will come back and bring a little bit better this and better that," said Pemberton. "We feel comfortable with that. The racetrack is coming to us a little bit, and speeds will fluctuate a lot — they'll be better on new tires and it will drop off as it goes."

"We're right in the ballpark. We don't foresee any changes."

Trevor Bayne, the 2011 Daytona 500 champion, posted the fastest lap at 199.650 mph.

"The biggest thing was just how the draft was working more like it used to be," said Bayne. "There were no two-car tandems, it was cool being able to back up off the leader and get runs and take the lead and do things like you used to do. It has a little bit more strategy involved than just holding it wide open and hitting the guy in front of you as hard as you could, so I thought it was cool."

The first Sprint Cup race of the season will be the Daytona Shootout, a 75-lap exhibition race on Saturday, Feb. 16.

Prior to the Shootout, the ARCA Re/Max Series will hold their first regular race of the season.

The Daytona 500 will be run Sunday, Feb. 24.

WILL MAYFIELD MAKE IT BACK TO NASCAR

Jeremy Mayfield called into a radio talk show last week and told Brian France that he would like to become part of NASCAR racing again.

"I want to make a serious comeback," Mayfield said according to NASCAR.com. "(It would be) very positive towards NASCAR. It could only

help both sides, especially if you guys give me another chance and keep it all positive."

Is he being realistic, or is it even possible?

Mayfield was suspended by NASCAR in 2009 and spent three years in court claiming that NASCAR suspended him for a false positive test that he said was for a mix of over-the-counter allergy medication (Claritin) and the prescription medication Adderall.

In addition he faces lots of legal problems, including numerous charges for stolen goods and possession of methamphetamine.

Mayfield believes he can put those charges behind him soon and that he would consider going through NASCAR's Road to Recovery drug rehabilitation program.

Mayfield asked France what he could do to race in NASCAR again.

"Jeremy, you know the path back for you," France said. "It's the path back for anybody. I've always hoped that you would choose the right path and not litigation and a bunch of other things."

"That's up to you. You have a welcome mat out (for you) anytime you want. There's a stated process that AJ Allmendinger just went through and we welcomed him back and it's terrific. That's up to you."

Mayfield's call to France was just another strange twist in a bizarre story that would only increase in tempo if Mayfield actually tried to race again considering the combative history and strained relationship between the driver and the sanctioning body.

Other problems developed around him after leaving NASCAR. His home was raided by police in 2011 and he eventually was charged with numerous felonies, one for possession of methamphetamine and 18 for larceny, breaking and entering and possession of stolen goods.

These charges carry a maximum of more than 40 years in jail, if found guilty of all counts. But Mayfield said he and his lawyers have almost reached a plea deal that would not require jail time.

Mayfield is looking on the positive side, but there are many negatives working against him. He is 43-year-old and has won only five Cup races in his career. If he were to some how get out of all the charges against him without landing in jail, he would still have to complete NASCAR's



2012 photo of Jeff Burton drug rehabilitation program before being reinstated.

AJ Allmendinger was reinstated after a year, but he did not resist NASCAR on the charge. To the detriment of Mayfield, he fought NASCAR in court for over three years.

NASCAR is the type organization that doesn't like for someone to buck them or put them in a bad light, and Mayfield did exactly that.

The case involving Curtis Turner in the 1960s comes to mind. He bucked the powers that be, by trying to organize a drivers union, and it was over five years before the France family reinstated him. I believe the same thing would happen if Mayfield returned.

But let's go to the bottom line. Mayfield wasn't setting the racing world on fire before he was forced out. Now at his age, and after having been away from a race car for several years, who would want to take a chance on someone like him with all his less-than-favorable publicity?

He would be bringing too much baggage for any reputable sponsor to accept.

From my standpoint, he needs to learn another line of work.

PATRICK WON'T RUN INDY THIS YEAR

"I can confirm to you today that I will not be doing the Indy 500," Patrick said. "I'm just going to do the Coke 600. The team and I decided to focus on Cup. It's going to be plenty of work as it is."

"It's going to be important for me running for the championship full time for the first time to really keep myself focused with the Cup car."

Last year, Patrick also focused on Charlotte as one of her 10 Cup races while she also ran a full Nationwide schedule. This year, that schedule will flip with the full Cup slate and about 10 Nationwide races.

Which Nationwide team she will race for is still to be finalized. She said she has talked to Turner Scott Motorsports but hasn't signed a deal.

"I'm not sure if that is completely set," Patrick said. "I know there have been some reports that have come out about running for Turner. We're definitely talking to them and trying to figure it out."

"We're definitely working on that but there's nothing signed yet. The exact dates and the races and the sponsors have yet to be confirmed for all that."

Racing Trivia Question: Did Junior Johnson ever drive an Indy-car?

Last Week's Question: How many racing flags does NASCAR use? **Answer:** Seven, they are; black and white checkered, white, green, black, yellow, red, and blue with a yellow stripe.

You may contact the Racing Reporter at hodges@race500.com. NNT(Jan16,C)jac

4-H Swine Team Kickoff 2013 Show Season

The Union County 4H Swine Team would like to introduce the members of the 2013 Market Hog Project.

Brady Kumler is a senior at Union County High School. This is his third year in the market hog project. He has one hog this year, a cross barrow named Sir Potamus J. Big Pig the Second. Daniel Kumler also attends Union County High as a freshman. His pig this year is a gilt, named Peppered Gravy. She is also a cross. This is Daniel's third year showing hogs. Also a freshman at UCHS, Kevin Williams will show two hogs this year. Kevin has been showing hogs for two years. His barrow is Fatboy and his gilt is Whiteout. Both of his pigs are Yorkshires.

Blane Brown and Allie Kumler, students at Union County Middle School have been showing hogs for four years. Blane, an 8th grader will show two pigs this year. Blane has a Yorkshire gilt named Casper and a Hamp-



Kevin Williams and Fatboy

shire barrow named Hoss. Allie, a 7th grader also has two hogs this year. Allie's gilt is Princess, she is a Hampshire and her barrow, Pierre D' Pig is a cross.

New this year, the swine team has a "Barn Buddy." Morgan Peney is in the fourth grade at Union County Elementary School. Morgan

comes to the barn and helps the team members with the care of their pigs. The students got their hogs in October. Since then, they have been growing and training their pigs. In order to show at the state show in February, pigs must weigh in between 220 lbs and 280 lbs. Therefore, the students must monitor their weight gain on a weekly basis and adjust when necessary. They have also been teaching their pigs to walk for them in a show setting. Students must be able to make their hogs "walk" for them in an arena. This means they have to be able to teach their pig to walk in circles, turn right and left and stay off of the pen and out of the crowd of other hogs.

The Swine Team will attend shows every weekend from now until the Georgia National Livestock Show in Perry, GA in February. At the first show of the season, the 4-H Swine Team traveled to the Gordon County Young Farmers Christmas Classic, Demanship Class. Students are judged based on how they handle their hog. Classes are divided based on student grade level. In 8th grade Showmanship, Blane Brown placed first with his hog, Casper. Approximately 12 students were in this class. In 9th grade Showmanship there were four students. Kevin Williams placed third with his hog, Fatboy.

The second part of this show is weight class. In the weight class, hogs are split up based on how much they weigh. At this show, barrows and gilts were shown separately. In the gilt show, placing first in her weight class, Class 8, was Casper, weighing in at 153 lbs, shown by Blane Brown. Casper beat out 7 hogs for this spot. In the barrow class, Kevin Williams' hog Fatboy took first place. Fatboy who weighed in at 167 lbs was in class 8 and was up against 5 hogs.

In weight class 10, hogs weighed in between 190 and 199 lbs. Hoss, who weighed in at 197 lbs, shown by Blane Brown took first place.

The 4H Swine Team along with the Union County FFA and FFA Alumni will be having our local hog show on Saturday, January 19th beginning at 11 AM. The show will be held at the livestock barn on Glenn Gooch Industrial Way. Other counties will be in attendance.

Please come out and support our youth and stay tuned for updates!



Allie Kumler with Princess and Pierre D' Pig



Blane Brown and Hoss

9u North Ga. Wildcats Travel Baseball Team
PRIVATE TRYOUTS ONGOING
at the home field in Blue Ridge.
Call for details and times.
Contact Steve at (706) 633-9239.