

Panthers stun Rabun to remain in the mix

By Todd Forrest
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As the Rabun County keeper misplayed the ball on a Panther shot attempt, Union County sophomore Jake Walts charged and used his left foot to tap the ball into the net with only 15 seconds remaining.

"I thought the game was going into overtime," Union County Head Coach Tim Hunter said. "But Jake, who is all-hustle, tapped it in to win the game."

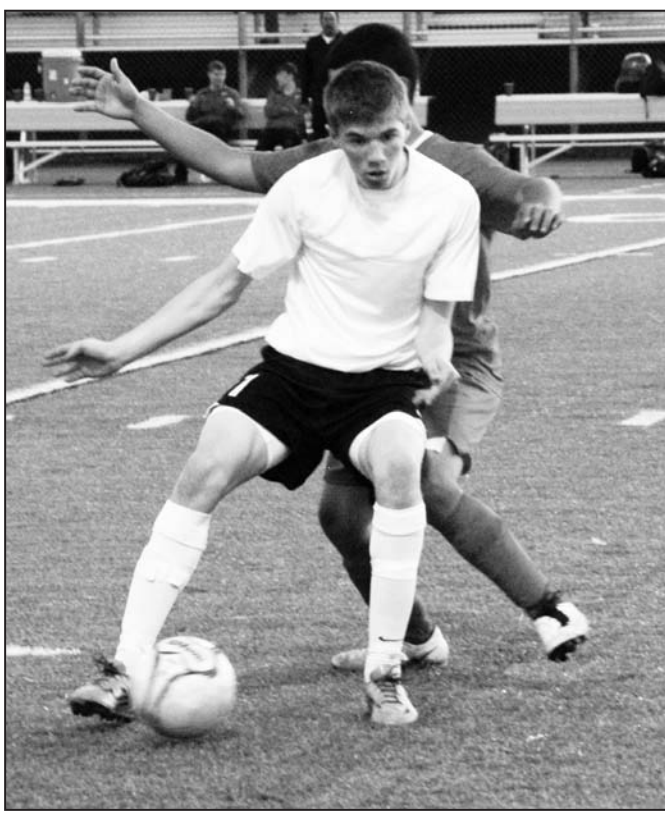
The Panthers, who have now won six of seven over Rabun, improve to 5-5 overall and 4-2 in Region 8-AA, are still in the hunt for a trip to the postseason.

Rabun falls to 5-6-1 overall, and are also 4-2 in Region play, but Union holds the head-to-head tiebreaker.

"The boys played one of the most exciting games of the season," Coach Hunter said. "This is one that probably took years off of my life. Rabun was a very skilled team but our guys really came to play."

Union County took an early 1-0 lead when freshman Lawson Baenninger scored off an assist from another freshman, Sam Seiller. The lead would hold up through the first half.

"Both of those two young guys played a fantastic game," Coach Hunter said. "We led until



Freshman Lawson Baenninger scored Union's first goal at Rabun off an assist from fellow freshman Sam Seiller. Photo/Todd Forrest

the half and it was back and forth as each team traded shots. They equalized early in the second half and once again it was back and forth."

The game remained even at 1-1 until Walts' hustle paid off in the final seconds. The Panther sophomore said afterwards that earlier in the season, he would have likely missed his game-

winning tap-in had the game been played back on March 25th, when it was originally scheduled.

"Jake had missed a wide open shot vs Greene County earlier in the year because he tried to kill the ball," Coach Hunter said. "He said right after the game, 'I learned my lesson at Greene.' The goal was Jake's

first varsity goal and in one of the biggest moments of the season."

Since falling to Riverside and Jefferson, the Panthers seem to have found themselves defensively, only surrendering one goal in the last two games.

"Jesus Mancillas played very well in midfield," Coach Hunter said. "Our defense and Eigel did a great job of not allowing them easy opportunities. They forced them to shoot outside and Eigel collected the shots easily. That was very difficult for him and the back line as the wind was terrible."

The win creates a log jam behind Jefferson in the 8-AA Region standings. The Dragons currently sit atop 8-AA with a 7-0 record but four schools are behind them with two losses each, including Union and their Monday night opponent, Oglethorpe.

To reach its second straight State playoff, the Panthers must defeat Oglethorpe, who also have a game left with Greene County (1-6)

Riverside Military Academy (4-2) and Rabun County have yet to play. Riverside owns the tiebreaker over Union so the Panthers will be rooting for Rabun when the Wildcats travel to Gainesville on Tuesday evening.

On Wednesday, Union will host Fannin, who defeated Union 3-1 in February.

McCreary and Moore bowl perfect games in April



Jim McCreary

The lanes at Galaxy Bowling are heating up with two more bowlers reaching the bowling dream of a perfect 300 game. On April 4th Jim McCreary bowled his second 300 for the 2013-14



Tim Moore

bowling season and on April 17 Tim Moore bowled his first official perfect 300 game. This makes the house's 12th 300 in the past three years and the 6th this season, which isn't over yet! NTApr23,Z13)CA

Fish for Food Fishing Tournament

Matthew 25 Food Ministries presents "Fish for Food Fishing Tournament". 50% of tournament money goes to feed needy families in our area. The remaining 50% will go to tournament prize money. Prize money will be awarded for 1st Place, 2nd Place and 3rd Place and biggest fish. Actual prize amount will depend on number of entries.

Entry fee is \$40 per boat,

the tournaments began in March and will end in October, occurring on Saturdays and rotating between Lake Chatuge, Woods Grove Boat Ramp and Lake Nottely, Deaver Road Boat Ramp, from 7 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Tournament schedule: April 26 - Nottely; May 10 - Chatuge; June 14 - Nottely; July 12 - Chatuge; August 16 - Nottely; September 13 - Chatuge; and October 11 - Nottely. NTApr23,Z22)CA



Trout stocking sites week of April 14-18, 2014

Fannin: Hothouse Creek, Rock Creek, Rock Creek Lake, Toccoa River, Toccoa River Tailwaters of Lake Blue Ridge, and Wilscot Creek.

Gilmer: Boardtown Creek.
Lumpkin: Cane Creek, Clay Creek, Dockery Lake, Etowah River, Nimbwill Creek, and Ward Creek.

Union: Canada Creek, Cooper Creek, Suches Creek, Toccoa River, and Winfield Scott Lake.

Note: Information is subject to change. Please call the hatchery at 706-838-4723 for questions. The hatchery also provides trout for the state. Please contact Georgia DNR for information on sites stocked by the state. NTApr23,Z12)CA

Bowling scores

Monday Night Men: Sarah Chumbley 223, Sha Roberts 217.

Young @ Hearts: Paul Napolitano 206, Ernest Rice 203, Dewey Allen 200.

Thursday Night Fun Mix: Tony Lynch 204, Jay Burell 256, 225, Brett Hogsd 216, 202, 210, Taz Matetzschk 237, 216, Jordan Moore, 215, Shae Roberts 205, 218, Bonell Thomas 204, Curtis Corn 204, Bill Smith 209, Jeb Plott 234, 203, 247, Denise Baldwin 201, Zach Moore 238, 210, 246, Tim Moore 229, 300, 202, Mike Davis 223, 254, 213, Larry Canaan 201, 223, Bob Landis 223, 247, Mike Pope 209, Dennis Snyder 223, 206, Chuck Reeves 237, 222. NTApr23,Z13)CA

Monday Night Ladies:

NASCAR 2014

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

Birthplace of NASCAR sold

The Streamline Hotel, known as the birthplace of NASCAR, has been sold to Eddie Hennessy, part owner of Pevonnia International, a California-based cosmetic company for \$950,000.

Hennessy said he intends to restore and modernize the building and turn the hotel into an upscale South Beach-style inn.

"My goal is to clean up the hotel, the block, the drug stuff going around," Hennessy said. "We're bringing the hotel back to its original state, only more modern."

Since buying the hotel, Hennessy has installed new management and has started some work on the facelift. He said he doesn't yet know when the major renovation work will begin, but added he looks to get started "as soon as possible." Hennessy said he plans to start the restoration with the hotel's rooftop bar, which is where in 1947 Bill France Sr. met with race drivers and track owners to form NASCAR. The hotel has a second bar on the ground floor that Hennessy said he intends to turn into a NASCAR-themed lounge.

The hotel will stay open while renovation work is done. After renovating the rooftop bar, Hennessy will start work on the lobby, the hotel's ground-level bar, then the guest rooms. He said he isn't yet sure how much he will invest in the hotel's renovation, but it will be completely modernized.

Prior to the formation of NASCAR, there had been previous discussions about forming a national sanctioning body, but no promoter had come up with the idea of racing "stock" automobiles. Bill France Sr. hit on the idea of racing the cars that people would drive on the street like late model family sedans. Since no other racing organization was using the idea, France figured it might be worth a shot.

While France had promoted other races prior to the formation of NASCAR, the first actual NASCAR race was held February 1, 1949 on the old Daytona Beach road course.

History books tell the rest. Today, superspeedways like Daytona and Talladega offer ultra-modern facilities for fan experience that wasn't even dreamed of in 1949.

The 200 miles per hour marker was broken many years ago. The sport now has many millionaire drivers, and each year the Sprint Cup champion is invited to the White House.

Television cameras stream NASCAR-related programs into our homes on an almost daily basis. It took the sport several decades to grow up, but NASCAR is certainly enjoying its well-deserved success.

ROOKIES GOING STRONG

The Sprint Cup rookie battle between Austin Dillon and Kyle Larson deserves recognition.

Austin Dillon struck first, winning the pole for the Daytona 500 in the No. 3 Chevrolet.

Dillon followed up the pole



Birthplace of NASCAR, the Streamline Hotel, 2011.

with a ninth-place finish in the Daytona 500. So far, it's his only top-10 this season.

Kyle Larson took an opposite path to this first open weekend, and his recent counter punches have landed him atop the rookie standings.

Larson, who has won a race in the Nationwide Series this season, opened the Sprint Cup Series with a 38th-place finish because of an accident in the Daytona 500. Then, at Phoenix and Las Vegas, Larson struggled with finishes of 20th and 19th.

But since those season-opening jitters, he has turned it on, finishing in the top-10 in three of the last four races, including a runner-up finish at Fontana and a fifth at Texas.

Those three finishes, and the adjoining bonus points toward the rookie standings that go with them have carried Larson to the top of the Rookie of the Year standings. He currently has 98 points, 13 ahead of Dillon.

But Dillon leads in overall points, thanks to few poor finishes (Larson has two finishes outside the top 25; Dillon has none).

Maybe the most interesting nugget of the bunch: If the Chase for the Sprint Cup started today, both Dillon and Larson would be part of

the Chase Grid.

Meanwhile, over in the Nationwide Series, young Chase Elliott leads all drivers. But don't count out the veterans who are just behind him, primarily Regan Smith, Elliott Sadler and Brian Scott.

Smith (13 points back), Sadler (-20) and Scott (-46) all have something on their side that Elliott does not have, and that is experience.

Over the next four races, Richmond, Talladega, Iowa, Charlotte, Elliott has never made a start at either of the tracks. Three veterans have a combined 207 national series starts among them - Smith (52), Sadler (121) and Scott (34).

In last season's May Nationwide Talladega race, Smith was out front when the race ended prematurely due to inclement weather. In the August 2012 Iowa race, Sadler beat Justin Allgaier to the checkered flag by 0.649 seconds.

Through the first seven races of 2014, Smith is the only race winner of the three, winning at Daytona. He's followed up his win with six more top-10 finishes and boasts a 7.7 finishing position. Sadler has compiled three top-fives and five top-10s. His best finish of the season came at Darlington, where he finished runner-up to Elliott. Scott's best outing came

in a seventh-place performance at Las Vegas. Although he has no other top-10s this season, his lowest finish is only 17th.

In their last visit to Richmond, the site of the next race, Scott was runner-up, while Smith finished third and Sadler eighth.

Current Driver Standings:
Top-10 Sprint Cup leaders after 8 of 36: 1. Gordon-297, 2. Kenseth-296, 3. Edwards-278, 4. Earnhardt-271, 5. Johnson-270, 6. Kyle Busch-269, 7. Keselowski-246, 8. Logano-245, 9. Newman-236, 10. A. Dillon-235.

Top-10 Nationwide leaders after 7 of 33: 1. Chase Elliott-271, 2. Smith-258, 3. Sadler-251, 4. T. Dillon-248, 5. Bayne-241, 6. Scott-225, 7. Gaughan-215, 8. Kwasniewski-200, 9. Buescher-195, 10. Reed-172.

Top-10 Camping World truck leaders after 2 of 22: 1. Sauter-82, 2. Peters-81, 3. Crafton-78, 4. R. Blaney-78, 5. Hornaday-76, 6. Kennedy-72, 7. Quiroga-72, 8. D. Wallace-61, 9. Jeb Burton-60, 10. Reddick-60.

Weekend Racing: The Cup and Nationwide teams will have night races at the .75-mile Richmond Raceway. Lee Petty won the first race in 1953 in a Dodge. His son Richard Petty holds the record for most wins (13). The trucks do not race again until May 9.

Fri., Apr. 25, Nationwide Series race 8 of 33; Starting time: 6:30 pm ET; TV: ESPNNEWS.

Sat., Apr. 26, Sprint Cup race 9 of 36; Starting time: 6:30 pm ET; TV: Fox.

Racing Trivia Question: What is Robin Pemberton's official NASCAR title?

Last Week's Question: Where is Jamie McMurray's hometown? **Answer:** It is Joplin, Missouri.

You may contact the Racing Reporter at hodges@race500.com.