

Sports

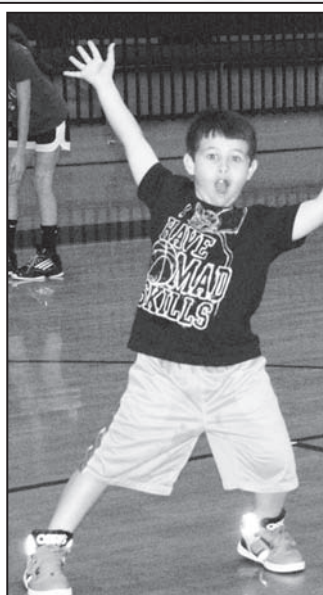
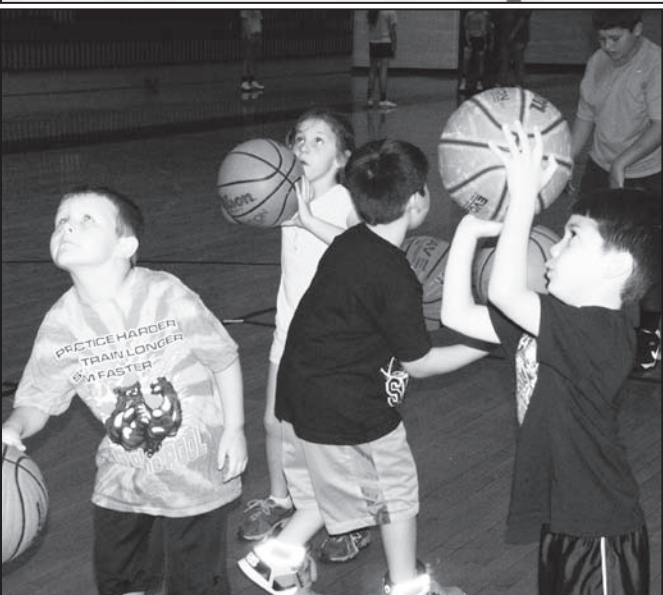
See the Sports Section at ngenews.com

Lady Panthers softball resumes summer league action following holiday



Top: The Lady Panthers' dugout looks on during Union's win over Fannin County. Bottom left: Karley Nix fires to Kelsey Nix for an out at first. Bottom right: Laken Chambers delivers during the win over Fannin. She also recorded a win in Union's win vs Pickens County. Later in the evening, the Lady Panthers' JV squad fell 2-0 to Towns County's varsity. Photos/Lowell Nicholson.

Tucker Basketball Camp at UCHS



Photos by Todd Forrest

Trout stocking sites week of July 7-11, 2014

Fannin: Rock Creek and Toccoa River Tailwaters (below Lake Blue Ridge Dam).
 Union: Cooper Creek.
 Note: Information is subject to change. For the latest on stocking and event information, remember to "like" us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ChattahoocheeForestNationalFishHatchery. Please call the hatchery at 706-838-4723 for questions. The hatchery also provides trout for the state. Please contact Georgia DNR for information on sites stocked by the state. N0Jul16Z13)CA

Attention ladies - Annual Sadie Hawkins Golf Tournament

Ladies, it's time to 'Pick your Partner' and sign-up to play in our Annual Sadie Hawkins Golf Tournament to be held on Saturday, August 16, at Butternut Creek Golf Course. Breakfast: 7:30 a.m. & Sign-In; Lunch: provided after play; Shotgun Start: 8:30 a.m.; Format: Couples 'Select Shot'; Cost: \$55 per person. Prizes for 'Closest to Pin' along with Flight winners! Make checks payable to BCLGA Sadie Hawkins Golf Tournament and send check to Lilly Adams, 21 Holloway



Road, Blairsville, GA 30512 or call Lilly Adams at 706-745-2725 or CP: 706-781-4529 by August 11, 2014, or you may sign up in the Pro Shop. N0Jul16Z16)

MUSA Fall registration

MUSA Fall registration is open for age Groups 6&U to 16&U. Register online at <http://mountainsoccer.wordpress.com/>. Registration forms are also available to print from the website. Forms can be mailed to P. O. Box 1862, Blairsville, GA 30514. For additional information contact the league at: musa.soccer@gmail.com or visit us on the web at <http://mountainsoccer.wordpress.com>.

NASCAR 2014

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

Two win weekend for Keselowski

LOUDON, N.H.--It was a perfect racing weekend for Brad Keselowski. First, he won Saturday's Nationwide race, then he took Sunday's Sprint Cup race at New Hampshire Speedway.

And in both races, Kyle Busch finished second.

Just like in Saturday's Nationwide race, Keselowski had to battle it out in a green-white-checked finish, but the results were never in doubt as Keselowski clearly had the dominant car, after leading 138 laps of the 301-lap race.

"This might be the best weekend I've ever had," said Keselowski. "It sure feels like it. What a thrill to win both races."

"It was a great race, because Kyle kept the pressure on there at the end. I knew had a fast car and I couldn't afford to mess up."

Kyle Busch started on the pole and led 62 laps, but his Toyota was no match for Keselowski's Ford near the end.

"We thought we had a pretty good car, but about 40 or 50 laps into the race, I couldn't turn it," said Busch. "We're close to where we want to be, so I couldn't afford to screw up today."

Rookie Kyle Larson finished a strong third.

"We had a good car, but the team made some really good calls to allow me to stay near the front."

Matt Kenseth, Ryan Newman, Clint Bowyer, Tony Stewart, Denny Hamlin, Ricky Stenhouse, and Dale Earnhardt Jr. were the remaining top-10 finishers.

Kevin Harvick ran out of fuel with two to go, while Jeff Gordon had run out one lap earlier. Harvick came in 30th, while Gordon was able to take on fuel and finish 20th.

Joey Logano got tangled up with Morgan Shepherd, the oldest driver to ever start a Cup race during lap 212, and finished 40th.

Jimmie Johnson had a tire go down on lap 8, and had to pit under green. Two laps later, another tire blew out on his No. 48, and he wrecked, finishing 42nd.

Top-10 Chase leaders after 19 of 36: 1. Gordon-670, 2. Earnhardt-658, 3. Keselowski-634, 4. Kenseth-621, 5. Johnson-598, 6. Edwards-574, 7. Newman-573, 8. Kyle Busch-567, 9. Logano-551, 10. Bowyer-548.

KESELOWSKI IS RUNAWAY NATIONWIDE WINNER

It was a runaway win for Brad Keselowski in Saturday's Nationwide race. He led 152 laps of the 200-lap race, and at one point had an eight second lead.

"Loudon is one of my favorite places to go race," said Keselowski. "That is why I am running the Nationwide race here. I really enjoy being out here. Lap traffic is always difficult here at Loudon, but I give credit to the

field. They helped me out and gave me a few breaks. That is part of the fun."

The race ended under a green-white-checked finish with Kyle Busch, who led 34 laps coming in second.

The remaining top-10 finishers were: Matt Kenseth, Kyle Larson, Chris Buescher, Elliott Sadler, Brian Scott, Chase Elliott, Trevor Bayne, and Regan Smith.

Top-10 leaders after 17 of 33: 1. Smith-611, 2. Sadler-603, 3. Elliott-598, 4. T. Dillon-577, 5. Scott-560, 6. Bayne-553, 7. Gaughan-493, 8. C. Buescher-486, 9. J. Buescher-470, 10. Reed-456.

JONES GETS IOWA TRUCK WIN

Erik Jones, driving Kyle Busch's No. 51 Toyota won Friday night's truck race at Iowa Speedway. It was his second career truck victory. It was the seventh win in nine races for Kyle Busch Motorsports.

Ryan Blaney finished second, followed by Matt Crafton, Joey Coulter, German Quiroga, Ben Kennedy, Jeff Choquette, Cole Custer, Tyler Reddick, and John Nemechek.

Top-10 leaders after 9 of 22: 1. Crafton-330, 2. Blaney-228, 3. Sauter-323, 4. Quiroga-311, 5. Hornaday-307, 6. Kennedy-306, 7. Peters-299, 8. D. Wallace-293, 9. Coulter-282, 10. Townley-279.

NEW NASCAR TEAM IN TOWN

There's a new player in NASCAR.

For the first time since 1969, an organization has been formed to collaborate on issues facing teams involved in NASCAR racing.

It was formed a week ago, and is called Race Team Alliance. The new organization is comprised of the top nine Cup teams and is headed by Michael Waltrip Racing co-owner Rob Kauffman.

"This is the first time since the Professional Drivers Association disbanded in 1970 that NASCAR will see an organized group of competitors," former Charlotte motor Speedway president "Humpy" Wheeler said. "Call it what you may, this group will represent a powerful force that must be reckoned with by sponsors, NASCAR, and the tracks."

Kauffman is the major player that saved the MWR organization several years ago. He is a high stakes Wall Street player, with an estimated net worth of over \$1 billion. He said the top goal of the RTA, which is operating with bylaws and an executive committee, is to work on cost-saving initiatives related to travel and buying power for parts, and communicating with one voice to NASCAR the team ideas on testing.

"Calling it a union would be incorrect," he said. "A union would be for employees. The



Brad Keselowski wins at New Hampshire. Furnished by NASCAR

right way to characterize it would be a 'business alliance.' Unions are about employees directly trying to negotiate something. The RTA is pooling together to look at things we can be doing better."

"No one is looking to start a fight or be controversial."

One thing the group might be looking at is the new television package NASCAR has signed with NBC and Fox, which begins in 2015. The new package is worth \$8.2-billion, with race tracks getting 65 per cent, teams 25 per cent, and NASCAR 10 per cent.

If RTA could negotiate a larger percentage of the television pie for teams, that would be a big plus. But whichever way they go, it's going to be a tug-of-war, because no one wants to give up any of their designated money.

Bruton Smith, owner of eight NASCAR tracks blasted the organization.

"What I know about it, of course I don't like it," Smith said. "I don't know anything about it that's good for what we do. I don't see anything that's going to be good for the sport. Nothing. What little bit I know about it right now, it seems it will damage the sport. If NASCAR needs us, we're there with NASCAR on the deal. We're there every day, every hour, if they need us."

With Smith's major focus being on money, it seems he's worried the new organization may attempt to break into the hen house, and lay claim to additional TV money.

Weekend Racing: The only racing this weekend is by the Nationwide teams at the 1.5-mile Chicagoland Speedway. The Cup teams have an off week in preparation for the Brickyard 400 at Indianapolis. The trucks race Wed., July 23, at Eldora Speedway.

Sat., July 19, Nationwide Series, race 18 of 33; Starting time: 8 pm ET; TV: ESPN2.

Racing Trivia Question: Which Cup team does Paul Menard drive for?

Last Week's Question: What does it mean when a team "blows an engine"? **Answer:** It means the engine tears up, comes apart, quits running, etc.

You may contact the Racing Reporter at: hodges@race500.com. N0Jul16C1)AC