

Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports



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Hiawassee, Georgia

Never judge a bird by the size of its talons



Catcher, James Mullins tries to get the ball in a dust scattering score at home.

Photo by Jim & Lisa Bryant

by Jim Bryant

The Indian bats were obviously tired Tuesday night after a Friday game, Saturday 100 inning game and Monday game. It showed at the plate after a 16-1 thrashing of Andrews the evening before their bats never got fully loaded. The Hiwassee Dam, NC Eagles flew into town with a small sized team that appeared to be a JV team. However, never judge a Bird by its talons. The visitors took the early lead and never relinquished it to the normal late game Indians rally. This night the rally fell short despite a booming HR by Cody Harkins late in the game, playing as the designated hitter due to an injured knee. He made the trot around the diamond easy with his 2-run homerun but it was too little too late for the Tribe as they fell 7-4.

Brett Bradshaw opened on the mound for the Tribe and through the first neither team could find the plate. In the second the Eagles had an opportunity after sending a shot down

the third base chalk but again Bradshaw fanned his way out of the inning. It looked like the Indians had taken control in the bottom half when they loaded but a ground out left the Tribe standing on the diamond, 0-0 after two innings. The Eagles struck paydirt first off a couple of back to back doubles in the top of the third, 3-0. The Indians could not get that elusive third out and the Birds plated another run on a passed ball to make it 4-0 and send the Tribe to the mound for a pow-wow. The Indians went quietly in the bottom with two ground outs and a strikeout. In the fourth the Birds again hit the doubles trail so the Indians were forced to make a mound change and sent Matt Beni to the hill in relief. After a fly out, Taylor Denton connected to short center for a single but another fly out left Denton on the diamond.

In the fifth, Billy Meier opened with a single than was plated with an RBI double by Alan Turpin, 4-1. That was

all for the Tribe that inning as a couple of quick outs left Turpin stranded. In a dust scattering throw to home by Brett Bradshaw, the Eagles got by catcher, James Mullins for another score and it moved to 5-1. Still hot at the plate, a two run HR by the second Eagle pitcher made it 7-1. The Tribe made their third pitching change in the game, going this time to Billy Meier. In the bottom of the sixth, Taylor Denton led off with a walk and Cody Harkins stepped to the plate and put air under a ball for a 2-run HR to make it 7-3. Ironically, the homerun came off the Eagle pitcher that had hit a HR the inning prior. Billy Meier made the final run for the Indians when he took off home on a pick attempt at second that went wild into the outfield, 7-4. Unfortunately, the usual Indian late game rally fell a few scores short and the Hiwassee Dam Eagles took the 7-4 victory. T/Mar17,TCH Spts 5jac

Indian bats hot, Wildcat bats not in game shortened win

by Jim Bryant

It was a defenseless game, at least on one side of the plate as the Andrews, NC Wildcats did their Michael Jackson imitation of one glove on their hand for no apparent reason. In a run-riddled third inning, the Cats had so many Indian hits get through the infield that they not only changed pitchers, they rotated the infielders. Still, after the three-day-long third, the Indians blasted the visitors until the 16-1 game was ended in the fourth inning on the "mercy rule."

The Indians sent John Bleckley to the hill to start the game. After a scoreless first half, Bleckley plated Matt Beni as the Tribe scored one and stranded one after one. The W'cats loaded the diamond in the second after several walks but Bleckley was able to pitch his way out of trouble while stranding three runners. After a walk by Taylor Denton and a single by Brett Bradshaw, the Indians had runners on the corners for Jimmy Pearce. An RBI single by Pearce plated Denton, 2-0. A passed ball at home moved runners into scoring position but after a strikeout, both were left on the



John Bleckley slides in under the attempted Wildcat tag as the ball gets away from the second baseman. Photo by Jim & Lisa Bryant

In the third the Cats had another opportunity to plate a couple of runners but again Bleckley struck his way out of trouble. Matt Beni opened the bottom of the third with a rocket between the shortstop's legs. John Bleckley hit a long RBI to center and on the play attempt at home on Beni, he moved safely to second, 3-0. James Mullins popped a little looper over the first baseman's head and moments later, on a wild throw at first, pinch-

runner Jake Mullins scored, 4-0 for the Indians. Another overthrow at first got Kyle McConnell on first and Mullins at third. Brett Bradshaw plated Jake Mullins on a seeing-eye single down the left field line, 5-0. A sac by Jimmy Pearce sent McConnell to third and after a walk by Billy Meier, the diamond was loaded for Alan Turpin. Turpin's booted single to the second baseman, plated McConnell and it was 6-0 and the diamond remained full. For the second time in the game, Beni sent another grass stainer between the legs of the Cat shortstop and two more runs crossed the plate. The Wildcats changed around the infield. Didn't help as Bleckley hammered a shot to the second baseman who tried to backhand the ball but bobbled and another run scored. Another RBI by James Mullins moved the Tribe out to a 10-0 score still in the seemingly unending third.

The Cats loaded the diamond in the fourth and the tribe sent Alan Turpin to the hill in relief. After fanning his first batter, Turpin walked the second causing a Cat to cross and it was 10-1. The Indians nullified the one score by the Cats with one swing of the bat when Taylor Denton belted a homerun over the center field fence, 11-1. The Indians were fired up after the HR and plated five more runs to quickly end the game in four innings on the "mercy rule" 16-1 victory. T/Mar17,TCH Spts 4jac

Indians have plate full of tennis this week



Corbin Gilfilian won his singles match with a 6-2 Kayla Taylor team with her partner to win their doubles match 6-2. Photo by Jim & Lisa Bryant

by Jim Bryant

The early part of the week started with frigid weather but the late week showed more tennis-like conditions. In the first of several matches, the Tribe faced two region foes. The girls took on the Prince Avenue Wolverines and took care of business 4-1. According to Coach Shannon Floyd, the Wolverines may be the team they will face at tournament time and it was important to win this match."

Singles: Alexa Arencibia won 8-6; Ginny Rhoades lost 7-9; Kristin Fuhs won 8-2. Doubles: Jordan Moats/Courtney Farmer won 8-2; Kristie McConnell/Kayla Olin won 9-7.

The girl's team next faced the always strong Lady Eagles from Athens Christian Academy. Again the girls retained the undefeated status in a 4-1 victory against the region foe. Quoting Coach Moss, "it was a big win for our girls." The Lady Eagles are potentially a first round opponent

at tournament time. For Alexa Arencibia it was her first loss of the season.

Singles: Alexa Arencibia lost 4-8; Ginny Rhoades won 8-2; Kristin Fuhs won 8-2.

Doubles: Jordan Moats/Courtney Farmer won 8-6; Kristie McConnell/Kayla Olin won 9-7.

The final match of the busy week was a 5-0 win over the Lady Falcon from Woody Gap. Woody Gap had to forfeit all 3 single matches and played only double matches. They only had 4 girls. Many of the younger players got a chance to play some matches. According to Floyds, "this is the first team I have coached that is 6-0 to start the season. I am very proud of the girls."

Doubles: Kristie McConnell/Kayla Olin won 6-1; Kara Harris/Christa Hamill won 6-1;

Camille Guss/Maria Constantino won 6-2; Kayla Taylor/Kaitlyn Johnson won 6-2; Maggie Lusk/MaKen-

zie Miranda won 6-2; Rebecca Duckworth/Erin Westberry lost 3-6.

For the boys it was a close match with the Eagles from Athens Christian but by the end, the Indians had dropped a close 2-3 decision. Coach Floyd is in hopes that they guys can beat this team later in the season.

Singles: Douglas Haigler lost 0-8; Alex Spiegel lost 6-8; Walker Guss won 9-7.

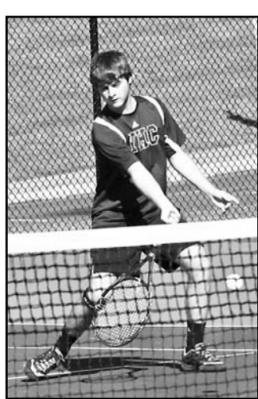
Doubles: Ethan Burch/Mat won 8-3; Corbin Gilfilian/Eli Barrett lost 6-8.

The boy's team earned their second victory of the season. Coach Floyd felt that these players could have been undefeated as well as the girl's team. Against the Woody Gap Falcons they easily won 4-1.

Singles: Alex Spiegel won 6-1, 6-3; Walker Guss won 6-4, 9-7; Corbin Gilfilian won 6-2, 6-2.

Doubles: Tyler Hoffman/Jordan Woodard lost 4-6, 0-6 in their first varsity match. T/Mar17,TCH Spts 6jac

Young Harris College men's tennis team tops Oxford of Emory 7-2



Good play at the net helped the purple Cats defeat Emory-Oxford in Atlanta this past weekend. Photo by Jim & Lisa Bryant

by Mickey Seward, YHC SID

Jamie Childree and William Dixon each won a pair of matches as Young Harris defeated Oxford of Emory 7-2 in a non-conference men's tennis match in Atlanta Friday. Childree and Dixon teamed up together to pick up an 8-4 doubles victory over Ben Freedman and Emilio Casillas, and help the Mountain Lions jump out to a 3-0 advantage. Young Harris' Laurenz Schraepen and Koen Gottenbos also picked up a victory over the Oxford tandem of Chris Dickson and Billy Boykin in the No. 1 doubles position, and the Mountain Lions won the third doubles point by default.

In singles action, Childree and Dixon had to battle for victories. In the most competitive match of the day, Childree went to a tiebreaker against Casillas, eventually coming out the winner by a score of 5-7, 7-5 (10-6) in the third slot. Dixon, playing No. 2 singles, also worked hard for his victory, defeating Freedman 7-5, 6-4. After winning his match 6-0, 6-0 Thursday, Felix Reichl again showed that he will be a valuable piece to head Coach Bruce Sibley's puzzle after joining the team at the semester break. Friday, Reichl defeated Oxford's Anwar Ferdinand 6-0, 6-2 in the No. 5 position. YHC received another point when Oxford had to default the point in the No. 6

singles position.

Doubles: Schraepen/Gottenbos (YHC) def. Dickson/Boykin (OE) 8-3; Childree/Dixon (YHC) def. Freedman/Casillas (OE) 8-4; YHC wins 3rd doubles by default.

Singles: Chris Dickson (OE) def. Laurenz Schraepen (YHC) 2-6, 6-4, (10-6); William Dixon (YHC) def. Ben Freedman (OE) 7-5, 6-4; Jamie Childree (YHC) def. Emilio Casillas (OE) 5-7, 7-5, (10-6); Billy Boykin (OE) def. Jordan

Johnson (YHC) 6-0, 6-4; Felix Reichl (YHC) def. Anwar Ferdinand (OE) 6-0, 6-2; YHC wins 6th singles by default.

YHC Opens Spring Break Trip with 5-4 Win Over Kutztown

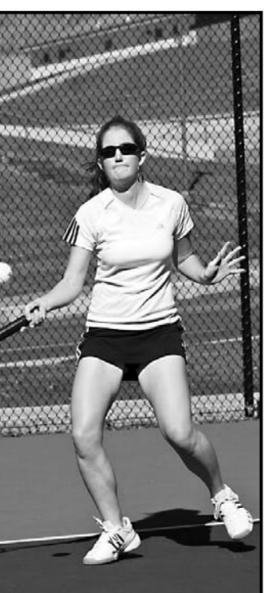
Young Harris College's men's tennis team opened its Spring Break trip to Hilton Head, S.C., with a 5-4 victory over NCAA Division II member Kutztown University Sunday.

Maxwell and Allen Shine, but Tiffin Tops YHC Women 5-4

Young Harris College's Mary Beth Maxwell and Michelle Allen teamed up to earn a doubles point and then both players went out and won their singles matches, but Tiffin University still squeaked by the Mountain Lions 5-4 in a non-conference women's tennis match in Hilton Head, S.C., Monday morning.

Maxwell and Allen joined together to defeat Renee Mattson and April Fruchtnicht 8-2 to pick up the Mountain Lions' doubles point. Allen then went out and shut out Fruchtnicht 6-0, 6-0 in the No. 6 singles position, while Allen defeated Mattson 6-3, 7-5 in the fifth slot. Brianna Brinkley also picked up a singles win for Young Harris, defeating Beth Clark in the No. 2 position. Brinkley won the first set 6-2 before Clark defaulted in the second set.

Doubles: Stefanov/Cooper (TU) def. Black/Brinkley (YHC) 8-6; Long/Clark (TU) def. Deese/Smith (YHC) 8-1; Allen/Maxwell (YHC) def.



Playing in Hilton Head, SC, the YHC women dropped a close 5-4 match against Tiffin University. Photo by Jim & Lisa Bryant

Mattson/Fruchtnicht 8-2. Singles: Teauana Long (TU) def. Kinsley Black (YHC) 6-4, 6-1; Brianna Brinkley (YHC) def. Beth Clark (TU) 6-2; Jessica Stefanov (TU) def. Sarah Deese (YHC) 6-3, 6-3; Taylor Cooper (TU) def. Holly Smith (YHC) 6-1, 6-7 (5), (10-4); Michelle Allen (YHC) def. Renee Mattson 6-3, 7-5; Mary Beth Maxwell (YHC) def. April Fruchtnicht (TU) 6-0, 6-0. T/Mar17,TCHSpts 3jac

SPORTSWATCH

by Jim Bryant

Prep Baseball	Andrews, NC 1 (4)
TCHS 16	Hiwassee Dam, NC 7
TCHS 4	
Prep Tennis	Prince Avenue 1
(G)TCHS 4	Athens Christian 1
(B)TCHS 4	Woody Gap 1
(B)TCHS 2	Athens Christian 3
Collegiate Baseball	Wabash Valley 8/11/9
YHC 9/1/11	
Collegiate Softball	Jefferson Davis 3 (8)
YHC 4	Indian Hills 3
YHC 5	Columbia State 3
YHC 7	Snead State 14
YHC 4	
Collegiate Tennis	Emory-Oxford 2
(M)YHC 7	Kutztown 4
(M)YHC 5	Tusculum 9
(W)YHC 0	Tiffin 5
(W)YHC 4	Bryant 7
(M)YHC 0	