

Football... continued from page

sure that we're fundamentally sound and that our technique is getting better. We're playing a good team and it will be a great challenge for us. We're going to be watching our linebackers because we have some inexperience there, but we're solid in the secondary and when we're healthy we're solid on the line.

Offensively, White is similar to Fannin County and possibly Washington-Wilkes, but Allison is unsure about the rest of 8-AA, due in part to a slew of coaching hires across North Georgia.

"I think Oglethorpe may have ran some option last year, but it's hard to tell because there are so many new coaches in the region," Allison said. "I

just know that Rabun and Jefferson are nothing like White but this scrimmage should be beneficial down the road."

In the meantime, the Panthers will continue the process for remainder of training camp and don't expect much to change until the regular season kicks off. The team has been meeting after school to go over film from the previous day's practice before hitting the field around 4 p.m. So far, Allison has been pleased with his team's film sessions.

"Whenever we get into the season we won't do it quite as much," Allison said. "But it's been a very good teaching tool for us and helps us better understand the mistakes being made."



Union County Panther football practice photos by Todd Forrest

Meeting the Panther football team: fun for all ages

The Third Annual "Meet the Team" was held last Friday at Mike Colwell Memorial Stadium, doubling the attendance from 2011.

Union County Panther players signed autographs for more than an hour on the team photo distributed to each person attending.

Primary and Elementary School students especially appreciated meeting the players.

"Meet the Team" was created by an idea from Jacque Bentley. After chairing the event for two years, Jacque passed the chairmanship to Kathy Mancuso, who has done a wonderful job in further developing the yearly event.

Each year, the event grows with new ideas and larger crowds and will keep growing with the enthusiasm that Kathy brings under her

leadership.

The first event in 2010 held at Blairsville's Zaxby's restaurant, originated the idea of the Zaxby's Wing Eating Contest.

Zaxby's Wing Eating Contest continues to be a highlight of the night with the football players cheering for their teammates.

This year's champion is No. 44 Chase Barnett.

As an addition to the event this year, the high school cheerleaders performed and participated in the Wing Eating Contest. Games and contests between the children attending were held on the field of play.

The Quarterback Club would also like to thank the community for the tremendous support of our 2012 Union County Panther Football Team.



Wrestling Open-Mat

The Union County Panther wrestling coaches invite all students from ages 5-18 to join us for Panther Open Mat day.

Open Mat will take place every Tuesday and Thursday from 3:30-5:30 in the Elementary School gym (The Pit).

Wrestlers will participate in proper techniques for stretching and conditioning, team building activities, learning individual wrestling skills and the UC Panther wrestling

system.

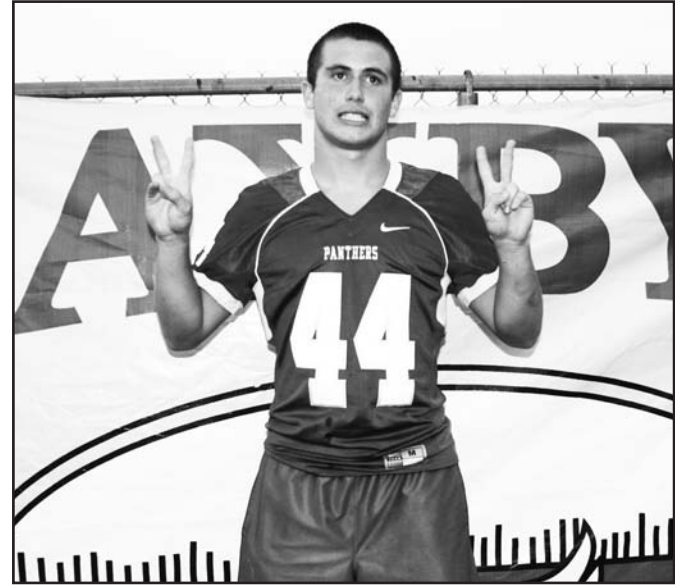
The primary focus of Panther Open Mat is for young people to be physically active and have fun in a positive environment.

Wrestlers need to wear t-shirts and gym shorts with no zippers or buttons. Wrestling shoes are not required.

For more information contact: Coach Bob Williams at bwilliams@ucschools.org or Coach Michael Smith-Foot at msmithfoot@ucschools.org



More than 50 young adults and kids attended last week's Open Mat days at The Pit. Photo/Todd Forrest



Meet the Team Photos by Todd Forrest and Jacque Bentley

NASCAR 2012

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

"BIF" WINS AT MICHIGAN

Brooklyn, MI — Greg Biffle took the lead from an off-the-pace Jimmie Johnson with only six laps remaining in Sunday's Sprint Cup race and held on through the final restart to earn Roush Fenway's record 12th Cup victory at Jack Roush's home track of Michigan International Speedway.

"We are going to make a run at the title," said Biffle. "I know they don't talk about us a lot, but they will when we get to Vegas."

Biffle gained the lead after the engine let go in Jimmie Johnson's No. 48. The win marked Biffle's second of the season.

Brad Keselowski tried to catch Biffle during a two-lap run to the finish but fell 416 seconds short, taking second in a photo finish over fast-closing Casey Kahne. Dale Earnhardt Jr. came home fourth, followed by Marcos Ambrose.

"Greg had a fast car," said Keselowski. "I just couldn't keep up with him. We needed a little more horsepower."

Carl Edwards, Clint Bowyer, Ryan Newman, Paul Menard, and Martin Truex rounded out the top-10.

A bizarre accident involving polesitter, Mark Martin occurred on lap 65. Bobby Labonte was tapped from behind by Juan Montoya as the cars exited turn-4. Martin, who was running behind the pair lost control and spun down into the pit area.



Greg Biffle celebrates his Sunday Cup win. Photo furnished by NASCAR

His car hit the concrete retaining wall that protects the crews, and caught on fire. Martin was not injured but finished 35th.

If it weren't for bad luck Jeff Gordon wouldn't be having any luck at all. A valve spring broke in the engine of his No. 24, and he finished 28th

"We've had a rough weekend," said Gordon. "We weren't handling all that well and never had good track position. Dale (Earnhardt, his teammate) came up on me and I had to check up, but I know he didn't mean to do it."

Tony Stewart had a broken valve spring within the engine of his No. 14 Chevrolet, which relegated him to a 32nd-place finish.

Top-15 Chase leaders after 23 of 36: 1. Biffle-823, 2. Kenseth-803, 3. Earnhardt-801, 4. Johnson-795, 5. Keselowski-776, 6. Truex-763, 7. Bowyer-757, 8. Harvick-738, 9. Stewart-728, 10. Hamlin-727, 11. Kahne-694, 12. Edwards-689, 13. Newman-680,

14. Kyle Busch-669, 15. Menard-665. Note: Only the top-12 drivers will be eligible for the Chase which begins after race 26.

Allgaier gets surprise Montreal win

Justin Allgaier captured his first Nationwide win of the season in Montreal, Canada after emerging in front after a frenzied overtime finish.

"Today was just an awesome day," said Allgaier. "Winning in Montreal means so much because all the people in the series enjoy coming here. The atmosphere is great, the fans never disappoint here but the race played out perfectly for us."

Allgaier was running third at the second attempt for a green-white-checkered finish when a last-lap bump put him in front of Penske Racing teammates Sam Hornish Jr. and Jacques Villeneuve, who ended up second and third.

Elliott Sadler finished fourth, one position in front of 2008 Montreal winner Ron Fellows. Michael McDowell, Mike Wallace, Billy Johnson, Austin Dillon and Kyle Busch completed the top-10.

Top-10 leaders after 22 of 33: 1. Sadler-822, 2. Stenhouse-802, 3. Hornish-802, 4. A. Dillon-789, 5. Allgaier-756, 6. Annett-690, 7. Whitt-633, 8. Bliss-609, 9. Scott-540, 10. Nemechek-506.

Pe-kay rallies for Truck win Nelson Piquet Jr. (pro-

nounced Pe-Kay) rebounded from a spin on lap 56, to win the VFW 200 Camping World truck race at Michigan International Speedway.

Piquet and crew chief Chris Carrier employed a brilliant -- and race-winning -- strategy to capture the Brazilian's first victory in the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series. The duo chose to stay out on the race track while the front-runners pitted under green, and managed a huge lead that ballooned to over 15 seconds with seven laps remaining.

"Me and Chris have been fighting for this win since the beginning of last year and we finally made it," Piquet said. "It came in a dramatic way, but it came. It doesn't matter how, but we did it and I'm really happy that the whole team stayed behind me this whole time. It is a little weight off my back and for the whole family. I am just living to do what our family always did, win races and win championships."

Piquet, whose father Nelson is a three-time Formula One champion, led the first 13 laps, and is only the second driver born outside the United States to win a truck race. Canadian Ron Fellows is the other. Piquet joined the series in 2010 after a two-year stint in F1. This 2012 season has been by far his most successful, with victories coming in the K&N Pro Series East, the NASCAR Nationwide Series and, now, the trucks.

Jason White, Dakota Armstrong, Parker Kligerman,

James Buescher, Ty Dillon, Joey Coulter, Brad Keselowski, Kurt Busch, and Miguel Paludo were the remaining top-10 finishers.

Top-10 leaders after 12 of 22: 1. Peters-449, 2. T. Dillon-449, 3. Buescher-443, 4. Lofton-432, 5. Kligerman-424, 6. Crafton-413, 7. Coulter-406, 8. Piquet-392, 9. Hornaday-386, 10. White-371.

More Canadian races for NASCAR

This weekend's Nationwide race in Montreal, Canada might be just a taste of what's to come north of the border for NASCAR. Since 2007, the Nationwide Series has visited the Circuit Gilles Villeneuve road circuit. Every year, rain or shine the event draws one of the largest and most enthusiastic crowds of the entire season.

The success of the race has sparked speculation more of NASCAR's top divisions may compete in Canada in the not too distant future including the Sprint Cup Series.

Ron Fellows is now co-owner of what was once known as Mosport International Raceway, a storied motorsports facility in Ontario that includes a 2.5-mile road circuit as well as a one mile oval track. Fellows has made it clear he would like nothing more than to bring a Nationwide and/or Camping World Truck Series race to what's now known as Canadian Tire Motorsports Park sooner rather than later.

"We've talked to NASCAR and while we weren't able to put it together for 2012,

we're pursuing something for our 2013 schedule," said Fellows.

NASCAR CEO Brian France was in Montreal in recent months to meet with Circuit Gilles Villeneuve officials and speculation is the sanctioning body would consider adding a third road course to the Cup schedule and take the series international.

But the question is where would the date come from? NASCAR will not add another weekend to the racing schedule. In order for Montreal to host a Sprint Cup event, another track will have to lose one. Therein lies the roadblock for NASCAR to bring its premier circuit to Canada.

Weekend Racing: It's on to the .533-mile Bristol bullring for three night races this week.

Wed., Aug. 22, Camping World Trucks Volunteer 200, race 13 of 22; Starting time: 7:30 pm ET; TV: SPEED.

Fri., Aug. 24, Nationwide Food City 250, race 23 of 33; Starting time: 7 pm ET; TV: ESPN.

Sat., Aug. 25, Sprint Cup Invin Tools, race 24 of 36; Starting time: 7:30 pm ET; TV: ABC.

Racing Trivia Question: Which team will Cup driver Jamie McMurray drive for next season?
Last Week's Question: What year did Jimmie Johnson win his first Cup title? Answer: His first title came in 2006.
You may contact the Racing Reporter at hodges@race500.com. N/Aug22,213gg