

# Cross Country regular season comes to a close; Region Meet on Wednesday

By Todd Forrest  
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**Gainesville** - The Union County Cross Country teams got a look at the Region 8-AA Championship Course at the Riverside Invitational, hosted by Riverside Military Academy last week.

Lady Panther sophomore Emma Garrison took home first place in the girls race, that featured many of the same competitors she will face at the Region Meet.

Rabun County, Jefferson, Oglethorpe County, Washington-Wilkes, and Social Circle were all in attendance to get a look at the course as well. The only non-Region team in attendance was Apalachee.

Garrison set the pace at 18:52, followed by Rabun's Sally Woerner at 20:41. Jefferson picked up the next three spots with Reese Bowles leading the Lady Dragons with a time of 21:51.

Rabun picked up sixth, eighth, and tenth, Jefferson seventh, Apalachee ninth, Oglethorpe County had 11th place, and Union's Rachel Todd was 12th at 23:05, just four seconds behind



Stephanie Busse (left), Emma Garrison (middle), and Rachel Todd (right). Photo/Todd Forrest

11th, and seven seconds behind 10th.

Union's Marissa Spaulding was 15th at 23:42, Cora Bauman came in 20th at 24:21, Stephanie Busse picked up 23rd at 25:06, and Emmeline Stuart was 24th at 25:08.

Anna Danek also added a 28th place finish, clocking in at

26:05.

The Lady Panthers came in third in the team standings behind Jefferson and Rabun.

Meanwhile, the boys race featured all eight schools from Region 8-AA, including host Riverside and Greene County.

The Panthers edged Oglethorpe for fourth place, third

among Region schools, while falling in behind Apalachee, Jefferson, and Riverside.

Cristian Garcia placed 11th overall at 18:16, Jacob Kelley was 18th at 18:52, Andrew Nelson 19th at 18:53, Ryan Rogers was 31st at 19:31, Aaron Stafford came in 34th at 19:37, Josh Weaver was 35th at 19:43, and Jakob Brown placed



The Union County Panthers Cross Country team is calm and relaxed before a recent meet. Photo/Todd Forrest

37th at 19:45.

"This race was really a pre-Region warm up," Union Head Coach Jackie Hughes said. "I was pleased with the effort we gave at this race, but as you know, nothing can be taken for granted at the Region Championship. We will need to show up ready to run our best if we hope to get to Carrollton. There really isn't time to make any

changes before the Region Meet. We just need to have confidence in ourselves and the training we have done up to this point. I believe both teams will do their very best to accomplish our goal of returning to the State Championship at Carrollton High in November.

The Region Meet begins at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday in Gainesville.

## NASCAR 2013

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

### Gordon bounces back at Martinsville

Jeff Gordon was in victory lane for the first time this season as he won Sunday's Sprint Cup race at Martinsville Speedway.

Gordon, who led four times during the 500-lap race, took the lead from Matt Kenseth on lap 479 and stayed out front for the remaining laps.

"Man, it's hard to top a win like this," said Gordon. "This was a huge win, but I gave it all I had. I couldn't have driven any harder."

"A couple times I thought I might have given it away, but we had the car, team, and everything we needed to win."

It was Gordon's 88th victory in 722 Sprint Cup starts.

Matt Kenseth, who led the most laps (202) finished second and is back as the Chase leader.

"The car was good and the team did a great job in the pits, but we had a couple issues," said Kenseth. "We had a bad rear tire there at the end and it didn't handle like it did earlier."

Clint Bowyer tried several times to get around Kenseth, but had to settle for third place.

"I dunno" what happened," said Bowyer. "We had a good car, but a lot of things happened during the race. Some of it was our fault, and some wasn't. That's just the way some races go."

Brad Keselowski was fourth, while Jimmie Johnson came in fifth.

Johnson led three different times, but near the end this car lost handling and a fourth-place finish was the best he could manage.

"It's been a great battle with the 20 (Matt Kenseth)," said Johnson. "Jeff drove a great race, and we'll keep going until we get to Homestead."

Kevin Harvick was sixth, followed by Denny Hamlin, and Dale Earnhardt.

Greg Biffle, who finished ninth, approached Johnson after the race ended with some angry words concerning Johnson's driving habits.

"We got a rear bumper torn off by the 48-car," said Biffle. "It takes a whole lot to tear off an entire bumper. We had a good car, and would have finished much higher if not for the 48."

Jamie McMurray rounded out the top-10.

Top-10 Chase leaders after 33 of 36: 1. Kenseth-2294, 2. Johnson-2294 (Kenseth is considered the leader, because he has more wins than Johnson), 3. Gordon-2267, 4. Harvick-2266, 5. Kyle Busch-2258, 6. Bowyer-2239, 7. Earnhardt-2238, 8. Biffle-2236, 9. Kurt Busch-2219, 10. Edwards-2218.

### DARRELL WALLACE JR WINS TRUCK RACE

Darrell Wallace Jr. won Saturday's Truck Series race at Martinsville to become the first black driver in nearly 50 years to win a major NASCAR event.

Wallace beat Jeb Burton into Turn-1 on a restart with five laps to go, and then held on for the win.

His victory was the first by a black driver since Wendell Scott's Dec. 1, 1963 win in a Grand National (Sprint Cup) race at Jacksonville, Fla.

"This (win) means everything," said Wallace. "This

is an emotional win for me, especially doing it in Wendell Scott's backyard. I love coming here to Martinsville, it's always good to me. It finally paid off. I think it's my third trip here. I love coming here, the fans are great here and we always put on great races here. I had to do some muscling there at the end and get around Ty (Dillon) and keep away from (Kevin) Harvick, so we dodged a few bullets in the race and this is awesome."

Brendan Gaughan, Jeb Burton, Ben Kennedy, Ryan Blaney, Denny Hamlin, German Quiroga, Johnny Sauter, Scott Riggs, and James Buescher were the remaining top-10 finishers.

Tempers flared near the end of the race between Kevin Harvick and Ty Dillon. A bump from Dillon in Turn-2, during lap 189 of the 200-lap race sent Harvick's truck spinning.

Both drivers pitted. Harvick stopped in Dillon's pit stall to voice his displeasure, and ask for a crying towel.

Crew members for Ty Dillon's team fired back with some choice verbal words. While one crewmember was yanking on Harvick's driver-side window net, another aimed a sledge hammer at his truck.

Harvick exited the area, because he realized he was in the wrong pit for sympathy.

"I don't care what they throw at me," said Harvick. "That's exactly the reason I'm leaving RCR (Richard Childress Racing) is because you've got those punk-ass kids coming up. They've got no respect for what they do in this sport and they've had everything fed to them with a spoon. So, I cut him slack all day and, you know, he just dive-bombs me in there, dumps me. It's a shame you've got to get taken out by some rich kid like that."

Following a 22nd place finish, Dillon quietly explained, "He got sideways and then he hit the brakes and tried to brake-check me. So, I can't believe that happened. I'm pretty disappointed in the things that just went down."

"I used to look up to that guy but I guess he doesn't understand the circumstances of what's going on. I understand its tough racing down there in (turns) one and two at Martinsville. I know we wrecked, but to tear up a truck after the race and act like a punk on the track and stop on pit road in my pit stall, was pretty ridiculous."

Harvick, who will move to Stewart-Haas Racing in 2014, is in his final season with RCR. Ty Dillon is team owner Richard Childress' grandson. Another grandson, Austin Dillon races for Childress in the Nationwide and Cup series.

Top-10 leaders after 19 of 22: 1. Crafton-707, 2. Buescher-656, 3. T. Dillon-646, 4. Burton-639, 5. Sauter-625, 6. Blaney-615, 7. Paludo-615, 8. D. Wallace-614, 9. Gaughan-595, 10. PETERS-592.

### QUALIFYING CHANGES COMING IN 2014

NASCAR is considering changing its qualifying procedure in 2014, which would allow multiple cars on the track at the same time.

The proposed qualifying format would have cars



Jeff Gordon is all smiles after winning Sunday's Martinsville Cup race.

in groups of five or six, with each car released from pit road in intervals of a few seconds, similar to road course qualifying.

Each group of drivers would then have a certain amount of time to complete qualifying laps, with the best lap speed used to determine the starting order for the race. On restrictor-plate tracks (Daytona and Talladega), NASCAR is considering using a drafting session, likely 45-60 minutes, to determine the starting order.

The Daytona 500 field would still be set primarily through qualifying races but whether the new format would be used to determine the Daytona 500 pole and the lineup for the qualifying races is still to be decided.

"Nothing is set in stone yet," NASCAR spokesman, Kerry Tharp said. "We haven't determined how all that (throughout the season) would be administered. We're still working through that but with the goal of providing a more enhanced qualifying experience for the fans that come there and watch it on television and, quite frankly, for the competitors."

**Weekend Racing:** Texas Motor Speedway will be the center of NASCAR racing this weekend, as all three major series' will be at the 1.5-mile track.

Fri., Nov. 1, Truck Series race 20 of 22; Starting time: 8:30 pm ET; TV: Fox Sports1.

Sat., Nov. 2, Nationwide Series race 31 of 33; Starting time: 3:30 pm ET; TV: ESPN2.

Sun., Nov. 3, sprint Cup race 34 of 36; Starting time: 3 pm ET; TV: ESPN.

**Racing Trivia Question:** Who won the pole for the first NASCAR race at Martinsville in 1949?

**Last Week's Question:** Which year did Matt Kenseth win his only Cup championship? Answer: It was 2003, while driving a Jack Roush Ford.

You may e-mail any questions to the Racing Reporter at: hodges@race500.com.

### League bowling scores

Galaxy Bowling: Monday Night Men - Game: Gary Brown 278; Derrick Rice 275; and Jeb Plott 257. Series: Derrick Rice 763; Gary Brown 701; and BJ Gilbert 653. Monday Night Women - Game: Sarah Chumbley 206; and Nell Rice 195. Series: Shae Roberts 529; and Nell Rice 512. Young At Heart - Game: Ernest Rice 205; Don Ransom 204; and Ron Mack 192. Series: Al Squires 538; Ron Gaucher 537; and Paul Napolitano 534. Thursday Night Fun - Bob Landis 265; Russ Southcott 258; Jeb Plott 246; and Pam Bierce 212. Series: Jeb Plott 722. NOct30,Z17EG

## Rabun at Union football statistics

Passing Stats										
#		CMP	ATT	%	YDS	YDS/ATT	LNG	TD	FUM	INT
9	Mancuso, Joseph	21	42	50%	260	6.2	73	2	-	2
11	Drake, Rolston	0	1	0%	0	0	0	0	-	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>21</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>48.8%</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3</b>

Rushing Stats					
#		ATT	YDS	AVG	LNG
9	Mancuso, Joseph	6	26	4.3	11
11	Drake, Rolston	1	1	1	1
40	Whittle, Nick	5	-15	-3	0
44	Barnett, Chase	1	5	5	5
<b>Total</b>		<b>13</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>11</b>

Receiving Stats						
#		REC	YDS	AVG	LNG	TD
22	Rogers, Jacob	6	126	21	73	2
25	Brown, Andrew	0	0	0	0	0
40	Whittle, Nick	2	9	4.5	8	0
43	Prunier, Robert	4	47	11.8	19	0
44	Barnett, Chase	1	3	3	3	0
45	Wallis, Clay	2	42	21	31	0
82	Gilbert, Sam	6	33	5.5	11	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>21</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>12.4</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>2</b>

## Register your child now for Upward Indoor Soccer



Online registration is now open through January 6th for Upward Indoor Soccer for boys and girls in grades Kindergarten through 6th at [www.hobp.org](http://www.hobp.org) or at [www.fumcunioncounty.org](http://www.fumcunioncounty.org). The early registration price to participate is \$60 and includes one jersey among other Upward sports related resources. After December 18th, the price will be \$70. Payment plans are available if needed. Convenient once per week practices will begin the week of January 6,

2014, while games will be held on consecutive Saturdays from January 25 through March 1, 2014.

Only one evaluation will be held on Tuesday, December 17th from 5:30 to 7:30 PM at the House of Prayer Family Life Center and everyone is encouraged to attend.

Form and registration fees may also be dropped off, Monday through Friday, at House of Prayer Family Life Center or First United Methodist Church's business office between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. For more information, contact either church office at HOP (706) 745-5925 or FUMC (706) 745-2073.

Research indicates that children's moral foundations are generally in place by the time they reach age nine (Bar-

na, 2003). Using the universal language of sports, Upward Sports' Coaches and Volunteers connect with families during the formative years in a child's life to develop values, athletic skills and a life-long love of the game.

Founded in 1995 by Caz McCaslin, Upward Sports is the world's largest Christian-based kid's sports league. The first-class sports program—which includes basketball, flag football, soccer and cheerleading—provides a fun sports experience based on healthy competition for kids, teaching skills for the sports arena and values for life. Today, nearly 550,000 children in 48 U.S. states and Canada participate in Upward Sports Leagues and Camps hosted by 2,400 churches. NOct30,A31SH

## Mountain High Hikers Hiking Club

Mountain High Hikers schedules two hikes each Tuesday, occasional specialty hikes, and regular trail maintaining trips - all in the beautiful mountains of Georgia and North Carolina. Check the website [www.mountainhighhikers.org](http://www.mountainhighhikers.org) for schedule and meeting locations.

## BMTA annual meeting

Benton MacKaye Trail Association Annual Meeting weekend, Nov. 1 - 3. Group Hikes, Friday - Sunday. Meeting on Saturday, in Ellijay, includes reports on the trail, election of new Board and lasagna dinner. See [www.bmta.org](http://www.bmta.org) for details and to pre-register. Contact Darcy Douglas with questions - [bmtadarcy@yahoo.com](mailto:bmtadarcy@yahoo.com) or 404-497-0818. NOct30,A15H

## Family Bike-A-Thon

Bike to raise money for new playground equipment at Union County Primary School. Drop in Sunday, November 10, 2013 at Meeks Park between 1 - 5 p.m. All participants must wear a helmet. \$5 registration fee per biker. Face painting, hair art, tattoos, drinks and pizza will be available. NOct30,Z17EG

# Basketball Registration

## Union County Recreation Department

**Registration Ends**

9-10 year olds November 8th

11-12 year olds November 8th

13-14 year olds November 8th

**\$45 per player**

Registration forms available at Rec Dept. Office located at: 310 Wellborn Street, Blairsville GA 30512