

Local Racing Report: Tri-County

By Blake Lynch
Racing Reporter
North Georgia News

Brasstown, NC - Tri-County Race track hosted action this past Friday night with a full program, plus \$1,500 Super Late Models. Here's the top five finishers from each division.

Beginner 602 - Coming in first place was No. 100 Copper Twiggs. Finishing in second place was No. 44 Jay Lynch. Coming in third was No. 17 Jordan Rogers. Placing fourth was No. 24 Clay Bryson and fifth went to No. 9 Wyatt Hopkins.

Street Stock - Coming in first was No. 21 Troy Turner with No. 95 Alex Vance in his rearview. Finishing in third was J69 Jim Weller. Coming in fourth was No. 42 Johnny Gulizia.

Rounding out the top five was No. 01 Jacob Lynch.

Pony - Taking home first was No. 6 Koulten Herbert. Finishing in second place was No. 9 Jamie Pritchett. Third place belonged to No. 4m Marty King. Finishing in fourth was No. p11 Joey Payne and coming in fifth was No. 00 Adam Brooks.

Modified Street - Coming in first was No. 37 Michael Barnett. In second was No. 25 Jacob Hamby. Finishing in third was No. 17 Brad Thomas. No. 4 Jacob Parris placed fourth. Finishing in fifth was No. 88 Ricky Smith.

Limited - Taking the checkered flag was No. 16 Payton Freeman. Coming in second was No. 55 Kip Cochran. In the 3-spot was No. 30 Daven Dilbeck. Fourth went to No. 25 Will Harris and fifth belonged to No.

12 Daniel Wilson.

Crate - Placing first was No. 12 Drew Deaver with No. 88 Ricky Smith behind him. Coming in third was No. 14 Sylvan Schuett. Finishing in fourth was No. 56 Jason Berrong while fifth went to No. 99 Reese Stillwell.

Late Models - In first was No. 1 - C Kenny Collins. The second spot went to No. x15 Shawn Chastain. Taking home third was No. 38 Jamie Oliver. Coming in fourth was No. 17 Kurt English. Finishing fifth was No. 62 Cody King.

FWD - Coming in first place was No. 21t Trenton Moss. Picking up second was No. J3 Josh Deese. Clocking in third was No. 21 Stephen Godfrey. Finishing in fourth place was No. 10 Blake Lynch and picking up fifth was No. 101 Jacob Lynch.

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a bunt single to load the bags. In her defense, things might have looked different if she'd received the correct call on the bunt single. Following a leadoff walk, Lumpkin attempted to bunt the runner into scoring position, but the batter was ruled safe at first, despite arriving a half-step late.

Things only spiraled out of control from there as two more walks put the Lady Indians on the board. With one out, a single to center made it 2-0, then another base on balls stretched the score to 3-0, bringing Sierra Burnette to the circle.

Sierra Burnette recorded a quick strikeout but eventually ran into trouble herself. A bases-loaded walk scored the fourth run before the defense let her down by allowing a pop-up to drop between a pair of Union defenders, pushing the score to 6-0.

A wild pitch and an infield single resulted in the final two runs of the inning, placing



Junior Lexi Sisum finished the doubleheader 3-for-6 with three RBIs, three stolen bases and two doubles. Photo/Todd Forrest

the Lady Panthers in an insurmountable eight-run hole.

UP NEXT: Union County will hit the road this week with a Tuesday contest at White County, followed by a weekend tournament in Dalton. Tuesday's visit

to Cleveland gets underway at 6 p.m.

In Dalton on Friday, the Lady Panthers will face Southeast Whitfield at 8 p.m. before meeting Class A State Runner-Up Trion at 10:45 a.m. on Saturday.

Upward Flag Football & Cheer registration

House of Prayer Church is glad to announce that it is once again time for our Upward Flag Football and Cheerleading 2020 season. Online registration is now open for boys and girls in grades kindergarten through 8th at www.hopb.org.

The registration is accessible through August 22nd, and the price to participate is \$60. Payment plans are available, if needed. Convenient weekly practices commence the week of August 10th, while six games will be played Saturdays between August 22nd and September 26th.

Registrants should attend the evaluation that will be

held on Saturday, August 1st on a drop-in basis between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon on the upper football field by the House of Prayer Family Life Center offices. For more

information regarding registration, call the HOP church office at (706) 745-5925, or visit its Facebook page at Upward HOP-Blairsville.



Trout stocking sites week of August 3-7, 2020

Fannin: Rock Creek and Toccoa River
Lumpkin: Etowah River and Nimbwill Creek
Union: Cooper Creek

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. NI/Aug12/212/JCA

T.U.F. Athletes news update

Hello from the T.U.F. Athletes, We want to thank everyone for your continued support of our wonderful group of athletes. We cannot begin to name each individual and business for fear of leaving someone out. Your support has been overwhelming to our athletes. They are in awe at the outpouring of love and willingness to help.

On a sad note, the 2020 Dream Ride Experience Rally has been canceled due to the COVID-19 Virus. If you are

not familiar with Special Needs Individuals most have underlying health issues that can make them compromised and in a high risk group. The Dream Ride and Hometown Foundation decided that it would be irresponsible to risk exposing these individuals to this virus. The Athletes are their number 1 priority.

The plan for now is to attend the 2021 Rally which will take place in August of 2021. In the words of CEO of Dream Ride, Michael Bozzuto, "Next year will be bigger and better".

We were half way to reaching our goal for 2020, unfortunately due to COVID-19 we had to cease our fundraising efforts. We still have 12 months to continue raising the funds for 2021. If you would like to contribute to this amazing trip, please contact one of the following: Carla Persaud, 770-596-3397; Terri Post, 706-400-9839; Paulette Dyer, 706-897-9938.

Again thank you for your wonderful support of T.U.F. Athletes!

NASCAR 2020

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

"Happy" Harvick Sweeps Michigan Doubleheader

BROOKLYN, MI -- Kevin Harvick had a perfect weekend. He won both NASCAR Cup Series races this past Saturday and Sunday for his fifth and sixth wins of the season. His car was so dominant in both events that the other drivers could only hope for a runner-up finish.

He led 90 laps of Sunday's 158 lap race. The race's last caution came during lap 137. On the restart Harvick, Denny Hamlin, Martin Truex Jr. and Kyle Busch were out front. Harvick immediately put his No. 4 Ford into the lead and remained there until the checkered flag was given.

"There at the end we were tight in turns three and four," said Harvick. "It was a real challenge to hold off the 11 car (Denny Hamlin). We're proud of what we accomplished this weekend. It's a great achievement for anyone."

The win was the 55th of his Cup Series career, tying him with Rusty Wallace on the series' all-time win list.

Runner-up Denny Hamlin led one time for six laps. During the closing laps Hamlin was able to reach Harvick's rear bumper, but that was all he could manage. He was never able to attempt a pass for the lead, and was .093-seconds behind when the race ended.

"I knew we had something better, but I couldn't get into position to make a final run on him," said Hamlin. "We just got a little tight and we couldn't make the move we needed to."

Martin Truex Jr. did not lead any laps but finished third.

"Our car was good, but we weren't able to do a couple things we needed," said Truex.

Kyle Busch was fourth, followed by Joey Logano, Aric Almirola, Matt DiBenedetto, Austin Dillon, Chase Elliott, and Kurt Busch.

Clint Bowyer won Stage 1, while Harvick claimed Stage 2.

Ryan Blaney was leading the race on lap 95. His teammate Brad Keselowski lost control of his car, drifted up the track into Blaney's car, sending both of them into the outside wall, and out of the race.

Blaney finished 38th and Keselowski was 39th.

"It was my fault," said Keselowski. "The back end got loose and started to come around. I just lost it and got into Ryan. I really hate it, because he didn't deserve what happened."

The victory also sealed the Michigan Heritage Trophy for Ford. The award is given to the top-performing automaker in the two annual Cup Series races at MIS.

Top-10 leaders: 1. Harvick-916, 2. Keselowski-779, 3. Hamlin-776, 4. Blaney-741, 5. Elliott-721, 6. Logano-717, 7. Truex-716, 8. Almirola-669, 9. Kyle Busch-651, 10. Kurt Busch-648.

"HAPPY" HARVICK GETS FIFTH CUP WIN

Kevin Harvick held off a hard charging Brad Keselowski in overtime to win Saturday's Cup Series race at Michigan.

"The restarts were obviously a handful but our (car) was really fast today and we held on for the long run and would really go on the short run and did everything we needed it to do," Harvick said. "We are a week-to-week team. We talked about this years ago. We want to go to the track and worry about one week at a time. We want to be competitive and win as many races as we can and see where it falls in the end. These guys are awesome. A car like that is unbelievable."

Martin Truex Jr., Ryan Blaney, Kyle Busch, Denny



"Happy" Harvick Sweeps Michigan Doubleheader

Hamlin, Chase Elliott, Joey Logano, Bubba Wallace, and Kurt Busch were the remaining top-10 finishers.

Top-10 finishers of Saturday's Xfinity Series race held at Elkhart Lake, Wis.: 1. Austin Cindric, 2. AJ Allmendinger, 3. Chase Briscoe, 4. Kaz Grala, 5. Andy Lally, 6. Noah Gragson, 7. Ross Chastain, 8. Preston Pardus, 9. Ryan Sieg, 10. Michael Annett.

Top-10 points leaders: 1. Cindric-771, 2. Briscoe-760, 3. Chastain-708, 4. Gragson-697, 5. Haley-636, 6. H. Burton-608, 7. Allgaier-598, 8. Annett-543, 9. B. Jones-523, 10. Sieg-436.

Top-10 finishers of Friday's Truck Series race at Michigan: 1. Zane Smith, 2. Christian Eckes, 3. Tanner Gray, 4. Tyler Ankrum, 5. Todd Gilliland, 6. Brett Moffitt, 7. Raphael Lassard, 8. Derek Kraus, 9. Parker Kligerman, 10. David Gravel.

Top-10 points leaders: 1. Hill-428, 2. Smith-386, 3. Rhodes-385, 4. Eckes-379, 5. Moffitt-375, 6. Crafton-342, 7. Creed-340, 8. Enfinger-336, 9. Kraus-330, 10. Gilliland-329.

NEWMAN IS READY TO GO BACK TO DAYTONA

Instead of reflecting on the bad wreck at Daytona which left him sidelined for three races, Ryan Newman is focusing on other possibilities.

A two-month hiatus of the 2020 season due to the Covid-19 pandemic allowed Newman time to heal and return to his No. 6 Roush Fenway Racing Ford. The battle back into contention for wins has proved even more challenging.

"No doubt I've thought about it, but the reality is it's not the truth, it's not what happened, it's the 'what could have been' and everybody has that in their season," Newman said. "We have to do our job to go back and kind of replay those events and make corrections to whatever mistakes or whatever differences we can try to be victorious."

"That doesn't go just for Daytona; that goes for every race track. The season no doubt has been a challenge in so many ways for so many people and our team. I feel like we've struggled a little bit, but I feel like we have the things that we need to make the corrections to be better and be stronger and be successful."

NASCAR has given him a medical waiver which would allow him to use a win during the regular season to gain entry to the 16-driver playoff field despite not starting all the races.

"I guess after February I'm pretty emotional every day," he continued. "I'm just thankful

for the opportunity to continue on. I get to hit the reset button in a roundabout way, not with my life, but the reality is just to continue to play on."

"I will probably be some sort of emotional going back to Daytona, but I don't see it being a whole lot different than the kind of emotion I had getting in the car at Talladega or even going back to Darlington for that matter when I went and did my first test."

Meanwhile, Erik Jones driver of the No. 20 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota in the Cup Series will lose his ride after this season.

The 24-year-old was discovered by Kyle Busch when Jones beat him in the 2012 Snowball Derby. Jones was 16 at the time and the victory opened the door for Jones' rise into NASCAR.

Jones won the Southern 500 for Gibbs in 2019 to earn a spot in the playoffs. He opened this season with a victory in the exhibition Busch Clash at Daytona International Speedway.

Jones hasn't had the wins that Gibbs and Toyota expected.

Racing Joke: "I watched my wife's routine at breakfast for years," Clint explained to some of his teammates. "She made lots of trips between the refrigerator, stove, table and cabinets carrying a single item at the time. One day I told her, 'Hon, why don't you try carrying several things at once?'"

"Did it save time?" one of the guys asked.

"Actually, yes," Clint replied. "It used to take her twenty minutes to make breakfast. Now I do it in seven."

Weekend Racing: All three of NASCAR's major series will be racing on the Daytona International Speedway road course.

Sat., Aug. 15; Xfinity Series race; Starting time: 3 PM ET; TV: NBCSN.

Sun., Aug. 16; Truck Series race; Starting time: 12 PM ET; TV: Foxsports1.

Sun., Aug. 16; Cup Series race; Starting time: 3 PM ET; TV: NBC.

Racing Trivia Question: How many NASCAR championships did Lee Petty win?

Last Week's Question: What year did Richard Petty win his last Cup Series championship? Answer: It was 1979.

Gerald Hodges is a syndicated NASCAR writer and author. His books may be viewed and ordered online at Amazon.com. You may contact him by e-mail at: hodges@race500.com.