

2014-15 swim season opens for UCHS while middle school begins its inaugural season



After a successful run at the high school level, Union County Middle School will feature a swim team in 2014-15.

By Todd Forrest
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Clarksville - Both Union County High and Union County Middle School opened their respective seasons earlier this month in Habersham County at the Ruby Fulbright Aquatic Center.

Brennan Wilkes led the high school squad with a third place in the 100m freestyle and sixth in the 50m freestyle.

For the middle school, Grace Weldon placed second in the 50m freestyle and the 100m breast stroke.

The middle school's girls 200m relay team of Weldon, Kayla Bowman, Macy Davis, and Kaiya Wilkes finished in fourth place.

The guys placed fifth in the same event. The team consisted of Gavin Thompson, Tyler Harkins, Jordan Olmsted, and Brian Williams.

In the high school's 200m individual medley, Megan Foster came in seventh place. She also placed seventh in the 100m breast stroke.

The high school's 200m freestyle relay team of Aiden Francis, Jeremy Herum, Levi Jones, and Wilkes came in 10th. The girls 200m freestyle

relay team of Ariel Caputo-Sullivan, Maggie Davis, Katie Yaboni, and Foster finished in 10th. They also recorded a fifth place finish in the 400m freestyle relay.

In other middle school races, Williams was eighth in the 50m freestyle and on the girls' side, Kaiya Wilkes was eighth in the same event.

Sloan Sutton, Carter Wright, Nathan Cobb, and John Mancuso were 10th in the 200m freestyle relay.

Olmsted finished ninth in the 100m back stroke, and Bowman placed ninth and Ivey Garrett was 10th for the girls in the same event.

Union basketball to open at Philips Arena on Friday

By Todd Forrest
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Both Union County basketball squads will begin their 2014-15 campaign in the A-T-L on Friday at 1 and 2:30 p.m., as they face Banks County at Philips Arena, the home of the Atlanta Hawks.

After a meeting with former Region foe Banks County, Union will see another familiar face when Dawson County visits on Nov. 25.

The Panthers haven't defeated Dawson County at home since 2006. Their last win over the Tigers came in 2011 in Dawsonville.

Fannin County will remain on the schedule and the Lady Panthers will be looking for revenge after having their winning streak over the Lady Rebels ended in Blue Ridge back in January.

Another addition to the schedule will be the Lakeview Lions from Region 8-A. The teams last met in 2007 when Lakeview knocked off the Panthers thanks to a buzzer beater in

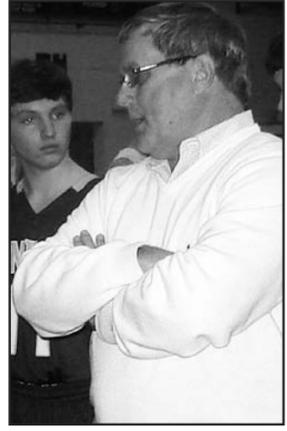


Casey Jones

Gainesville. Prior to that meeting, the two teams met at the Battle of the States Christmas Tourney where Union won by 25 points. However, the two teams haven't played in Blairsville since 2000.

On Saturday, Dec. 13th, Union County will once again feature a "throwback night" when they host Hayesville, NC in the Pit.

The Lady Panthers haven't faced Hayesville since January of 2012 and the guys last squared off



David Tucker

in December of 2012 in the Battle of the States.

Both Yellow Jacket squads are fresh off a deep playoff run in North Carolina and are expected to compete for a State Championship this winter.

Union will open Region 8-AA play on Dec. 20 when they host Oglethorpe County.

Last week Union visited Lumpkin County for a scrimmage where both Union squads picked up the "unofficial" win.

Day	Date	Opponent	Home/Away	Time	JV
Tuesday	November 11 (Scrimmage)	Lumpkin	Away	6:00/7:30	
Friday	November 21	Banks	Phillips Arena	1:00/2:30	
Tuesday	November 25	Dawson	Home	7:00/8:30	4:00/5:30
Tuesday	December 2	Fannin	Home	6:00/7:30	4:00 Girls
Friday	December 5	Towns	Away	7:00/8:30	5:30 Boys
Tuesday	December 9	Lakeview	Home	6:00/7:30	4:00 Girls
Friday	December 12	Dawson	Away	7:00/8:30	4:00/5:30
Saturday	December 13	Hayesville	Home (Pit)	6:00/7:30	3:00/4:30
Friday	December 19	Towns	Home	7:00/8:30	5:30 Boys
Saturday	December 20	Oglethorpe	Home	3:00/4:30	
Saturday	December 27	Battle of States	Towns	TBD	
Monday	December 29	Battle of States	Towns	TBD	
Tuesday	December 30	Battle of States	Towns	TBD	
Friday	January 2	Oglethorpe	Away	5:00/6:30	
Saturday	January 3	Greene	Home	4:00/5:30	
Tuesday	January 6	Riverside	Home	6:00	4:30 Boys
Friday	January 9	Rabun	Away	7:00/8:30	4:00/5:30
Saturday	January 10	Wilkes	Home	3:00/4:30	
Friday	January 16	Fannin	Away	7:00/8:30	4:00/5:30
Saturday	January 17	Social Circle	Away	3:00/4:30	
Friday	January 23	Greene	Away	5:00/6:30	
Saturday	January 24	Hayesville	Away	7:00/8:30	4:00/5:30
Tuesday	January 27	Riverside	Away	6:00	4:30 Boys
Friday	January 30	Rabun	Home	7:00/8:30	4:00/5:30
Saturday	January 31	Wilkes	Away	3:00/4:30	
Friday	February 6	Social Circle	Home	6:00/7:30	



Upward Indoor Soccer 2015

On-line registration is now open for Upward Indoor Soccer for boys and girls in grades Kindergarten through 8th Grade at www.hopb.org or at www.fumcunioncounty.org. Form and registration fees may also be dropped off, Monday through Friday, at the House of Prayer Family Life Center or First United Methodist Church's business office between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

The registration price to participate is \$60, through January 13th, and an additional \$10 will be applied thereafter. Payment plans are available, if needed. Convenient once per week practices commence the week of January 26, 2015, while games will be held on Saturdays between February 14 and March 28, 2015.

Registrants should attend the evaluation that will be held on Tuesday, January 13th

on a drop-in basis between the hours of 5 and 7 p.m. at the House of Prayer Family Life Center located behind the sanctuary.

For more information regarding registration, contact either church office at HOP (706) 745-5925 or FUMC (706) 745-2073. Information regarding Upward Sports can be found online at www.upward.org.

Established in 1995, Upward Sports is the world's largest Christian youth sports provider. Upward Sports develops total athletes mentally, athletically, spiritually, and socially - producing players who excel both on and off the field. Today, approximately half a million players at more than 2,000 churches in 47 states participate in camps, clinics, and leagues through Upward Sports' Recreation Division.

NASCAR 2014

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

Harvick wins Sprint Cup Championship

HOMESTEAD, Fla.— This year's Chase for the Sprint Cup Championship went down to the last lap of the last race. When the checkered flag was dropped at the end of Sunday's 267-lap race at Homestead, it was Kevin Harvick that claimed the win and championship.

"I really don't know what to say," said Harvick. "We've chased this dream for so long that it's hard to believe it's actually come true for us. It came down to pit road today, and those guys executed flawlessly. I knew we had the car and it all came together for us."

Runner-up Ryan Newman ran in the fifth and sixth positions until late in the race, when he moved up to second. On the race's last restart with three-to-go, Newman was second, on the inside of Harvick. He was able to stay with Harvick and even challenged once for the lead, but on the final lap, Harvick was able to put some distance between their two cars.

"We chased it (the championship) all the way to the last lap," said Newman. "We didn't win the race. We didn't win the championship, but what a great season it's been for us. You've got to lose one in order to win, so maybe we can pull it off next year."

The two other championship contenders were Denny Hamlin and Joey Logano.

Hamlin had one of the faster cars and led 50 laps on the way to a seventh-place finish.

"We didn't pit for tires when the others did and that hurt us," said Hamlin. "Things just didn't work out for us in the last few laps. We had a good car on long runs. It's just unfortunate that we had so many cautions at the end."

The only other championship contender was Joey Logano. He started the race in the ninth position and finished 16th. Despite his less than stellar finish, Logano poured his heart into the race, but each time he started to move up, something happened. It appeared at times that he might have been trying to get more out of his car than it had in it.

Once, he brushed the outside wall and had to pit. During a regular pit stop he took off before the jackman had dropped the car. On another pit stop, the car fell off the jack, and it required nearly a minute before his crew could get it back up.

"We had a good season, but what can I say, except this was not one of our better races," said Logano. "We couldn't execute when we needed to and just didn't deliver today."

Final top-16 Sprint Cup standings: 1. Harvick-5,043, 2. Newman-5,042, 3. Hamlin-5,037, 4. Logano-5,028, 5. Keselowski-2,361, 6. Gordon-2,348, 7. Kenseth-2,334, 8.-Earnhardt-2,301, 9. Edwards-2,288, 10. Kyle Busch-2,285, 11. Johnson-2,274, 12. Kurt Busch-2,263, 13. Allmendinger-2,260, 14. Biffle-2,247, 15. Kahne-2,234, 16. Almirola-2,195.

Top-10 finishers of Sunday's Homestead Sprint Cup race: 1. Harvick, 2. Newman, 3. Brad Keselowski, 4. Paul Menard, 5. Jamie McMurray, Matt Kenseth, Denny Hamlin, Clint Bowyer, Jimmie Johnson, and Jeff Gordon.

Jeff Gordon, the pole-sitter led the most laps (161), but failed to pit late in the race when the other leaders did and had to pit with six laps remaining. He dropped from first back to 14th on the restart, and finished 10th.

KENSETH TAKES NATIONWIDE RACE
Matt Kenseth took the lead from Kyle Larson on a green-white-checkered finish to win Saturday's Nationwide Series race at Homestead, while Kyle Busch finished second.

Larson led 111 laps of the 206 lap race, but got shuffled back on the last restart, and had to settle for third. Ryan Blaney was fourth, and then it was; Chris Buescher, Regan Smith, Ty Dillon, Brad Keselowski, Elliott Sadler, and Brian Scott.



Chase Elliott, 2014 Nationwide Series champion and father Bill



Matt Crafton 2014 Camping World Truck Series champ and NASCAR Pres. Mike Helton

Chase Elliott finished 17th, but he had already wrapped up the 2014 Nationwide Series championship the week before.

Final top-10 Nationwide Series leaders: 1. Elliott, 2. Smith, 3. Sadler, 4. Scott, 5. T. Dillon, 6. Bayne, 7. C. Buescher, 8. Gaughan, 9. Reed, 10. J. Buescher.

Elliott will return to the Nationwide Series (to be called Xfinity in 2015) for a second season.

Elliott hasn't turned 19 yet, and the Nationwide Series champion already could be ready for a Sprint Cup ride. Even Rick Hendrick, thinks in some ways Elliott was ready to run at least some Cup races before he earned his first Nationwide win in April.

"I told the guys before he ever ran this year, I said I believe I can put him in the World 600 (at Charlotte), and he'd finish 15th because he's just that smooth and fast and knows how to use his head," said Hendrick.

But Hendrick has no extra Cup rides for 2015. So expect Elliott to run another full season for JR Motorsports as part of the original two-year deal with sponsor NAPA Auto Parts. He also could run a select number of Cup events.

The big question is where Elliott will race in 2016. Kasey Kahne's contract is up after 2015. Jeff Gordon hasn't said when he will retire, but there is sponsorship signed on his car through 2016. Dale Earnhardt Jr. and Jimmie Johnson aren't going anywhere.

"I don't know what tomorrow brings so I have no idea what the future has in store for myself or our team or whatever," Elliott told Sporting News. "The biggest thing is just make the most of what is going on right now and let it figure itself out. Me thinking about or worrying about it ain't going to change it. So the best thing I can do is just focus on what is going on at the racetrack, and make sure my mind is there 100 per cent each weekend."

CRAFTON WINS TRUCK CHAMPIONSHIP

Matt Crafton won the 2014 Camping World Truck Series championship. He became



Kevin Harvick wins race and Cup championship

the first driver to win back-to-back truck titles. He ended the season with a 21-point lead over Ryan Blaney.

The final top-10 standings: 3. Wallace Jr., 4. Sauter, 5. Peters, 6. Quiroga, 7. Coulter, 8. Burton, 9. Kennedy, 10. Silas.

Darrell Wallace Jr. won the season-ending truck race at Homestead, FL. Kyle Larson was second, with Timothy Peters, Kyle Busch, Ryan Blaney, Tyler Reddick, Ty Dillon, Joe Nemechek, Matt Crafton, and Johnny Sauter rounding out the top-10.

A.J FOYT UNDERGOES SUCCESSFUL HEART SURGERY

Four-time Indianapolis 500 champion, Daytona 500 winner, and former NASCAR team owner, A.J. Foyt underwent successful coronary bypass surgery last week in Houston after being diagnosed with blockages on Monday.

Foyt, 79, had been admitted to the Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center with intermittent chest pains but initial testing results were inconclusive. However, a cardiac catheterization procedure revealed blockages in arteries where Foyt had several stents from past procedures, most recently in March, 2010.

He was expected to be released from the hospital Monday.

Racing Trivia Question: Marcos Ambros is returning to his native Australia, but he plans to stay in racing. What are his racing plans for 2015?

Last Week's Question: Who has the most Sprint Cup wins this season? Brad Keselowski with six.

You may contact the Racing Reporter at: www.hodges@race500.com NT(Nov19,C1)dc