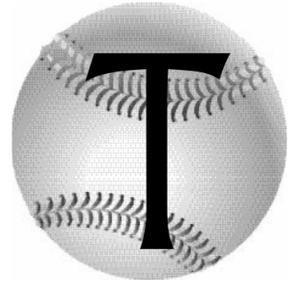


Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports



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Hiawassee, Georgia

Lady Indians leave it all on the soccer field

By Jessica Keaton
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The Towns County Lady Indians left it all on the soccer field during two overtime periods on Friday at Indian Field in Hiawassee.

Unfortunately, the Union County Lady Panthers scored three goals in the final five minutes of the second overtime period to upend Towns County 5-2 in an Area 15 AA/A match up.

Ali Bleckley scored both goals for the Lady Indians.

"We're improving each game," Lady Indians Head Coach Peter Byrne said. "Union won in the second overtime and scored three goals in the last five minutes. We've got some things to work on, but we're getting better each game."

The Indians didn't fair any better against the Panthers in the nightcap, falling 10-0 as Union controlled ball possession and much of the field throughout the evening.

Union's field domination came as no surprise to Indians' Head Coach Tim Rosser.

"Union is a good team. They play all year-round and they play a different style of ball," Rosser said. "It's a good style of soccer. They have a lot of speed and we couldn't keep up with them tonight."

With four games under their belts, Rosser expects things to pick up for the Indians as the season progresses.

"We didn't have many guys or any subs tonight," he said. "We had two guys injured that couldn't play and that really hurt us."

With their Union experience past them, there is nowhere to go but up for Towns County's soccer teams. With glimmers of hope in their eyes for the rest of the season, the Ladies and Gents will be ready for their next Area 15 AA/A battle of the cleats in Dawson-



The Towns County Lady Indians and Union County Lady Panthers battled for 90 minutes plus two overtime periods before the Lady Panthers notched the Area 15 AA/A victory 5-2. Photo by Jessica Keaton



The Towns County Indians fought an uphill battle at Indian Field on Friday against the Union County Panthers. The Panthers scored the shutout with a 10-0 defeat of the Indians. Photo by Jessica Keaton

The Lady Indians square off against the Lady Tigers of Dawson County on Tuesday at 5 p.m., followed by the Indians match up against the Tigers at 7 p.m. at Tiger Stadium in Dawsonville.

The two teams are back at home on Friday as they square off against the Rabun County Wildcats. The Ladies take the field first at 4:30 p.m., followed by the Indians at 6 p.m. T(Mar24,Sp5)jc

Indians prepare for week of baseball action

By Charles Duncan
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Weather permitting, the Towns County Indians baseball team faces a rugged portion of their regular season schedule this week.

On Monday, the Indians were scheduled to play a non-region match up with the Andrews Wildcats. They follow that on Tuesday with a region game against the Tigers in Commerce.

On Wednesday, the Indians travel to Tallulah Falls for a make up game against the TF Indians. That's followed Thursday by a home game against region rival Lakeview Academy and Friday, another home game against another region opponent Athens Academy.

Head Coach Shannon Moss shook his head just thinking about the full week of baseball action.

"That's what the weather has done to us; two away and two at home," Coach Moss said.

The Indians are positioning themselves for a good spot in the region standings. Towns County is in a three-way lock for fourth place with Athens Christian and Athens Academy.

Moss said his team's confidence is on the rise. "They got some wins early against some teams that they probably didn't think that they could win against," he said. "That's given them some confidence. They have the confidence to know that they can win."

"Winning is a good habit that they're hopefully developing," he said. The Indians are 4-5 on the season and 2-2 in region play.

"Hopefully with some wins (this week) we can stay in the thick of things," Coach Moss said. "We've got four region games, four tough ones." The team's five losses came against teams that Coach Moss said "right now, they're just better than us."

"We lost against two Class AA teams, Union and Rabun. Right now, they're just more experienced than us," Coach Moss said. "We lost to Hebron Christian, which is one



Towns County Head Baseball Coach Shannon Moss puts the brakes on Alan Turpin following a single by Matt Beni in Friday baseball Region 8-A action versus Prince Avenue Christian. The Indians are scheduled to play four region games this week. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

of the best teams in the state. We lost to Hiawassee Dam and we lost to Athens Christian and they're one of the better teams in the region."

Last week, the Indians beat Hiawassee Dam 6-5 and Prince Avenue Christian 9-7. They suffered two losses, 10-3 to Athens Christian and 15-0 to the region's current top seed,

Hebron Christian.

The Indians are scheduled to play Wednesday at 5:15 p.m. in Tallulah Falls; they're scheduled to play at 5 p.m. on Thursday and Friday at home against Lakeview Academy and Athens Academy.

Coach Moss is looking forward to a good showing of fan support. T(Mar24,Sp5)jc

Trout season opens Saturday

By Charles Duncan
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Saturday marks the beginning of the 2010 Trout Season in Georgia.

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Division and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service plan to stock more than 1 million trout in Georgia streams, rivers and small lakes by the end of the year. Many streams will be stocked in time for opening day.

"Our goal is to replenish all of our stocked streams before the end of the month," says Perry Thompson, trout stocking coordinator for the Wildlife Resources Division. "Since stream flows are up, we'll have an opportunity to spread our fish out well. Flow can drop quickly though, and we'll manage accordingly."

A high percentage of available trout will also be stocked by July 4 to avoid keeping too many

catchable-size (9-inch trout) in the hatcheries during the hottest time of the year.

Anglers anxious to fish the seasonal trout streams can do so beginning Saturday. Some popular seasonal streams include Cooper Creek in Union County, Wildcat Creek in Rabun County, and Dicks Creek in Lumpkin County.

Trout anglers must possess both a current Georgia fishing license and trout stamp to fish in designated trout waters and to fish for or possess trout. Licenses can be purchased online or at Kenneco Computers in Young Harris or Sunrise Grocery in Blairsville.

As usual, the daily catch limit is eight trout in state trout waters. Trout fisherman are reminded to respect private property rights along streams flowing through private lands and to obtain permission before fishing on private property.

Indians go 2-2 on the week; tied for fourth in Region 8-A

By Charles Duncan
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The Towns County Indians improved to 2-2 in Region 8-A with a convincing 9-7 win over the Prince Avenue Christian Wolverines.

The Indians moved into a three-way tie for fourth in the region along with Athens Academy and Athens Christian.

"We put the ball in play and didn't make a lot of mistakes," Indians' Head Baseball Coach Shannon Moss said. "Taylor Denton did a great job pitching for us today, all of our arms are a little sore, a little tender, this is our fourth game this week."

"Alan came in and gave us some innings, Matt Beni came in and closed and that's what we expect from him," Coach Moss said. "Timely hitting, timely pitching and that's what wins ballgames."

Taylor Denton paced the Indians with 4 and 2/3 innings of stellar pitching, giving way to Alan Turpin and later, closer Matt Beni, who nailed down the win with a save.

The Indians jumped out in front early, scoring 5 runs in the second to give Denton some breathing room on the mound. It was Billy Meier at the plate who sparked the second-inning scoring, driving in Kyle McConnell and Denton with a run-scoring double and advancing Jimmy Pearce, who drew a walk, to third base.

Turpin then slapped a 2-run single to right to give the Indians a 4-0 lead.

The inning didn't end there. Beni singled into the hole at second putting runners at second and third. Brett Bradshaw followed with a free base after he was struck in the back by a pitch by PAC right-hander Tyler Brannon.

Bleckley slapped one to second that was mishandled by Jason Shivar. The error plated Turpin to give the Indians a 5-0 lead.

The lead stood up in the third as Denton pitched out of a jam. He gave up a leadoff single to Zach Brickman and walked Mark Zeagler. He struck out Shivar and Brannon back-to-back and got Austin Simpson to



Indians' starting pitcher Taylor Denton picked up the win last week over Prince Avenue Christian. Denton pitched 4 and 2/3 innings allowing only three runs to lead Towns County over the Wolverines 9-7 in a Region 8-A match up. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

ground out to Meier at third.

Denton wasn't as lucky in the top of the fourth. He walked the leadoff hitter David Stiles and followed that by giving up a double to Daniel Howell. Dillion Faulkner followed with a sacrifice fly to crack the scoreboard for PAC, leaving Towns with a 5-1 lead.

Jones Farriba followed with a run-scoring single. The Wolverines plated another run on a wild pitch.

Coach Moss had seen enough and went to the mound to calm Denton down. Denton responded to get the final out of the top half of the inning, coaxing Brickman to fly out to right to end the inning.

Meier walked to lead off the bottom half of the fourth. He swiped second following an errant throw to first and later advanced to third on a balk. Meier scored on a wild pitch to make the score 6-3.

Beni followed Brannon's wildness by drawing a walk. He stole second as Brannon tried to

pick him off first. He scored on a long single by Bleckley to give the Indians some well-needed insurance.

In the top of the fifth, Denton got in trouble again, walking Brannon, before getting Simpson on a fly out to right. He walked Stiles to put runners on first and second. Coach Moss summoned Turpin to pitch to Howell. He promptly got Howell to fly out to center to end the inning.

The Wolverines picked up three runs in the top of the sixth to narrow the Indians lead to 7-6.

The Indians struck back in the bottom of the sixth as Turpin chased Meier home with a run-scoring double. Turpin advanced to third on a ground out by Beni. Bradshaw and Bleckley followed with back-to-back walks. Turpin scored on a wild pitch to make the score 9-6.

The Wolverines picked up a run off closer Beni in the top of the seventh. But the senior nailed down the win getting Brickman and Zeagler on strikeouts and coaxing Stiles to pop out to Bleckley to end the game.

Turkey season is underway in Towns

By Charles Duncan
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Turkey hunters broke out their calls on Saturday as turkey season opened in Towns County.

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Division anticipates that the

2010 turkey season should be a good one. Wildlife experts say that turkey harvest levels should compare to recent seasons.

"There should be many vocal 2-year old gobblers available for harvest this year thanks to the high reproduction rate in the summer of 2008," says Kevin Lowrey, Wildlife Resources Division wild turkey project coordinator.

An estimated 56,113 Georgia turkey hunters bagged 27,323 turkeys in 2009, DNR records show.

Georgia's current turkey population is estimated at 300,000 birds, Lowrey said.

Georgia turkey hunters experience one of the longest turkey seasons nationwide. With a bag limit of three gobblers per season, hunters have until May 15 to harvest their limit of turkeys.

The Wildlife Resources Division reminds hunters to always obtain landowner permission before hunting on private lands.

Through the WMA system, resident hunters have access to nearly one million acres of prime hunting land for just \$19 a year. Success rates and total harvest numbers from 2009 may help indicate which WMAs hunters should target this year.

In the northeast, Dukes Creek WMA and Wilson Shoals WMA had the highest harvest rates.

If you're really interested in finding those elusive gobblers, one might ask the Towns County Herald's Lowell Nicholson. He's shot many a turkey well before the season - of course he was using his camera at the time of the shooting.

Both a valid hunting license and a big game license are required to legally hunt wild turkey. Wild turkey can legally be hunted with shotguns, loaded with No. 2 or smaller shot, any muzzle loading firearm, longbow, crossbow or compound bow.



Towns County is prime hunting grounds for wild turkeys in Georgia. Turkey season is now underway and the state bag limit is three turkeys per hunter. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Mountain Lions split a pair of SBall twin bills

Brittany Allen and Sam Wolf each collected a pair of hits for Young Harris, but South Georgia would win the opening game of a Georgia Junior College Athletic Association doubleheader 5-3 Saturday in Douglas.

Allen was 2-for-3 and scored twice, while Wolf went 2-for-3 and drove in a pair of runs.

Rikki Powers took the loss for the Mountain Lions, who fell to 9-11 overall. Powers allowed five runs (three earned) on six hits and three walks in six innings. She struck out nine batters.

In the nightcap, Jennifer Watford drove in three runs and Victoria Sink pitched effectively as Young Harris defeated South Georgia 8-3 in the second game of a Georgia Junior College Athletic Association doubleheader Saturday in Douglas.

Emily Wilson also drove in multiple runs, pushing two across while going 1-for-3 at the plate. Brittany Allen led the team with two hits while also scoring once and driving in a run. Jess Swancey delivered a hit, scored twice and drove in a run; Amanda McElheney was 1-for-3 and scored twice and Tara Mullinax had a hit and scored a run.

Sink earned a complete-game victory. She allowed three runs on 10 hits, while striking out four batters and walking none.

The victory improved the Mountain Lions' record to 10-11 overall and 1-1 in GJCAA play. They return to action Sunday at Coastal Georgia.



Photo courtesy of

On Sunday, in Brunswick, the College of Coastal Georgia defeated Young Harris 7-2 in the first game of a Georgia Junior College Athletic Association doubleheader Sunday in Brunswick.

Rikki Powers pitched a complete game for Young Harris, which dropped to 10-12 overall with the loss.

In the nightcap, the Mountain Lions rebound to win the second game at CCG, 7-1 after dropping the first game of a GJCAA doubleheader.

Victoria Sink earned the victory for the Mountain Lions with a complete game win.

Young Harris improved to 11-12 overall and 2-2 in Georgia Junior College Athletic Association play. The Mountain Lions are scheduled to return to action March 24th with a GJCAA twin bill against Gordon College. That will mark the first home games of the season for Young Harris, who had two earlier home scheduled dates cancelled.

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