

Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports



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February 3, 2010

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Hiawassee, Georgia

YHC advances to championship game with 11-8 win

Mickey Seward, YHC Sports Information Director

Young Harris College used a two-out rally in the fifth inning that resulted in six runs to break open a close game, and then beat back a furious comeback bid to defeat Central Alabama 11-8 Saturday and reach the championship game of the First Pitch Classic in Panama City, Fla.

The Mountain Lions (2-0) entered the fifth trailing 2-1, and it looked like it would be a quick top-half of the inning after Greg Bowder and Robby Swab each grounded out to the shortstop to lead off the frame. But Matt Lowery started the rally with a single to right, then advanced to second on Chris Holloway's walk. Will Callaway followed Holloway's walk by clearing the bases with a triple to right-centerfield, then scored on a passed ball to give the Mountain Lions a 4-2 lead.

Back-to-back singles by Matt Lobacz and Michael Squires would then be followed by an RBI single by Daniel Marsh that scored Lobacz. Blake Jenkins then walked to

load the bases for Bowder, who delivered a two-run single to complete the inning's scoring. The Mountain Lions sent 11 batters to the plate in the inning.

Marsh would come up big again in the following inning with a two-out, three-run double that put Young Harris up 10-2.

As it turned out, the Mountain Lions would need the big lead, because Central Alabama's Matt Parker, who had already hit a solo homer in the second, would single-handedly put the Trojans back in the game.

Parker made the score 10-4 in the bottom of the sixth with a two-run homer, and after the Mountain Lions tacked on an 11th run on Greg Bowder's sacrifice fly that scored Ryan Edge in the top of the eighth, Parker would deliver a grand slam over the right field wall to pull Central Alabama to within 11-8.

But the Trojans (1-1) were unable to complete the improbable comeback, as the Mountain Lions' third pitcher of the night, Steven Voight,



Kenny Swab takes a cut at the ball in 11-8 win over Central, Alabama to advance to championship game.

slammed the door in the ninth to earn his first save of the 2010 season. Voight would get back-to-back ground balls for the first two outs, and, after issuing a walk, struck out Jordan Carroll with Parker on deck to end the game.

Young Harris starter Mitchell Knox (1-0) earned the win. Knox allowed two runs on five hits and two walks, while striking out five batters in five innings of work.

Siena College transfer Brandon Curson came on in relief of Knox to start the bottom of the sixth. Curson allowed six runs on five hits and two walks in three innings of work.

Young Harris racked up 13 hits in the game, three from Lowery and two each from Callaway, Lobacz and Marsh. Marsh drove in a team-high four runs, while Bowder had three runs batted in.

Photo By Jim/Lisa Bryant

Young Harris claims Championship in inaugural First Pitch Classic

The Mountain Lions defeated Gulf Coast College 6-5 and won the tournament title

Will Callaway's ninth inning sacrifice fly scored the game winning run as Young Harris College defeated host Gulf Coast

College 6-5 and claimed the tournament championship of the inaugural First Pitch Classic in Panama City, Fla., Sunday.

Callaway's sacrifice fly came with nobody out, as the Mountain Lions pounced on Commodores reliever Adam Purdy, who had just entered the game to start the frame and was unable to find the strike zone. The first three batters Purdy faced all drew walks, setting up Callaway's sacrifice fly that scored Brett Armour from third base.

Purdy would get YHC's Daniel Marsh to pop out, and Chris Holloway would then get tagged out in a rundown to end the top of the inning.

Young Harris head coach Rick Robinson then sent freshman lefthander Adam Camara to the hill to close out the game, just two days after Camara's sensational collegiate debut, in which he earned a win with a two and one-third solid innings

in the Mountain Lions' 6-5 win over No. 2 Chipola College.

The Rockmart, Ga., native walked the leadoff hitter, Cyle Rasmus, but Armour would pick him off after Rasmus wandered too far from the bag to record the first out. With one out, Cam Greathouse reached on an error by first baseman Matt Lobacz, but Camara would get Bryce Lane to hit into a 6-4-3 double play to end the game and give the Mountain Lions the championship.

The tournament featured eight of the top teams in the Southeastern region of the United States. All eight teams that participated in the First Pitch Classic have at sometime in their history won state and regional championships. They have each participated in or won the Junior College World Series, also.

Young Harris defeated Central Alabama 11-8 Saturday to reach Sunday's championship game.

For a team that used three freshman hurlers and started five freshman position players in the championship game of such a talent-laden tournament, early success could be a good sign of things to come.

The Mountain Lions took advantage of similar early success against Gulf Coast Sunday, wasting little time firing up the engines, as Chris Holloway belted a leadoff home run.

After Gulf Coast tied the score in the bottom of the first on Bryce Lane's RBI single, Young Harris would score three times in the second. The first two runs of the inning came after Greathouse dropped Brett Armour's fly ball in right field, allowing Matt Lobacz, who singled, and Brandon Curson, who reached on an error, to score. Holloway followed by grounding into a double play, but Greg Bowder, who walked earlier in the inning, would score on the play, giving the Mountain Lions a 4-1 advantage.

Greathouse would make up for his second-inning miscue in the fourth with a three-run home run that tied the score and chased Mountain Lions' starter Brian Holmes from the contest.

The teams would trade runs in the sixth inning, with Young Harris taking a 5-4 lead on Curson's solo shot over the right field fence, before the Commodores would even up the score one more time on Rasmus' RBI double.

Holmes went three and

two-thirds innings in the starting role for Young Harris. He allowed four runs on four hits while walking four batters and striking out four.

Jake Montgomery (1-0), who came on in relief of Holmes in the fourth inning, earned the win for Young Harris in his collegiate pitching debut.

The transfer from the University of Georgia tossed four and one-third innings, allowing one run on three hits. He did not walk or strikeout anyone.

Camara's save was the first of his career.

Callaway, Lobacz and Curson each collected a pair of hits for Young Harris, and Armour drove in a team-high two runs.

Gulf Coast starter Tyler Reimer allowed four runs (one earned) on seven hits, three walks and a strikeout. He was the first of four Commodore hurlers. Purdy took the loss.

Lane led GCC with two hits, while Greathouse drove in three runs for the Commodores.

The Mountain Lions return to action Friday as they open a four-game weekend series against Southeastern Community in Whiteville, N.C.

YHC softball splits opening wins, Coach Geldart earns 500th win

Mickey Seward, YHC Sports Information Director

Victoria Sink pitched a complete game and Tara Mullinax drove in the game-winning run in the sixth inning as Young Harris defeated Broward 2-1 in the first game second day of the International Women's Fastpitch Invitational in Kissimmee, Fla., Saturday and gave head coach Eric Geldart his 500th career collegiate coaching victory. Broward defeated YHC 4-1 in an elimination game later in the

day, ending the Mountain Lions' run in the tournament.

Mullinax drove in Chelsea Davidson to seal the victory. Davidson was pinch running for Jennifer Watford, who led off the inning with a triple. Sink (2-1) allowed one run on eight hits and struck out four batters to earn the victory.

Watford and Mullinax each went 2-for-3 in the game, and Kayla Jones singled and scored a run for Young Harris.

The win gave Geldart

500 career victories. Now in his 26th season as a collegiate head coach, Geldart's career record stands at 500-341 following the win over Broward. He began his career in 1979 as the first softball coach at Western New England College. In 18 seasons there, he led WNEC to a 290-196 overall record.

Geldart is now in his eighth season as the head coach at Young Harris, where he has led his Mountain Lions teams to a 210-145 record, following

the Broward victory. During his first seven years at YHC, Geldart has led his squad to four seasons with at least 30 victories, two regional championships and two appearances in the NJCAA National Tournament.

Broward returned the favor by defeating Young Harris (2-2 overall) in the teams' second matchup of the day. With the victory, Broward advanced to the semifinal round of the tournament and eliminated the Mountain Lions.

NASCAR 2010

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

"Awesome Bill" to return part time

Bill Elliott, the 54-year-old driver often dubbed "Awesome Bill from Dawsonville," will return for at least 13 races in 2010 for the Wood Brothers Racing team. His first race will be the season-opening Daytona 500, on Sunday, Feb. 14.

"I don't feel any different, really," he said on Speed TV. "(The age) just doesn't seem to matter. That's one thing I questioned when I stopped. I ran a handful of races in '04 and '05, and when Len and Eddie (Wood) asked me to do a few races in '07, I said, 'OK, I'll do a few.' When I started off, I was racing every week. I thought, 'Man I'm going to die doing this.' But once you get used to it, it's kind of old hat."

"There's no reason we can't be on the front row when we get to Daytona. "We always have good cars there, and we're focused only on that race going to Daytona. I expect good things."

Team co-owner Eddie Wood said his team will continue to put all its strength into its part-time schedule while trying to build a base to return

to full-time racing, possibly as early as 2011.

"You have more time," Wood said. "The group of people we have together is a very close-knit group. And it's small. And small is OK. It works for us. We have a lot of time to do things. If we want to do a test or have an idea, we have time to go to it. The bigger teams don't."

"We do want to get back full-time, but we won't do it until we can do it correctly. You won't ever see us be a start-and-park car."

Weekend Racing The 32nd annual Budweiser Shootout launches Speedweeks at Daytona International Speedway on Saturday, Feb. 6 with green flag set for 8:10 pm (EDT) on Fox.

Drivers that are eligible include: Jimmie Johnson, Mark Martin, Jeff Gordon, Kurt Busch, Denny Hamlin, Tony Stewart, Greg Biffle, Juan Pablo Montoya, Ryan Newman, Kasey Kahne, Carl Edwards, Brian Vickers, Jamie McMurray, Matt Kenseth, Kyle Busch, Joey Logano, Bill Elliott, Kevin

Harvick, Jeff Burton, Michael Waltrip, Bobby Labonte, Dale Earnhardt Jr., John Andretti, Derrike Cope, Geoff Bodine, Terry Labonte, Sterling Marlin, and Ken Schrader.

Not all 28 drivers that are eligible will run the event.

The race distance will continue to be 75 laps (187.5 miles), consisting of two segments; 25 and 50 laps. Both green-flag laps and yellow-flag laps will count. Between segments there will be a 10-minute pit stop, allowing teams to pit and change tires, add fuel and make normal chassis adjustments. Crews will be permitted to work on cars and will be allowed to perform functions they would do on a normal pit stop in a regular NASCAR Sprint Cup event.

Starting positions will again be determined by a blind-draw at the annual Budweiser Shootout Draw Party on Thursday night, Feb. 4.

Racing Trivia Question: Name Mark Martin's three teammates that race with him in the Cup Series. If you e-mail us the correct answer, we will send you a



Bill Elliott photo of Martin. **Last Week's Question:** Who was the winner of the first Daytona 500? **Answer: Lee Petty.** You may contact the Racing Reporter at: hodgesnews@earthlink.net. NT/Febr3,06jac

YOUNG HARRIS COLLEGE 2010 Softball Schedule				
Day	Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Fri.	Jan. 29	at Int'l Women's Fastpitch Tournament	Kissimmee, Fla.	TBA
Sat.	Jan. 30	at Int'l Women's Fastpitch Tournament	Kissimmee, Fla.	TBA
Sun.	Jan. 31	at Int'l Women's Fastpitch Tournament	Kissimmee, Fla.	TBA
Tues.	Feb. 16	at Roane State College (DH)	Harriman, Tenn.	2 p.m.
Thurs.	Feb. 18	CALHOUN CC	YOUNG HARRIS	3 p.m.
Fri.	Feb. 19	at Ringor Fastpitch Invitational	Aiken, S.C.	TBA
Sat.	Feb. 20	at Ringor Fastpitch Invitational	Aiken, S.C.	TBA
Sun.	Feb. 21	at Ringor Fastpitch Invitational	Aiken, S.C.	TBA
Tues.	Feb. 23	at Cleveland State (DH)	Cleveland, Tenn.	2 p.m.
Thurs.	Feb. 25	AIKEN TECH (DH)	YOUNG HARRIS	2 p.m.
Fri.	Feb. 26	vs. Florida St. College-Jacksonville (GPC Inv.)	Covington, Ga.	6 p.m.
Sat.	Feb. 27	vs. Walters State (GPC Inv.)	Covington, Ga.	10 a.m.
Sat.	Feb. 27	vs. Spartanburg Methodist (GPC Inv.)	Covington, Ga.	2 p.m.
Tues.	March 2	at Hiwassee College (DH)	Madisonville, Tenn.	2 p.m.
Fri.	March 5	at Wallace Community Coll. Invit.	Dothan, Ala.	TBA
Sat.	March 6	at Wallace Community Coll. Invit.	Dothan, Ala.	TBA
Sun.	March 7	at Wallace Community Coll. Invit.	Dothan, Ala.	TBA
Sat.	March 20	at South Georgia College* (DH)	Douglas, Ga.	3 p.m.
Sun.	March 21	at Coasta Georgia CC* (DH)	Brunswick, Ga.	1 p.m.
Wed.	March 24	GORDON COLLEGE* (DH)	YOUNG HARRIS	2 p.m.
Tues.	March 30	GEORGIA MILITARY COLLEGE* (DH)	YOUNG HARRIS	2 p.m.
Wed.	April 7	HIVASSEE COLLEGE (DH)	YOUNG HARRIS	2 p.m.
Sat.	April 10	at Middle Georgia College* (DH)	Cochran, Ga.	3 p.m.
Sun.	April 11	at Abraham Baldwin Ag. Coll.* (DH)	Tifton, Ga.	1 p.m.
Sat.	April 17	at Darton College* (DH)	Albany, Ga.	3 p.m.
Sun.	April 18	at Andrew College* (DH)	Cuthbert, Ga.	1 p.m.
Sat.	April 24	at Georgia Perimeter College* (DH)	Covington, Ga.	1 p.m.
Fri.	April 30	at GJCAA Tournament	Cochran, Ga.	TBA
Sat.	May 1	at GJCAA Tournament	Cochran, Ga.	TBA
Sun.	May 2	at GJCAA Tournament	Cochran, Ga.	TBA

Home games in ALL CAPS
* Georgia Junior College Ath. Assn. game
(DH) denotes doubleheader

Young Harris College 2010 Baseball Schedule				
Day	Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Fri-Sun	Jan 29-31	Gulf Coast CC First Pitch Classic	Panama City, Fla.	
Fri.	Jan. 29	Chipola CC	Panama City, Fla.	Noon
Sat.	Jan. 30	TBA	Panama City, Fla.	TBA
Sun.	Jan. 31	TBA	Panama City, Fla.	TBA
Fri.	Feb. 5	Southeastern CC	Whiteville, NC	2 p.m.
Sat.	Feb. 6	Southeastern CC (DH)	Whiteville, NC	Noon
Sun.	Feb. 7	Southeastern CC	Whiteville, NC	Noon
Sat.	Feb. 13	Roane State CC (DH)	Young Harris, Ga.	Noon
Sun.	Feb. 14	Roane State CC	Young Harris, Ga.	2 p.m.
Tues.	Feb. 16	Georgia College and State U. (DH)	Milledgeville, Ga.	2 p.m.
Fri.	Feb. 19	Potomac State CC	Young Harris, Ga.	2 p.m.
Sat.	Feb. 20	Potomac State CC	Young Harris, Ga.	2 p.m.
Sun.	Feb. 21	Potomac State CC	Young Harris, Ga.	Noon
Tues.	Feb. 23	Cleveland State CC	Cleveland, Tenn.	2 p.m.
Sat.	Feb. 27	Sinclair CC (DH)	Young Harris, Ga.	Noon
Sun.	Feb. 28	Sinclair CC	Young Harris, Ga.	Noon
Tues.	March 2	Louisburg (DH)	Young Harris, Ga.	1 p.m.
Sat.	March 6	Wabush CC	Young Harris, Ga.	Noon
Sun.	March 7	Wabush CC (DH)	Young Harris, Ga.	Noon
Tues.	March 9	Wabush CC	Young Harris, Ga.	Noon
Fri.	March 12	Andrew	Cuthbert, Ga.	2 p.m.
Sat.	March 13	Andrew (DH)	Cuthbert, Ga.	1 p.m.
Mon.	March 15	Piedmont JV	Young Harris, Ga.	6 p.m.
Wed.	March 17	Piedmont JV	Demorest, Ga.	6 p.m.
Fri.	March 19	Georgia Perimeter	Covington, Ga.	7 p.m.
Sat.	March 20	Georgia Perimeter (DH)	Covington, Ga.	2 p.m.
Fri.	March 26	Middle Georgia	Cochran, Ga.	7 p.m.
Sat.	March 27	Middle Georgia (DH)	Cochran, Ga.	2 p.m.
Mon.	March 29	Mars Hill JV	Young Harris, Ga.	3 p.m.
Fri.	April 2	Gordon	Young Harris, Ga.	6 p.m.
Sat.	April 3	Gordon (DH)	Young Harris, Ga.	2 p.m.
Tues.	April 6	Catawba Valley CC	Young Harris, Ga.	6 p.m.
Wed.	April 7	Catawba Valley CC	Young Harris, Ga.	3 p.m.
Fri.	April 9	South Georgia	Douglas, Ga.	7 p.m.
Sat.	April 10	South Georgia (DH)	Douglas, Ga.	2 p.m.
Tues.	April 13	Cleveland CC	Young Harris, Ga.	4 p.m.
Wed.	April 14	Mars Hill JV (DH)	Mars Hill, N.C.	2 p.m.
Fri.	April 16	Darton	Young Harris, Ga.	6 p.m.
Sat.	April 17	Darton (DH)	Young Harris, Ga.	2 p.m.
Tues.	April 20	USC-Salkehatchie	Young Harris, Ga.	7 p.m.
Wed.	April 21	USC-Salkehatchie	Young Harris, Ga.	3 p.m.
Fri.	April 23	Abraham Baldwin	Young Harris, Ga.	6 p.m.
Sat.	April 24	Abraham Baldwin (DH)	Young Harris, Ga.	2 p.m.
Tues.	April 27	Roane State CC	Harriman, Tenn.	3 p.m.
Fri.	April 30	NJCAA Region XVII Tourn. (1st Rd.)	TBA	TBA
Sat.	May 1	NJCAA Region XVII Tourn. (1st Rd.)	TBA	TBA
Fri.	May 7	NJCAA Region XVII Tourn. (2nd Rd.)	TBA	TBA
Sat.	May 8	NJCAA Region XVII Tourn. (2nd Rd.)	TBA	TBA
Fri.	May 14	NJCAA Region XVII Tourn. (3rd Rd.)	TBA	TBA
Sat.	May 15	NJCAA Region XVII Tourn. (3rd Rd.)	TBA	TBA
Fri.	May 21	NJCAA District 10 Tournament	TBA	TBA
Sat.	May 22	NJCAA District 10 Tournament	TBA	TBA
Sun.	May 23	NJCAA District 10 Tournament	TBA	TBA
May 29 - June 6		NJCAA World Series	Grand Junction, Colo.	TBA

Recreation Department offers varied programs

The Towns County Recreation Department wants to remind everyone that we are offering the following exercise classes each week at the Towns County Recreation Center.

Yoga Classes - We have 2 separate class times instructed by Pat Tomczyk. Evening class each Monday from 4-5:15 PM. Morning class each Thursday from 9:30-10:45 AM.

Morning Aerobics Classes - Each Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from

9:30-10:45 AM. Instructor is Donna McAuliffe.

Evening Aerobics Classes - Each Tuesday and Thursday evening from 5:30-6:30 PM. Instructor is Jeannie Ledford-Stephens.

Sun Style Tai Chi - Each Thursday from 10:45-noon. Instructor is Pat Tomczyk.

Shudokan Martial Art - Each Monday and Thursday from 6-7 PM. Instructor is Scott Seyler.

The Recreation Department will also be holding

registration for softball and baseball for ages 8 through 14 beginning on February 8, 2010 through February 20, 2010. The cost for registration will be \$45. Signups will be held at the Recreation Department. Our hours of operation are Monday through Friday 9 AM - 9 PM and Saturday from 9 AM until 7 PM.

For these programs and any other information we can help you with, just call the Recreation Department at 706-896-2600. T/Jan27-Feb17,03/SH