

North Georgia Rapids Swim Team excels

The North Georgia Rapids Swim Team finished the Summer season recently by attending the league's two-day championship swim meet.

Fifteen teams in all, competed Friday night July 5th in Gainesville and then again the following day in Clarkesville, Georgia. The league is divided into two classifications. The larger teams, those with over 45 swimmers, and then the smaller teams, less than 45, in which there are 11 teams.

The Rapids are at the lower end of the small teams division with just 15 swimmers attending the meet, but had tremendous overall success finishing fourth. Both the second and third place teams finishing ahead of the Rapids, had over 30 swimmers each. So considering the numbers, the Rapids made an impressive showing.

The team's top performers earning individual trophies, were as follows:

First place boys - 10 and under age group: Andrew



Nustayev. Third place boys - 8 and under: Wyatt Yancey. Third place girls - 14 and under: Brooke Yancey. Second place boys - 18 and under: Brian Williams.

Other team members with excellent performances -- all medal winners: Hunter Yancey (4), Wyatt Nichols (4), Nicholas Nushtayev (3), Michael Dillard (2), Hunter White (2), Steven Williams (2).

Swimmers earning rib-

bons and contributing to total team points include: Lily Helton, Courtney Foster, Liam Smith, Violet Davenport and Ava Wheeler.

It was a very successful weekend for the Rapids. The team would like to express its appreciation to the Union General Hospital and the Wellness Center staff for providing us the excellent facilities to train.

Corn Hole Tournament to benefit Team Dream Ride Bound

Team Dream Ride Bound is a group who are raising money to send Special Athletes to Farmington, CT to the Dream Ride Rally, August 22-26, 2019. We are having a Corn Hole Tournament to raise the funds to reach our goal.

Come out have some fun, win some prizes, and support these athletes! Everyone is welcome to participate. You don't have to be a pro.

Team Dream Ride Bound Cornhole Tournament will be held at Nottley Lakeside Billiards/cornhole/dart, 2547 Nottley Dam Road

(Hwy. 325) Blairsville, GA on Saturday, July 20, 2019, registration begins at 12:30 PM; play begins at 2 PM. Blind Draw Double Elimination; entry fee: \$25 per person; Top Prize: \$250; 2nd place: \$100; 3rd Place: \$50. Concessions will be available.

Please come out and support this wonderful group of Special Athletes. Help them make this fantastic trip and have fun in the meantime!

For more info contact: Doug Hughes, 706-781-7654; Paulette Dyer, 706-897-9938; Suzanne Taylor, 706-897-8997.



Trout stocking sites week of July 8-12, 2019

Fannin: Big Creek, Rock Creek and Toccoa River Union: Cooper Creek and Toccoa River

Note: Information is subject to change. Please call the hatchery at 706-838-4723 for questions. Stay up-to-date with stocking and events through Facebook www.facebook.com/chattahoocheeforestnfh. The hatchery also provides trout for the state. Please contact Georgia DNR for information on sites stocked by the state. N0Jul17Z16/CA



2019 Union County Junior Varsity Softball Schedule

Date	Time	Opponent	Location
8/2	5:00	Pickens	Home
8/12	4:00	Lumpkin	Lumpkin
8/13	5:00	Rabun	Rabun
8/16	5:00	Dawson	Dawson
8/19	4:00	Gilmer	Gilmer
8/21	4:00	Pickens	Pickens
8/26	4:30	White (2)	White
8/27	4:00	Elbert	Elbert
8/28	4:00	Dawson(2)	Home
9/4	4:00	Lumpkin	Home
9/17	4:00	Rabun	Home
9/19	4:00	Gilmer	Home

NLBC Heaven Bound Sportsmen

7th Annual

3-D Archery Coon Shoot

Door Prizes & Special Raffles



Food and Refreshments

"And God was with the lad; and he grew, and dwelt in the wilderness, and became an archer." - Genesis 21:20

Will be held **July 27, 2019** at **ALEXANDER'S Store**
4482 Town Creek School Rd, Blairsville, GA

Sign-in From: 7:00pm till 8:30pm
Shotgun Start at Dark

\$10 per Shooter

Classes will be: Mens, Womens, Traditional, Crossbow, Youth (12-16), Cubs (11 & under shoot **FREE**)

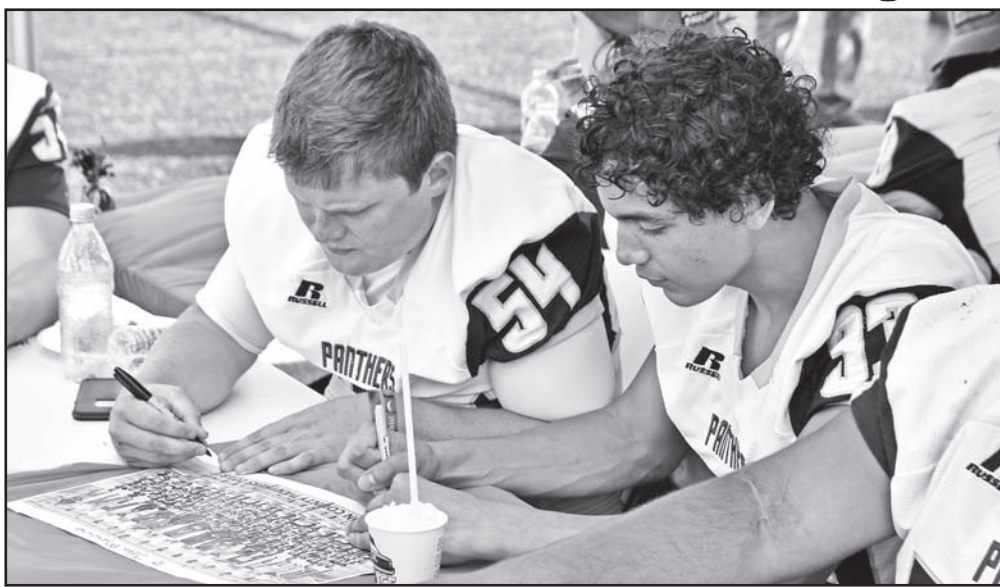
This will be a known yardage shoot!!!

Rules: No Shining Targets, Targets will be lit with a light.
No Broadheads
Must Shoot From Stake
Bring a Small Flashlight for walking

Any Questions Please Contact: Trenniss Elliott 706-781-8883

Jason Seabolt 706-835-6978, Tim Bohannon 706-781-4658, or Tony Long 706-897-0633

Football: Meet the Team set for Aug. 23



Panther football's annual Meet the Team event is scheduled for Friday Aug. 23 at 7 p.m. Photo/Todd Forrest

MUSA's Colorful Run 5K benefit race Aug. 31

Go online and register for Blairsville's first EVER color run 5k. This is open to kids, adults, grandparents, runners, walkers, joggers - anyone who would like some exercise while getting showered in color!

You can register online now at <https://endurancecui.active.com/event-reg/select-race?e=63477154>.

Make sure to register by August 5th to assure you get a shirt and the size you would like as after that date it will be while supplies last! If you would like to sponsor and be on the shirt message us and we will get you on there!

All monies will go to help kids with their individual registration costs.



NASCAR 2019

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

Busch Brothers Sweep Kentucky

SPARTA, KY - Kurt Busch beat his brother to the finish line by .076 seconds in Saturday night's Cup Series race. A two-lap overtime finish between the two was set up when Bubba Wallace spun in Turn 2 with six laps left in the 267-lap race. Joey Logano, Erik Jones, the Busch brothers and Denny Hamlin stayed out on older tires for the overtime, with Kurt Busch having fresher rubber on his left side, thanks to a four-tire pit stop under green on Lap 213.

On the restart Kyle Busch shot ahead of Logano coming out of turn two on the first lap and made it three-wide with Kurt Busch and Erik Jones. By the time the white flag flew, both Kyle and Kurt were side by side racing for the win. The pair of siblings bumped and banged into each other several times as they battled for the victory.

But Kurt had fresher tires and was able to sneak by Kyle in turns three and four for his first victory of the season in the No. 1 Chip Ganassi Racing Chevrolet.

"What an awesome run," Kurt Busch said. "Whatever last week was, we got the 'W' now! That was epic. I was hopeful that we would get a shot, just one more restart. We got that yellow ... with my little brother — it's the best guy in the world to go race against."

It was the first time Kurt has beat his younger brother in a 1-2 finish. "I'm glad it was a thriller," Kyle Busch said. "Just unfortunately we were on the wrong end of the deal. Maybe I should have just gotten in front of him and messed up his air. It's so easy to do with these cars. It's pretty much just air games. I missed my chance over there, I guess. That's about all I could really have done different."

Jones finished third, followed by Kyle Larson, Hamlin, Clint Bowyer, Logano, polesitter Daniel Suarez, Ryan Newman and Chris Buescher completed the top-10.

Kurt Busch won Stage 1 of the race, while Kyle took Stage 2. Jimmie Johnson and his team continue to struggle. He spun around and bounced off the wall during lap 180 and finished 30th.

Top-10 leaders after 19 of 36: 1. Logano-746, 2. Kyle Busch-735, 3. Harvick-645, 4. Keselowski-630, 5. Hamlin-627, 6. Truex-618, 7. Kurt Busch-618, 8. Elliott-607, 9. Bowman-554, 10. Almirola-542.

CUSTER WINS FIFTH XFINITY RACE

Cole Custer led 88 laps of Friday's 200 lap Xfinity Series race at Kentucky for his fifth win of the season.

Christopher Bell was second, followed by Tyler Reddick, Michael Annett, Chase Briscoe, Noah Gragson, Justin Allgaier, Ryan Truex, and Justin Haley.

Top-10 leaders after 17 of 33: 1. Reddick-764, 2. Bell-697, 3. Custer-689, 4. Cindric-621, 5. Allgaier-617, 6. Gragson-569, 7. Annett-540, 8. Briscoe-531, 9. Nemechek-530, 10. Haley-528.

ANKRUM GETS FIRST TRUCK WIN

Tyler Ankrum got his first Truck Series win last week at Kentucky Speedway.

The remaining order of finish: 2. Stewart Friesen, 3. Harrison Burton, 4. Ross Chastain, 5. Dylon Lupton, 6. Austin Self, 7. Brett Moffitt, 8. Spencer Davis, 9. Jeb Burton, 10. Johnny Sauter.

Top-10 leaders after 13 of 23: 1. Enfinger-542, 2. Friesen-508, 3. Moffitt-501, 4. Crafton-



Kurt Busch celebrates Kentucky Victory

492, 5. H. Burton-448, 6. Rhodes-444, 7. Hill-412, 8. Gilliland-392, 9. Creed-387, 10. Sauter-373.

ALMIROLA LOOKS FORWARD TO NEW HAMPSHIRE

Some drivers look forward to certain race weekends more than others. Aric Almirola, driver of the No. 10 Stewart-Haas Ford, enjoys racing at New Hampshire more than some because of what he's able to do beyond the race track.

Over the last few years, when the racing ends at New Hampshire Motor Speedway, he and his family have stuck around and taken a family road trip around the New England area. It's a way for Almirola, who's from Florida, to catch up with friends in New Hampshire and New England that he hasn't seen in a while.

And during a long racing season, it's a way to help break up the monotony and stress of racing.

"There's a lot of race weekends I show up to the race track and it's just me, or me and my family and we're there, I'm just there to work," Almirola said. "I've got friends that live in the New Hampshire area and New England area, so being able to visit and see them almost makes going to the races seem a little bit like a vacation, just being able to go see people that you haven't seen in a year."

This year is no different. When the Cup Series makes its way to New Hampshire on July 21, Almirola and his family will continue the tradition. They plan to cruise over to Vermont after the race and spend a few days in Maine before heading to Pocono for the following week's race.

This year, Almirola is hopeful he'll be in a victorious mood for the post-New Hampshire road trip after coming up painfully short last season. He led 42 laps and was leading late, but finished third after losing a few spots on pit road and making a mistake on a restart.

"Any time you go to a place and you run well, it gives you a whole 'nother level of confidence going back to that race track," he said. "After the success we had last year, I'm excited and looking forward to going to New Hampshire, feeling like that's a place that we're certainly capable of going and winning."

Wins have been hard to come by for Almirola, who's in his second full season as a driver with Stewart-Haas Racing. He scored his first victory with his new team at Talladega in last year's playoffs, which helped finish a career-best fifth in last season's final standings, but hasn't won this season.

Still, Almirola is in good shape in the standings as he enters the final stretch into this year's playoffs. He's 11th heading into this week's race at Daytona, and is hoping to hit a higher level as the second half of the season begins, which includes that anticipated race at New Hampshire.

Racing Joke: Usually, before a Sunday's race, Jimmie attends a local church service.

Before the Phoenix race, he spots a golden telephone on a wall and is intrigued with a sign which reads "\$10,000 a minute".

After the service, he asks about the phone and the sign. The pastor answers that this golden phone is, in fact, a direct line to Heaven, and if he pays the price he can talk directly to God.

He thanks the pastor and continues on his way. As he continues to visit churches in Ft. Worth, Chicago, Iowa, Dover, Pocono and on around the United States, he finds more phones with the same sign, and the same answer from each pastor.

Finally, he arrives at a church in Atlanta. Upon entering, lo and behold, he sees the usual golden telephone. But this time the sign reads "Calls: 25 cents". Fascinated, he asks to talk to the pastor.

"Reverend, I have been in cities all across the country and in each church I found this golden telephone, and I have been told it is a direct line to Heaven and that I could talk to God, but in the other churches the cost was \$10,000 a minute. Your sign reads 25 cents a call. Why?"

The pastor, smiling, replies, "Son, you're in the South now. It's a local call."

Weekend Racing: The Cup and Xfinity teams will be at the 1.058-mile New Hampshire Speedway.

Sat, July 20; Xfinity Series race 18 of 33; Starting time: 4 PM ET; TV: NBCSN.

Sun, July 21; Cup Series race 20 of 36; Starting time: 3 PM ET; TV: NBCSN.

Racing Trivia Question: Joe Gibbs is a very successful NASCAR car owner, but he has also had considerable success outside the field of racing. What other sport has he had great achievements in?

Last Week's Question: Who is the current driver of the No. 3 Chevrolet made famous by Dale Earnhardt? The No. 3 car number in the Cup Series belongs to Richard Childress Racing. It is currently driven by Austin Dillon, Richard Childress's grandson.

Gerald Hodges is a syndicated NASCAR writer and author. His books may be viewed online and ordered at Amazon.com. You may contact him by e-mail at: hodges@race500.com.