

Union Cross Country sweeps Region 8-AA Championships

By Todd Forrest
North Georgia News
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Gainesville - It was a clean sweep for Union County at the Region 8-AA Cross Country Championships last week at Riverside Military Academy.

Senior Emma Garrison recorded her third individual region title to pace the ladies to back-to-back team championships.

"This year was one of the hardest (Region Championships) so that makes this one a little more meaningful," Garrison said.

Later, sophomore Lance Underwood claimed the top spot in the guys race to lead the Panthers to their second straight Region Championship.

Last year, Underwood came in a very close second at the Region Championships, but this year, he left no doubt by finishing 41 seconds ahead of second place with a time of 17 minutes and 39 seconds.

"It feels great," Underwood said. "Now I just need to keep training and get ready for State."

Underwood made a pass for the lead about 1/2 mile into the race and pulled away from the competition. By the time he completed the second mile, there would be no catching him.

As for the ladies, the closest runner to Garrison was her Union County teammate, sophomore Emmi Schakat, who was a minute behind. Garrison clocked in at 21:25, while Schakat finished with a time of 22:27.

However, Garrison trailed



Both Union County teams defended their Region Championship and even added an individual Region Champ this season. Now they will head to State looking to add another State Championship to their already impressive resume.

Rabun County's Brooke Henricks for most of the race but as the runners neared the final 800 yards, Garrison and Schakat stormed by her.

Henricks ended up in third, more than 90 second behind Garrison and 30 seconds back of Schakat.

"She was in the lead and just slowed down, so I don't know what happened to her," Garrison

said. "I had prepared myself to keep my own pace and not worry about her, it just ended up with her finishing behind me."

Senior Stephanie Busse placed sixth for the Lady Panthers with a time of 23:05, just edging a Rabun County runner by 2.5 seconds. Coming in ninth and 10th were seniors Sage Royston (23:24) and Anna Danek (24:06) to give Union five runners in the

Top 10 for a total score of 28.

Destiny Orellana finished 14th at 24:36 and Erika Clause placed 15th with a time of 24:51.

Social Circle placed three runners in the Top 10 and came in second with 47 points. Rabun

County placed three runners in the Top 12 and finished third with a score of 52. Oglethorpe County was able to qualify for State by coming in fourth with a score of 101.

Later, Union County's guys placed five runners in the Top 12

behind first place Underwood. Senior Jacob Kelley placed fifth with a time of 18:44. Two spots behind him was junior Adam Bachman (18:49), who was battling for sixth but was edged by less than a second. In 10th place was freshman Colby Ives who finished 1-second behind ninth place with a time of 19:11. In 12th place was senior Cristian Garcia, who finished in 19:26.

Sophomore Gehrig Patterson placed 13th with a time of 19:28. In 14th was Timothy Murphy at 19:52.

Union finished with 35 points, 34 better than second place Social Circle. Behind the Redskins was Riverside Military Academy with a score of 72. Rabun County was fourth with 114 points.

Up next for Union County are the State Championships in Carrollton - a place that Coach Jackie Hughes and her squad are getting quite used to.

Garrison will be looking for her third State Championship while Underwood is hungry for his first. Team-wise, both squads will be looking to reach the medal stand as Union has had plenty of individual success at State, but have yet to compete for a team championship.

The race is held on the campus of Carrollton High School with the guys race starting at 1:25 p.m..

The girls race will follow at 2:05 p.m.

NASCAR 2015

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

Jeff Gordon wins at Martinsville

MARTINSVILLE, Vir. - Jeff Gordon won his first race of the season, insuring his team a spot in the final round of the Chase. His hard fought victory was almost overshadowed by a payback given to Joey Logano by Matt Kenseth for Logano's alleged wrecking of Kenseth last week.

"Oh man, this is the sweetest," said Gordon. "Man, we just stuck with it all day long and it just fell in our lap after that deal with Joey and Matt."

Earlier in the race Kenseth had traded paint with Logano and his teammate Brad Keselowski. During an incident on lap 431 of the 500-lap race that involved Kenseth and Keselowski, both cars were damaged and had to be driven to the garage for repairs.

Kenseth returned to the track during lap 453. Logano, who was leading the race passed Kenseth on the outside of the front straightaway. As the two cars entered turn-1, Kenseth sped up and put the nose of his No. 22 into the left-rear quarterpanel of Logano's No. 22. Both cars went into the outside wall and were heavily damaged.

Logano did return to the track, but finished 37th.

"What he did was a complete surprise to me," said Logano. "He certainly doesn't act like a champion, more of a coward."

Aware of a penalty or sanction by NASCAR, Kenseth was able to justify his actions.

"Brad and Joey had tried to run me over earlier," said Kenseth. "But I just had a right front tire go down as I went into the corner. I really thought I had a chance for a win until all that happened."

Gordon inherited the lead after the Logano-Kenseth incident, and survived four more restarts to get his 93rd Sprint Cup victory.

"A lot of people didn't give this team enough credit at the beginning of the season," continued Gordon. "Just look where we are now. All our focus will be on Homestead (the last race of the season). Don't count us out."

Jamie McMurray finished a strong second, but did not lead any laps.

Denny Hamlin the third-place finisher was involved in two racing incidents and led three laps.

Dale Earnhardt Jr., who started from the 22nd starting spot never led a lap but came in fourth.

Fifth-place driver Kyle Busch was involved in several accidents, including one that sent him spinning into the outside wall.

Martin Truex, Ryan Newman, Kevin Harvick, Kasey Kahne and Tony Stewart rounded out

the top-10 drivers.

Carl Edwards battled back from two mishaps to finish 14th and keep his Chase hopes alive.

Joey Logano was the pole-sitter and led 207 laps before he was forced out of the race. Keselowski led 143 laps. Combined, the two Penske Racing drivers led 350 laps.

Top-8 Chase drivers: 1. Gordon-4047, 2. Kyle Busch-4039, 3. Truex-4039, 4. Harvick-4037, 5. Edwards-4030, 6. Keselowski-4013, 7. Kurt Busch-4011, 8. Logano-4009.

Note: The field will be reset after the Phoenix race. Only the top-4 drivers will compete for the championship in the season-ending race at Homestead, Fla. The highest finisher will be the 2015 Sprint Cup champion.

The race included 18 cautions for 109 laps and one red flag period.

Jeff Gordon's winnings total \$5, 553, 078 for the year. Kevin Harvick's \$8, 205, 991 is the most of any driver.

CRAFTON IS TRUCK WINNER

Three-time series champion Matt Crafton won Saturday's Truck Series race at Martinsville, and remains in the hunt for his fourth title.

Crafton survived five restarts in the final 50 laps of the race to win by .396 seconds ahead of John Hunter Nemechek.

It was Crafton's fifth victory of the season, his second at the .526-mile short track and the 10th of his career. He cut 13 points off the series lead of Erik Jones, who struggled throughout the afternoon and finished 10th.

"We've had a very trying last two months, but to get back to Victory Lane is awesome," Crafton said. "These guys just never give up. We weren't that great on the short run, but like I said, I never give up on these guys. They keep fine-tuning and fine-tuning."

"The second-to-last run, we just got really tight, for whatever reason, but they made a little change there, and the thing was good. I just had to pace myself and save enough tires for the end of the race."

Remaining top-10 finishers: 3. Cameron Hayley, 4. Cole Custer, 5. Tyler Reddick, 6. Timothy Peters, 7. Brandon Jones, 8. Caleb Holman, 9. Johnny Sauter, 10. Eric Jones.

Top-10 leaders after 20 of 23: E. Jones-776, 2. Crafton-766, 3. Reddick-773, 4. Sauter-722, 5. Peters-680, 6. Hayley-663, 7. Hemric-644, 8. Townley-627, 9. Kennedy-595, 10. Gallagher-574.

LOGANO AND TEAM MUST REGROUP

Joey Logano had won three consecutive Sprint Cup races before being taken out in



Jeff Gordon Wins at Martinsville. Furnished by NASCAR

retaliation by Matt Kenseth last Sunday at Martinsville. Despite losing out on his attempt at four consecutive wins, his sights are set on winning this year's Sprint Cup title.

"We have momentum and we know the recipe to win," said Logano, who has six victories for the season, including the Daytona 500. "That's more than anyone can say, at least in the last three races. But there are still a lot of very good race teams that are very fast and that we'll be competing against all the way to the end."

Logano has won 11 races in the past two years, more than any other driver. He won Kansas two weeks ago by turning Matt Kenseth, drawing the fans' ire, and in the end, it kept Kenseth from advancing in the Chase.

"I know there are a lot of T-shirts out there," he continued. "I really enjoy seeing that, and I really appreciate the support that the 22 team gets. And if you don't like me, I don't care."

Logano's first major NASCAR win came at Kentucky Speedway in just his third start in the 2008 Nationwide Series. He became the youngest driver to win a Nationwide Series race at 18 years, 21 days old.

Logano became the youngest winner in Sprint Cup Series history when he won the 2009 race at New Hampshire Motor Speedway at 19 years, 35 days. Logano is now the youngest winner in two of NASCAR's three top divisions. He was also the first NASCAR driver born in the 1990s that has competed in NASCAR's three major divisions.

Weekend Racing: All three of NASCAR's major series will be at the 1.5-mile Texas Motor Speedway just outside Ft. Worth, Tex.

Fri., Nov. 6; Truck Series race 21 of 23; Starting time: 8:30 pm ET; TV: Foxsports1.

Sat., Nov. 7; Xfinity Series race 31 of 33; Starting time: 3:30 pm ET; TV: NBC.

Sun., Nov. 8; Sprint Cup Series race 34 of 36; Starting time: 2 pm ET; TV: NBC.

Racing Trivia Question: Where will the first Sprint Cup race of the 2016 season be held?

Last Week's Question: How many races has Dale Earnhardt Jr. won this season? **Answer:** He has two wins.

You may contact the Racing Reporter by e-mail at: hodges@race500.com. NT(Nov4,C)C



Lady Panthers cross country team with Region Champion trophy



Panthers cross country with Region Champion trophy



Coach Reece (left) Coach Hughes (right) with the winners

Fly High 5K - In Memory of Jacqueline Crisp

The 1st annual "Fly High 5K" will be held on Saturday, November 7, 2015 at 8 a.m. All donations and proceeds will go towards a scholarship fund, in Jacqueline's memory, to selected students enrolled in Towns County High School.

The Walk/Run starts at 8 a.m. November 7, 2015. Location: N. Main St., Hiawassee, GA, (Hiawassee Town Square). Adult fee: \$30. Student fee: \$25. Children 10 and under: \$15. NT(Nov4,F5)SH



Run for Recovery 5K

The first Run for Recovery 5K takes place at the beautiful Meeks Park in Blairsville, GA, during the peak of fall November 14th. Located in the picturesque North Georgia Mountains, your 5K journey will present an experience of breathtaking art by God's nature and man's handiwork. Beyond the personal race for victory, your participation will support the fight against drug addiction. Come help us celebrate the drug free life.

We will begin registration at 8 a.m., race at 9 a.m. The course will start at the end pavilion of Meeks Park signified by a sign. Abundance of parking is available. Make sure all waivers are signed, and bring a picture ID. Rain or shine - dress accordingly. Pre-register at www.ACTIVE.com, \$25 online, \$35 morning of race. Call 706-487-8100 for more information.

UPWARD SPORTS

On-line registration is now open for Upward Indoor Soccer for boys and girls in grades Kindergarten through 8th Grade at www.hopb.org or at www.fumunioncounty.org.

The registration price to participate is \$60, through December 10, 2015, and an additional \$10 will be applied thereafter. Payment plans are available, if needed. Convenient weekly practices commence January 11, 2016, while games will be held every Saturday between January 30 and March 5, 2016.

Registrants should attend the evaluation that will be held on Thursday, December 10, 2015 on a drop-in basis between the hours of 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. at the House of Prayer Family Life Center located behind the sanctuary.

For more information regarding registration, contact (706) 745-5925. Information regarding Upward Sports can be found online at www.upward.org. N(Nov4,A1)SH

Union County Elementary School Parents, We heard you!

- Title I Parent Survey results indicate:
- You need technology resources and educational materials to help your child.
 - You would like for the school to provide informational programs on reading strategies and math skills.
 - Evening meetings are most convenient for you.

YOU'RE INVITED

to Third Grade Literacy and Math Night!

November 12, 2015
6:00 - 7:15 pm

We will meet in the gym and rotate through four different stations:

- Explore the Book Fair
- Have fun with writing
- Help your child improve his/her oral reading fluency
- How to access Reflex Math and SuccessMaker Math at home

Bring your child with you to practice the skills together.

We value our parent partnership in your child's education!

Childcare will be provided for your little ones.

We look forward to seeing you!