

# Whittle Memorial Golf Tournament continues to help local students

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The Second Annual Derrick Whittle Memorial Golf Tournament is in the books and while the tournament featured winners in different flights, prizes for the longest drive, and closest to the pin, the real winners are the outgoing seniors at Union County High School who will benefit from the Derrick Whittle Memorial Scholarship.

Last year's tournament featured 14 teams (foursomes) but this year far exceeded that number with 23 teams participating in the 2015 tournament that was held last Friday at Butternut Creek Golf Course.

"The Tournament was a huge success," said Sharon Whittle, Derrick's mother and tournament co-founder. "We surpassed our goal of teams and money raised."

This year's tournament featured a very touching opening ceremony that included the Georgia Law Enforcement Moving Memorial that contains the names of almost 700 men and women who lost their lives serving their communities.

The opening ceremony consisted of Honor Guards from the Canton Police Department, the Gwinnett County Sheriff's Office, and the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office. The National Anthem was performed by



Honor Guards from Canton and Gwinnett County took part in the opening ceremonies that included the Georgia Law Enforcement Moving Memorial.

Brooklyn Bergen with opening remarks by State Representative Stephen Allison. The bagpipes were by Richard Smith and Taps performed by Don Sullivan of the North Georgia Honor Guard.

The White Dove Release was by Dan D'Agostino.

Along with corporate sponsor Union General Hospital, there were 60 other sponsors for the tournament.

Five local law enforcement agencies entered teams in the tournament with the

Fannin County Sheriff's Office taking first place in the Second Flight.

The FCSO team consisted of Mike Davis, Todd Pack, Randall Beavers, and Mike Jacobs.

Placing second behind the FCSO in the Second Flight was the team of Jerry Ruud, Dean Smith, Bruce Dell, and Renny Bryner.

Coming in first place in the First Flight was the Sawmill Team consisting of Shawn Knight, Jason Busbee, Levi Ken-

drick, and Chris Robbins.

According to Sharon Whittle, the Derrick Whittle Memorial Scholarship will be able to help more students this year when they are awarded to deserving seniors on May 19th.

The award for Closest to the Pin went to Mike Van Biers. The Long Drive award was won by Tom Darrow.

Andy Burks came within 2 inches of a hole-in-one and a new truck that came with an ace on that particular hole.

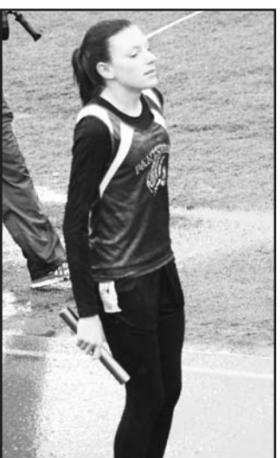


Jim and Sharon Whittle with Nick and Leigha Whittle



Bagpipes and bugles performed during the opening ceremonies.

## Garrison advances in 1600M, 800M



Left: Emma Garrison advances after placing sixth in the 1600M at Sectionals. She finished the race in 5 minutes, 39.95 seconds. She was fifth in the 800M, clocking in at 2:30.60. Right: The boys 4x400 relay team of Zach Stone, Ralston Drake (not pictured), Will Stone, Jacob Kelly and alternate Matthew Rich came in seventh at 3:37.28. Julia Lindsey was ninth in the 1600M and Stephanie Busse was ninth in the 800M race.



Jakob Brown (left) at the Region meet. He placed 11th in the 3200M. Jacob Kelley also came in 11th in the high jump. Cole Payne came in 13th in the 800M race.

## NASCAR 2015

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

### It's all Earnhardt at Talladega

TALLADEGA, Ala.— The fans at Talladega received the best possible news last Sunday afternoon. Their favorite driver was back in victory lane.

Talladega has been known as Earnhardt Country for over 25 years. First, it was Dale Sr. they cheered on, and when Junior started his career, they adopted him.

"That's why I've been coming here for over 20-years said James Long, a fan from nearby Anniston, Alabama. "That boy drives just like his daddy. They are two of the best drivers we've ever had."

When Earnhardt gained the lead for the first time during lap 12 of the 188-lap Sprint Cup race, all the fans were on their feet cheering and waving flags.

"You know when the crowd goes wild like that Earnhardt has taken over," said one of Ryan Newman's crewmembers.

Earnhardt, who led 6 times for 67 laps gained the lead for the last time after a round of pit stops on lap 162, and led for the remaining 26 laps. There was a series of cars that wrecked on the final lap, but it did not affect the leaders, and the race ended under green.

"Boys, we'll celebrate tonight," Earnhardt said. "I haven't won here in a long time and I'm very emotional right now. There were a lot of people that helped me get here and I really appreciate it."

Teammate Jimmie Johnson stayed right on his tail for the final laps, but never attempted a pass, and settle for the runner-up spot.

"I was waiting for some of the cars to spread out near the end, but it never happened," said Johnson. "There were a lot of combinations I could have tried, but I think I took the best option."

Polesitter Jeff Gordon was the early leader, but received a pit road penalty for speeding and finished 31st.

Michael Waltrip, who is running a limited Sprint Cup schedule in the No. 55, saw his chances of winning go south when he ran into a spinning Brian Scott during lap 19.

The big wreck, involving 15 cars occurred on lap 47. Some of the drivers included, Kyle Larson, Trevor Bayne, Landon Cassill, David Ragan, Greg Biffle, Kasey Kahne, Joey Logano, Clint Bowyer, Michael Annett, Kevin Harvick, and Danica Patrick.

The right front brake rotor broke on Austin Dillon's No. 3 as he was entering pit road. The hot fluid ignited, causing Dillon to stop and make a hasty exit. He was not burned, but his car was put out of action.

The remaining top-10 finishers: 3. Paul Menard, 4. Ryan Blaney, 5. Martin Truex, 6. Sam Hornish, 7. Ryan Newman, 8. Kevin Harvick, 9. Denny Hamlin, 10. Josh Wise.

Top-16 Chase contenders after 10 of 26: 1. Harvick-394, 2. Johnson-342, 3. Logano-335, 4. Earn-



Dale Earnhardt Jr. and crew chief Greg Ives celebrate Earnhardt's Talladega win

hardt-319, 5. Keselowski-305, 6. Kenseth-292, 7. Hamlin-281, 8. Truex-354, 9. McMurray-297, 10. Kahne-288, 11. Menard-280, 12. Almirola-279, 13. Gordon-277, 14. Newman-271, 15. Patrick-253, 16. Bowyer-249. Note: Drivers with no wins, are ranked lower than drivers with wins. This is NASCAR's unofficial points standing.

### LOGANO HOLDS ON FOR TALLADEGA WIN

Joey Logano took the lead from Elliott Sadler after a restart with eight laps remaining in Saturday's 113-lap Xfinity race and went on to his third series win in five starts.

"It was cool to win this thing, but it was just having the right people behind you, making the right moves, making the right block and getting that clean air. Then it's all in the mirror," Logano said.

Brian Scott finished .130-seconds behind Logano. Austin Dillon, J. J. Yeley, Joey Gase, Chris Buescher, Elliott Sadler, Ty Dillon, Regan Smith, and Aric Almirola were the remaining top-10 finishers.

About a third of the way into the race, there was an eight-car accident near the entrance to pit road. Two members of Aric Almirola's crew were injured as Brendan Gaughan bounced off the pit wall. Both were treated at the infield care center.

Top-10 points leaders after 9 of 33: 1. T. Dillon-330, 2. C. Buescher-321, 3. Elliott-293, 4. Wallace-293, 5. Smith-287, 6. Scott-286, 7. Sadler-282, 8. Reed-255, 9. Suarez-254, 10. Gaughan-249.

### PATRICK TO LOSE SPONSOR

GoDaddy is leaving NASCAR at the end of the 2015 season, as the company looks to diversify its marketing investment. While GoDaddy is not renewing its primary sponsorship of the Danica Patrick's No.10 Stewart-Haas Chevrolet, the company is negotiating to keep Patrick as a GoDaddy spokeswoman under a personal services agreement.

In recent years, Patrick has worked to promote GoDaddy's online services for small business owners and helped with campaigns to fight breast cancer and other programs.

"GoDaddy has been a great partner for us and for the sport overall," said Tony

Stewart, SHR co-owner. "There's a lot of season left on the calendar and it would be great to go out with a win ... that would really put the exclamation point on what has been a hugely successful relationship."

The big question is what type company will want to step up and sponsor Patrick. While she would like to stay in her present situation with Stewart Haas Racing, that might not be possible.

A new sponsor might want her with a different team. If a company is going to shell out at least \$20-million, then they are going to make the final decision as to which team she races for.

Danica Patrick might not be setting the track on fire, but she is a very noticeable racing personality, and that is what big-time sponsors look for in a driver. I think she will find a sponsor, but it might mean a team change.

Meanwhile Erik Jones will fill in for Kyle Busch in the No. 18 Joe Gibbs Toyota in the Sprint Cup Series starting at Kansas Speedway on May 9. This will mark the 18-year-old Byron, Michigan native's first official Sprint Cup Series start.

"I'm pretty excited and grateful for the opportunity to drive the No. 18 and make my debut for Joe Gibbs Racing," said Jones. "This is a really good opportunity for me. We are going to try to manage our expectations and if we can get out and get a top-15 run and gain some experience, that would be a great day for us."

**Weekend Racing:** The Trucks and Sprint Cup teams are at the 1.5-mile Kansas City, Kansas track. The Xfinity Series does not race again until May 17.

Fri., May 8; Truck Series race 4 of 23; Starting time: 8:30 pm ET; TV: Fox Sports1.

Sat., May 9, Sprint Cup Series race 11 of 33; Starting time: 7:30 pm ET; TV: Fox Sports1.

**Racing Trivia Question:** Where is Martin Truex Jr.'s hometown?

**Last Week's Question:** Talladega Speedway was originally known as Alabama International Motor Speedway. What year did it open? **Answer:** The first race was Sept. 14, 1969.

You may contact the Racing Reporter at: www.hodges@race500.com.

## Building Christian Ministries Golf Tournament

BCM is hosting a fund raiser golf tournament at Butternut Creek Golf Course on Saturday, May 9th. Registration starts at 7 a.m. with 4 person scramble starting at 8 a.m. \$65 per player or \$260 per team includes 18 holes of golf, cart, lunch and a mulligan. An additional mulligan is available for \$5. Prizes will be awarded for the closest to the pin, longest drive, and winning team. We will also hold a 50/50 raffle. For questions or early registration, please contact Jeanette Garrett at 706-781-5027. NT(May5,Z17)gg

## Trout stocking sites week of April 27-May 1

Fannin: Rock Creek, Toccoa River, and Toccoa River Tailwaters of Lake Blue Ridge

Lumpkin: Dockery Lake, Etowah River, and Nimbwill Creek

Murray: Holly Creek

Union: Cooper Creek

Note: Information is subject to change. Please call the hatchery at 706-838-4723 for questions. The hatchery also provides trout for the state. Please contact Georgia DNR for information on sites stocked by the state. N(May5,Z17)CA

## UC Recreation Wrestling Camps

Union County Recreation Wrestling sign ups start this week and will run until May 18th. Pick up forms at the Recreation Department. The cost is \$30 per athlete. We will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30 to 7 starting on May 19th. The wrestling league will run until July 9th. This league is open to all boys and girls from the ages of 4-12.

Peter Yates, a two time All-American wrestler from Virginia Tech, will be running a camp on Saturday, May 30th from 9-4. He is the most successful college wrestler to come out of Georgia. He was a four time finalist and three time state champion from Salem

High School. He will be coming as part of The Compound Wrestling organization out of Atlanta, GA. The Compound is one of the most successful private programs for wrestling in the southeast. The cost is \$75 per athlete and open to all ages. Registration is the day of the camp or by contacting Coach Foot at Union County Middle School: msmith-foot@ucschools.org.

Finally, We will be hosting three five day camps in June for wrestlers of all ages. The cost is \$100 per athlete and will run Monday through Friday from 9-5. The dates are June 8-12, June 15-19, and June 22-26. NT(May6,Z15)CA



The next Union County Saddle Club show will take place on Saturday, May 16, at the covered arena. The day will begin with a special invitational show for disabled guests at 10 a.m. At noon, we will kick off the open show with a performance by the Sass'n Saddles Precision Drill Team, followed by speed events, racking events, and western events. Concessions will be available throughout the day.

The drill team invites all fans to Zaxby's on Tuesday, May 5, for their fund raising night. Stop by to meet the team and enjoy some great food between 5 and 8 p.m.

Other upcoming events for the month include 3-person sorting at 6 p.m. on May 8 and ranch sorting at 6 p.m. on May 15.

Club members, as well as interested non-members, are encouraged to attend the monthly Saddle Club meeting at 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 21, at the arena.

The arena and show grounds are located on the corner of Hwy. 515 and 325 in Blairsville. All shows are open to the public, and there is no charge for admission. If you need further information, visit the website at www.UnionCountySaddleClub.org. Also, look for us on Facebook.