

Football: Panthers practice in full pads this week; scrimmage at Towns Aug. 21



Union County football began conditioning last week and official practice got underway on Monday. The Panthers will be in full pads for the first time since last November. Union is still scheduled to scrimmage at Towns County on Aug. 21 and at White County on Thursday Aug. 27. Photos by Todd Forrest



Soccer registration is open at the Union County Recreation Department for Fall MUSA Soccer



Registration ends August 14th
Ages 4-16 all teams are co-ed

Fees: 4u-6u \$75, 8u-12u \$85, 14u-16u \$120
Please register in person at the Union County Recreation Department, located at 310 Wellborn Street.

Please call 706-439-6074 with any questions.



Dear MUSA family,
We have important news regarding your Spring 2020 soccer registration: Any player registered to play with MUSA during the Spring 2020 season will receive a season (credit) for either the Fall 2020 or Spring 2021 season only. In order to claim your player's credit, you must register with the Union County Recreation Department for that particular season. You must re-register in person to be placed on a team and your credit will be applied to your account.

Fall 2020 registration is now open thru August 14th. If you have any questions you should contact The Union County Recreation Department at 706-439-6074. We're excited for soccer to come back and can't wait to see you out at the fields! -MUSA



Trout stocking sites week of July 27-31, 2020

Fannin: Big Creek, Rock Creek, Toccoa River and Toccoa River Tailwaters (below Lake Blue Ridge Dam)
Lumpkin: Etowah River and Nimblerwill Creek
Union: Cooper Creek and Toccoa River.
Note: Information is subject to change. Please call the hatchery at 706-838-4723 for questions. Stay up-to-date with stocking and events through Facebook www.facebook.com/chattahoocheeforestnfh. The hatchery also provides trout for the state. Please contact Georgia DNR for information on sites stocked by the state. (NAug5.21)CA

The Old Union Women's Golf Association news

The Old Union Women's Golf Association had another fabulous day on the course, Monday, July 20th. The name of the game was 'Synchronized Swimming.' In this game, the winner is the golfer who has the lowest net combined score for all the water holes on the course. Mary Mott, made the biggest 'splash' as she was ready for some "Synchronized Swimming!"

This week, the Ladies Golf Association also welcomed a new member, Vi Copenhaver. She came and played as a guest two weeks ago with the league, and the association was delighted that she decided to join. On top of that, Vi was the big winner in her flight. A big shout out also goes to Jinna Wheeler who shot under par on the front 9 and ended up with a total gross score of 75! Wow!

Two places were paid out in four separate flights. First place winners received \$11 and 2nd place winners received \$7.

Flight A Winners: Jinna Wheeler, 1st place and Kathie McAfee, 2nd place. Flight B Winners: Shelia Baggett, 1st place and Bonnie Shore, 2nd place. Flight C: Martha



Mary Mott

Quijano 1st place and Cappie Harper, 2nd place. Flight D: Vi Copenhaver, 1st place, Kay Kirkland, 2nd place. Closest to the pin honors went to Karen Mussoline. Jinna Wheeler had two birdies while Jackie DiChiara, Mary Mott and Kathie McAfee each had one. Vi Copenhaver, Jackie DiChiara, Martha Quijano, Cappie

Harper and Nancy Hamilton all enjoyed chip-ins.

Mary Holmes continues to offer Golf Clinics at Old Union Golf Course. The cost is \$20 plus range ball. Max number in a group is six, and the clinics are an hour long. Mary will have two classes... the first one at 8 AM and a second clinic at 9 AM. 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 is now offering a new 9 Holes League which will also be played on Mondays. This league is perfect for those players who are new to the game, who may have time constraints or those players who want to play only 9 holes.

Come join the best league in the North Georgia Mountains!

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 352-633-7587. (NAug5.29)CA

Register for the Clay Dotson Open Golf Tournament

Young Harris College invites community members to register for the 16th annual Clay Dotson Open on Monday, August 10 at Brasstown Valley Resort in Young Harris, GA. This highly anticipated golf tournament is YHC's premier fundraising event for student scholarships.

This event is the perfect opportunity to have fun while supporting a great cause. Participants will play one of Georgia's top courses in one of the state's most beautiful locations. Due to public health protocols, the tournament schedule has been adjusted. A continental breakfast will be served at 9 a.m., tournament rules and announcements will be delivered at 9:30 a.m., and there will be only one flight, which will start at 10 a.m.

The cost to play in the tournament is \$200 per person or \$800 for a team of four. Teams with three or more YHC alumni qualify for the Tom Forkner, Sr. Alumni Challenge and a special discounted rate (\$150 per alumnus/alumna player). In the spirit of competition, YHC will award prizes for low net score (1st, 2nd and 3rd place) and will offer a putting contest with prizes. Con-



YHC President Dr. Drew L. Van Horn stands with UCB President Adam Born and YHC Vice President for Advancement Mark Dotson as UCB contributes \$10,000 to support the Clay Dotson Open.

continental breakfast and a boxed lunch are included in the registration cost, as well as a team photograph.

"We greatly appreciate all of our tournament sponsors and participants," said YHC's Vice President for Advancement Mark Dotson. "This year, I want to give a special shout out to United Community Bank for signing on as a Diamond Sponsor. UCB has been a generous and consistent supporter of YHC's Clay Dotson

Open since 2010. I can't thank them enough for the countless opportunities they continue to provide to our students and our campus community."

Sponsorships, player registrations, mulligans and more are available for purchase at yhc.edu/claydotsonopen. If you have any questions or need additional information about the tournament, please contact Mark Dotson at (706) 379-5355 or mdotson@yhc.edu. (NAug5.21)CA

NASCAR 2020

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

Keselowski Is Tops At New Hampshire

LOUDON, NH - Brad Keselowski showed how strong his No. 2 Penske Ford team was in Sunday's 301-lap Cup Series race. He coasted to the finish line over 2-seconds ahead of five-time winner Denny Hamlin to claim his 33rd series victory. "We've had a lot of good racing this year, but I told everyone that when we really got the car the way we wanted it, look out," said Keselowski. "We just kept working and working until we were able to take it to a new level."

"We really needed this win and to be able to race in front of fans feels so good. It's so much going on in this world that I'm glad I can come out and race for them."

Keselowski led eight times for 184 laps. He took the lead for the last time on lap 221 and led the remaining 80 laps around the 1.058-mile track.

Hamlin led 10 times for 92 laps. Several times, he and Keselowski were about equal on speed, but after the last pit stop, it was Keselowski's time to shine. "We didn't have what we hoped for," said Hamlin. "We'll work on it next week and hopefully, we come up with a little better car. The car was good, but we weren't able to get by Brad. We needed a little more."

Third place finisher Martin Truex Jr. was assessed a one-lap penalty after a crewman let a tire get away from him during a routine pit stop on lap 100. "We're seeing improvement," said Truex, who has one race win. "This is a winning team and we will be winning more races. I know how the guys on this team feel, and they love winning."

Joey Logano was fourth, followed by Kevin Harvick, Matt DiBenedetto, Aric Almirola, Cole Custer, Chase Elliott, and Tyler Reddick. William Byron was 11th, while his teammate Jimmie Johnson finished 12th. Johnson continues to be plagued by bad luck. It seems he is always at the wrong place at the right time. During lap 63 he attempted to pass Clint Bowyer on the low side. Contact was made and Johnson spun, losing a lap.

Matt Kenseth and Kyle Busch also had a bad afternoon. Kenseth spun out twice. The last one came on lap 203 and he parked his No. 42. "Rowdy" Kyle was the first driver out and wound up finishing in last place. He had a tire go down on lap 16, causing him to hit the outside wall.

Denny Hamlin won the first stage, with Keselowski getting the second one.

Top-10 leaders: 1. Harvick-803, 2. Keselowski-722, 3. Hamlin-688, 4. Blaney-685, 5. Elliott-660, 6. Logano-653, 7. Truex-648, 8. Almirola-614, 9. Kurt Busch-581, 10. Kyle Busch-563.

KYLE LARSON ON A ROLL IN SPRINTS

Kyle Larson celebrated his 28th birthday Friday night by winning his seventh race in the All Star Circuit of Champions sprint car series.

Larson led the final 18 laps at 34 Raceway in West Burlington, Iowa, for his 12th victory in 18 starts with the 410 winged sprint car series owned by Tony Stewart. He has won the past six races in the series and the last seven he's entered.

Since the beginning of June, Larson has 22 victories in 36 starts while barnstorming through Pennsylvania, Ohio, Iowa and several other states to race in various sprint car series and some USAC midget events.

Larson said he remains interested in a NASCAR comeback, though he hasn't explored the options for a return to stock cars.

"Well, I've been so busy just racing pretty much every day of the week that I haven't even had time to work on anything, but I would love an opportunity if it came," he said during an interview with MRN Winged Nation. "But at the same time, I'm also having a ton of fun right now."



Keselowski Tops At New Hampshire



Kyle Larson On A Roll In Sprints

BELL IS MOVING UP

Christopher Bell has endured his share of ups and downs, as any freshman driver might undergo in the NASCAR Cup Series. But over the last 14 races, the No. 95 Levine Family Toyota has climbed from 32nd in the standings to 23rd. But with Bell's dirt track upbringing, he's accustomed to limited laps.

"I think this no practice thing definitely fits my background," Bell said. "I think it's up and down, and if you look at our results, we've arguably ran a little bit better since they stopped practice."

"One thing that I do think it hinders me a little bit on is I just don't have a feel for these cars, and it takes a little bit to figure out where the limit is, especially at these race tracks where we're going with new rules packages. It's definitely a little bit different."

Still, Bell benefits from having a veteran such as Jason Ratcliff on the box, given the bizarre nature of this season. The 52-year-old crew chief, who oversaw Bell's Xfinity Series tour, continues to be a guiding force for the driver.

Bell's greatest lesson this season? "Expect the unexpected, for sure," Bell continued. "2020 has been absolutely crazy. It started off crazy with the President coming to the Daytona 500. That was a surreal moment and very cool experience to be a part of and then on top of that, it ended up getting rained out so then we didn't race until Monday night for the Daytona 500."

"Then the pandemic hit and we had a huge break in the season. I've very thankful that NASCAR is allowing us to keep going to the race track. It's been up and down for me since then. We've definitely made gains since the beginning of the year."

Bell's best result was a fourth-place finish at Pocono Raceway, one of five top 10s since the break.

From The Pit Box: NASCAR will offer a form of controlled pit stops for two upcoming events.

They were announced during the off-season but delayed as a result of the Covid-19. NASCAR confirmed the first two events that would take place without live green flag pit stops would be the

Aug. 8 Xfinity Series race at Road America and the Aug. 30 Truck Series race at Gateway.

The pit stop rules discourage the use of specialized over-the-wall crew members while also placing limits on the type of services that a car or truck can receive during each pit stop. Essentially, drivers cannot gain or lose positions on pit road based on the timeliness of their stop but rather based on their team's strategic decisions, instead.

Racing Joke: Brad walks into the race car shop on Wednesday with two bandages over his ears. The office manager asks what happened. He replies, "I was ironing a shirt when the phone rang. I accidentally answered the iron."

The office manager considers this and then asks, "Well, that explains the one ear, but what happened to the other?"

Brad replies, "I had to call the doctor."

Weekend Racing: The NASCAR Xfinity Series will be at Road America in Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin, while the Truck and Cup teams will be at the 2-mile Michigan International Speedway.

Fri., Aug. 7; Truck Series race; Starting time: 6 PM ET; TV: FoxSports1.

Sat., Aug. 8; Xfinity Series race; Starting time: 12 PM ET; TV: NBCSN.

Sat., Aug. 8; Cup Series race; Starting time: 4 PM ET; TV: NBCSN.

Sun., Aug. 9; Cup Series race; Starting time: 4:30 PM ET; TV: NBCSN.
Note: We use the official times posted by NASCAR, but several times in the past, those times have been changed without advance notice. We apologize for any errors.

Racing Trivia Question: What year did Richard Petty win his last Cup Series championship?

Last Week's Question: Who are the three current Cup Series drivers that raced with Dale Earnhardt Sr. before his death in 2001? Answer: Matt Kenseth, Kurt Busch, and Ryan Newman.

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. (NAug5.21)CA