

Union cross county honors seniors, preps for Region at final home meet

By Todd Forrest
North Georgia News
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Union County cross country swept its home meet last week at Meeks Park with the ladies edging Region 8-AA rival Rabun County by seven points.

Meanwhile, Union's guys dominated the six-team race with a 26-point gap between the Panthers and second place Hayesville, NC.

Placing second overall was Lance Underwood, who despite coming up short of the gold, made some history with his personal best time of 16 minutes and 45 seconds.

According to Head Coach Jackie Hughes, Underwood is Union's first guy since Chris Jones to have a finishing time in the 16's. His time and the winning time of 16:40 by Adam Urbaniak of Hayesville, NC are the first 16's to be run at a Panther home meet.

Cristian Garcia took seventh overall with a time of 18:12. Placing ninth was Jacob Kelley at 18:24, Adam Bachman clocked in at 18:29 - good enough for 10th, 12th belonged to Colby Ives at 18:32.

Gehrig Patterson was 13th with a time of 18:41, and Timothy Murphy took 14th, finishing in 18:45.

For the ladies, Emma Garrison was third overall with a time of 20:56. Fifth place went to Emmi Schakat, checking in at 21:28, Sage Royston was seventh at 22:08, Stephanie Busse placed 11th with a time of 22:29.

Rounding out the Lady Panthers' top seven runners were 21st place Destiny Orellana-Irvin at 23:45, Erika Clause picked up 22nd in 23:54, and Emmeline Stuart was 30th at 25:06.

Now, Union County will begin its preparation for a Region title defense. In 2014 both teams traveled to Riverside Military Academy in Gainesville and walked away with the sweep in the team standings.

The Lady Panthers won the individual title while Underwood, then a freshman, came in a close second. With the sophomore running personal bests this close to Region, it's a safe bet that he's got his sights set on an individual 8-AA Championship.

The Region Championship will be at Riverside again on Wednesday, Oct. 28th.



Union County senior Stephanie Busse



Union County senior Emma Garrison

UCHS says thank you

Union County High School would like to thank Union General Hospital, Panel Built, and First Baptist Church for paying admission to each home football game for every UCHS student.

With support like this from the community it's no wonder that Union County Schools are among the elite in the state of Georgia, both academically and athletically.

Bowling scores

Monday Night Ladies: Ines Bergstrom 188, Monita Rodgers 212. **Monday Night Men:** Russell Bell 218, Bill Smith 201, Dewey Allen 204, Taz Matetzsch 235, BJ Gilbert 227, 235, 233, 725 Series, Jim Kidder 200, Mel White 201, 220, Doug Tanner 214, 204, Bart Rodgers 206, 235, Mickey Whatley 221, Joe Teague 239, Derick Rice 267, 209, Jason Swanson 206, 236, Greg Whittenburg 200, 233, Keith Rhodes 205, Jerry Thomas 212, Ranny Jones 207, Ken Clark 238, Jay Burrell 243, Ray Everett 210. **Tuesday Night Church League:** John Ozark 173, Brian Roy 141, Curtis Brown 128, Rob Pawli 146, Wanda Fumano 137, Daniel Fumano 209, 190, Diana Carroll 124, Joann Galloway 169, Charlie Reynor 169, 176. **Young @ Heart:** Barry Rice 200, Ron Gaucher 234, Peggy Kidder 190, Dewey Allen 203, 205, Ron Wingate 209, 201, Bob Landis 255, Sarah Chumbley 193, Paul Napolitano 211, Nell Rice 188, 200. **Thursday Night Fun:** Dewey Allen 236, Tim McVay 201, 210, Dan Wilson 203, Curtis Corn 236, 241, Bonnell Thomas 237, Tony Lynch 211, 200, Chuck Reeves 224. **Blairsville Youth:** Ivy Robbins 105, Jacob Rox 121, Emma Hambrick 112, DJ Robbins 108, Eric Fox 117, 118, Derek Harwood 110, Michaela Caldwell 100, Jared Edwards 127.



Union County senior Cristian Garcia

Roberts competes in GPA World Competition

Mason Roberts, a Junior at Habersham Central High School, competed in a GPA World Competition on October 11, 2015 in Athens, GA. He won first place in his age 16 and weight 198 lbs. division, breaking his Georgia State record of 142.5 lbs. with his new lift of 260 lbs.

Mason is the son of Anthony and Michelle Laster Roberts of Demorest and the grandson of Toby and Wanda Laster of Blairsville, and Karen and Johnny Roberts of Demorest.

This was Mason's third competition in bench press and first World meet, we are so proud of this young man.



Mason Roberts

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How Sweet It Is... continued from 12A

out walk in the second but was left stranded. In the bottom of the second, Social Circle made some noise with two outs thanks to a single and a Union County error, but Chambers got out of the inning with a strikeout.

The Lady Redskins got on the board in the third by way of a nine-pitch walk to leadoff the inning that was followed by an error that brought home a run. They added another in the fourth with a one-out base hit and another error that made it a 2-0 game.

Arrowood's leadoff single in the fifth was for naught as two fly outs and a ground out followed.

In the seventh, Lawn walked with nobody out but a strikeout, ground out, and a fly out ended the inning and the game.

A look at Lamar County

On Wednesday, Union County will travel to Lamar County, in Barnesville to

face the Region 4-AA Region Champs, the Lamar County Lady Trojans.

Entering the second round of the Class AA State Tournament, Bowdon currently sits 19th in the Max Preps power rankings with a 16-12 record. Union resides in 8th place.

Lamar and the Lady Panthers have a common opponent in Bowdon. The Lady Trojans came out on top 3-2 during a tournament in Carrollton, which proves very little since teams normally use the entire pitching staff during all-day tournaments.

The Lady Trojans enter the second round with a team batting average of .373 with 62 stolen bases in 26 games - giving them one of the toughest lineups the Lady Panthers have faced.

However, a team fielding percentage of .943 and a team ERA of 3.56 could possibly be exploited by Coach Stewart's lineup.

Although, their ace,

Lexi Head, has struck out 107 batters in 68 innings.

"I do know a little about Lamar and from what I have gathered they have a solid team all the way around," Coach Stewart said. "They have a pitcher that throws hard so it should be a similar match up like the first game against Bowdon. We're going to focus on some things that we need to tighten up on (at practice). They have stolen a lot of bases and can bunt so we will be working on those things (this week).

Game times for Wednesday are 5 and 7 p.m. with the if necessary game at 2 p.m. on Thursday.

"Our girls are two games away from going to Columbus (Elite 8) and we have been trying to get back there since our last trip in 2010," Coach Stewart said. "I'm proud of our girls for putting themselves in the position to be able to go to the Sweet 16 and an opportunity for the Elite 8."

NASCAR 2015

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

Logano gets second consecutive win



Joey Logano Gets Second Consecutive Win Furnished by NASCAR

Kansas City, Kan.—Joey Logano put a love tap on Matt Kenseth to win Sunday's Sprint Cup race.

The race's next-to-last caution had come out on lap 244 of the 267-lap race after Justin Allgaier spun out. On the restart, Logano was lined up third, behind Kenseth and Jimmie Johnson. Within two laps he had passed Johnson and closed on Kenseth.

During lap 262, Logano tried to pass Kenseth on the high side, but Kenseth blocked him. About half a lap later, Logano went low, and Kenseth attempted another block. But this time, instead of backing off, Logano put the front bumper of his No. 22 Ford into the rear of Kenseth's No. 20, causing him to spin.

This brought out the race's last caution, and forced a green-white-checkered finish.

It was no contest on the restart, as Logano easily held off runner-up Denny Hamlin, and third-place finisher Jimmie Johnson.

"I couldn't be any prouder of this team," said Logano. "What we were doing was just hard racing. He (Kenseth) raced me hard, and I was just going to race him hard."

Kenseth, who finished 14th didn't quite see it that way.

"I was certainly moving around on the track," said Kenseth. "There were lapped cars we were passing, but he just wrecked me."

Kenseth is in the 12th and last place in the Chase standings, and unless he either wins or has a top-five finish at Talladega, he will not make it into round three of the Chase.

Kasey Kahne was fourth, followed by Kyle Busch and Kurt Busch.

Ryan Blaney, driving the Wood Brothers No. 21 Ford was seventh. It was his best career finish in the Cup Series. There is still no word on whether Blaney will be behind the wheel of the No. 21 next season.

Carl Edwards, Brad Keselowski, and Jeff Gordon rounded out the top-10.

Kevin Harvick led 21 laps and appeared to be headed for a showdown with Matt Kenseth, but a pit road penalty cost him any chances he might have had

for the win. As he was exiting his pit during lap 218, the gas man lost control of the gas can and it wound up in another team's pit. NASCAR penalized Harvick with a stop and go penalty and he finished 16th.

There were several cars that had right front tire problems and hit the outside wall.

Clint Bowyer, who is not in the Chase took a hard hit during lap 172.

"It's a disappointment," he said. "We were really looking for a good run today, and thought we had a good car. But it happened so quick, I had no indication anything was wrong."

Others that bounced off the outside wall were Ty Dillon and Kyle Larson.

Chase leaders after two races into round two. 1. Logano-3095, 2. Hamlin-3082, 3. Kurt Busch-3077, 4. Edwards-3076, 5. Harvick-3071, 6. Gordon-3071, 7. Keselowski-3071, 8. Truex-3070, 9. Kyle Busch-3064, 10. Newman-3062, 11. Earnhardt-3039, 12. Kenseth-3035.

Note: After the Talladega race next weekend, the points will be reset and only the top-eight drivers will advance to the next round.

KYLE BUSCH OUTLASTS KENSETH

Matt Kenseth led 148 laps of Saturday's 204-lap Xfinity race, but at the end he had to yield his lead to Kyle Busch who went on to claim his 75th series race.

Kenseth finished a close second, then it was Joey Logano, Ty Dillon, Regan Smith, Chris Buescher, Chase Elliott, Ryan Sieg, Daniel Suarez, and Brendan Gaughan that rounded out the top-10 finishers.

Top-10 leaders after 30 of 33: 1. C. Buescher-1093, 2. Elliott-1066, 3. Smith-1060, 4. T. Dillon-1057, 5. Wallace Jr.-976, 6. Sadler-974, 7. Suarez-962, 8. Gaughan-927, 9. Scott-922, 10. Reed-825.

NEW RULES AND SOFTER TIRES IN 2016

Goodyear is expecting to build more softer tires with the adoption of a lower down-force rules package for the 2016 Sprint Cup season.

Greg Stucker, the director of race tire sales for the NASCAR supplier, said tires will be tuned to each track with a goal of increasing grip. That likely will mean a softer compound at many 1.5-mile to 2-mile tracks, but tires are expected to remain the same at Daytona International Speedway and Talladega Superspeedway (neither of which will feature the new package) and short tracks such as Martinsville Speedway and Bristol Motor Speedway.

"There will be some commonality but probably a lot of change through the rest of 2016," Stucker said at Kansas Speedway.

Even as the tire con-

struction changes, Goodyear probably will continue to use the same combinations at multiple tracks. For example, the 1.5-mile ovals of Chicagoland Speedway, Texas Motor Speedway and Homestead-Miami Speedway traditionally have featured the same tire compounds. NASCAR has stressed it plans to tinker with gear ratios on a weekly basis to improve the quality of racing, but Stucker said that won't have an impact on tire production.

"I think all the drivers are excited about the new rules," Earnhardt said. "I'm good with it. It's a good change of direction I think to change the way the races are going to look and feel. I wouldn't be looking for some dramatic change, but I think the drivers are happy about it. I believe that after what the fans and NASCAR saw in the two races that we ran it this year (Darlington, Kentucky) that they are excited about it was well."

MOST POPULAR DRIVER VOTING OPEN

Voting for the most popular Sprint Cup driver is open.

The National Motorsports Press Association Sprint Most Popular Driver award is the only major NASCAR award determined solely by fan vote. The voting is open and will run through 11:59pm/et on Sunday, November 22, 2015.

Fans can visit www.mostpopulardriver.com to cast their vote for this year's award. Votes will also be received via the NASCAR Mobile application. Voting is limited to one vote per person per email address per day. Fans are encouraged to share their votes on Facebook and Twitter.

The official Twitter hashtag for the NMPA Sprint Most Popular Driver Award is #SprintMPD. Eligible drivers for the award are those who have declared to compete for the 2015 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series championship (drivers running for Sprint Cup Series points). The winner of this year's award will be announced during NBCSN broadcast of the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series Awards on Dec. 4 in Las Vegas.

Weekend Racing: The Sprint Cup and Truck teams are at the 2.66-mile Talladega Superspeedway. The Xfinity teams have an off weekend.

Sat., Oct. 24; Truck Series race 19 of 23; Starting time: 1 pm ET; TV: Fox.
Sun., Oct. 25; Sprint Cup race 32 of 36; Starting time: 2:30 pm ET; TV: NBCS.

Racing Trivia Question: At which track will the 2015 Sprint Cup season end?

Last Week's Question: Which team does Denny Hamlin drive for?

You may contact the Racing Reporter by e-mail at: hodges@race500.com

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Left to right: In Game Two - Jillian Lawn, Assistant Coach Kaitlyn Seabolt, Maddie Sutton (26), Head Coach Jessica Stewart, and Maddie Garrett go over potential situations as the Lady Panthers loaded the bases during a 4-4 contest. Photo/Todd Forrest