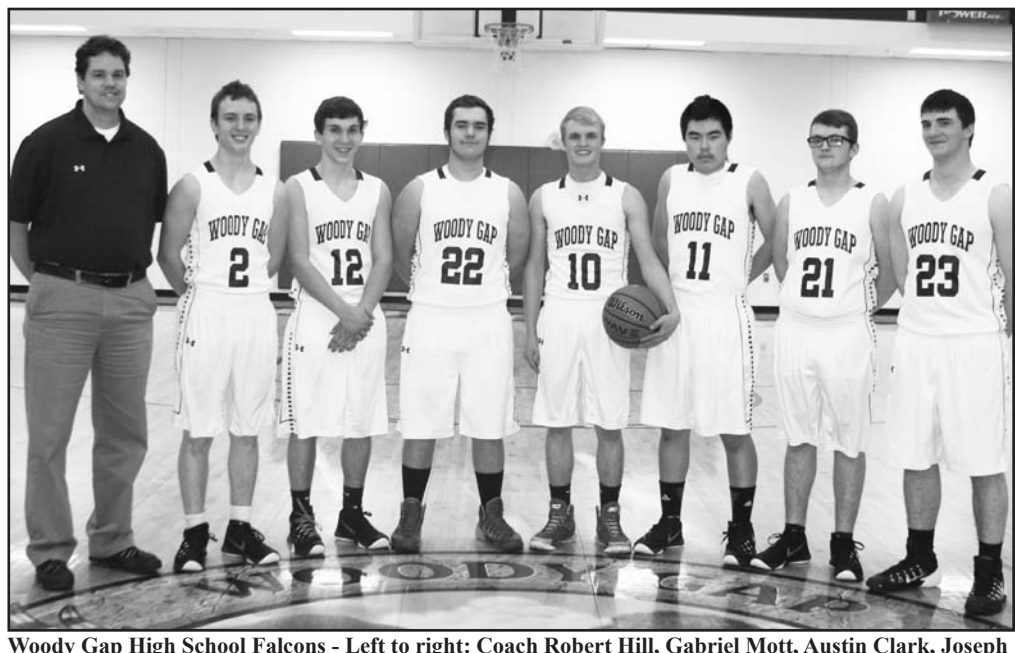


# Enthusiasm surrounding Woody Gap basketball is running high



Woody Gap High School Lady Falcons - Bottom (Left to right): Eliza Wilkins, Brooklyn Dockery, Chayil Aponte, Top: Heather Sorrell, Montana Barnes, Ivy Lecroy, Kianna Martin, Coach Robert Hill



Woody Gap High School Falcons - Left to right: Coach Robert Hill, Gabriel Mott, Austin Clark, Joseph Corbin, Easton Wood, Luke Mott, Caleb Crocker, Zeb Harkins



Woody Gap Middle School Lady Falcons - Left to right: Coach Robert Hill, Makena Hill, Madison King, Bella Wilkins, Kristan Alphin, Rachel Alphin, Molli Tritt



Woody Gap Middle School Falcons - Left to right: Coach Robert Hill, Caleb Harkins, Eric LeCroy, Levi Etheridge, Wes Ponder, Tripp Hill, Austin Crocker is not pictured.

By Todd Forrest  
North Georgia News  
sports@nganews.com

Suches - Basketball at Woody Gap schools got underway in early November with all four teams in action under Head Coach Robert Hill.

While a few of his players are inexperienced, he can only brag when asked about what he's seen from both of his

teams at the high school, as well as at the middle school.

"Woody Gap is practicing intensely to begin the season," Coach Hill said. "The players are enthusiastic about this season's potential. We're a young team that has a great deal of potential talent, but it's early in the process of development."

"Every day Woody Gap practices we improve and get better as players and individu-

als. Both the Middle School and High School teams play with great determination. We may be one of the smallest schools in the state, but we have the biggest heart."

On Friday, all four teams will be in action at Tallulah Falls beginning at 4 p.m. The following Friday, all four teams will be at Faith Christian Academy in Mt. Airy. Tip off will also be at 4 p.m.

## MUSA sends two to Kohls Cup Soccer Tournament



Champions of the 12 & Under division at the Kohls Cup in Atlanta. Left to Right: Ethan Rouse, Dalton Allen, Kendall Conley, MJ Delatte, Austin Cornett, Paxton Meyer, Landon Kight, Josh Cornett, Max Boykin and Wilson Walker.



Champions of the 10 & Under division at the Kohls Cup in Atlanta. Front Row: Matthew Ortiz, Wes Seiler, Braden Tanner and Isaiah Viera. Second Row: Coach Alex Ortiz, Houston Henry, Antonio Solerio, Zuriel Mancillas and Coach Luis Viera



On-line registration is now open for Upward Indoor Soccer for boys and girls in grades Kindergarten through 8th Grade at [www.hopb.org](http://www.hopb.org) or at [www.fumcunioncounty.org](http://www.fumcunioncounty.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](http://www.upward.org). N(11/18, A)1SH

## Bowling scores

Monday Night Ladies: Amber Gilbert 195, Monita Rodgers 234.

Monday Night Men: Mickey Whatley 206, Richard Tanner 213, Joe Teague 225, Derrick Rice 236, 252, 207, Series 695, Stanley Tyler 235, Jay Burrell 235, Ray Everett 225, Ken Thigpen 213, Doug Tanner 211, 225, Bart Rodgers 226, 245, Series 635, Kevin Mohan 223, Michael Whitehead 210, Taz Matetzschk 258, 209, Series 644, Ron Wingate 200, Tom Griffiths 203, 210, Jason Swanson 216, 214, Greg Whittenburg 206.

League: Jo Pawli 159, Carol Hall 134, JoAnne Galloway 160, Wanda Fiumano 164, Daniel Fiumano 181.

Young at Heart: Ron Wingate 212, Peggy Kidder 214, Cliff Hall 220, Dewey Allen 224, Bart Rodgers 231, Barry Rice 214, Ken Thigpen 222, Bob Landis 202, 199, 227, Series 628.

Thursday Night Fun League: Chuck Reeves 213, 210, 202, Series 625, Dan Wilson 206, Greg Whittenburg 209, 215, Tony Lynch 255, 245, 225, Series 725, Vicki Barnes 193, Doug Roberts 245, 201, Dewey Allen 200.

## NASCAR 2015

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

### Kyle Busch is a Deserving Champion

Kyle Busch is not loved by every NASCAR fan. But that doesn't mean he didn't deserve to win this year's Sprint Cup championship.

Some are unhappy that Busch, who missed the season's first 11 races because of injuries suffered in an Xfinity race prior to the season opening Daytona 500, was even eligible for the Chase.

His critics claim that it was unfair to other drivers who ran the full schedule. They say that NASCAR shouldn't have waived the Chase requirement that a driver start every race, just for Busch.

The bottom line is that it doesn't matter what we as fans think. NASCAR always has the final say. But their decision regarding Kyle Busch can't be looked upon as an isolated incident.

Last year they suspended Kurt Busch for two races when he was charged with domestic violence. After he was exonerated by the courts, they made it possible for him to get back into the Chase.

Remember the 2013 Michael Waltrip Racing deal? In the last race before the Chase at Richmond, Clint Bowyer deliberately allowed a teammate to pass him? The move cost Jeff Gordon a shot at the Chase. So what did NASCAR do? They added Gordon as a supplemental contender.

NASCAR has rules at the beginning of the season, but they always add to, or amend those rules as it pleases them.

Meanwhile Busch will undergo off season surgery on his left foot to have the plates and screws removed so that his foot can feel normal again and the rod removed in his right leg.

"I'm going to be down for probably, they said, about four weeks with the leg," Busch said in a teleconference Tuesday. "Just having to re-go through the knee and to cut the knee open again in order to pull the rod out, is going to be the most traumatic part."

#### GETTING TO KNOW CHRIS BUESCHER

"Chris was on his game this year," said team owner Jack Roush. "His crew chief Scott Graves was on his game as well. They managed to win two races and they didn't give up points on days when they weren't at their best."

Buescher, in only his second season of full-time NASCAR racing, adds to his list of accomplishments that includes becoming the youngest driver to ever win an ARCA title in 2012. Buescher scored his first NASCAR win last season at Mid-Ohio and followed up his rookie-year performance with wins at Iowa and Dover this season en route to the championship.

During the season Buescher never ranked lower than third in the driver championship standings. The Prosper, Texas native finished the season with zero DNFs (Did Not Finish). He did not finished



Kyle Busch and family

outside of the top-20 in any of the 33 races on the season, completing 99.9 percent of the laps during the 2015 campaign, while leading a total of 263 laps.

"It is every bit as stressful as I thought it would be," Buescher said. "You know, it's always difficult. There is a tremendous depth of talent through the Xfinity Series right now. I think that makes it that much more special knowing that we beat some of the best guys coming up through the sport right now and able to pull it off here at the end. It's a very special, very humbling experience, but it's not easy."

"This is a very difficult thing to get to, and you know, it was a lot of hard work. A lot of time put in, a lot of after hours by the guys at the shop, and making sure that we did everything we could to be here, and when everybody is willing to do it and they have that drive and everybody is happy and works well together, it puts together an awesome team that has the will power to go to this."

"So it was hard, but we did it better than anybody else, and that's why we get to sit here right now."

Chris is the cousin of 2012 NASCAR Camping World Truck Series champion James Buescher. He began his professional racing career in 2005, driving Legends cars in Texas for Speedway Legends, winning over 100 races.

In 2008, Buescher moved to North Carolina to be mentored by NASCAR Sprint Cup Series driver David Ragan and signing as a development driver for Roush Fenway Racing. He began competing in ARCA competition in 2010; and went on to win the series championship in 2012, becoming the only driver to compete in every lap in a season of competition in the series.

Buescher made his debut in NASCAR competition for Roush Fenway Racing in 2011, driving two races in the Nationwide Series. He returned to the series in 2013, and drove in seven races for the team, in addition to a limited ARCA schedule with Roulo Bros. Racing.

In 2014, he moved full-time to the Nationwide Series, driving the No. 60 Ford for

Roush Fenway Racing. After failing to qualify at Daytona, Buescher had a solid rookie season after winning at Mid-Ohio, for his first career win.

He started off the 2015 season with a runner-up finish to teammate Ryan Reed at Daytona.

Buescher will run select Sprint Cup races in 2015 that do not conflict with his Xfinity schedule.

#### PETTY NONCOMMITAL ON DRIVER CHANGES

A week after indicating that Sam Hornish Jr. is unlikely to return as driver of the No. 9 Sprint Cup Ford for 2016, Richard Petty was very iffy about future plans.

"Right now we're just sort of in limbo," Petty said. "We're talking to a couple of three different drivers and a couple different sponsor deals, so all of it's got to come together. The way it is today you might want a driver but you can't get sponsors. Then you might get a sponsor and then that'll get the driver."

"It's a chess game right now." Unless a driver can bring sponsorship, he's probably not going to get much consideration from Petty.

"It's the same way with other teams," Petty continued. "You go talk to Hendrick, they're out there struggling right now, Roush is struggling, and Gibb's is struggling. Every team is struggling to try and fill their particular cars. It's just a trend of the times right now, and it's tough on everybody. It doesn't make any difference if you're winning races or not winning races; it's just tough."

#### Weekend Television Schedule:

The NASCAR Sprint Cup Awards Banquet will be held Friday, Dec. 4 in Las Vegas. It will be broadcast live on NBCSN, beginning at 8 pm ET. Drew Carey will host the show, along with musical artists Andy Grammer, Sam Hunt, Rachel Platten, and Sabrina Carpenter.

#### Racing Trivia Question:

How many Cup championships did Richard Petty win?

Where is Martin Truex Jr.'s hometown? Answer: It is Mayetta, New Jersey.

You may contact the Racing Reporter by e-mail at: [hodges@race500.com](mailto:hodges@race500.com).