

A Pair of Aces: Old Union member notches two holes-in-one in five weeks

By Todd Forrest
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Ed Moody is the first to admit that he's been a pretty lucky guy out on the links since taking up the game of golf.

But not even he could have anticipated his new-found Midas touch that resulted in an unlikely case of lightning-striking-twice at Blairsville's Old Union Golf Course.

In less than six weeks during the spring, Moody fired two holes-in-one, the first coming May 13 on the par-3 second hole. Forty days later, on June 22, he aced the par-three 16th.

"I've been retired for about 20-something years but I decided to give up fishing after my buddy passed away, and that's when I started playing golf," Moody said.

Since recording his first hole-in-one in 1996, the Andrews, North Carolina resident has logged five aces. And if

there's a secret to his success, he's keeping it very close to the vest.

"No secret, I just get lucky every now and then," Moody said with a laugh. "My last hole-in-one (June 22) was actually a little fluke. I hit a pitching wedge about 100 yards and (the ball) landed in front of the green, rolled about 10 yards and went in."

According to Moody, the May 13 hole-in-one was a 9-iron that traveled approximately 120 yards, under calm conditions, before finding its way into the cup.

"It was one of the best shots I've ever hit," he said. "It landed just to the right of the pin with a slight draw. It bounced one time and went in the hole."

Following his recent string of masterful shot-making, Moody has now tied his golfing buddy with five holes-in-one. Although, he admits that his confidant is overdue to pick up his sixth.

"My best friend also has five holes in one, and he's always been one ahead of me," Moody said. "He'll hit one, and I'll tie him, then he'll get another one, and I'll tie him again. Now we're tied again, so I expect him to get another one any day."

According to www.holeinoneinsurance.com -- who provides coverage for hole-in-one contests in the unlikely event a contestant hits a perfect shot and walks away with a new truck and another expensive prize -- the odds of an amateur recording an ace range from 1-in-10,000 to 1-in-100,000 depending on the distance, weather and other conditions. However, the average overall odds hover around 1-in-12,500.

"Well that sounds about right, I've probably hit the ball that many times," said Moody after learning the odds. "I probably play about three or four times a week and I just get really lucky sometimes."



Ed Moody after each hole-in-one at Old Union Golf Course.

Birthday Celebration Week at Old Union Golf Course



Pat Westbrook, Happy Cattie, Betsy Hyde and Marilyn Lipira planted their flag in the Flag Day Tournament

It was Birthday Celebration Week at Old Union Golf Course! And once again, more fun was had at Old Union Golf Course when the Women's Golf Association met on Monday, June 29. Not only did they play golf, but they celebrated their member's June birthdays.

Gwen Gibson, Jinna Wheeler, Connie Dockery, Martha Quijano.

The game of the week was a team event, 2 Best Balls, (net), and there were 6 teams who competed. Congratulations to the winners:

First place went to Dilanne Walker, Nancy Hamilton, Donna Stone and Bonnie Shore with a net score of 133. Second place went to Martha Zimmer, Karen Mussoline, Marilyn Lipira and Sharon McClure with a score of 134. Nancy Outlaw made the lone birdie, and Alison Taylor made the lone chip-in. Closet to the

pin honors went to Karen Mussoline.

After golf, the ladies enjoyed homemade birthday cake, (made by Karen Mussoline). The ladies helped their members celebrate their birthdays with birthday cards and singing.

Next week our game of the week is Hat'em: Choose three of your hated holes before the round starts, write down a par on each. A stipulation that applies is that the three holes must be comprised of one par 3, one par 4 and one par 5. Played with full handicaps. We will be paying out in 4 flights, 2 places in each flight.

Since May 27th, Mary Holmes has been offering Golf Clinics at Old Union Golf Course. The cost is \$20 plus range ball. Max number in a group is five and the clinics are an hour long. Mary teaches

two classes on Wednesdays, the first one at 8 a.m. and a second clinic at 9 a.m. Mary is planning a lesson with small groups on the course! As soon as the details are finalized for the course lesson, the information will be posted on our website.

You must sign up on the website to participate in the clinic. Mary Holmes was the ladies' golf coach at LSU, and we are delighted with her offer to lead the Golf Clinics. Sign up soon as the classes will fill up quickly!

The Old Union Women's Golf Association meets every Monday with a 9 AM tee time. If you are interested and would like to come as a Guest, or for more information, visit our website at www.OUWGA.com or call/text Karen at 352-638-3649 or Cynthia at 706-633-7587.

NASCAR 2020

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

"Happy" Harvick Scores Fourth Win

INDIANAPOLIS, IN - Kevin Harvick and his team are having quite a year. He scored his fourth Cup Series win of the season Sunday at the Brickyard.

Harvick and Denny Hamlin had the two dominant cars near the end. After a restart on lap 138 of the 161-lap race, Hamlin was able to take the lead from Harvick, and continued to lead until lap 153. Hamlin suddenly had a right front tire blow out, which sent him into the outside wall, bringing out the race's last caution.

Harvick was the new leader on the restart, followed by Matt Kenseth and Aric Almirola. When the green flag was dropped, Harvick went to the front and pulled away for his third Brickyard 400 victory.

"We knew Denny was getting close on tires and Rodney (Rodney Childers crew chief) told me to keep the pressure on him. Believe me, I was pressuring him all I could. This is the Brickyard. You want to do whatever it takes to win here."

Matt Kenseth's runner-up finish was his best since coming out of retirement.

"Man we were fast, but that 4-car was really fast," said Kenseth. "I really couldn't get close enough to do anything with him. We had a good, competitive car, the pit stops went great, so we will take this and go on hoping for a win."

The remaining top-10: 3. Aric Almirola, 4. Brad Keselowski, 5. Cole Custer, 6. Kyle Busch, 7. Michael McDowell, 8. Tyler Reddick, 9. Bubba Wallace, 10. Joey Logano.

Denny Hamlin, who also has four wins finished 28th.

"It was a tough day," said Hamlin. "We had a fast car, but maybe we needed a little more downforce. I did all I could do, but when something like that happens, you can't do much."

Hamlin was not the only driver that experienced front tire failures. There were six other drivers that had front tires go out on them.

An early racing incident on pit road injured one of the tire changer's on Ryan Blaney's car. As the field made its way to the pits, several cars checked up and caused a pile up that completely blocked the narrow IMS pit road. The crewman was wedged between two cars. He was taken to the infield care center, but did not have any broken bones, or serious injuries.

Jimmie Johnson continues to struggle this season. The seven-time NASCAR Cup Series champion tested positive for COVID-19 on Friday. He missed Sunday's race at Indianapolis Motor Speedway and will not return to competition until being cleared by a physician.

Johnson, 44, had not experienced symptoms of COVID-19. He was tested upon learning Friday morning that his wife, Chandra, tested positive after experiencing allergy-like symptoms.

In Johnson's absence, Justin Allgaier drove the No. 48 Chevrolet for Hendrick Motorsports on Sunday at Indianapolis.

Top-10 leaders: 1. Harvick-637, 2. Elliott-552, 3. Keselowski-549, 4. Blaney-534, 5. Hamlin-528, 6. Logano-527, 7. Truex Jr.-501, 8. Bowman-471, 9. Almirola-465, 10. Kyle Busch-461.

BRISCOE GETS HOMETOWN VICTORY

Chase Briscoe of Mitchell, Indiana fulfilled a child-



"Happy" Harvick Scores Fourth Win

hood dream by winning the Brickyard 150 Xfinity Series race on Saturday.

The win on the Indy road course was Briscoe's third victory in the last four NASCAR Xfinity Series races and fifth of the season.

He led 30 laps of the 62 lap race, but had to fight back after losing the lead to AJ Allmendinger on lap 59. He regained it two laps later, and held off Justin Haley, who finished 1.717-seconds back.

"Everybody knows growing up my hero in racing was Tony Stewart and getting to drive for him and watch him win the Brickyard and that was always his signature thing and I just wanted to do it," a smiling Briscoe said. "Honestly, it's not the same prestige as winning on the oval but you still won at Indianapolis Motor Speedway and it doesn't matter if your racing on the oval, the road course, the dirt track or even the parking lot, it's special winning here."

Noah Gragson was third, followed by AJ Allmendinger, Austin Cindric, Ross Chastain, Justin Allgaier, Alex Labbe, Michael Annett, and Preston Pardus.

Top-10 leaders: 1. Briscoe-556, 2. Gragson-535, 3. Chastain-501, 4. Cindric-495, 5. Allgaier-434, 7. H. Burton-421, 8. B. Jones-383, 9. Annett-373, 10. Sieg-329.

NASCAR AWARDS BANQUET CANCELED

NASCAR officials announced last week that the 2020 Cup Series Awards and Banquet, scheduled for December has been canceled because of COVID-19 concerns.

In the statement, officials indicated that the year-end celebration would return to Nashville in 2021. The statement also said that NASCAR's three national series champions will be honored with some other postseason celebration to be determined at a later date.

"The 2020 NASCAR Cup Series, NASCAR Xfinity Series and NASCAR Gander RV & Outdoors Truck Series champions will be celebrated at the end of the season with more details to come. We look forward to returning to Nashville in 2021."

Other Racing News: The NASCAR races at Watkins Glen in August are in limbo.

Currently, anyone entering New York from certain states (including North Carolina) are asked to quarantine for 14 days after arriving in the state. New York Governor Andrew Cuomo has not said he would grant the sport a quarantine waiver.

Meanwhile, Kevin Harvick was asked last week how he feels about NASCAR and IndyCar holding races at the same track on the same day.

"I think our races have had a positive impact on the motorsports community every week," he said. "Our industry

has just done a great job, really been the leader in trying to help other sports figure out how they're going to get back on track. I think when you look at the Indy doubleheader, you hear guys from both sides. We had Tony Kanaan on my radio show talking about this particular weekend, and IndyCar and NASCAR running together. We're all racers. We want racing to be successful.

"I know it's kind of had that stigma for a number of years there's the IndyCar guys and there's the NASCAR guys. One thing I learned over the winter doing iRacing, racers are racers. If you race on a computer, in IndyCar, everybody wants to see a good race and be part of a cool event. I think it's going to be a cool event. With Roger Penske owning the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, you're going to see different things. I think this is the first step of many that will bring exciting shows to the racetrack."

Racing Joke: During an off week of racing, Martin and his wife decided to visit Washington, D.C. They decided to stay at the Watergate Hotel. His wife was concerned that the room was bugged, but Martin said, "Don't worry, I'll check everything."

So he looked behind the drapes, behind the pictures and under the rug. There he found a disc with four screws. He unscrewed them and threw the disc out the window. The next morning, the hotel manager asked, "How was your stay? How was your room? How was the service?"

"Why all the questions," asked Martin.

"Well," explained the manager, "The people in the room under you complained of the chandelier falling on them."

Weekend Racing: NASCAR will hold four races at the 1.5-mile Kentucky Speedway in Sparta, KY.

Thurs., July 9; Xfinity Series race No. 1; Start time: 8 PM ET; TV: FoxSports1.

Fri., July 10; Xfinity Series race No. 2; Start time: 8 PM ET; TV: FoxSports1.

Sat., July 11; Truck Series race; Start time: 6 PM ET; TV: FoxSports1.

Sun., July 12; Cup Series race; Start time: 2:30 PM ET; TV: FoxSports1.

Racing Trivia Question: Who did Matt Kenseth drive for in his first Cup Series start in 1998?

Last Week's Question: Who won the first NASCAR Cup Series race at Indianapolis Motor Speedway? Answer: Jeff Gordon won the inaugural 1994 Brickyard 400.

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

Summer Session 2020 Fitness Family Zumba Class Union County Recreation Department Ages: 18 and over

**With Summer here, we want you to stay fit. Beth Schakat, our new instructor for our Fitness Family, will be offering a late afternoon Zumba class! This class will run for the Summer session from July 14 through August 27. The class is on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 4:30-5:30 PM. Cost is only \$25 for this session!

*Summer Session Zumba Registration begins on June 29, 2020 and ends July 10, 2020 (or until class fills to capacity) at the Recreation Office (310 Wellborn Steet). Registration and class payment must be done in person and distancing will be in effect during the registration process and in person classes.

If you have any questions, you can call (706) 439-6074 and ask for Jennifer.

