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Softball: Union blasts Rabun County, drops 10-7 shootout to Elbert

Burnette slugs first career homer as Lady Panthers thump Fannin County

By Todd Forrest sports@nganews.com

Union County dropped a 10-7 thriller to Elbert County in Tuesday's battle of 8-AA's only remaining unbeaten teams but rebounded two days later, trouncing Rabun County 12-0 on Senior Night behind a fourinning no-hitter from sophomore Sierra Burnette.

The week began with an 11-3 victory over Fannin County on Monday, Sept 13. Senior Tori Tracy and freshman Sloane Dyer combined to limit Fannin to a pair of first-inning runs and one

During the first-place showdown vs. Elbert County, the Lady Panthers exploded for five runs in the fourth to seize a commanding 7-3 lead. But the lead was short-lived as Elbert answered with four in the fifth and two in the sixth, chasing Burnette from the contest after 5 2/3 innings. Union County wouldn't score again as the Blue Devils escaped Blairsville with the W via seven unanswered

Union struck in the first inning when Ansley Collins beat out on an infield single and came around to score on a one-out base hit from Lexi Sisum. But after sitting down six straight to begin her outing, Burnette ran into trouble in the third against the bottom of the order. Consecutive singles and a sacrifice bunt moved the goahead run into scoring position when a base hit to right field put Elbert out front 2-1. The fourth single of the frame, followed by a sacrifice fly, spotted the Blue Devils a 3-1 advantage entering the Union half of the inning.

A solo home run to right field from Sisum pulled the Lady Panthers within a run at 3-2, then Burnette escaped the fourth via an inning-ending defensive gem. With one out and one aboard, senior shortstop Emma Roxbury chased down a soft flare headed for shallow left field with a back-handed grab, then fired across her body to double-off the runner at first.

Roxbury's twin killing ignited the five-run fourth that she eventually capped off with a bases-clearing triple. Senior Kaelyn Jones started the rally with a one-out single, followed Massey. hv a walk to fellow 12th grader Aubrie Banton.

With the go-ahead run aboard, Elbert County displayed a short leash by yanking the starting pitcher. Her replacement immediately surrendered a game-tying double to Gracie Gladding, then plunked Caley Davis and gave up an oppositefield single to Collins.

With the bags full of Lady Panthers, Roxbury laced the first pitch down the right-field line, clearing the bases and spotting Union a 7-3 lead. Consecutive pop-ups by the heart of the order ended the inning with Roxbury standing on third, which ultimately proved costly.

The fifth got underway with Burnette's first walk in more than 11 innings of action. After a bunt advanced the runner, Burnette issued a second free pass then allowed a toughluck infield single. A base hit into left cut the Union lead in half, and a sacrifice fly pulled Elbert within a run followed by a two-out game-tying single.

The Lady Panthers couldn't answer in the bottom half of the fifth and picked an inopportune moment for the



contest. Elbert opened the sixth while fanning two over 5 2/3 with a leadoff single, but a popup and strikeout moved Burnette one out away from escaping with the game still even at 7-7. Two walks (one intentional) loaded the bases and the Blue Devils made Union County pay by delivering their second two-out, two-run single to grab

Tracy entered with the bases loaded and induced a groundout to keep her team within striking distance.

The Lady Panthers' best late-game opportunity came during the bottom-half of the sixth when Gladding led off by dumping an opposite-field single into right-center. Davis moved the courtesy runner Jewell Massey to second with a bunt, but the inning went south when the ensuing batter, Collins, lined a base-hit up the middle, forcing Massey to pause on the frozen rope hit in her direction. As she broke for third, the center fielder came up firing and cut down the runner at third on what appeared to be a late tag on the sliding rule. Roxbury's seventh RBI in

The play ran Union ot of the inning and led to the ejection of third base coach Robby Roxbury, who expressed his disagreement with the ruling.

Elbert tacked on its 10th run in the seventh when Banton flashed her arm strength by throwing out a base runner attempting to stretch a single. Emma Roxbury's tag at second base occurred just as a Blue Devils runner came around to score from second, and despite the pleading of the Union coaching staff, the umpire declared the baserunner crossed home before the third out.

Needing three runs in the seventh, Union could only muster a leadoff walk by Sisum, who finished 2 for 3 with a homer, a run and 2 RBIs.

Roxbury's day ended 1 for 3 with a three-run triple. Collins turned in her first-ever four-hit performance - scoring twice and knocking in one during a 4-for-4 game. Gladding went 2 for 3 with one ribby; Jones walked and scored during a 1-for-3 performance. Banton, Davis and Massey all scored once for Union County.

Burnette allowed 10 hits, lineup's only 1-2-3 frame of the 9 earned runs and four walks innings. Tracy gave up one hit, two walks and an earned run in 1 1/3 innings of work.

Union jumped all over Rabun County on Senior Night with one run in the first and four in both the second and third frames as Burnette bounced back with her second mercy-rule shortened no-no of the year.

Collins walked and stole a bag in the first, coming around to score on an Emma Roxbury base hit. The second began with a walk to Banton, an Emily Byers sacrifice and a Davis walk. Collins built a 3-0 lead with a two-run double, another Roxbury single made it 4-0 and a Tracy fielder's choice opened up a 5-0 margin.

Roxbury knocked in another run to open the scoring in a four-run third. Burnette drew a bases-loaded walk and Jones plated two more on a base knock to left field.

A hit-by-pitch to Byers started the three-run fourth that ended the contest via the mercy two games scored Byers, followed by a Sisum double and a two-run single from Burnette.

While only striking out two, Burnette's day in the circle ended just two batters above the minimum with Rabun reaching on an error during the first and a hit batter in the third.

Roxbury finished 4 for 4 while driving home four and scoring three times - all good enough for career highs in hits, RBIs and runs.

Collins scored three times during a 2-for-2 game - the first three-run performance of her career. Sisum went 1 for 1 with a double, a hit-by-pitch, a sac bunt and a walk.

Burnette walked twice and drove in three during a 1-for-2 evening. Her three ribbies matched a career-high (at Dawson County, August 2021). Tracy walked and drove in a run and Jones notched her second multi-RBI performance in 10 days - going 1 for 2 with 2 RBIs. Banton walked and scored, Byers stole a base and scored while Davis walked twice and scored "These seniors were

freshmen when I arrived and they've persevered through the good times and bad," Union head coach Stephen Mitchell said. "This a very special group of kids, but the parents are also a special group. The players have laid a foundation for the program but the parents have laid a foundation for the Diamond Club. They've put in a lot of work over the last 3-4 years and I'm blessed to work with all

During the 11-3 win over Fannin, Sisum led the onslaught,

going 3 for 3 with two doubles, a two on in the fourth and fanned pair of ribbies and a stolen base. Burnette smashed her first career homer during the first inning, headlining a 2-for-3, two-RBI game. Emma Roxbury kicked

for 3 with a pair of runs. Tracy fanned two over three-plus innings - scattering eight hits, a walk and three earned runs. Dyer fanned three and walked one while allowing one hit in two innings of work.

off her red-hot week by going 2

Davis, Gladding and Jones each added a hit for Union County. Seniors Rebekah Chambers and Banton chipped in one run apiece.

Following back-to-back hits and a steal of home right out of the gates, Tracy settled down to limit Fannin to two runs. The Lady Panthers quickly put up a three-spot in the bottom of the first when Roxbury reached and scored on a Sisum double and Burnette sent a 2-2 pitch out of the yard.

Tracy escaped a basesloaded jam in the third with Devils, Union County travels the game tied at 3-3 and Union to Elberton on Thursday at 5:30 County added two more in the bottom half of the inning, Col lins was hit by a pitch and later scored on a wild pitch; Sisum reached on a bunt single and came around courtesy of an RBI groundout off the bat of

Dyer replaced Tracy with

the first hitter before getting out of trouble with a line-out

Jones was plunked to lead off the bottom half of the frame and Massey, the pinch-runner, stole a base and later scored for a 6-3 advantage. Union ended the game with five in the fifth when Roxbury, Sisum and Burnette each doubled to start the inning. Junior Chloe Potts brought home Sisum with a groundout and Jones plated the pinch-runner Chambers with an RBI single.

Jones scored on Davis' sacrifice fly and Banton also came around on an errant throw to end the game at 11-3.

Region play resumes at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday when Union hosts Banks County in a critical Region 8-AA matchup. With a win, the Lady Panthers will all but secure a top-two seed in the 8-AA tourney while keeping pace with first-place Elbert

Speaking of the Blue p.m. Region play concludes Tuesday, Sept. 2 Rabun County.

"The girls are great kids,

they're great students and they're going to do great things," Mitchell added. "And that includes a lot of good softball this year."



Union County softball hosted its annual Cancer Awareness game on Tuesday, Sept. 16. Each Lady Panther played in honor of a selected friend or family member who has battled or is currently battling cancer. Photo/Todd Forrest

Union County and Murphy, NC prepare for first gridiron clash in 32 years

By Todd Forrest Sports Editor sports@nganews.com

Jasper - A 28-point Pickens onslaught in the game's first eight minutes sank Union County during Friday's 45-7 loss, handing the Panthers their fourth-consecutive defeat and third straight to open the year.

"Pickens' line of scrimmage just dominated us in every phase of the game, that's all there is to it," Union County head coach Michael Perry said.

The Dragons initiated the scoring with a 61-yard catch and run, followed by a 60-yard hookup on a deep pass down the right hash. A pair of blocked punts, the second recovered in the end zone, put Union County in a 28-0 hole with 4:13 remaining in

Pickens extended its margin to 35-0 at the 5:15 mark of the second on a 12-yard scoring strike before the Panthers got on the board in the final minute of

"We were just outmanned," Perry said. "We have 14 sophomores and freshmen playing varsity. We have so many underclassmen playing varsity, we don't have enough for a JV "Our starting running

back, Cayleb Rogers was hurt second play of the game and we had to use a freshman, Connor Schuknecht, who's going to be very good, he's just really The lone Union County

score came after the Dragons set up shop at their own 6-yard line with 1:54 before halftime, and despite playing it conservatively at first, needed just two plays to pick up 17 yards, prompting a Pickens timeout near the one-

Electing to open up the offense, Pickens immediately looked deep downfield where defensive back Sam Page leaped in front of a Dragons receiver at on four plays. Starting from their 177 on the ground.



Junior defensive back Sam Page hauls in a first-half interception to set up Union County's only score of the game. Photo/Todd Forrest

midfield and returned the under- own 11, the Dragons tore off a 57thrown pass inside the red zone. Aided by a facemask penalty during Page's return, Union found itself inside Pickens territory for the first time with first and goal

On the next play, quarterback Logan Helcher found fellow senior Keyton Chitwood wide open in the front corner of the end zone for the Panthers' only score of the evening. Pickens began the third

quarter of its Homecoming contest with 10-straight runs from the 20-yard line until a 12-yard completion on fourth and 10. Two plays later, the Dragons picked up 23 on a second-and-15 completion, setting up first and goal at the 8, where Pickens used consecutive runs to push its way across the goal line to build a 42-7 advantage.

Union's opening drive of the third quarter ended with a punt after advancing 14 yards

Volleyball: No. 3 Gordon Lee too much;

Union rebounds at Oglethorpe County

yard sweep on third and 6, moving inside the Panthers' 30-yard line. Two penalties would stall things at the 25, leading to a 42yard field goal during the early stages of the fourth quarter. A Pickens fumble near

midfield brought the Union offense — now under the direction of quarterback Caiden Tanner back onto the field. And on what would be the game's final series, the sophomore used his legs for gains of 8 and 3 yards, picking up Union's only first down on

The Panthers finished the game with only three first downs and 48 yards of offense (61 passing, -13 rushing), its lowest yardage output since a 2012 shutout loss to No. 6 Washington-Wilkes. Meanwhile, despite the best efforts from Union's now-healthy junior linebacker Gage Barnes, Pickens amassed 392 total yards -- 215 coming through the air and



presence known in the middle of Union's defense. Photo/Todd Forrest

'Having Gage back helps a lot," Perry said. "He missed Chestatee and could have made a difference in that one.'

Pickens' opening drive saw the Dragons require only three plays and a Union offsides penalty to grab a 7-0 lead on the heels of a Panthers three and out. During the drive, senior cornerback Caleb John managed to get a hand on a quick slant pass, but the deflection traveled directly into the hands of the Pickens receiver, who won a foot race to the goal line.

Pickens needed just two plays on its second drive as the inside receiver slipped open behind the Union secondary and was able to jog into the end zone on an easy touchdown pass.

Approaching the midway point of the first, a partially blocked punt awarded Pickens the ball at Union County's 13yard line. Two plays later, the Dragons quarterback kept the read-option keeper to himself, finding a seam up the middle for an 11-yard score. The Panthers' fourth consecutive three and out ended with a blocked punt in the end zone, culminating in a touchdown courtesy of a perfect bounce into the waiting arms of a nearby Pickens defender.

Behind 35-0 following a 12-yard Dragons touchdown completion on third and goal, Union County moved the chains for the first time when Helcher hit Griff Young for 3 yards on third and 2. Helcher went back

to Young for 10 yards, but an incomplete third-and-5 pass brought a very busy punt team onto the field with two minutes left in the first half.

'Griff Young has been our most consistent receiver, by far," Perry said. "He continues to get

better and better each week." Up next: This week, Union County welcomes Murphy, NC in the 2021 home opener. The previously scheduled Aug. 27 home opener vs. Commerce was canceled due to COVID-19.

The winless Panthers and

2-2 Bulldogs square off for the first time in more than 30 years at 7:30 p.m. Friday. Murphy won the final four meetings between 1986-89 by a combined tally of 134-17. Union won six-in-a-row between 1980-85 after the Bulldogs won seven straight to begin "[The game] will come

down to who controls the line of scrimmage," Perry said. "Murphy is a very physical team and we're going to have to slow the running game if we want to compete. But it's great to finally come home. The kids are excited to play in front of the home crowd.

Game notes: Union's current skid marks the program's first four-game slide since 2017 when the Panthers belonged to Class AAA. Union rebounded to win its final two games of 2017 to go 6-4 after starting 4-0.

The last five-game losing streak came in 2011 when the Panthers lost six straight after defeating Towns County 20-0 in week one.

The last time Union lost four straight to start a season came in 1995 when they began 0-8 but ended 2-8.

NASCAR 2021

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

Larson gets sixth win

Kyle Larson celebrated his sixth Cup Series victory of the season, as tempers flared between Kevin Harvick and Chase Elliott on pit road after the race ended. Harvick was leading the

500 lap race, when three laps from the finish, Elliott took Harvick's line and slowed his progress. This allowed Larson to take the lead and go on to Victory Lane.

Yeah, that was an awesome " said Larson, who won for the first time at Bristol and the 12th time in his career. "It was so cool to be able to race there for the win. Obviously, Harvick and Chase got together. Chase was upset. Kind of held him up. It got Harvick having to move around and use his tires up off the bottom."

The events between Harvick and Elliott started on Lap 465, as Harvick was attempting to pass Elliott for the lead. Harvick pushed the outside wall, with contact between the cars cutting a tire on El-

Elliott brought his car to pit road on Lap 466, lost three laps in the process and returned to the track behind Harvick. On new tires, Elliott quickly passed Harvick to get one lap back and took Harvick's line at the top of the track.

Larson gradually closed on Harvick and made the winning pass on Lap 397. Larson did a great job of keeping his car under control as Harvick retaliated with contact to the rear of Larson's No. 5 on the frontstretch.

While Larson celebrated, Harvick and Elliott traded their views of the finish in a heated exchange on pit road.

"It's just chicken (expletive)," Harvick said. "I don't know what else to say. Throw a temper tantrum like you're two years old because you got passed for the lead and got a flat tire. We barely even rubbed. It's all Chase's way, or it's no way. If he doesn't get his way, he throws a fit."

But Elliott saw it a little dif-

"It's something that he does all the time," said Elliott, who finished 25th. "He runs into your left side constantly at other tracks, and sometimes it does cut down your left sides. Other times it doesn't. Harvick finished second,

followed by William Byron, Ryan Blaney Alex Bowman, Brad Keselowski, Martin Truex Jr., Erik Jones, Denny Hamlin, and Matt DiBenedetto. Aric Almirola, Tyler Red-

dick, Kurt Busch and Michael McDowell were eliminated from the Playoffs, as William Byron snagged the final transfer spot into the Round of 12 Of the 12 drivers who ad-

vanced to the second round of the Playoff, four represent Hendrick Motorsports (Elliott, Larson, Byron and Alex Bowman); four represent Joe Gibbs Racing (Kyle Busch, Denny Hamlin, Martin Truex Jr. and Christopher Bell);

maining top 10 finishers. Round of 12 drivers: 1. into the second stage of the Play-Hamlin-3024, 4. Blaney-3024, 5.



Kyle Larson enjoys the victory.

AJ WINS RACE AND REGULAR SEASON TITLE

There was lots of bumping oving during the last two laps of overtime in Saturday's Xfinity Series race at Bristol. As the field neared the finish line, AJ Allmendinger took his No. 16 Chevrolet to the bottom, passed Justin Allgaier and Austin Cindric for the win.

The victory gave Allmendinger the NASCAR Xfinity Series Regular Season Championship by 10 points over Cindric, who held the race lead when the 10th and final caution flag flew on Lap 297

"I haven't had a lot of chances to get a win at Bristol, so you know what?" said Allmendinger. "When you have a chance to do it, you've got to go do it. If I don't take that chance, I don't belong in a race car, because my team deserves the win.'

Austin Cindric finished second, followed by Riley Herbst, Justin Allgaier, Brandon Jones, Justin Haley, Harrison Burton, Myatt Snider, Sam Mayer, and Daniel Hemric.

The regular-season cutoff race also set the final positions for the Round of 12 in the Xfinity Series Playoff. With no new winner, Brandon Jones, Riley Herbst and Jeremy Clements clinched the final three spots on points.

Note: AJ Allmendinger and Austin Cindric both start the Playoffs with the same number of points, but Cindric has one more win than Allmendinger, which puts him on top after the points were reset. The regular season championship went to Allmendinger, based on the regular season points scoring. Confused? Well, that's the NASCAR scoring system. The 12 Xfinity Series Play-

off contenders after 26 of 33: 1. Cindric-2044, 2. Allmendinger-2044, 3. Allgaier-2020, 4. Grag-son-2017, 5. Haley-2015, 6. Hem-ric-2014, 7. J. Burton-2009, 8. H. Burton-2008, 9. Snider-2005, 10. B. Jones-2004, 11. Herbst-2001, 12. Clements-2000. SMITH WINS TRUCK RACE

Chandler Smith won Thursday's Truck Series race at Bristol.

Grant Enfinger, John Nemechek, Stewart Friesen, Johnny Sauter, Carson Hocevar, Matt Crafton, Zane Smith, Ben Rhodes, and Todd Gilliland were the re-The Truck Series moves

7:30 p.m. ET; TV: NBCSN.

p.m. ET; TV: NBCSN. Last Week's Question:

Which Cup Series driver has the most wins at Bristol? Answer. Dar-

Reporter is a syndicated NASCAR writer and author. You may e-mail

Union County celebrates during a recent match. (L-R): Senior Morgan Fussell (20), sophomore Sofia McNabb (22), senior Emma Whicker (42), junior Saylor Noe (15) and junior Kaylee Ashcraft (2). Photo/Todd Forrest By Todd Forrest Sports Editor

sports@nganews.com

No. 10 Union County

left Chickamauga with a split

after facing its toughest regular

season test of the year at third-

ranked Gordon Lee, where they

downed Fannin 2-0 to break

even during last Tuesday's

tri-match vs. the Trojans and

Lee handled the Panthers with

ease during set one - taking a

25-13 victory. Union County

closed the gap in set two but it

wasn't enough as the defending

Class AA/A State Runner-Up

roughed up by the Panthers

day, Union held on by scores of

Thursday as Union County

traveled to Lexington for an

Oglethorpe County. And after a

tled Commerce in the finale of

Thursday's tri-match, cruising

to a 2-0 victory behind a two-

third-straight road test Thursday

when they visit another 2020

playoff team at Lake Oconee

Academy in an Area tri-match

LOA at 5 p.m. and Elbert Coun-

Banks County and Putnam

County on Tuesday, Sept. 28 to

Union County hosts

including Elbert County.

and Calhoun in Ellijay.

ty at 6 p.m.

The Panthers disman-

Union County faces its

ness in set two, 25-16.

match total of 50-16.

In the second match, Fan-

prevailed 25-17.

25-21 and 25-20.

In a top-10 battle, Gordon

Rebels.

Union County seniors Morgan

Fussell and Emma Whicker.

MF: My goal last year was nin kept things tight after getting during a 3-0 loss in Blairsville on Sept. 8. But at the end of the Area play resumed on Area 8 title game rematch vs. tight 25-21 opening-set victory, Union County took care of busicried my eyes out that night. **EW**: I think we all did.

something that we had talked

sweeter when you [win area] with your best friends.

The Panthers will face Championship or bust?

a ring. We wanted one last year.

wrap up Area competition. The regular season concludes on Wednesday, Sept. 29 when the Panthers face Gilmer

Senior Night interview

Part 2 Below is the second segment of the NGN's interview with

NGN: You talked about beating Rabun last year as the team's high-point, what about an individual moment or perfor-

mance that stands out? EW: When I made firstteam All Area last year that changed my mindset and made we want to set more goals for myself. Also, when I set the school record for assists that made me feel really proud. I don't take a lot of pride in myself, but it made me proud that I could accomplish something like that.

to set the school record for kills. That's something I really strived for throughout the summer and during the season. But the best memory of [the record] is: The 24th goal of the third set of the [Area] Championship against Oglethorpe is the point that put me over Adelia Pyle's [school kills] record. I didn't even learn that until later when I did the math. But just winning the [area] championship was such a huge moment; I

MF: [Winning area] was

about during our freshmen year and we decided that would be our goal every year. And when it finally happened, we were in shock because we actually did it. **EW:** And it makes it even

NGN: This year is it State

EW: We definitely want

But that's our main goal: A state championship. And we want backto-back [area] championships. We want to hang another banner [in out so well as co-captains and I the gym rafters].

MF: Our first goal is to just get through [area] and defend our title. The past couple of *newspaper*.

weeks have been tough due to quarantines and missed games and practices. But we each have to do our part, pull our own weight, help each other out and play as a team. Even [when we lose] we're

okay with it as long as we're all

doing what we're supposed to

EW: Yeah, we've been flowing a lot better [even in the losses]. We also want to leave a legacy. I want this year's freshmen to say as seniors, 'I remember Emma Whicker and I remember Morgan Fussell and I want to have that same kind of impact on the freshmen.

MF: I hope I motivate the younger players to try and break my [kills] record.

EW: I hope someone

breaks my [assists] record. **NGN:** What is your fondest memory of each other?

EW: My favorite memory about Morgan came at Chestatee [last year] and they were a very good team and have a very good coach. It was the third or fourth set and we needed a set to win, so I set Morgan and she hits the girl right in the forehead. **MF:** The setter, mind you.

She stepped forward because she thought I would tip it. EW: Yeah, she hit the setter

right in the face. I think she even fell over. But other than that, I would say Morgan is the most kind-hearted person I've ever met. We've been side by side the whole way and we help each other keep our cool. We want to make our last ride the best we can possibly make it and I couldn't ask for a better teammate. MF: Emma and I had some struggles last year, but what I love

most about her is how we were able to move past it. [During tryouts] in May, everything that happened last year was gone. I feel like we just balance each other couldn't imagine anyone better. Look for Part Three of the

senior interview in next week's

and three represent Team Penske (Brad Keselowski, Joey Logano and Ryan Blaney). Harvick is the lone driver from Stewart-Haas Racing to advance. Larson-3059, 2. Truex-3029, 3.

Playoff leaders after 18 of Kyle Busch-3022, 6. Elliott-3021, Bowman-3015, 8. Byron-3014, 9. Logano-3013, 10. Keselowski-3008, 11. Bell-3005, 12. HarvickCrafton-3004, Hocevar-3002, 8

MORE CHANGES TO NASCAR SCHEDULE

versify its racing schedule. For next season, they have scheduled a quarter mile exhibition race inside the Los Angeles

NASCAR announced last week that the Clash, an exhibition race, featuring the previous year's top drivers, will be held on a temporary quarter-mile asphalt track inside the Coliseum on Feb. 6, two

weeks before the Daytona 500. Because the track will be only a quarter-mile, there will be a maximum of 25 cars, but will

probably be closer to 20. Gateway Raceway is the only new venue added to the schedule of 36 points-paying Cup Series events. The 1.25-mile oval in Madison, Illinois, across the river from St. Louis has hosted Xfinity and Camping World Truck Series events in the past, but next year will mark its Cup Series debut.

Times change. NASCAR has realized that doing the same thing becomes stale. The sport needed a jolt. First, it was the playoff system. Then, it was the car. Now, it's the schedule.

Racing Joke: Kyle was driving down the road one afternoon and a highway patrolman

stopped him. "I've got to give you a tick-

et. Your taillights are out."

Kyle said, "Oh, how ter-

The policeman said, "Now, settle down. It's not that bad. You can get them repaired."

"Kyle said, "You don't understand. I want to know what happened to my \$60,000 boat I was pulling. Racing Trivia Question: What year did the Las Vegas track

Weekend Racing: All three of NASCAR's major series' travels west to the 1.5-mile Las Vegas Mo-

Fri., Sept. 24; Truck Series race 19 of 22; Starting time: 9 p.m. ET; TV: Fox Sports1. Sat., Sept. 25; Xfinity Series race 27 of 33; Starting time:

Sun., Sept. 26; Cup Series race 30 of 36; Starting time: 7:30

rell Waltrip's 12 wins is tops.

Gerald Hodges/the Racing

Nemechek-3050, 2. Creed-3026, 3. Rhodes-3019, 4. Z. Smith-3009, 5. C. Smith-3006, 6. him at: hodges@race500.com.