Rockcastle County High School graduate and Rocket baseball player Shea Taylor, who was a member of the Rockets' two regional championship teams, signed a letter of intent to play baseball at Lindsey-Wilson College last week. Taylor, center, is shown with his parents, Linda and Coy Taylor of Brodhead. Also in the photo on the back row, from left are: Lindsey Wilson assistant coach Jim Garrett, Brad Tate, RCHS counselor Dale Whitaker and RCHS head baseball coach J.D. Bussell.

The 2001 LCSA Conference recently held at Cedar Rapids Country Club was a huge success. The Dolphins would like to thank the following for their generous help and donations: Kevin Fletcher, Marvin E. Owens Home for Funerals, Community Trust Bank, Citizens Bank, Ford Brothers, Inc., John McQueary, Rockcastle Co. Extension Office, Dowell-Martin Funeral Home, Jeff Hunt, Cindy Anderkin, Tammy Clontz, Shirley Martin, Rebekah Arvin, Shari Proctor, Katreka Cash and Frank Lawrence. We would also like to thank Coach Heather Burton and all the Dolphin parents for the help and support you have given the team during the season and during Conference.

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The Racing Reporter

Jeff Gordon gets record road course win

By Gerald Hodges
The Racing Reporter

Jeff Gordon's victory in Sunday's Global Crossing @ The Glen gave him seven road course wins, more than any other Winston Cup driver in the history of the series.

His seven career wins moves him ahead of Rusty Wallace, Bobby Allison and Richard Petty, who each have six. Gordon, who qualified 17th, gained the lead from Jeff Burton on lap 78 of the 90-lap event. One lap later, Jimmy Spencer lost an engine in his No. 26 Kmart Ford and spilled a lot of oil on the track. When green flag racing resumed, there were only 7 laps remaining.

On the restart lap, there was a chain reaction of cars that bumped and spun near turn 7, bringing out the fifth and final caution of the race.

Gordon was first, followed by Burton, Boris Said and Jeremy Mayfield on the next restart.

The cars of Mayfield and Rudd passed Said immediately after the restart, but Gordon had checked out on the rest of the field. Burton tried to close the gap, but lacked the power, and had to settle for second.

"We had a good chance to win this today," Burton said. "We got beat by the fastest car and we were the second-fastest. He got by me, I got back by him and then he got back by me again. It was just damn good racing. It was an awesome move he used to get by me. I would have loved to have that track position on some of those caution restarts."

Dale Jarrett, the pole sitter had problems during the race twice in turn 11. Each time he spun out and had to be pulled back on to the track by a wrecker. He finished 31st, and severely damaged his title hopes as he dropped to third-place, 265 point behind Gordon.

Robby Gordon, who has been subbing the last three races for the injured Mike Skinner in the No. 31 Lowe's Chevrolet, appeared to have the strongest car, but during a pit stop, a fire erupted in the car's cockpit, forcing him out of the race.

Finishing order: 1. Jeff Gordon, 2. Jeff Burton, 3. Jeremy Mayfield, 4. Ricky Rudd, 5. Todd Bodine, 6. Jerry Nadeau, 7. Kevin Harvick, 8. Boris Said, 9. Bobby Labonte, 10. Steve Parks, 11. Scott Pruett, 12. Dale Earnhardt Jr., 13. Brett Bodine, 14. John Andretti, 15. Mark martin, 16. Johnny Benson, 17. Ron Hornaday, 18. Michael Waltrip, 19. Ken Schrader, 20. Stacy Compton, 21. Terry Labonte, 22. Casey Atwood, 23. Matt Kenseth, 24. Bill Elliott, 25. Sterling Marlin, 26. Tony Stewart, 27. Rick Mast, 28. Dave Blaney, 29. Kurt Busch, 30. Elliott Sadler, 31. Dale Jarrett, 32. Joe Nemechek, 33. Kevin LaBrage, 34. Anthony Lazzaro, 35. Ricky Craven, 36. Bobby Hamilton, 37. Brian Simo, 38. Jimmy Spencer, 39. Kyle Petty, 40. Robby Gordon, 41. Ward Burton, 42. Ron Fellows, 43. Rusty Wallace

Gordon pads his lead

The top-10 Winston Cup points leaders after 22 of 36 events: 1. J. Gordon 3207, 2. Rudd 3013, 3. Jarrett 2942, 4. Marlin 2792, 5. Stewart 2788, 6. Earnhardt Jr. 2719, 7. Harvick 2703, 8. B. Labonte 2699, 9. R. Wallace 2686, 10. Benson 2633.

Will Nascar investigation lead to safer race cars

NASCAR's report on their investigation into the death of driver Dale Earnhardt is expected to reveal safety problems in the design of the race cars.

NASCAR officials, including president Mike Helton refused to discuss claims this past weekend by the Orlando Sentinel, that NASCAR Busch and Winston Cup cars lack sufficient crush resistance in the front to effectively protect drivers from severe head-on crashes.

But in spite of the fact that almost everyone in the NASCAR organization feels there is an increased need for more protection; teams are reluctant to commit money for driver protection.

Autoliv, a Swedish manufacturer of safety equipment, made a formal proposal in early May to car owners, drivers and NASCAR officials to focus on improvements to the driver compartment.

The company invited all of the major racing teams in the sport to hear its initial presentation in May in Charlotte, N.C., though only a dozen showed up.

While all of the things Autoliv demonstrated would contribute to lowering the injury value numbers, there is no rush to incorporate them into the present NASCAR safety requirements.

Teams simply haven't budgeted for safety testing, and NASCAR isn't ready to order any design changes to the cars.

"In the past, there hasn't been any formalized process, even though there's been a tremendous emphasis on safety," said Jim Hunter of Lowe's Motor Speedway. "Everybody has been out sort of doing their own thing. NASCAR's role in this process is to formalize it and figure out who pays and how much."

Meanwhile, NASCAR has yet to mandate either of the driver head-restraint devices, even though 75 percent of Winston Cup drivers are now using one.

NASCAR's formal results into the death of Dale Earnhardt, is scheduled for release Aug. 21. Hopefully, by the beginning of the 2002 season, additional driver safety related measures could be in place.

Scott Riggs gets fourth truck win

The results of the Craftsman Truck Series Federated Auto Parts 200 run Friday, Aug. 10 at Nashville Superspeedway: 1. Scott Riggs, 2. Ted Musgrave, 3. Rick Crawford, 4. Joe Ruttman, 5. Travis Kvapil, 6. Terry Cook, 7. Greg Biffle, 8. Dennis Setzer, 9. Lance Norick, 10. Coy Gibbs, 11. Ricky Hendrick, 12. Lance Hooper, 13. Lyndon Amick, 14. Chad Chaffin, 15. Brian Rose, 16. Jon Wood, 17. Carlos Contreras, 18. Bobby Dotter, 19. Tom Powers, 20. Ricky Sanders, 21. Jack Sprague, 22. Rich Woodland, 23. Billy Bigley, 24. Willy Ribbs, 25. Matt Crafton, 26. Morgan Shepherd, 27. Phil Bonifield, 28. Jerry Hill, 29. Phillip Young, 30. Bill Lester, 31. Michael Dokken

Ruttman takes over points lead

The top-10 points leaders after 16 of 24 events: 1. Ruttman 2460, 2. Riggs 2428, 3. Sprague 2417, 4. Kvapil 2385, 5. Hendrick 2330, 6. Musgrave 2300, 7. Cook 2259, 8. Setzer 2153, 9. Crawford 2069, 10. Gibbs 1978

Kimmel wins ARCA 200

The results of the ARCA Series Waste Management 200 run Sat. Aug. 11 at Nashville Superspeedway: 1. Frank Kimmel, 2. Jason Jarrett, 3. Ed Berrier, 4. Robert Burroughs, 5. Jeff Falk, 6. Randal Ritter, 7. Billy Venturini, 8. Howard Rose, 9. Greg Sarff, 10. Norm Benning, 11. Todd Bowsher, 12. Darrell Basham, 13. Donny Morelock, 14. Justin Labonte, 15. Mike Buckley, 16. Eric Martin, 17. Dickey Williamson, 18. Carl McCormick, 19. Kevin Belmont, 20. Chuck Weber, 21. Tim Mitchell, 22. Jeff Caudell, 23. Ron Cox, 24. John Metcalf, 25. Tony Altiere, 26. Brad Smith, 27. Dick Tracey, 28. Phillip Young, 29. Dennis English, 30. Andy Belmont, 31. Todd Antrican, 32. Damon Lusk, 33. James Hylton, 34. Larry Hollenbeck, 35. Chase Montgomery, 36. John Neal

The Busch Series had the weekend off.

Season finale leaving Atlanta

Next season, for the first time since 1986, Atlanta Motor Speedway will not host the finale race of the Winston Cup season.

Atlanta's fall Winston Cup race in the 2002 season will be held on Sunday, Oct. 27, three weeks earlier than usual.

Currently, NASCAR's Grand National series ends its season at Homestead-Miami Speedway. Having the Winston Cup season end the same weekend would provide for a "championship weekend" of sorts.

The luster of hosting the final race of the season has been lost in recent years as drivers clinched their Winston Cup titles before the series reached Atlanta. The last driver to clinch a Winston Cup title at Atlanta was Jeff Gordon in 1997, when he won his second championship by 14 points over Dale Jarrett.

NASCAR has not released the official 2002 Winston Cup schedule, but most of the tracks have been given their 2002 schedule. The season will start Feb. 10 with the Budweiser Shootout at Daytona, followed by the Daytona 500 on Feb. 17. Darlington (Feb. 24), Las Vegas (March 3), Atlanta (March 10), Texas (March 17), Bristol (March 24), Talladega (April 7), Martinsville (April 14), Rockingham (April 21), California (April 28), Richmond (May 4), Winston all-star race in Charlotte (May 18), Coca-Cola 600 at Charlotte (May 26), Dover (June 2), Pocono (June 9), Michigan (June 16), Sears Point (June 23), Daytona (July 6), Chicagoland (July 14), New Hampshire (July 21), Pocono (July 28), Indianapolis (Aug. 4), Watkins Glen (Aug. 11), Michigan (Aug. 18), Bristol (Aug. 24), Darlington (Sept. 1), Richmond (Sept. 7), New Hampshire (Sept. 15), Dover (Sept. 22), Kansas City (Sept. 29), Talladega (Oct. 6) Charlotte (Oct. 13), Atlanta (Oct. 27), Rockingham (Nov. 3), Phoenix (Nov. 10), Homestead (Nov. 17)

Weekend Racing: The NASCAR Winston Cup and Busch Series are at Brooklyn, MI, while the Craftsman Truck Series goes to Chicago. Michigan International Speedway track information: Size: 2 mile oval; Banking in turns: 18 degrees; Banking on frontstretch: 12 degrees, backstretch: 5 degrees; Length of frontstretch: 3,600 feet, backstretch: 2,242 feet; Grandstand capacity: 140,000.

Saturday, Aug. 18: Busch Series NAPAONLINE 250, event 23 of 33 events; Starting time: 12 noon (EST); TV: TNT; Distance: 100 laps/200 miles; Defending champion: Todd Bodine. Craftsman Truck Series Chicago 175, event 17 of 24 events; Starting time: 4 p.m. (EST); TV: ESPN; Distance: 175 laps/175 miles; Defending champion: Joe Ruttman.

Sunday, Aug. 19 Winston Cup Pepsi 400, event 23 of 36 events; Starting time: 12:30 p.m. (EST); TV: TNT; Distance: 200 laps/400 miles; Defending champion: Rusty Wallace.

Racing Trivia Question: How many Busch Series championships has Jeff Green won?

Answer To Last Week's Question: Winston Cup driver Stacy Compton drives for Melling Racing.

Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter is a syndicated NASCAR columnist. If you have a racing question that you would like answered send it to The Racing Reporter, P.O. Box 160711, Mobile, AL 36616, or e-mail it to:

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2000 Ford Ranger X-Cab 4X4, V-6, Auto, 4 dr	$374/mo
2000 Dodge Gr. Caravan 4 dr, V-6, Auto, Air	$308/mo
2000 Chev - 1500 X-Cab 4X4, V-8, Auto, 4 dr	$23,800
2000 Hyundia Accent 2 dr, Auto, Air, 20K	$187/mo
2000 Hyundia Elantra GLS 4 dr, 5 Speed, Air, 9K	$198/mo
2000 Chev. Metro LSI 4 dr, Auto, Air	$186/mo
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2000 Dodge Neon 4 dr, Auto, Air	$242/mo
2000 Chev. Malibu V-6, Auto, Air, Alloys	$286/mo
2000 Buick Regal LS 4 dr, Auto, Air, Loaded	$329/mo
2000 Dodge Caravan SE 4 dr, V-6, Loaded	$286/mo
99 Ford Explorer XLT 4X4, Auto, Air, 40K	$329/mo
99 GMC Suburban SLT 4X4, Dual Air, 3rd Seat	$22,990
99 Dodge Durango 4X4, Dual Air, Loaded	$22,990
99 GMC Yukon SLT 4X4, Leather, Loaded	$22,990
99 GMC Sonoma p/u 4 Cyl, Auto, Air	$208/mo
99 Dodge Dakota SLT V-6, Auto, Air	$286/mo
99 Isuzu Amigo 4X4, Auto, Air, 10K Miles	$352/mo
99 Toyota Tacoma p/u 4 Cyl, 5 Speed, Air, 30K	$219/mo
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99 Olds Intrigue 4 dr, V-6, Auto, Air	$242/mo
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98 Nissan Maxima Auto, Air, Loaded, 45K	$319/mo
98 Toyota Camry LE Auto, Air, Loaded, 32K	$312/mo
98 Nissan Altima GLE Auto, Air, Leather, Sunroof	$308/mo
98 Lincoln Town Car Sig Series, Coach Roof, 40K	$20,650
98 Chev Malibu 4 dr, Auto, Air, 47K	$242/mo
98 Ford Taurus SE Auto, Air, Loaded	$205/mo
98 Chev. Lumina 4 dr, V-6, Auto, Air	$198/mo
98 Saturn SLZ Auto, Air, Sunroof, 30K	$264/mo
98 Jeep Gr. Cherokee 4X4, Sunroof, Leather	$352/mo
98 Chev. Blazer LS 2 dr, 4X4, Auto, Air	$319/mo
98 Chev. Blazer LT 4X4, Leather, Sunroof	$374/mo
98 Honda Passport 4X4, Auto, Air, Sunroof	$297/mo
97 Jeep Gr. Cherokee 4X4, Loaded, Alloys	$264/mo
97 Ford F-150 XL V-8, 5 Speed, Air	$242/mo
97 Chev. Cavalier 2 dr, Auto, Air, 50K	$159/mo
97 Chev. Tahoe 2 dr. 4X4, Auto, Air, Loaded	$374/mo
97 Chev. Blazer 2 dr. 4X4, Auto, Air, 46K	$308/mo
96 Lincoln Town Car Loaded, Coach roof, "Lse New"	$11,990
96 Chev. M. Carlo 2 dr, Leather, 49K Miles	$8,990
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