

# 12U Panthers reach State Playoffs in Sandy Springs



Front row--left to right: Jacob Nickerson, Jakob Brown, Michael Raper, Devan Anderson & Luke Collins  
Middle row--left to right: Hunter Nix, Caleb McCoy, Cole Davis, Dillan Snow Austin Pattee & R J Banton  
Back row--left to right: Assistant Coach Charlie Davis, Assistant Coach Michael Raper & Head Coach Dustin Rogers. Evan Hayes is not pictured.  
Union County 12U Baseball Allstars advanced to State Tournament in Sandy Springs, GA. They participated in a Pre-Allstar Tournament in Fannin County on June 16th - June 18th to finish in 1st place. The District Tournament was held June 22nd - June 25th in Fannin County where they finished in 2nd place to advance to the State Tournament in Sandy Springs. We would like to THANK all of our sponsors for their generous donations and their support!

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They really took everything in that we worked on.”  
On Monday evening, a parade was held in town to congratulate and welcome home our State Champions.  
“We just want to thank everyone who made the parade happen,” Coach Tanner said. “The Blairsville Police Department, The Union County Sheriff’s Office, the fire department, and we appreciate Tanner’s Wrecker Service for providing the float. UCRD Athletic Director Ed Webster took care of everything for us through the park.”

The Lady Panthers would like to thank all of their sponsors. They would also like to thank the Union County Recreation Department, their parents, and David and Kaitlyn Seabolt for their help and support throughout the All-Star season.  
“All the girls just really like them,” Coach Tanner said. “Of course, Red (Kaitlyn Seabolt) plays for North Georgia and the girls really look up to her.  
Some of the girls will return next year with an opportunity to win their third

consecutive state title, while others will be moving up to the Middle School Team to reload a squad that finished unbeaten in 2011.  
The Middle School and Recreation Department aren’t the only ones who have dominated the early stages of the decade, the High School team claimed two consecutive Region 8-AA titles in 2010 and 2011.  
Union County High School Head Softball Coach Jessica Stewart couldn’t be happier for this young Lady Panthers’ squad and is thrilled

about the direction of the Union County Softball Program.  
“I’m really proud of them and am looking forward to watching them grow and get better each year with all the hard work they’re putting in,” Coach Stewart said.  
“We had a good season and made a great run with a great group of girls,” Coach Everett said.  
“I already miss them,” Coach Horinek added. “But it’s time to start getting ready for next year.”  
(Dean Everett contributed to this article)

## 10&U...continued from Page 10A

Saturday afternoon, Union County succumbed to Valdosta-Lowndes 12-11 after the Panthers took a 7-2 lead after two innings.  
Union led 11-7 going into the final inning but Valdosta-Lowndes would rally for five in the sixth then hold the Panthers scoreless in the bottom half of the inning to eliminate Union from the

tournament.  
The Panthers got two RBIs a piece from Morlock, Garrison, and Harkins and a double from Mason McCombs.  
Harkins, Youngblood, and Garrison combined for six innings of work with Garrison and Youngblood picking up two strikeouts each.  
The 10-and-Under Pan-

thers would like to thank its sponsors for all their support during the 2012 season. The sponsors were: Calvin Collins Construction, Margie Hopkins, BPM Home Watch, Scott Carter Investments, Woodmen of the World - Joey Swanson, Rick’s Tool Rental, Nelson Tractor Co.,  
R.L. and Frances Frizzell, Sears of Blairsville, Col-

well Construction Company, Coosa Creek, The Mountain Life Team, Twisted Pear Computer Systems, State Farm Insurance - Jerry Henderson Jack and Carmen Lance, C&S Bank, Xtreme Christian Outdoors, Lamar Paris, El Manzanillo, Bi-Lo  
Ingles, Kenya Patton Law Office, and Dr. Greg Waller.

# MUSA Registration

The Mountain United Soccer Association is ready for Fall Soccer. Registrations are currently being accepted. Forms will be mailed to all players who have participated in a previous season. Forms are also available by visiting the league’s website: [www.mountainsoccer.org](http://www.mountainsoccer.org).  
The spring 2012 season was a big success. Our younger teams played in Blairsville, Hiawassee, and Blue Ridge. The older age groups competed throughout Georgia. We had players registered from all the surrounding counties as well as some from North Carolina.  
In Blairsville, Cott Beverage is our community host for the soccer fields. In Hiawassee, the fields at the Towns County Fairgrounds are utilized through the cooperation of the local recreation department. The league is grateful for their

commitment and support.  
The fall season will begin in early September. Anyone who is interested in playing needs to register promptly. In some cases space is limited.  
M.U.S.A. is a volunteer run organization and is also a 501C3 non profit. Any and all donations are directed to the youth player. Field Sponsors, Sign Sponsors, and Team Sponsors are always needed. If you are interested in supporting the youth soccer player in our community through sponsorship and/or a donation, please contact the Association.  
For additional information contact the league at 706-835-1077, [musa.soccer@gmail.com](mailto:musa.soccer@gmail.com), or visit [www.mountain-soccer.org](http://www.mountain-soccer.org) on the web.  
Like “Mountain United Soccer Association” on Facebook and follow the league on Twitter @MUSoccerA.



## Williams, Dietz receive Rotary leadership award

Each year the Rotary Club of Union County selects two outstanding students to represent their club and Union County at the Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) Conference. RYLA is Rotary’s leadership training program for young people and emphasizes leadership, citizenship, and

personal growth. The club’s two recipients for the 2012 RYLA award are Adam Williams and Brett Dietz. Both of these young men are rising sophomores at Union County High School and play football for the UCHS Panther football team. Congratulations to Adam and Brett.



Upcoming UCHS sophomores Adam Williams and Brett Dietz

# NASCAR 2012

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

## Stewart is “Smokin”

Tony Stewart pulled off a victory in Saturday night’s Coke Zero Sprint Cup race by making a stunning last-lap pass around Matt Kenseth.  
“I wish I could explain it,” said Stewart, who has five restrictor-plate victories in Sprint Cup, with four coming at Daytona. “The great thing about restrictor-plate racing is that 43 cars all have the same shot at winning the race, but that’s also part of what makes it frustrating, too. It’s just being at the right place at the right time, and when those last two big wrecks happened, we were in the right spot. We were ahead of them both times.”  
Stewart took the lead on lap 131 after a multi-car accident in turn four and led for 21 laps before relinquishing the spot to the duo of Matt Kenseth and Greg Biffle on lap 152. When another massive crash set up a two-lap dash to the finish, Stewart regained the lead on the final lap with an impressive drive around Biffle and Kenseth off turn two and down the backstretch.  
As Stewart and the leaders approached the finish line, a massive wreck broke out that claimed the cars driven by Jeff Gordon, Clint Bowyer, Kyle Busch, Marcos Ambrose, David Gilliland, David Ragan, Juan Montoya, and Trevor Bayne.  
Jeff Burton finished behind Stewart in the runner-up spot as the race ended under caution, while Kenseth, Joey Logano and Ryan Newman rounded out the top-five. Carl Edwards, Kasey Kahne, Brad Keselowski, Michael Waltrip and Bobby Labonte comprised the remainder of the top-10.  
Kurt Busch, winner of Friday night’s Nationwide race was involved in a multi-car accident on lap 92, which proved to be the beginning of the end of the bid by the 2004 Sprint Cup champion for his second victory in as many nights at the 2.5-mile superspeedway and led to a disappointing 35th-place finish.  
Jimmie Johnson wound up with a DNF after his car spun into the inside wall on lap 125, finishing 36th.

Top-12 Chase contenders after 18 of 36: 1. Kenseth-676, 2. Earnhardt-651, 3. Biffle-632, 4. Johnson-618, 5. Stewart-592, 6. Harvick-586, 7. Hamlin-584, 8. Truex-584, 9. Keselowski-572, 10. Bowyer-572, 11. Edwards-541, 12. Kyle Busch-516.  
**KURT BUSCH CAPTURES NATIONWIDE RACE**  
Kurt Busch left Daytona Friday night with total satisfaction, after winning the Nationwide race in a battered orange-colored Chevrolet that lacked even one sponsor.  
With a strong push from defending series champion Ricky Stenhouse Jr., Busch took the checkered flag in a wild race that ended with Austin Dillon wrecking in the trioval as Busch crossed the finish line.  
“I showed up at the shop on Tuesday, and we talked about how our Kentucky week went, what we could have done better,” Busch said. “I went out back in the fab (fabrication) shop, and they were wrapping on both of our cars, this fluorescent orange color. And I’m like, ‘What’s going on?’  
“It’s just the energy James Finch has for Daytona. He wanted his cars orange, so they could be seen up front, so that car could be recognized without a sponsor on it. And we drove an unsponsored car into Victory Lane tonight. I was just being my normal sarcastic self on the radio, and I said, ‘The Great Pumpkin is here, and the Great Pumpkin isn’t going to lift coming to the checkered flag.’  
Stenhouse came home second, followed by Michael Annett, who was pushing Dillon during a green-white-checkered-flag finish that took the race one lap beyond its scheduled distance of 100 laps.  
As the action intensified over the final quarter-mile, Dillon slid sideways across the stripe in fourth place, with Joey Logano and series leader Elliott Sadler taking fifth and sixth, respectively. The top-five for Logano, the series’ top winner with five victories



Tony Stewart celebrates his Daytona Cup win.

this season, took a sour turn in post-race inspection when his Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota was ruled too low in front. Penalties for the No. 18 team are possible early next week.  
Danica Patrick was involved in a late race accident and finished 31st. Johanna Long, the other female driver was 12th.  
Top-10 leaders after 16 of 33: 1. Sadler-591, 2. A. Dillon-589, 3. Stenhouse-573, 4. Hornish-556, 5. Allgaier-519, 6. Annett-496, 7. Whitt-488, 8. Bliss-427, 9. Patrick-383, 10. Malsam-369.  
**ARE MORE CAUTIONS NEEDED**  
Bruton Smith said NASCAR needs to implement mandatory cautions, or race stoppages, to bring more excitement to the races, but top NASCAR officials said, “Not so fast.”  
“Call it what you want, but you’ve got to have caution flags,” Smith said last week. “That creates excitement. You can’t just sit there with nothing happening. It ruins the event. It’s damaging to our sport.  
“Cautions flags and caution laps are down this year in NASCAR. Many races this season have produced long green-flag runs without a lot of passing up front.”  
Smith said NASCAR needs to deliberately create more double-file restarts. NASCAR made a rule change in 2009 that moved all the lead-lap cars to the front of the field, double-file, on all restarts after a caution flag. Those restarts often cause bumping late in races, and sometimes additional accidents. Smith said he wouldn’t mind seeing a pseudo half-time at each race to cause an additional restart.  
“I’d rather have that than some mysterious debris

caution,” Jeff Gordon said. “The integrity of racing is about letting the race play out, and sometimes that’s the most exciting finish, sometimes it’s not. Trying to get in the middle of that can be challenging. If you’re going to do it, it’s got to be something planned in advance, and you take a break. I’m not totally against it.”  
Meanwhile NASCAR CEO Brian France met the media at Daytona to assess the sport as the season hits the halfway mark. But France was firm in saying there is no intention of creating mandatory caution periods for TV timeouts.  
France said there is a possibility of more events being shortened in an effort to enhance competition and create better racing.  
“Our product on the track is exciting, and sports is a true reality show in how it unfolds as an event,” NASCAR President Mike Helton said. “You have to be careful when you think about artificially creating the outcome of that.”  
Greg Biffle seemed to offer the prevailing attitude of most drivers.  
“I would not be against it if the races continue to run green the whole way with one or two cautions,” Biffle said. “I think over time that could lose the fans’ interest sitting in the stands and watching on TV. That’s not what we want.”  
Weekend Racing: The Cup and Nationwide teams are at New Hampshire Speedway, while the trucks will be racing at the seven-eighths mile Iowa Speedway.  
Sat., July 14, Nationwide New England 200, race 17 of 33; Starting time: 2:30 pm ET; TV: ESPN.  
Sat., July 14, Camping World Trucks Iowa 200, race 9 of 22; Starting time: 8 pm ET; TV: SPEED.  
Sun., Sprint Cup Lenox Tools 301, race 19 of 36; Starting time: Noon ET; TV: TNT.  
**Racing Trivia Question:** Which Cup team has the most wins at Daytona Speedway?  
**Last Week’s Question:** How many Dale championships did Dale Jarrett win? His single championship came in 1999.  
You may contact the Racing Reporter at [hodges@race500.com](mailto:hodges@race500.com). NT(0711,C2)ac

## Trout stocking sites week of July 2 - 6, 2012

Fannin: Rock Creek, Toccoa River, and Toccoa River Tailwaters (Below Lake Blue Ridge Dam).  
Lumpkin: Etowah River and Nimbleshill Creek.  
Union: Cooper Creek and Toccoa River.

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. NT(0711,C2)CA

## Golf news from The Ridges

On Thursday, July 5, ten ladies braved the high temperatures to get together and play a friendly game of golf. Six of the ladies played 18 holes. This week they played an individual Stableford. The same scoring was used this week with the individuals as last week with the three person teams: bogeys were worth 1 point, pars 2 points, birdies 3 points, eagles 4 points and double eagles 5 points. Claiming first place honors, with four net eagles, was Mary Rau. Mary had a total of 45 points for the day. There was a tie for second/third place among Sidney Moser and Anita Flood. Each of these ladies had 38 points. Fourth place went to Nancy Luck with 34 points. Coming in fifth was Becky Sutton with 26 points and sixth place went to Carol Baxter, a guest from Chatuge Shores, with 23 points. Congratulations to all of our ladies that participated.  
The nine hole ladies were comprised of Deborah Warner, Nancy Meldram,

Nancy Edwards and Linda Wark. As with weeks past, these ladies chose to simply play nine holes of golf without any special games.  
We need more ladies and men to come join in on the fun. The course conditions are excellent thanks to a new Superintendent this year and a new management team. Make plans now to participate each week. Speaking of participating each week, I announced that beginning on Friday, July 13, the Friday night scramble would be held every Friday night. Because of a previously scheduled tournament benefiting the Western Carolina Cata-mount Club, the Friday night scramble will begin on July 20th and continue every Friday thereafter. We hope everyone will come take part in the fun. Hopefully, Mother Nature will cooperate and bring us some cooler temperatures. To play in any of these events, call The Ridges Golf Shop at 828-389-9000. We look forward to seeing you soon. NT(0711,C5)ac



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. N(0711,Z1)CA

## Summer baseball camps at YHC

Head Baseball Coach, Rick Robinson, will coordinate all instruction. Website access: [www.yhathletics.com/sports/bsb/index](http://www.yhathletics.com/sports/bsb/index) or TheROCK-Sports.com. Come learn from the best! 3 camps each week to accommodate all players at different levels. Camp week: July 23-27. NT(0711,A4)SH