

GHSA approves use of football helmets; Board of Trustees weigh options for fall

By Todd Forrest
Sports Editor
sports@nganews.com

Thomaston - The Georgia High School Association (GHSA) continues to inch forward, approving helmet use during summer football workouts beginning Monday, July 20.

The decision followed the July 15 meeting between the GHSA and the Sports Medicine Advisory Council. However, this next step doesn't come without limitations. Each player must be issued a helmet, and schools must sanitize the headgear before and after each workout.

"Our maintenance staff, Mark Hughes and Gary Crawford, have done a great job providing all that we need for the sanitation of equipment, facilities and everything involved with keeping our athletes and coaches safe," Union County Athletic Director Mandy Hunter said. "They've been a tremendous help; we can't thank them enough."

Furthermore, the GHSA requests that schools continue reporting all positive COVID-19 cases. Reports must disclose the test date, the athlete or coach's name and their sport.

The GHSA is also providing schools with valuable resources and directions regard-



Mandy Hunter

ing the sanitation of composite leather, PU leather, and leather Wilson football care.

All other football regulations remain in effect at this time.

The GHSA Board of Trustees met at 1 p.m. Monday to discuss the opening of fall sports.

Before the meeting, cross country, softball and volleyball practice was slated to begin Aug. 1, with football conditioning underway on July 27. (For additional information, visit the GHSA's website at www.ghsa.net. Any alterations to the current schedule will post on social media via the North Georgia News.)

In national sports news, Virginia recently postponed its

high school football season until the spring, but the remaining fall sports are still on schedule. Meanwhile, other southern states like Florida and Tennessee have delayed the start of football until September.

According to Hunter, she is unaware of any talks to swap fall and spring sports in Georgia. Moreover, she doesn't believe asking kids to complete two football seasons, and playoffs, within 9-10 months is logical or safe.

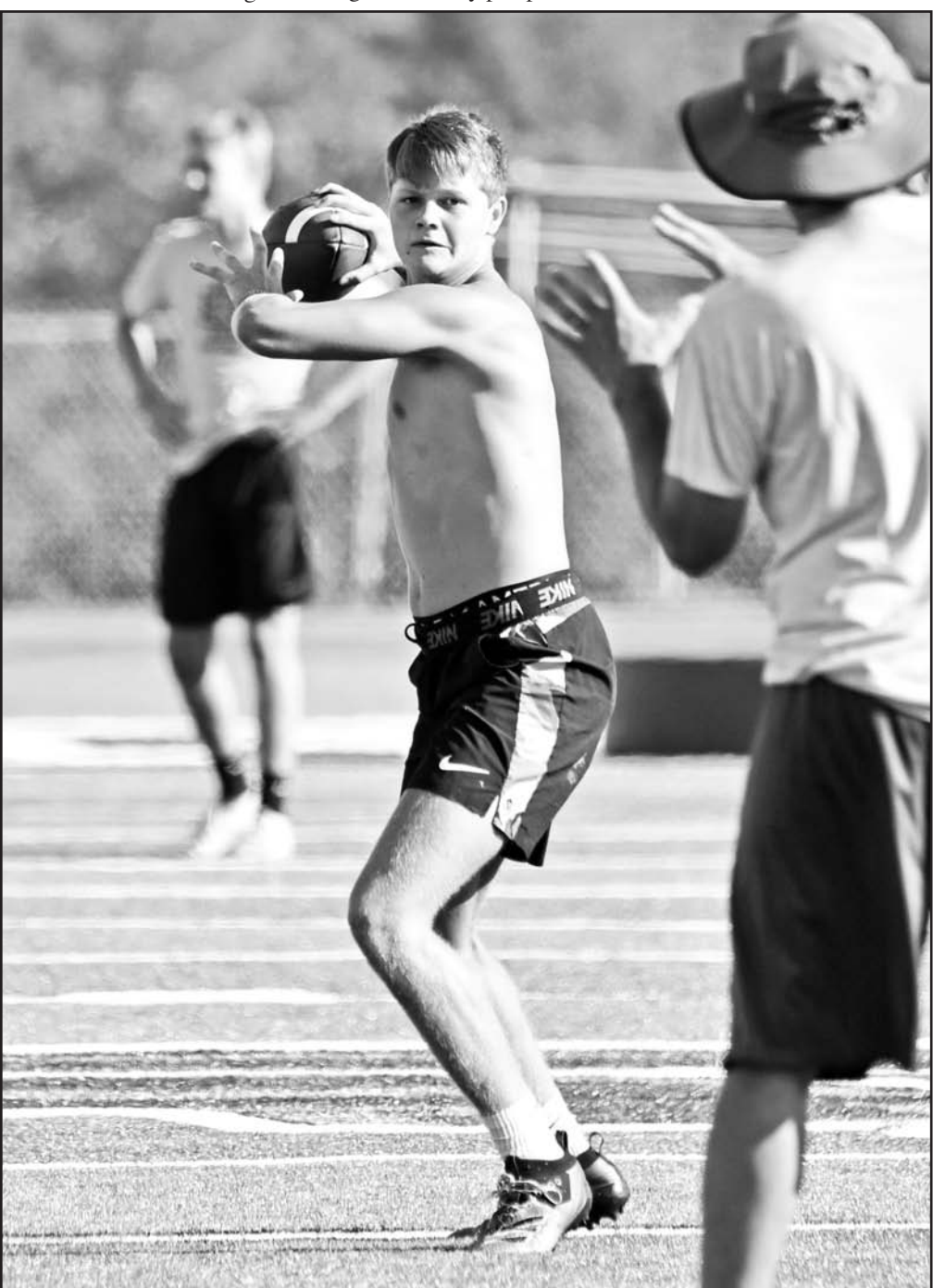
As for a delayed opening, Hunter sees that as a real possibility. She added that it wouldn't surprise her if the previously scheduled Aug. 7 football scrimmages witnessed a statewide cancellation.

A special thank you from the Union County Athletic Department: Hunter would like to thank Union General Hospital for recently administering school physicals to fall sports participants and band members.

"Thank you to all the Union General staff, doctors and nurses that came out and provided our school physicals," she said.

She also had high praise for the Union County Board of Education.

"I would like to thank the board and everyone that's doing what it takes to get everything back to normal as soon as possible," she said.



Rising junior Logan Helcher throws to offensive coordinator Howard McCombs. With the GHSA's approval of footballs, Panther quarterbacks are cleared for passing drills during summer workouts. Photo/Todd Forrest

Cruise-In on the Blairsville Square last Saturday



The Blairsville Cruisers hosted the monthly Cruise-In on the Historic Courthouse Square Saturday.

45 vehicles registered and many spectators enjoyed the event under cloudy skies.

Winner of the "Best Jeep" plaque went to Al & Tammy Hernandez of Sarasota, FL for their 2004 Jeep and the "Club Choice" trophy went to Curt Price of Blairsville for his 1949 Chevy pickup.

The 50/50 drawing was won by James Wood of Fannin County who donated a good portion of his winnings back to the club for use in the needy kids at Christmas programs.

The Blairsville Cruisers Car Club is a 501(c)3 non-profit. The Cruisers, their sponsors and supporters have contributed to the community since 2007 with scholarships and donations to various local organizations. A donation to support our needy kids Christmas programs will be appreciated. Donations can be made at the registration table at all cruise-ins.

Events scheduled for remainder of 2020 include our Cruise-Ins on the first Saturday of each month at the Union County Farmers Market, the 3rd



"Best Jeep" plaque went to this neat 2004 model owned by Al & Tammy Hernandez of Sarasota, FL



Club Choice trophy went to Curt Price of Blairsville for his 1949 Chevy pickup truck

Saturday of each month on the Blairsville Square and the Annual Salute to Veterans Car Show and Auction on November 7th at the Union County Farmers Market. Visit the BlairsvilleCruisers.com web site or on FaceBook at Blairsville Cruisers Car Club for additional information about the club. NTU0622Z14/CA

NASCAR 2020

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

Childress Teams Finish 1-2 At Texas

FT. WORTH, TX - Austin Dillon came out of the pits first in the last round of pit stops then held off rookie teammate Tyler Reddick on Sunday at Texas to get his first victory of the NASCAR Cup Series season, and give Richard Childress Racing its first 1-2 finish in nine years.

"Not bad for a silver spoon kid," said Dillon. "We knew a win was coming. This team has been getting better and better. We could just feel it. Now, that we've made the cut and in the Chase hunt, there won't be quite as much pressure."

"I was more worried about Tyler than the other guys. I knew he had a car just about equal to me, and if I made one slip, he would be on me."

It was his first win at the 1.5-mile Fort Worth track and third of his Cup Series career.

Reddick led five laps and came home in second place, taking the checkered flag .149 seconds behind Dillon.

"Well, I had the gas pedal down, but I think my teammate was running a little better line," said Reddick. "I wanted the end to be between our teams. I didn't want any of the other cars involved."

Joey Logano was third, followed by Kyle Busch, Kevin Harvick, Erik Jones, Ryan Blaney, Kurt Busch, Brad Keselowski, and Aric Almirola.

Denny Hamlin led 11 laps, had a fast car, but spun out seven laps from the finish and wound up finishing 20th.

If it weren't for bad luck, Jimmie Johnson would not have any luck. He spun during lap 121, hit the wall, and finished 26th.

Ryan Blaney won the first two stages of the race and led 150 laps of the 334 lap race.

The beginning of the final stage got off to a bad start. During Lap 218, race leader Blaney got loose going through Turn 4, causing the field behind him to stack up. As drivers tried to avoid wrecking, at least 11 other cars were involved. The race was red flagged for 12 minutes.

Blaney was fast, but a decision to stay out on Lap 246 as other drivers like Kevin Harvick and Joey Logano pitted ended up hurting him.

Top-10 leaders: 1. Harvick-721, 2. Blaney-630, 3. Keselowski-615, 4. Logano-607, 5. Elliott-604, 6. Hamlin-578, 7. Truex Jr.-557, 8. Almirola-534, 9. Kurt Busch-533, 10. Kyle Busch-520.

CINDRIC DECLARED WINNER IN TEXAS XFINITY RACE

Kyle Busch took the checkered flag in Saturday's Xfinity Series race at Texas, but his car failed a post-race inspection and he was placed last. The win went to runner-up Austin Cindric.

Top-10 finishers: 1. Austin Cindric, 2. Chase Briscoe, 3. Justin Allgaier, 4. Harrison Burton, 5. Michael Annett, 6. Jeb Burton, 7. Brandon Jones, 8. Justin Haley, 9. Ross Chastain, 10. Brandon Brown.

Top-10 leaders: 1. Briscoe-691, 2. Cindric-667, 3. Gragson-643, 4. Chastain-614, 5. Haley-550, 6. Allgaier-545, 7. H. Burton-536, 8. Annett-481, 9. B. Jones-448, 10. Herbst-377.

TEXAS TRUCK RACE GOES TO "ROWDY" KYLE

Top-10 finishers: 1. Kyle Busch, 2. Christian Eckes, 3. Matt Crafton, 4. Stewart Friesen, 5. Brett Moffitt, 6. Tyler Ankrum, 7. Justin Haley, 8. Grant Engfer, 9. Ben Rhodes, 10. Ross Chastain.

Top-10 leaders: 1. Hill-300, 2. Rhodes-278, 3. Creed-268, 4. Eckes-267, 5. Smith-254, 6. Moffitt-253, 7. Engfer-252, 8. Ankrum-248, 9. Gilliland-243, 10. Crafton-225.

ELLIOTT GETS FIRST ALL-STAR WIN

Chase Elliott held off Kyle Busch to get his first NASCAR All-Star Race win Wednesday night at Bristol



Chase Elliott Gets First All-Star Win

Motor Speedway.

"There's nothing like Bristol," he said. "There's nothing like the lights here. There's nothing like racing here. I've never won here - what a race to do it. Just really proud of our team tonight and rebounding. We've had a really tough couple of weeks and just felt like we had kind of gotten off base and I felt like I was struggling."

Elliott led 60 of the 140 laps en route to the \$1.1 million paycheck. He and his father Bill Elliott along with Dale Earnhardt and Dale Earnhardt Jr., are the only father/son combinations to have won the All-Star event. Interestingly, Bill Elliott won the race when it was held in Atlanta and Chase's victory at Bristol are the only two times the event was held at a track other than Charlotte.

Kyle Busch had to settle for second and is still winless this season in the Cup Series.

"We're trying hard and we're running okay, but it seemed like we were mired in 10th place for much of that race tonight and the last couple of adjustments really helped us," Busch said. "Adam (Stevens) did a great job helping the car and making it better. You just have to keep going."

Matt DiBenedetto won the All-Star Open, and joined stage winners Aric Almirola and William Byron in clinching starting spots in the All-Star Race.

The final All-Star starting spot went to Clint Bowyer, who was the top eligible vote-getter in fan balloting. Both the All-Star race and All-Star Open were non-points events.

SUPERSTAR RACING EXPERIENCE COMING TO TV

Tony Stewart and Ray Evernham have signed a television deal for their new racing series, called Superstar Racing Experience or SRX.

The events will take place on short tracks, dirt tracks and maybe a road course. All will be broadcast on CBS and CBS All Access beginning in 2021.

The drivers will compete in a specialized car designed by Evernham for exclusive use in the Superstar Racing Xperience. Evernham envisions a car where driver talent is emphasized more than aerodynamics.

Even though Stewart and Evernham maintain that the SRX is not a competitor to NASCAR, the concept is essentially a love letter to fans disillusioned by the low horsepower, high downforce intermediate track racing product.

"We want the cars to rely on horsepower, not aerodynamics," Evernham said. "It relies on mechanical grip, driver ability, driver input, right? Steering

Trout stocking sites week of July 13-17, 2020

Fannin: Big Creek, Rock Creek, Toccoa River and Toccoa River Tailwaters (below Lake Blue Ridge Dam)
Lumpkin: Etowah River and Nimbalewill Creek
Union: Cooper Creek and Toccoa River

Note: Information is subject to change. Please call the hatchery at 706-838-4723 for questions. Stay up-to-date with stocking and events through Facebook www.facebook.com/chattahoocheeforestnfh. The hatchery also provides trout for the state. Please contact Georgia DNR for information on sites stocked by the state. N06122Z10/CA

The first 2 Day Ladies' Member/Member Golf Tournament at Old Union Golf Course

The first, 2 day, Ladies' Member/Member golf tournament at Old Union Golf Course was held on Monday, July 13th. It was a very successful start with a fun filled day. Twenty nine ladies signed up, and they were divided into two teams... Team USA and Team Europe. Team USA dressed in red white and blue. Team Europe wore colors from different European countries. Old Union Golf Course donated a sleeve of pink Srixon golf balls to each team member.

The final round will be played on Monday, July 20th, and the costume winners will be announced with prizes given. It was a high spirited first day of the tournament, and the ladies are looking forward to finishing the competition. Each twosome from Team USA and

Team Europe donated a bottle of wine or a bottle of 'birdie juice.' The twosome with the lowest score from the winning team will have first choice in selecting their bottle of wine or 'birdie juice.' The twosome with the second lowest score from the winning team will choose next and so forth. Gloria White had a chip in, and Jane Childers, Nancy Outlaw, Nancy Hamilton, Connie Dockery and Cindy Flanders all enjoyed a birdie apiece. Francine Brown won closest to the hole on # 16. Payouts will go to first and second places in two flights.

At the close of the tournament on July 20th, barbecue with all the trimmings, from Dam! Good BBQ in Blairsville, will be served to the membership courtesy of Jinna

Wheeler. Thanks, Jinna!
Mary Holmes continues to offer golf clinics for our members at Old Union Golf Course. The cost is \$20 plus range balls. Maximum number in a group is six, and the clinics are one hour long. Mary played golf for the University of Alabama, and was, subsequently, the ladies' golf coach at LSU where she started their ladies' golf program. We are delighted to have her spearheading the lessons. Considering some of the most recent scores, Mary's lessons are working!

If you are interested in becoming a guest or a member of the Old Union Women's Golf Association, visit our website at www.OUWGA.com or call/text Karen at 352-638-3649 or Annie at 706-633-7587.