

SPORTS

Coming through!



Cameron Warren breaks through Mabank's defensive line during the August 21 scrimmage at the Panther Stadium in Mabank. *Melissa Gaona Photo*

Scrimmages over, regular season begins

By Melissa Gaona
Statesman Sports

The Bears traveled to Mabank to take on the Panthers, Thursday night, August 21, for their second and final scrimmage before they begin regular season play this week against the Kemp Yellowjackets in Kemp.

Bears Tight End Keith Johnson was successful in sacking Mabank's quarterback and the only player to score a Bear touchdown.

Peyton Williams caught a 30 yard pass thrown by starting quarterback Zach Bailey. Bailey was not the only one passing the ball Thursday; Ryan Owens and Brian McDonald rotated as well.

"Ryan Owens is a really good player that I plan on playing every third or fourth series as our #2 quarterback," stated Coach Settle when asked about the three players passing in Thursday night's scrimmage against Mabank.

"Owens is only a sophomore but his potential is evident. All he needs is the experience," Settle said.

The Bears will travel to Kemp to take on the Yellowjackets, Friday night at 7:30p.m. at the Yellowjacket Stadium in Kemp. Kemp finished the 2007 season with a 1-9 record. Their key losses this year are Matt Carr and Matt Brown.

Coach Settle believes, by the look of the past two scrim-

mages, that all of his players are right where they need to be. "We have been offensively inconsistent, but our defense has done well as a team and as a unit," commented Settle.

So, how do the Bears plan on beating Kemp Friday night?

"Even though Kemp was 1-9 last season, they're not a bad football team," said Settle. "They have size and they have quickness. Kemp is a formidable team and they will stay that way if we don't play well."



The Bears junior varsity was quick to sack Mabank's quarterback early on during the scrimmage at Panther stadium. *Melissa Gaona Photo*



It's a win-win situation for Carl Edwards

By Melissa Gaona
Statesman Sports

Awe, nothing like a good ol' Saturday night race at Bristol International Speedway. Especially when tempers flare after the checkered flag!

Carl Edwards won at Bristol for his 2nd consecutive win. He qualified Friday and placed 1st on the poll for the first time in the season. This is also his 6th victory of the season.

Edwards squeezed by Kyle Busch on lap 470 and led the last 30 laps, taking the win at Bristol. Once he passed the checkered flag, Kyle Busch showed his emotions by bumping the side of Edwards No. 99 car. Carl Edwards was quick to bump him back, but even quicker to get into victory lane!

Bristol International Speedway is known for all of its bumper to bumper wreckage on a one-groove racetrack. But, maybe not so much anymore. In Spring 2007, the track was repaved and redone due to cracking in the cement. The track now has more room for drivers to pass without a major wreck happening.

However, that wasn't the case in Saturday night's race. The red flag was raised after a seven car crash happened on lap 216.

Casey Mears claimed his spotter told him it was clear when it was not. Mears, coming off of turn four, hit the No. 55 car, driven by Michael Waltrip, and it was just a chain reaction from there. The seven drivers involved were Casey Mears, Michael Waltrip, Denny Hamlin, Kasey Kahne, Sam Hornish Jr., Reed Sorenson and Robby Gordon.

Once again, we'll see the night lights brighten up the 2 mile track in California, Sunday night, with the Pepsi 500 at the Auto Club

International Speedway. The race will air on ESPN at 7p.m.

Edwards mentioned that he might have a new rival, meaning Kyle Busch, after Saturday's race. Fontana might be the place to figure this one out.

"We'll go on and race him that way in the Chase if that's the way he wants to race," said Busch when commenting on how Edwards hit his car to pass him.

So, the two battled one another at Michigan, then took it to the track in Bristol. Maybe we'll see a continuation of this duo at the Pepsi 500?

Matt Kenseth and Jimmie Johnson dominated the track in 2007, but by the look of the past races, they will both have to step it up, and then some, for the win at Fontana.

Bristol International Speedway Poll Results

- 1). Carl Edwards
- 2). Kyle Busch
- 3). Denny Hamlin
- 4). Kevin Harvick
- 5). Jeff Gordon
- 6). Ryan Newman
- 7). Clint Bowyer
- 8). Tony Stewart
- 9). Matt Kenseth
- 10). David Ragan

Current Point Standings in the Chase to the Nextel Cup

- | | |
|------------------------|------|
| 1). Kyle Busch | 3609 |
| 2). Carl Edwards | 3397 |
| 3). Dale Earnhardt Jr. | 3193 |
| 4). Jimmie Johnson | 3191 |
| 5). Jeff Burton | 3117 |
| 6). Tony Stewart | 3013 |
| 7). Greg Biffle | 2984 |
| 8). Kevin Harvick | 2972 |
| 9). Jeff Gordon | 2951 |
| 10). Matt Kenseth | 2921 |
| 11). Denny Hamlin | 2900 |
| 12). Clint Bowyer | 2855 |

Bearettes compete at Eustace tournament

By Melissa Gaona
Statesman Sports

The Bearettes traveled to Eustace over the weekend to play in the Eustace Volleyball Tournament Friday, August 22 and Saturday, August 23.

The team's first game was against Alba Golden and they won with (17-25), (25-15), (25-19).

The Bearettes then came up against Crossroads, but lost (25-13), (25-20).

The Bearettes proudly ended the Friday volleyball game with a strong win against Jacksonville (25-17), (25-14).

They then faced Scurry and Kemp on Saturday, but were unable to outscore their opponents. The Bearettes lost against Scurry (15-25), (18-25) and against Kemp (22-25), (22-25).

Tuesday, August 26, The Bearettes Junior Varsity and Varsity will play Kemp at the Brownsboro gym.

Junior Varsity will begin at 5 p.m. and Varsity will play afterwards.



Hillary Schaffer, #2, uses her height advantage to block the ball against Crossroads during the Eustace volleyball tournament. Her skills helped her consistently guard the net against the opposing teams' shots, giving the Bearettes a decisive edge. *Melissa Gaona Photo*



Chelsea Chambers sets the ball while Abby Hernandez and Hillary Schaffer plan to spike and maintain an advantage after a long-running tie against Crossroads. *Melissa Gaona Photo*