

Union County Middle School basketball opens vs Cherokee, NC

The Union County Middle School basketball season got underway last week.

On Thursday the Union County 8th grade girls fell to Cherokee, NC by a score of 42-15. They trailed 13-2 after a quarter, 26-7 at halftime, and 36-15 after three.

Leading scorers for Union were: Jordan Stubblefield with 4, Skyler Ludlum - 4, Jordan Rogers - 2, and Brianna Hemphill - 2.

The 8th grade boys fell 48-27 to Cherokee, NC. The Braves led 12-6 after one quarter, 24-12 at halftime, and 37-20 after the third quarter.

Leading scorers for Union were: Coleson Daniel - 13, Kanon Hemphill - 5, Britt Waller - 5, Brian Smith - 2, and Ulises Montelongo - 2.



Maddie Sutton (#3), Adalyn Rogers (#10), and Brianna Hemphill (#12). Photo/Todd Forrest



Britt Waller for two vs Cherokee, NC. Photo/Todd Forrest

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After the offenses exchanged punts, the Tigers were looking at a 3rd-and-14 when the Panthers defense forced a turnover. Watson stripped the quarterback on a sack and Sparks came out of the pile with the football.

With 45 seconds left in the half and 25 yards away from another score, the Panthers offense suffered a setback when they were sacked on second down and were unable to tack on any additional points.

The Tigers were on a mission as they came out of the halftime break and returned Knox Kiernan's kickoff to the Union 46-yard line. Two plays later they tied things up with a 46-yard touchdown pass.

"I thought we played pretty decent on defense in the first half," Coach Allison said. "We let them come out and

score quickly to open the second half but overall, I thought we did a pretty good job in the first half."

With momentum clearly on the visitors sideline, the Panthers proved what kind of team they are when they responded with 14-unanswered points to take a 35-21 lead into the fourth quarter.

After a first down incompletion, Mancuso found Gilbert for 21 yards. Later in the drive, Barnett moved the sticks on a 2nd-and-1, which led to a 29-yard completion to Rogers at the 1-yard line.

On 1st-and-goal at the 1-yard line, Barnett punched it in to hand the lead back to Union.

As was the case all game, Wilkes' offense answered a drive with a drive into Panther territory but this time the

defense would bend but not break.

On 4th-and-3 the Tigers were penalized for unsportsmanlike conduct, resulting in a 4th-and-18 where Union forced an incompletion.

The offense took over at its own 43 and quickly marched into the Washington Wilkes redzone.

On first down, Gilbert hauled in a 34-yard completion that was followed by a 13-yard carry from Barnett. After a false start and a 3-yard gain from Barnett, Mancuso hit Rogers on a 12-yard scoring strike - making it a 35-21 ball game at the 2:10 mark of the third.

On Friday, Union will host Model in the first round of State. And although 10-0 is out of the question, 10-1 is still a real possibility.

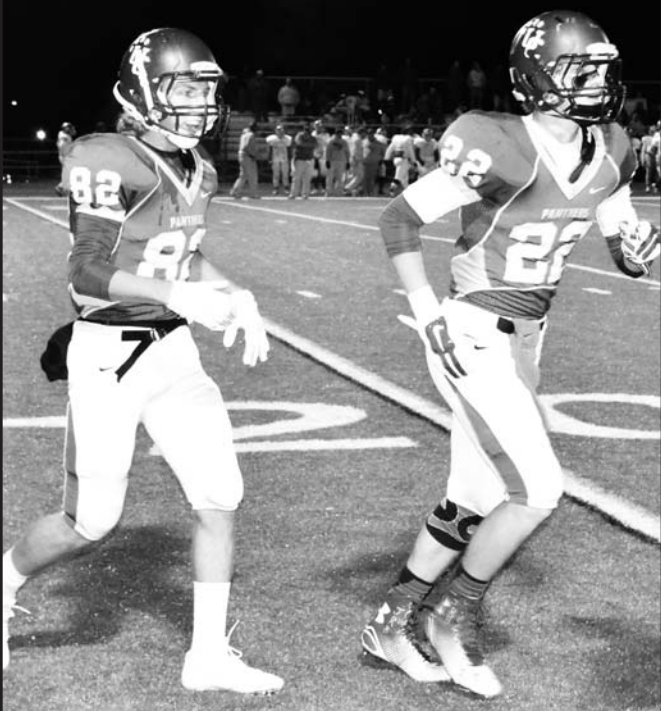
"Our goal has been 10 wins and winning a playoff game," Barnett said. "We just have to keep working hard and practicing the way we've been practicing all season."

"Coming into the season I thought that finishing 9-1 was a real possibility," Coach Allison added. "I knew it would be a challenge but I also knew it was possible."

The Blue Devils will visit Mike Colwell Memorial Stadium with an 8-2 record, with one of its wins coming over Lumpkin County, who Union beat 28-7 in Dahlonega.

Model defeated Lumpkin 15-7 in Rome, and according to Coach Allison, Model and Lumpkin are alike.

"They are similar to Lumpkin," Coach Allison said. "They are a big, physical football team with a strong running back, and we're going to have to play better on defense and keep doing what we've been doing on offense."



Junior Sam Gilbert (left) and Jacob Rogers (right) combined for three touchdowns grabs in Union's win over Washington Wilkes. Photo/Todd Forrest



Luke Chatham (32), Chris Thompson (38) and Brett Dietz (28) vs Washington Wilkes. Photo/Todd Forrest



Union County Cheerleaders hold up four fingers to signal the fourth quarter. Photo/Todd Forrest

Union County Saddle Club November events



Be sure to mark your calendar now for the next Saddle Club business meeting on November 20. We'll meet at 7 p.m. at the arena and will be voting for 2015 officers. Come out and support (or join) the club! Membership is open to anyone who is interested.

On November 14 and 15, L & I Livestock will present 3-man team sorting, barrel racing, and ranch rodeo at the arena. The 3-man team sorting will start at 7 p.m. on Friday, November 14 (sign-up at 6 p.m.). Cost is \$20 per person for two rounds.

The jackpot barrel racing will be Saturday, November 15, beginning with exhibitions at 10 a.m. Youth (3D) will be at 12:30 p.m. with open (4D) to follow. Cost is \$5 for exhibitions, \$25 for youth, \$30 for open, and \$6 arena fee. Payback is 70%. The open winner

will receive a saddle, and the youth winner will receive a buckle.

Also on Saturday, November 15, will be ranch rodeo. There will be five events for four-man teams. Winning team receives buckles. Cost is \$100 per team member. At least one team member must be female.

Admission at the gate is \$5 for adults, \$3 for ages 5 to 12, and free for kids under 5. This event is sponsored by Triple L Farriers and Latigo Dreams Tack and Feed. For more information, call Pepper Ledbetter at 706-897-5608.

Also coming this month is the Ultimate Horseman's Challenge. Four professional trainers will compete against each other as well as the clock. Each trainer will draw an unbroke horse and have only 3.5 hours over a two-day period to get the horse saddled and riding.

This event on November 22 and 23 will be fun for the entire family. Admission for a single day is \$10. Two-day admission is \$15. Children 12 and under are free.

Trainers will be judged on their horsemanship during the

round pen sessions as well as their final performance in the under saddle competition. Competitors will be Johnny Cook of Bremen, GA, Eric Gray of Cumming, GA, Josh Peebles of Young Harris, GA, and Randy Speegle of Benton, TN.

The event kicks off at noon on Saturday, November 22, with Round Pen Session #1 followed by a trainer demonstration. Wrapping up the action on Saturday will be Round Pen Session #2 and another Trainer Demonstration.

On Sunday, November 23, competitors will return at noon for Round Pen Session #3 followed by a trainer demonstration, Round Pen Session #4, and a final trainer demonstration. Then each trainer will demonstrate his accomplishments in individual arena riding and obstacle course. Judges will tally the two-day scores and award a custom champion belt buckle to the winning trainer.

For more information about the Ultimate Horseman's Challenge, call 706-897-3244.

For more information on the club and its events, visit www.unioncountysaddleclub.org.

NASCAR 2014

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

Harvick wins race, makes final cut

PHOENIX, AZ.—By winning Sunday's Sprint Cup race, Kevin Harvick will join the three other drivers, Denny Hamlin, Joey Logano, and Ryan Newman, that will battle it out for the 2014 Chase Championship next week at Homestead, FL.

Harvick, who started third, had to win the race in order to advance to the last race of the season. He led 264 laps of the 312-lap race, and finished nearly 2-seconds ahead of second-place driver Jeff Gordon.

"We had a fast car, but I knew we weren't going to walk into it," said Harvick. "It took a lot more than just speed on the track. Practically every time we pitted, the guys did a great job in getting me out."

"There were several times during the race I wasn't sure about the outcome. We had talked it over with the entire team and were shooting for the win. We knew that a win would put us in. Anything less and we probably wouldn't have made it."

Jeff Gordon never led a lap, but gained valuable track position when he only took on two fresh tires instead of four near the end. On the last restart with 26-to-go, he was second. Despite another caution, he was not able to challenge Harvick for the lead or win. Without the win, Gordon must wait until next year to claim his fifth championship.

"I'm disappointed," said Gordon. "We raced hard and we raced clean. I couldn't be more proud of this team the way they've handled themselves this year. I'm not happy that we won't be racing for the championship next week, but maybe we can win the race."

Matt Kenseth was third, followed by Brad Keselowski, Denny Hamlin, Joey Logano, Kurt Busch, Dale Earnhardt Jr., Greg Biffle, and Marcos Ambrose.

Ryan Newman's 11th-place finish allowed him to be the fourth and last driver in the final round.

"It feels good to make it," said Newman. "I gave it my all. I wasn't sure what was going to happen, but today, just like the rest of the season, we did our best."

The Chase boils down to next week's race at Homestead. All of the final four drivers have had their points rest to 5000, and whichever one finishes the highest will take home the trophy.

Several drivers had tire problems and hit the outside wall during Sunday's race. Both of the Busch Brothers became acquainted with the concrete. Kurt hit it on lap 234, while brother, Kyle slapped it during lap 202.

Jimmie Johnson also had some problems. His team never got a handle on his race car. During lap 235, he was bumped from behind and pushed into the Turn-1 wall. He finished 39th.

Others that had problems included Jamie McMurray, Clint Bowyer, Josh Wise, Cole Whitt, and Austin Dillon. Kyle Larson was running sixth when he lost control on the last lap and wound up 13th.

Next Sunday's race at Homestead will wrap up the 2014 racing season. It will also be ESPN's last race. The network will be replaced by NBC in 2015.

CHASE ELLIOTT CLINCHES NATIONWIDE TITLE

Brad Keselowski won Saturday's Nationwide Series race, but a 5th-place finish allowed Chase Elliott to clinch the 2014 Nationwide Series title.

Kyle Busch led 187 laps of the 200-lap race, but had to watch as Keselowski took the lead from him on a green-white-checkered restart and had to settle for runner-up.

Elliott Sadler was third, and then it was Ty Dillon, Chase Elliott, Erik Jones, Brian Scott, Brendan Gaughan, Trevor Bayne, and Regan Smith.

Top-10 leaders with one race left. 1. Elliott-1185, 2. Smith-1133, 3. Scott-1120, 4. Sadler-1119, 5. T. Dillon-1111, 6. Bayne-1052, 7. C. Buescher-975, 8. Gaughan-939, 9. Reed-872, 10. Kwasiowski-842.

In addition to being the first rookie to win a national title, at 18 years, 11 months, and 18 days, he is also the youngest. There is one more race left on the schedule, but Elliott's lead of 54 points assures him of the championship no matter where he finishes next week.

ERIK JONES GETS SECOND TRUCK WIN

Erik Jones took the checkered flag in Friday night's Phoenix truck race for his second win of the season.

The remainder of the top-10 finishers: Matt Crafton, Cole Custer, Ryan Blaney, Ben Rhodes, Darrell Wallace Jr., John Nemechek, Austin Dillon, Johnny Sauter, and Tyler Reddick.

Top-10 leaders with one race to go: 1. Crafton-798, 2. Blaney-773, 3. Wallace Jr.-752, 4. Sauter-739, 5. Peters-705, 6. Coulter-659, 7. Quiroga-654, 8. Kennedy-652, 9. Burton-645, 10. Mingus-530.

KURT BUSCH ACCUSED OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Say it ain't so!

Kurt Busch has been accused of domestic assault by his ex-girlfriend.

Police in Dover, DE said the allegations were filed Wednesday by Busch's ex-girlfriend, Patricia Driscoll, 36. The allegations in-



Kevin Harvick involved an incident inside his motorhome at a race at Dover International Speedway in September.

Driscoll has filed court documents asking that a judge order Busch to stay away from her and not contact her. She also is asking that Busch undergo a psychiatric evaluation and be evaluated by a certified domestic violence treatment agency.

In the documents it states that Busch was despondent the night of Sept. 26 after his poor performance at the qualifying session.

"He was verbally abusive to her and said he wished he had a gun so that he could kill himself," Driscoll stated in the documents.

Driscoll said Busch, called her names and accused her of "having spies everywhere and having a camera on the bus to watch him." He then jumped up, grabbed her face and smashed her head three times against the wall next to the bed. Driscoll says she pushed Busch away and ran from the bedroom, going to a nearby bus to put an ice pack on her head and neck. She said the incident caused her severe pain, difficulty breathing and bruising on her neck. A hearing in the case is scheduled for Dec. 2.

Weekend Racing: All three of NASCAR's major series will wrap up their season next weekend at the 1.5-mile Homestead, Florida track.

Fri., Nov 14, Truck Series race 22 of 22; Starting time: 7:30 pm ET; TV: FoxSports1.

Sat., Nov. 15, Nationwide Series race 33 of 33; Starting time: 4 pm ET; TV: ESPN2.

Sun., Nov. 16, Sprint Cup race 36 of 36; Starting time: 2 pm ET; TV: ESPN.

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