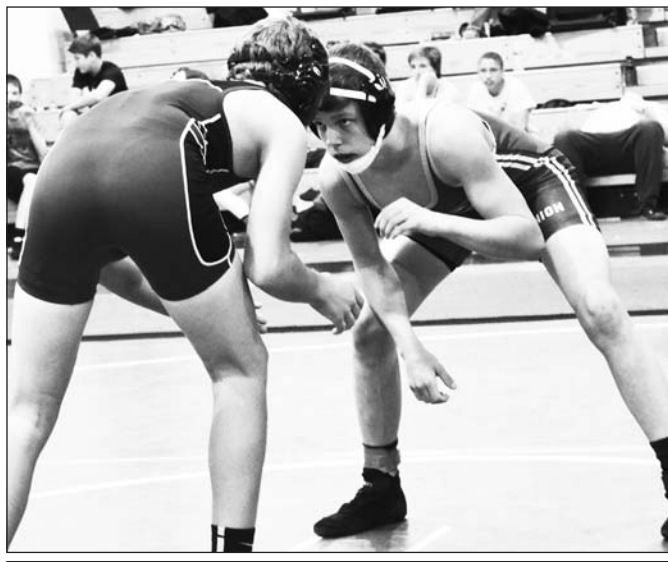


# UCMS fourth at King of the Mountain

**Hiwassee** - On Nov. 22nd Union County Middle School wrestling wrapped up Towns County's annual Junior King of the Mountain. Out of 10 teams, Union County finished in fourth place. Issac Tritt was the tournament champion in the 132-pound weight class. In the 94-pound weight class, Michael Leonard placed second. Tyree Mackey was second in the 102-pound weight class, Christian Robertson was second at 210 pounds and Jerin Watson placed second in the heavyweight division. Chad Buzzard placed

third at 147 pounds. Jackson Colwell was third at 155 pounds. Logan Tritt placed fourth at 139 pounds and Dakota Harvard fourth at 180 pounds. Union County Middle School will hit the mat next Tuesday, Dec. 9 at Fannin County. Meanwhile, the high school will be in action on Wednesday at Riverside Military Academy with Shiloh and Dawson County. Next Tuesday they will join the middle school team at Fannin.



UCMS Wrestling photos by Lowell Nicholson

## Varsity baseball fundraiser

The Union County baseball team will be selling fully cooked smoked hams and Boston Butts in order to raise money for their upcoming season. The smoked hams (18-20 lbs.) will be \$55 and the Boston Butt (9-10 lbs.) will be \$35. Anyone interested in ordering may call (706) 781-7519 and please leave a message if there is no answer.

Orders must be in by December 12th and will be ready for pick up on Friday, December 19th from 12-2 p.m. at the high school baseball field parking lot. With this purchase, you can show your support for your hometown baseball team and have a delicious, ready to eat, meat for all your upcoming holiday events. NT(Dec3,F2)SH

# Seven Lady Panthers named to 8-AA All Region Softball Team

Five Union County Lady Panthers softball players were named to the First Team 8-AA All Region Team while two were selected to the Second Team. Three Union County seniors were named to the First Team. Catcher Courtney Busbee, shortstop Crystal Busbee, and first baseman Kelsey Nix were the Lady Panthers' senior representatives. They were joined by junior centerfielder Maddy Garrett and sophomore pitcher Laken Chambers.

On the Second Team are senior third baseman Halley King and sophomore right fielder Kendra Tanner. Union's seven selections were the most from any team, including Region Champion Social Circle. The Lady Redskins did pick up Region Player of the Year honors- senior Kenzie Maddox and Region Pitcher of the Year honors - senior Lexi Griffin. Rabun County had five players selected and Oglethorpe County had four.



## Upward Indoor Soccer 2015

On-line registration is now open for Upward Indoor Soccer for boys and girls in grades Kindergarten through 8th Grade at [www.hopb.org](http://www.hopb.org) or at [www.fumcunioncounty.org](http://www.fumcunioncounty.org). Form and registration fees may also be dropped off, Monday through Friday, at the House of Prayer Family Life Center or First United Methodist Church's business office between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. The registration price to participate is \$60, through January 13th, and an additional \$10 will be applied thereafter. Payment plans are available, if needed. Convenient once per week practices commence the week of January 26, 2015, while games will be held on Saturdays between February 14 and March 28, 2015. Registrants should attend the evaluation that will be held on Tuesday, January 13th

on a drop-in basis between the hours of 5 and 7 p.m. at the House of Prayer Family Life Center located behind the sanctuary. For more information regarding registration, contact either church office at HOP (706) 745-5925 or FUMC (706) 745-2073. Information regarding Upward Sports can be found online at [www.upward.org](http://www.upward.org). Established in 1995, Upward Sports is the world's largest Christian youth sports provider. Upward Sports develops total athletes mentally, athletically, spiritually, and socially - producing players who excel both on and off the field. Today, approximately half a million players at more than 2,000 churches in 47 states participate in camps, clinics, and leagues through Upward Sports' Recreation Division.

# NASCAR 2014

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

## Wood brothers readying for 2015

The Wood Brothers race team is still in business. After 64 years of fielding cars in NASCAR's top ranks, they will start the 2015 sprint Cup season off with Ryan Blaney behind the wheel of their No. 21 Ford.

The team was formed in 1950 by brothers from the Blue Ridge Mountains of Southwest Virginia. Walter and Ada Wood owned a family farm between Woolwine and Stuart, Virginia. They had five sons (Glen, Leonard, Delano, Clay, and Ray Lee) and one daughter (Crystal). The sons worked with their father as mechanics, farmers, and lumbermen. Glen Wood cut timber and hauled lumber to local sawmills. The boys had a talent for auto mechanics and spent much time at their father's garage. With each brother serving as a mechanic, they formed a stock car racing team. Curtis Turner, a local sawmill operator from nearby Floyd, Virginia, inspired them. Turner became a champion racecar driver with a "win or crash" style and later was co-owner of Charlotte Motor Speedway. Coincidentally, Turner would later drive for the Wood Brothers.

In the early 1950s, none of the Wood boys wanted to drive, so they asked their friend John Conway, of nearby Stuart, to drive. Unfortunately, he declined the offer. Then they got fellow lumberman, Chris Williams, as their driver. In the early days of stock car racing, teams drove their cars to the track, raced them, and drove them home. Williams and the Wood Brothers bought their first car for \$50, inspiring them to number their car No. 50, many years before they adopted their famous No. 21.

Chris Williams and Glen Wood each drove a few races. The team consisted of Williams, some of his brothers, and the Wood boys. They became successful, winning races at Bowman Gray Stadium in Winston-Salem, NC, and Martinsville Speedway in Martinsville, Virginia.

Shortly after their early success, Chris Williams sold his share of the team to Glen Wood to focus on his lumber business. To fill team slots, the Wood Brothers enlisted help from Stuart area friends and neighbors including Ralph Edwards, a Wood cousin.

Over the early years, the Wood Brothers Racing Team evolved from a weekend hobby into a full-time business. Glen and Leonard worked full-time building and preparing cars, while the other brothers and crew worked nights and weekends apart from their regular jobs. Their first permanent racing shop was at the town limits of Stuart, Va.

The team adopted the No. 21 permanently, and would become as notorious as any number in NASCAR history (along with the Petty No. 43 and Earnhardt No. 3). The Wood Brothers also found themselves lured to the big-ticket cash prizes offered by the growing Superspeedway races in cities such as Daytona, Fla.; Charlotte, NC; and Darlington, SC. Glen Wood soon stepped out from behind the wheel of the No. 21 Ford, and they began hiring drivers with reputations as winners at the different tracks.

The team soon began competing on the highest levels of the sport. Victories were won with



Leonard, Glen, and Eddie Wood in 1979

the mechanical genius of the team of brothers, relatives, and friends. Leonard Wood's talent in the engine department soon brought the team acclaim and was second in the early years only to the fabled Holman-Moody engine building and the Petty racing dynasty of Lee Petty and son Richard Petty.

In 2011, Trevor Bayne became the youngest driver in Wood Brothers history, taking over duties of piloting the No. 21 in at least 17 races. On February 20, one day after his 20th birthday, Bayne won the 2011 Daytona 500. It was the first win for Wood Brothers Racing since Elliott Sadler at Bristol during the 2001 season. The win brought additional sponsorship for several races, including the All-Star Race. Ricky Stenhouse, Jr. replaced his Roush teammate at the Coca-Cola 600, when Bayne was diagnosed with what was thought to be Lyme Disease but later revealed to be multiple sclerosis.

The team lost the extra sponsorship for 2012, and for the rest of the season, they ran a limited schedule.

Bayne continued to run a limited schedule in both 2013 and 2014, however the team failed to return to victory lane. It was later announced that Bayne would compete in Roush-Fenway's No. 6 Cup car full time in 2015.

Ryan Blaney, who won races in both Nationwide and truck in 2014, doesn't have full sponsorship for any series. He will run at least 12 Sprint Cup races for Wood Brothers Racing and will split time in Xfinity with Brad Keselowski and Joey Logano and maybe run a few truck races for Keselowski's team. Blaney isn't even worrying about running full time anywhere next season. He sees Cup as his future and is working on finding more money to add Cup races, whether that be with the Wood Brothers or a third Penske car for select events, for next season.

"I hope we can get it upwards to 17 to 20 (Cup races)," Blaney said. "We're working really hard to get that done. I'm going to be racing a lot next year and fortunate to be in great cars, so I can't worry about it too much. My mindset is try to do more Cup races. That is the ultimate goal, obviously, and try to get more experience in that. I want to try to find more Cup races instead of Nationwide just because it progresses you a lot faster learning those cars."

ESPN GETS

## CHECKERED FLAG

After 28 years and 398 races, ESPN's live telecasts of NASCAR Sprint Cup racing took the checkered flag Sunday at Homestead-Miami Speedway with the telecast of the 2014 season finale. Kevin Harvick won the NASCAR Sprint Cup championship.

The race marked the end of ESPN's eight-year contract with NASCAR, which began in 2007. Previously, ESPN had televised live NASCAR racing from 1981-2000. Beginning in 2015, Fox and NBC will split the NASCAR season.

"We've enjoyed a long and mutually beneficial relationship with NASCAR," said John Skipper, ESPN president. "NASCAR was a fundamental building block for ESPN during our first two decades and will always be an important part of our history. We have tremendous respect for all in the sport and wish them well."

"While we won't be televising NASCAR races after this season, the only thing ending in our relationship with NASCAR is the live racing. NASCAR coverage will continue to live on all ESPN platforms going into the future."

NBC signed a 10-year contract to broadcast the Sprint Series. In 2015, all telecasts will be on NBC and Fox. The Truck Series will continue to be carried by Fox Sports 1.

## SPRINT CUP AWARDS BANQUET

The 2014 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series Awards and Banquet will be held at the Wynn Hotel in Las Vegas, Friday, Dec. 5. The drivers and stars will walk the red carpet from 4-5 pm and NASCAR.com will stream the arrivals live from 4:30-5:00 pm ET.

FOX Sports 1 will air the show on live television beginning at 9 pm ET. Motor Racing Network and SiriusXM NASCAR Radio will begin coverage at 8 pm ET.

**Racing Trivia Question:** Kevin Harvick started his Cup career with Richard Childress after the death of Dale Earnhardt. Where was his first win?

**Last Week's Question:** In what years did Stewart win his three Cup championships? **Answer:** His three Cup championships came in 2002, 2005, and 2011.

You may contact the Racing Reporter at: [www.hodges@race500.com](http://www.hodges@race500.com) NT(Dec3,CI)ac

## Dawson... continued from Page 14A

A free throw by Hunter Hughes gave Union a 17-12 advantage after the first.

A lay in by Drake to open the second frame gave the Panthers a 19-12 lead, but the Tigers used a 9-2 run over the next two minutes to tie things up at 21-21.

An offensive board and basket by junior Chase Shook was followed by six straight points from Hunter Hughes, allowing Union to nurse its slim lead.

With just over three minutes until the half, the Tigers used an 8-1 run for its first lead of the game. Odom went 1-for-2 at the line but an intentional foul was whistled on senior Jacob Rogers and Dawson tied it up at 28-28.

With 1:56 left in the half, the Tigers took the lead at 30-28 and 23 seconds later, stretched

that lead to 32-28.

A three from Arnick ended the Dawson run and brought the Panthers within one at 32-31 going into the locker room.

In the final seconds of the half, Coach Jones was upset over foul call. While walking to the locker room, Jones was shaking his head, which prompted one of the officials to make a comment to Jones. Almost in the locker rooms, Jones didn't hear the comment but Coach Kevin Hughes did. Sticking up for his head coach, Assistant Coach Jones was given a technical foul.

The tech only cost the Panthers a point as Dawson hit 1-of-2 at the line and the third quarter began with Union trailing 33-31.

After taking care of an Dawson County, the Panthers will now have an opportunity to make it 3-for-3 against their rivals.

On Tuesday, Union will host Fannin County with the girls tipping at 6 p.m. and on Friday they will visit Towns County with the girls tipping at 7 p.m.

The Panthers have won nine straight over the Rebels and 33 in-a-row over Towns.

Fannin County will enter Tuesday's contest with a 3-1 record. The Rebels own wins over Hiwassee Dam, NC (71-60), Gilmer County (52-51), and Copper Basin TN (69-41). Their lone defeat came at the hands of Pickens County, 58-35.

They are led in scoring by seniors Will Holloway at 12.5 points-per-game and Brandon Jordan at 11.0 ppg.

On Friday, Union will travel to Hiwassee looking for their 34th straight over the rival Indians.

However, Towns County (0-3) will have 11 days to prepare for the Panthers since the

Indians last game was Monday, Nov. 24 at Dade County.

Towns almost pulled off the upset over Class AA Dade County but fell in overtime 104-99. Friday also marks the Indians first home game of the year after starting 0-3 on the road.

Their other two losses came at Banks County, 62-57 and at Lumpkin County, 69-59.

The Indians are led by senior guard Dallas Manus who scored a career-high 39 points at Dade. Sophomore post Adam Barrett scored 21 and senior post Boone Moss finished with 19.

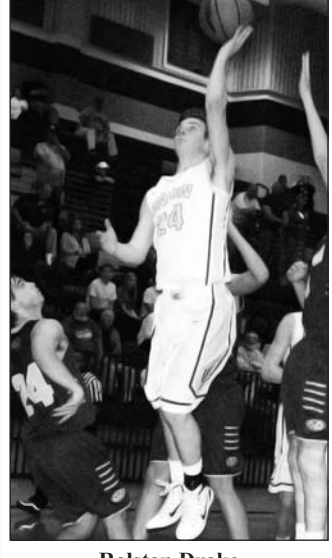
At Lumpkin, Moss led the Indians with 15, Manus had 13, and Barrett scored 10. Towns was done in by a 9-for-27 performance at the foul line in Dahlonega.

In an impressive showing at Banks County in the season opener, the Indians led 28-23 late in the second quarter and 52-51 with 4:19 left in the game.

Banks' largest lead of the night came midway through the third at 41-33 but Towns trimmed the Leopards' lead to 42-37 after three and went on top 52-51 in the fourth. With 20 seconds remaining it was a two-point game at 59-57 but Banks held on.

In the contest, Towns was 10-of-12 at the line and hit seven treys.

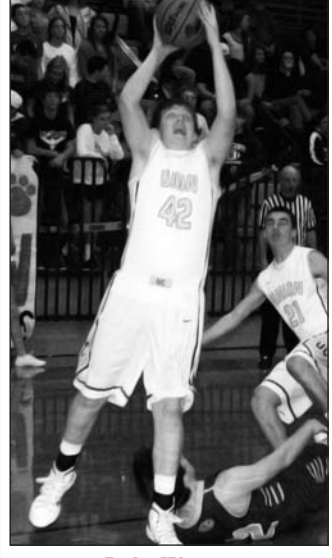
**Union County stats (vs Dawson):** POINTS: Hughes 21, Odom 21, Hamby 11, Arnick 8, Drake 4, Shook 2, Brown 2, Baenninger 4, Watson 2 Crawford Colwell 1 REBOUNDS: Hamby 5, Odom 4, Shook 3, Drake 3, Baenninger 2, Brown 2, Arnick 1, Rogers 1 ASSISTS: Hamby 4, Hughes 2, Baenninger 1, Odom 1, Rich 1 STEALS: Hamby 3, Hughes 2 BLOCKS: Hamby 1



Ralston Drake



Chase Shook



Luke Watson

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual FFA 'Coon Hunt

**COME HUNT TO SUPPORT THE UNION COUNTY FFA!!**

**WHEN:** December 6<sup>th</sup>

**LOCATION:** Union County Agriculture Barn

**CHECK-IN:** 4:30pm-6:30pm

**WEIGH-IN:** Midnight

**COST:** \$15 per dog/ meal ticket provided per dog

**FOOD WILL BE PROVIDED AT CHECK IN!!**

**Prizes will be awarded!!**

**For more information call:**

Austin Dyer (706) 994-1445

Jake McClure (706) 994-7982

John Clark Pettit: (706) 273-8457