

# Union swim teams strong at Murphy

**Murphy, NC** - Union County High School attended a swim meet on Saturday Nov. 19 at Hiwassee Valley Pool in Murphy, NC.

**200-Yd Medley Relay:**  
1st Place: Gavin Thompson, Jeremy Herum, Aidan Francis and Brian Williams.  
3rd Place: Leilani Schroeder, Megan Foster, Grace Weldon and Kaiya Wilkes.  
4th Place: Nathan Cobb, Ean Harkins, Tyler Harkins and Steven Williams.

**200-Yard Freestyle**  
3rd Place: Tyler Harkins

**200-Yd Indiv Medley:**  
2nd Place: Grace Weldon,  
6th Place: Leilani Schroeder.

**50-Yard Freestyle:**  
3rd Place: Gavin Thompson, 3rd Place: Kaiya Wilkes, 4th Place: Ean Harkins, 5th Place: Grace Weldon, 8th Place: Tyler Harkins, 8th Place: Kindle Kolb, 9th Place: Savannah Damon, 10th Place: Megan Foster.

**100-Yard Butterfly:**  
1st Place Brian Williams, 2nd Place Kaiya Wilkes.

**100-Yard Freestyle:**  
1st Place: A i d a n Francis, 2nd Place: Jeremy Herum, 4th Place: Steven Williams, 4th Place: Megan Foster, 5th Place: Gavin Thompson, 5th Place: Kindle Kolb, 6th Place: Ean Harkins, 8th Place: John Mancuso.

**500-Yard Freestyle:**  
3rd Place: Katie Yaboni

**200-Yd Free Relay:**  
2nd Place: Jeremy Herum, Gavin Thompson, Aidan Francis, Brian Williams.

4th Place: Nathanael Allison, Ean Harkins, Tyler Harkins, Steven Williams.

**100-Yard Backstroke**  
1st Place : Brian Williams, 5th Place: Sloan Sutton, 5th Place : Savannah Damon

**100-Yard Breaststroke**  
1st Place: Aidan Francis, 4th Place: Jeremy Herum, 5th Place: S t e v e n Williams, 7th Place: Leilani Schroeder.

# Girl Scouts introduced to Pickleball by volunteers



Coaches on back row, (L-R): Bud Patrick, Hiwassee; Cathy Berggreen, Blairsville; Karen Staffins, Morganton; Kathi Patrick, Hiwassee, seated are Girl Scouts

Twenty Girl Scouts, from 4th grade through high school, enjoyed learning about the fast growing sport called Pickleball. The Fannin County troupes, under the guidance of Leader Teresa Watkins, met on November 10th at the Fannin County Recreation Center in Blue Ridge, GA. Blairsville Pickleball Club

volunteers taught them the basics of the game, including paddle use, ball control, and a variety of shots. Kathi and Bud Patrick, USAPA Ambassadors for the BPC, are committed to sharing their knowledge and enthusiasm for the game with North Georgia communities. Karen

Staffins arranged the event, and recruited the Patricks and Cathy Berggreen, Treasurer of the BPC, to help. The game is easy, fun, quick, and great exercise for all ages. Ms. Watkins would like any girls who are interested in Scouts to email her at metlwatkins@gmail.com. N/Nov23,Z8/CA

# More photos from Saturday's Mitchell Henderson benefit 5K and Prayer Walk



Photos by Todd Forrest

# Bowling Scores

**Monday Night Ladies:**  
Joyce Trenton 213, Monita Rodgers 209, Series 568.

**Monday Night Men:** Ron Wingate 234, Joe Teague 226, 235, 226, Series 687, Dewey Allen 203, 206, Tim McVay 247, Walt Whitlock 209, Branden Hartness 224, 288, 238, Series 750, Jay Burrell 228, Stanley Tyler 202, Greg Whittenberg 229, 202, 220, Series 651, Taz Matetzsch 226, Jeremiah Plott 245, 256, 200 Series 701, Mel White 204, 203, Doug Tanner 222, 215, Bart Rodgers 228, 242, Series 661.

**Young @ Heart Seniors:**  
Gene Langford 204, 214, Series 599, Bruce Burnett 226, Jim Kidder 220, Stanley Tyler 236, 246, Paul Napolitano 200, Bryan Cuthbert 245, 214, Del Neiffer 226, 205, 205, Series 636.

**Thurs Night Fun Mixed:**  
Branden Hartness 236, 210, Tim McVay 204, Doug Roberts 202, Jimmy Southern 226, Brett Hogsed 220, Shay Roberts 202, 226, Series 624, Curtis Corn 200, Bonnell Thomas 201, Ray Everett 206, 227, 242, Series 675, Tee Turner 209

# Lady Panthers put one player from each class on All Region Softball Teams

## 2016 Region 7-AAA All Region Softball Teams

**PLAYER OF THE YEAR:** Nikki Carver - Sr - North Hall  
**PITCHER OF THE YEAR:** Macy Banks - Fr - East Hall

### FIRST TEAM ALL REGION:

- Laken Chambers - Sr - Union County**  
Steffanie Redmon - Jr - East Hall  
Amanda Briskin - Jr - Greater Atlanta Christian  
Ansley Holman - Sr - Lumpkin County  
Maggie Schandera - So - Dawson County  
Ashlyn Brewster - Sr - North Hall  
Julian Garrett - Sr - North Hall  
Macy Galloway - Sr - Fannin County  
Amelia Veal - Fr - Greater Atlanta Christian  
**Jillian Lawn - Jr - Union County**  
Sydney McGinnis - Sr - Dawson County  
**Mary Wischmeyer - Fr - Union County**

### SECOND TEAM ALL REGION:

- Claire Holcomb - Sr - Greater Atlanta Christian  
**Aladriel Arnold - So - Union County**  
Skyler Caine - Jr - Dawson County  
Natalie Glass - Sr - Dawson County  
Kadie Chambers - Jr - Lumpkin County  
Misty Goodman - Jr - Lumpkin County  
Abigail Brown - Fr - East Hall  
Jennifer Lopez - So - East Hall  
Macy Clark - So - North Hall  
Carson Negley - Sr - North Hall  
Abby Jenkins - So - Greater Atlanta Christian  
Kadie Sullens - Jr - North Hall

# NASCAR 2016

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

## Johnson Gets Seventh Cup Championship

Homestead, FL - Jimmie Johnson's NASCAR Sprint Cup win this past Sunday moved him up into some elite company.

Johnson joined Richard Petty and Dale Earnhardt as the only drivers to have won seven NASCAR Sprint Cup Championships.

"This is beyond words," said Johnson. "What great strategy the team came up with to get me here tonight. What an honor. It's so unbelievable. You dream about something like this, but you don't know how big it really is until it happens."

While Johnson won the race and championship fair and square, his chances didn't look good until after the race's next-to-last caution. Up until that time he had been running in the middle of the field.

On a restart with eleven laps remaining, Joey Logano got into the back of Carl Edwards, who was running second. Edwards went low, trying to block Logano, but came down too far. Edwards' left rear bumper made contact with the front of Logano's car.

Edwards No. 19 spun, crashed into the inside wall, then came back up the track taking out several other cars until it came to rest against the outside wall. A total of nine other cars were caught up in the melee.

The race was red flagged for 31 minutes while speedway crews cleaned up the debris. That restart may have cost Edwards his first championship, because he was leading the other three Chase contenders at the time, and seemed to have the fastest car.

"I knew Joey was there," said Edwards. "I thought I had enough time to clear him, but it didn't turn out that way. This was the race of my life and I thought I had it. When that caution came out, I risked it all. I gave it my best, but it didn't turn out that way."

During the caution period Edwards walked to Logano's pit area and told his crew chief, "That was all my deal."

After the track was cleaned up and racing resumed, the leaders were Kyle Larson, Kevin Harvick, Kyle Busch, and Jimmie Johnson. One lap later, Ricky Stenhouse spun bringing out the race's last caution and sending the 267-lap race into overtime. Kyle Busch, who was running fifth, pitted for tires and a car adjustment under caution. When he returned to the track, he was ninth. When the race went back green, the leaders were Larson, Johnson, Harvick, and Logano. Johnson got a great jump on Larson and by the time the two leaders had reached turn-1, Johnson was out front and pulling away.

The other two Chase contenders that were still on the track; Joey Logano and Kyle Busch could only watch as Johnson moved farther and farther ahead. Kyle Larson finished second followed by Kevin Harvick, Joey Logano, Jamie McMurray, Kyle Busch, Matt Kenseth, AJ Allmendinger, Denny Hamlin, and Michael McDowell.

and Edwards) in this year's Chase will only get half of what drivers received last year. According to ESPN, the overall point fund last year was \$21.765 million, with the champion slated to earn about \$4.7 million (Kyle Busch's take was less because he missed 11 races), and this year it will be less than half that amount.

Second place last year paid \$2.1 million, third \$1.58 million, with seventh place on back earning less than a million. As part of the new charter system and in an effort to make their revenue sharing more predictable, NASCAR and the team owners' Race Team Alliance agreed to pay the champion less but spread the point fund more equitably throughout the top-25 drivers and teams.

Drivers typically get paid a percentage of purse and point-fund money in addition to a base salary. The overall point fund increased in 2016, NASCAR Chief Operating Officer Brett Dewar said, but he wouldn't elaborate, citing confidentiality clauses in the charters, about the distribution.

"I think it is a million-and-a-half to win a Cup," six-time Cup champion Jimmie Johnson said. "The last time I stood on stage, it was seven-and-a-half [million]. It's a huge change."

NASCAR stopped publishing how much money a driver earns for the team each week in the purse and does not plan to publicize the bonus structure as it has in the past, citing the new charter system structure. The 36 charter teams get dollars from two pools of money based on participation -- a fixed amount each team gets, and then an amount based on the team's finishes the previous three years, most heavily weighted to the previous season, which means that the champion will earn more for his team over the next three years than if he had finished lower in the standings.

Except for the series banquets, this concludes the 2016 NASCAR racing season.

### SUAZÉ WINS RACE AND CHAMPIONSHIP

Daniel Suárez, captured the Xfinity Series championship Saturday at Homestead-Miami Speedway by winning the last race of the season in only his second year of full-time NASCAR racing. The driver of the No. 19 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota is the first Latin American to win a national series title.

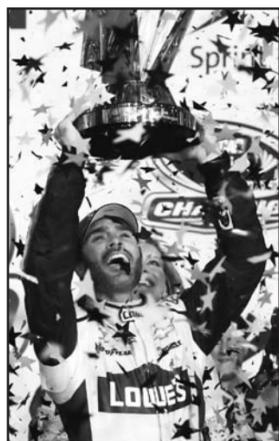
The Monterrey, Mexico, native dominated from the outset of the season, racking up four top-five and nine top-10 finishes in his first 10 contests. Suárez led the points standings following 14 separate races in the regular season and made his way into the Xfinity Series Chase with his win at Michigan.

Elliott Sadler was second in Chase points, followed by Justin Allgaier, and Eric Jones.

### SAUTER GETS TRUCK CHAMPIONSHIP

Johnny Sauter's third-place finish in the season ending Truck Series race was good enough to earn him the 2016 championship.

After eight seasons of racing in the series, Sauter earned his first NASCAR Camping



Jimmie Johnson, 2016 NASCAR Sprint Cup Champion

World Truck Series championship Friday at Homestead-Miami Speedway.

"I'm not going to lie; today I was a little bit nervous when we qualified 19th, but I knew that we'd race good," said Sauter. "The trucks are just so good. All the product that they're building at GMS Racing just -- and doesn't hurt to have Chevrolet power under the hood, and we executed like we needed to. Had solid pit stops tonight. We made some positions up on the racetrack like we needed to, and here we are. Great year. Couldn't be more proud."

"I don't think it's completely sank in quite yet, but you know, it wouldn't be possible without these two guys sitting next to me. That's for sure. I can remember last September when I flew to Las Vegas and the Gallagher family brought me to their house and cooked me a wonderful meal and said this is our goals and this is what we want to do. You know, when I went and checked out the shop and saw their ultimate vision for where they wanted GMS Racing to be, I knew it was something that I wanted to be a part of."

Sauter's team finished the 2016 season with three wins, 12 top-5s, 19 top-10s, one pole position and the championship.

Matt Crafton was runner-up for the championship, after being passed by Sauter after the race's last caution.

"We were really good at the beginning and then was terrible there on the last run and came up short," he said. "We were just really bad on that last run for whatever reason. We just went the wrong way for whatever reason. It just got really tight on that last run. The run before that was just a little bit free, and on that last run it just got really tight on entry."

Christopher Bell was third in the final points, while Timothy Peters was fourth.

### Racing Trivia Question: What year did the Sprint Cup Chase begin?

**Last Week's Question:** The first Homestead Sprint Cup race was held on Nov. 14, 1999. Who was the winner? Answer: Tony Stewart.

You may contact the Racing Reporter by e-mail at: hodges@race500.com. NT/Nov23,Z19/CA