

# Union County Middle School Baseball opens 2016 season with 6 straight wins



UCMS Baseball is off to a hot start to the 2016 season under new head coach Kathy Mancuso. The team is currently 6-0 heading into this week's games at Rabun County and White County at home.

Union County Middle School's baseball team is currently 6-0 led by the hitting of Carter Wright and his .813 batting average and the pitching of Cayden Rich and his microscopic 0.07 ERA.

Behind the plate, Alec Youngblood continues to dominate with his rocket arm with an impressive 54% of runners caught stealing

statistic. Rounding out the Top five batting averages are Braylen Gray, John Mancuso, JJ Littles and Youngblood.

The season has four remaining games with two remaining home games to be played at Meeks Park at 4:15 p.m. on Thursday March 24 versus White County and Tuesday March 30 versus Pickens County.

On Tuesday they will travel to Rabun County before the final road game of the year at Lumpkin County on March 28th.

Union County's six wins came over Clear Creek Middle School 15-0, Lumpkin County 11-6, White County 18-4, Clear Creek 17-0, Rabun County 8-1, and Pickens County 8-4.

## Butternut Creek Ladies 'Ready to Swing' April 17th



(L-R): Cappie Harper, Cindy Andrews, Lilly Adams, Carol Morris, Martha Barker, Charlotte Maddox & Terie McCombs

These ladies participated Thursday, March 17th preparing themselves for a better score in the upcoming Season for the Butternut Creek Ladies Golf Association. We had a great time, but the 'slick greens' caused a higher score than normal for our ladies!

The Regular Season Play for the Butternut Creek Ladies Golf Association will begin on Thursday, April 7th. Please join us at the Butternut Creek Golf Course at 8 a.m. to sign up, pay your dues to become a member and get acquainted with fellow

golfers. We play different games each week with several ladies in the group coming out as winners!

Please call Lilly Adams (706-781-4529) or Candi Manicini (706-435-7966), Co-Tournament Chairpersons of the BCLGA or the Butternut Creek Golf Course (706-439-6076) for more information. Jane Childers, our President, can also be reached at 706-633-7868.

Please visit our website - [www.butternutcreeklga.com](http://www.butternutcreeklga.com) for more information!  
NT(Mar23,24)CA

## Bowling scores

**Monday Night Men:** Ken Clark 234, Ray Everett 203, 238, Ernest Rice 212, Mickey Whatley 214, Joe Teague 222, 245, 216, Series 683, Derick Rice 211, 238, 222, Series 671, Taz Matetzschk 278, 212, 222, Series 712, BJ Gilbert 258, 210 Series 653, Ryan West 212, 224, Chris Ellinwood 207, 203, 244, Steve Whittenburg 268, Bob Bischoff 207, Johnathan Everett 224, Greg Whittenburg 207, Bill Smith 201, Dewey Allen 208, Curtis Corn 215, 235, Bonnell Thomas 215, 201, Jim Kidder 202, Mel White 202, Bart Rodgers 205, Doug Tanner 216, 214.

**Young At Heart Seniors:** Ron Wingate 276, Bruce Burnett 200, Bob Landis 238, 209, Mo Rodgers 209, Bart Rodgers 279, 233, Series 670, Ron Gaucher 203, 203, Martha Sismus 196.

**Thursday Night Fun:** Bill Cox 210, Greg Wittenburg 213, 247, Chuck Reeves 230, Dewey Allen 239, Tim McVay 201, Tony Lynch 202, 266, Bonnell Thomas 222.  
NT(Mar23,22)CA

## Warm Spring weather means Trout stocking time

Make sure you put a trout fishing trip on your list of things to do this spring, especially since it is the time of year when trout raised in Georgia hatcheries start hitting the water. The Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Division and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service plan to stock more than 80,000 trout during the last full week of March, with more than one million trout scheduled for stocking by the end of this year.

"All trout waters in Georgia are now open to fishing year round, and to sweeten that news, stocking efforts are ready to begin to make your trip even more rewarding," says John Lee Thomson, trout stocking coordinator for the Wildlife Resources Division. "One of the best opportunities for fishing success will be this

spring when stream flows are high and the water is cool."

Some popular stocked streams include Cooper Creek in Union County, Wildcat Creek in Rabun County, Dicks Creek in Lumpkin County and Johns Creek in Floyd County.

The daily limit is eight trout on general regulation trout waters. Anglers are reminded to respect private property rights along streams flowing through private lands and to obtain permission before fishing on private property.

Anglers must possess a current Georgia fishing license and a trout license to fish in designated trout waters and to fish for or possess trout. Anglers must also possess a wildlife management area license or Georgia Outdoor Recreation Pass (GORP) in order to fish on certain WMAs. Find a list

of designated areas at [www.georgiawildlife.com/Georgia-Outdoor-Recreational-Pass](http://www.georgiawildlife.com/Georgia-Outdoor-Recreational-Pass).

How can you get a license? It's easy! Buy it online, find a list of retail license vendors at [www.georgiawildlife.com/licenses-permits-passes](http://www.georgiawildlife.com/licenses-permits-passes) or buy it by phone at 1-800-366-2661.

Purchasing a Trout Unlimited license plate supports Georgia's trout conservation and management programs. These efforts impact trout production, stocking and stream restoration throughout north Georgia. Purchase or find out more at your county tag office.

For the list of stocked trout streams, online versions the Georgia trout stream map, and other trout fishing tips, visit [www.georgiawildlife.com/Fishing/Trout](http://www.georgiawildlife.com/Fishing/Trout) or call (770) 535-5498.  
NT(Mar23,22)gg

## Statewide turkey hunting season opens March 26

Hunters are eager for opening day of the statewide turkey hunting season in Georgia. The highly anticipated day is Saturday, March 26 and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Division expects that the 2016 season should be a fair one.

"Perspective is important because Georgia is still in the top six states in terms of eastern wild turkey harvest and population, even while we have had some declines in reproduction and the overall turkey population," says Kevin Lowrey, Wildlife Resources Division wild turkey project coordinator. "Hunters heading to the woods need to remember that there is a new requirement this year to have a harvest record and that they will need to report their harvest through Georgia Game Check."

With a generous bag limit of three gobblers per season, hunters have from March 26 through May 15 - one of the most liberal turkey sea-

sons in the nation - to harvest their bird(s). With many pursuing wild turkeys on private land, hunters are reminded to always obtain landowner permission before hunting.

What should hunters expect this spring? The Lower Coastal Plain and Ridge and Valley will have an above average season this year and next year, due to better reproduction levels than other parts of the state. While other regions saw some reproduction improvement in 2015, the lower cycle in 2014 may mean fewer 2-year old gobblers, so hunters likely will be pursuing older birds, which may raise the challenge level.

New this year: all turkey hunters, including those under 16 years of age, landowners, honorary, lifetime, and sportsman license holders, must obtain a free harvest record each season. Before moving a harvested turkey, hunters are required to immediately enter the date and county on the

harvest record, and within 72 hours, must complete the reporting process through Georgia Game Check. More information about this requirement at [www.georgiawildlife.com/HarvestRecordGeorgiaGameCheck](http://www.georgiawildlife.com/HarvestRecordGeorgiaGameCheck).

A WMA license is required for any person 16 years or older who does not possess a valid honorary, sportsman or lifetime license when hunting wild turkey on a WMA or public fishing area. In addition, a valid hunting license and a big game license are required. Legal firearms and archery equipment for hunting wild turkey are shotguns (loaded with No. 2 or smaller shot), any muzzleloading firearm, longbow, crossbow or compound bow.

Where can you get a license? Buy it online, find a list of retail license vendors at [www.georgiawildlife.com/licenses-permits-passes](http://www.georgiawildlife.com/licenses-permits-passes) or buy it by phone at 1-800-366-2661.  
NT(Mar23,23)SH

# MGC impressive at Lucky Star meet

By Todd Forrest  
North Georgia News  
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The Mountain Gymnastics Center brought plenty of hardware back to Northeast Georgia following the Lucky Star Meet in Canton on Jan. 30th.

The Level 2 team finished first place overall thanks to a first place all around performance by Sailor Fain along with second place finishes by Neveah Leopold and Emma Schuette and a third place finish from Millie Banks.

Fain swept the competition with high scores in all four events; the vault, the bars, the beam, and the floor exercises.

Leopold took first in her respective age division on the floor, Schuette took first on the beam, and Banks was second on the bars.

Lola Patton placed first all around in the Level 3 competition thanks to a first place performance on the floor.

Avery Frechette finished second all around and Bailee Stiles took home fourth place.

In the AAU Bronze competition Reece Chambers placed first all around thanks to high scores on the vault, bars, and the floor.

Kendall McClure was second all around thanks to a first place score on the bars. Rose Huff placed third all around and Taylor Jenkins finished fourth all around.

In the AAU Gold competition, the Mountain Gymnastics team took home first place and were led by Hana Gregory, who posted the highest all around score with first place performances in every event with the exception of a second place finish on the bars.

Annalyse Kiernan and Kiernan placed second in their respective age groups with Kiernan placing first on the floor and Queen recording a first place score on the bars.

Jacey Lee was third all around with a first place score on



Gymnasts in action at MGC. Last weekend, MGC celebrated 30 years with an open house. Check next week's North Georgia News' Sports section for pictures from MGC's 30-year celebration.

thanks to a first place performance on the bars.

The AAU Silver team also finished first thanks to a pair of first place finishes by Ella Matheson and Alana Stowers. Both Matheson and Stowers were first on the vault and the floor.

Bre Arp placed second all around, Maddison Pelfrey was third all around, Josie Poston and Kaitlyn Tant were third in their respective age divisions, and Isabella Wells recorded a fifth place all around finish.

The USA Gold team placed third overall with Erin Raper recording a second place all around finish with a first place performance on the bars and Evelyn McBride placing third all around with a first place score on the beam.

At the Paws for a Cause meet in Atlanta last month, Matheson placed first all around in the AAU Silver competition

Gregory was third all around in the AAU Gold competition after recording a high score on the bars. Lee placed fourth all around in the AAU Gold.

McBride took fourth in the USA Gold competition, Frechette was fourth at Level 3, Jenkins was fourth at AAU Bronze, and Wells was fourth at AAU Silver.

Finishing fifth all around in Atlanta was Chambers at AAU Bronze, Poston at AAU Silver, and Mia McCombs at USA Gold.

Sixth place all around performances went to Fain at AAU Level 2, Huff at AAU Bronze, Pelfrey at AAU Silver, and Raper at USA Gold.

Caymin Thompson at USA Gold and Stowers at AAU Silver each finished seventh all around and Kiernan was eighth at AAU Gold.

# NASCAR 2016

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

## Johnson Outduels Harvick in California

Fontana, CA. - Jimmie Johnson saved his best for last. The fastest lap he ran all day was the last one as he outdueled Kevin Harvick for his second Sprint Cup win of the season.

Kyle Busch had a right front tire blow out on lap 198 of the 200-lap race, causing an overtime, green-white-checked finish. At that point Harvick was the leader and Johnson was running fourth. All the leaders pitted for tires.

Denny Hamlin was the new leader on the restart, followed by Harvick, Johnson, and Joey Logano.

Johnson gave Harvick a push, helping him clear Hamlin, and then tucked in behind him. Harvick was driving the high side of the race track. As the leaders took the white flag, signifying the last lap, Johnson moved down to the low side of the track. The momentum propelled him past Harvick, and that was all she wrote. Harvick was unable to recover before Johnson had taken the checkered flag.

"This is cool," said Johnson. "I knew we had a great car, but it really took off on that last lap. Once I cleared him (Harvick), I knew that was it."

Harvick, who led the most laps (142) was in no mood to talk, but did say, "That was a bad restart. We just didn't have what we needed on that last lap. You want to stay in control of the race, and we lost it there at the end."

After dominating the race I'm sure Harvick wonders how they let it get away.

Hamlin, had a fast car and ran up front for most of the early stages of the race.

"Disappointed, that's all I can say," Hamlin said. "I can tell you there were a lot of mistakes on my part. You can only come back so many times, and we ran out of opportunities today."

Joey Logano, driver of the No. 22 Penske Ford was fourth.

"We had an up and down day," Logano said. "We were able to run up front and lead, but at other times the car just didn't seem to do what I wanted it to. It wasn't our greatest day, but we'll figure it out, and be in position for a win next time."

Ricky Stenhouse Jr was fifth, his highest finish of the season.

Chase Elliott finished sixth and is currently the highest rookie in points.

"We were able to improve the car all day," said Elliott. "First off, my guys have been bringing such fast race cars to the race-track every week since Daytona, and I haven't been doing a very good job of getting the finishes that they deserve. I'm just happy today that we could finally finish one of these things and get a solid top-10 finish. I felt like we made gains throughout the day. The guys did a great job on pit road. Alan (Gustafson) made good adjustments, and I'm proud of the effort and hopefully we can take it and try to get a little better."

Carl Edwards, A. J. Allmendinger, Brad Keselowski, and Jamie McMurray, rounded out the top-10 finishers.

Danica Patrick was involved in an incident during lap 120 and was unable to finish the race. She was scored with a 38th place finish.

**Austin Dillon Wins California Xfinity Race**

With one-lap remaining in Saturday's Xfinity Series race at Fontana, Kyle Busch blew a tire and lost the lead to Daniel Suarez, who ran out of fuel in turn-3, allowing Austin Dillon to get the win.

Dillon was initially upset at Busch for what he felt was an attempt to wreck him, but he toned down his statements during the post-race interview.

"It's just racing," Dillon said. "I probably would have done the same thing. He made the move to try to hold off, to win the race. Anybody in their right mind would have made the move. It just made the race more exciting."

While Busch and his team fought tire problems throughout the weekend, he may be in big trouble with NASCAR over comments he made on his car radio during the Xfinity Series race.

"Debris all over the race track and they don't throw a yellow. I'm just so pleased with you, NASCAR. Thanks. Y'all are awesome. Fixing races."

While his comment on the track debris might be acceptable, his alluding to NASCAR race fixing is a no-no, and might cause him to be fined. From my interpretation of the rulebook, he could be placed on probation and fined up to \$100,000.

The remaining top-10 finishers were: Kyle Busch, Darrell Wallace Jr., Daniel Suarez, Elliott Sadler, Kevin Harvick, Brendan Gaughan, Kyle Larson, Brandon Jones, and Justin Allgaier.

Top-10 leaders after 5 of 33: 1. Suarez-182, 2. Sadler-173, 3. Allgaier-163, 4. B. Jones-161, 5. T. Dillon-159, 6. Gaughan-154, 7. E. Jones-152, 8. Wallace Jr.-134, 9. Reed-133, 10. Poole-130.

**Cup Drivers are Undermining Xfinity Series**

Five races into the Xfinity Series and Sprint Cup driver Kyle Busch has won three, while Chase Elliott and Austin Dillon have won the other two.

My question is, should NASCAR allow Sprint Cup regulars to dominate the Xfinity Series?

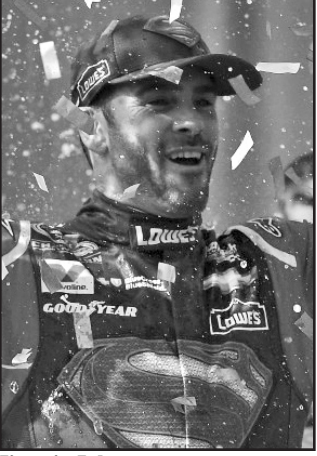
A lot of fans that communicate with me have a problem with Cup drivers like Kyle Busch running a full Xfinity Series. The Cup regulars are too overpowering for most of the regular Xfinity drivers.

Busch has every right to compete in the second-tier series. But with his advantages in manpower and sponsorship money, it would be a major upset if Busch failed to dominate every Xfinity race he enters.

After five races into the 33 race schedule, Busch has led 626 of 713 laps en route to three straight wins.

At Las Vegas, he controlled every lap but one.

Busch has won a record 79 Xfinity races and that figure will likely soar unless something is



Jimmie Johnson done.

NASCAR's argument that Xfinity regulars learn by racing with the likes of Busch is a slap in the face to teams and fans. No matter what drivers say under the spotlight of network TV interviews, the Xfinity gang never actually races with Busch or with drivers who are backed by other Sprint Cup owners. Mostly, they just move aside, and allow them to cruise away.

The tracks and television respond by saying they need Cup regulars like Busch, Brad Keselowski and Joey Logano to attract spectators, television viewers and new sponsors.

NASCAR instituted a Chase format for the Xfinity Series this year in hopes it would generate more excitement. There's just one problem with that idea. No Xfinity regulars have a chance to win and thus earn an automatic Chase berth as long as Busch and other Cup drivers are on the track.

Many longtime Xfinity car owners complained for years over the financial disparity. Nobody listened or seemed to care, so those owners either left the sport or turned to the Truck Series.

Several of the few remaining Xfinity independent teams have only a handful of workers in the race shop and must rely on volunteers to help in the pits during races. How are those teams supposed to compete with the likes of Busch, who is supported by a dozen engineers at Joe Gibbs Racing?

Increasingly, the Xfinity teams features kids who are supported by rich fathers. The veterans have long departed.

There are no easy answers to solve the domination of the big boys, but it's past time for some type of solution. NASCAR needs to come up with a better scenario.

**Weekend Racing:** NASCAR will hold no races this weekend. It is Easter and all teams have an off week. The Cup and Truck teams return April 2-3 at Martinsville.

**Racing Trivia Question:** How many Sprint Cup teams does Roger Penske operate?

**Last Week's Question:** Which Cup team does Ryan Blaney drive for? Answer: He drives the No. 21 Wood Bros. Ford.

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