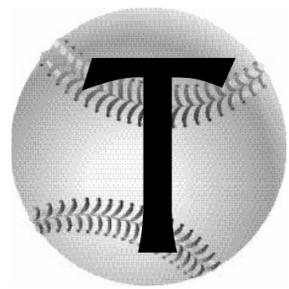


Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports



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Hiawassee, Georgia

Hayesville duo takes top prize at bass tourney

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Jeremy Cross had just reached his first stop in the First Towns County Touchdown Club Bass Tournament with his fishing partner Butch Hogan.

The Hayesville, NC resident quickly cast into a shallow pool of water in Lake Chatuge when his crank bait alerted a passerby.

Cross' line tightened and he quickly snapped his rod back to set the hook. It took about a half-second for him to realize he had hooked into a behemoth large-mouth bass.

"I knew it was a hawg. The water was dingy and I really couldn't see it," Cross said. "He was in about 2 foot of water and he just took off. He jumped about 10 times. I just knew he was going to come off."

Moments later, Hogan, also of Hayesville, helped Cross land the lunker bass into a fishing net. One hoist of the Chatuge bass left both feeling good about the day's catch. The bass weighed in at almost 10 pounds. Nearly half of the 21-plus pounds of bass that netted them not only the Big Fish prize, but the overall first place prize of \$750.

Cross and Hogan were honored to be a part of the fund-raiser designed to help put new equipment on the Towns County Indians' football players.

"We love to fish and it was an honor to be a part of this tournament today," Cross said.

Hogan said the bass were biting early and later in the day.

"The mid-day fishing was tough, but there was some good fishing in the morning and evening hours," Hogan said.

After the payouts, Head Coach Kyle Langford said the Indians' football team netted about \$1,100.

"It was a good day for us," Coach Langford said. "The turnout was good and, it was about as good a day weather-wise as you could ask for. One of the guys came in and said they thought the weather was too pretty for bass fishing."

Nineteen teams of anglers turned out to try their luck at the first place prize. Matthew Johnson and Kendall Cain, both members of Young Harris College's collegiate bass tournament team weren't smiling at the end of the day.

The boys got skunked. "Man, I hate to get shut-out," Johnson said. "This is embarrassing. We didn't even get one hit all day."

Regardless of the day's catch, or lack thereof, Johnson



Jeremy caught the Big Fish, a 9.8 pound large mouth bass.



Towns County Indians' Head Football Coach Kyle Langford hands Butch Hogan of Hayesville, NC the prize money for the Big Fish and Total Weight of the Catch in the First Towns County Touchdown Club Bass Tournament on Lake Chatuge. Hogan and his partner Jeremy Cross, also of Hayesville, took first place honors. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



Tournament officials weigh in the catch of Butch Hogan and Jeremy Cross during Saturday's Towns County Touchdown Club Bass Tournament on Lake Chatuge. Hogan and Cross took home first place honors with a total catch of more than 21 pounds of bass.

is still feeling privileged to be a collegiate fisherman for Young Harris College.

"If you had told me that one day I'd be a college athlete, I'd have thought you were crazy," a smiling Johnson said. "My parents would have never believed it. Practice is a killer, but we manage."

"I'm not really an athlete, but we have a lot of fun and we do enjoy fishing," Johnson said, showing his serious side.

Cain was disappointed about the lack of bass in the team's rented boat.

"It was some hard fish-

ing for us," he said. "We didn't get a bite; it was just tough for us trying to connect with the bass today."

Coach Langford thanked the anglers and the volunteers, including some of his players, for helping to make the event a first-year success.

"I just want to thank everyone who came out and helped us get this event started on the right foot," Coach Langford said. "It was a real pleasure and we all had a great time doing this event. I truly believe this is the first of many more bass tournaments to come."

T1Mar24_Spts10Jac

YHC shuts out Spartanburg Methodist 9-0

Young Harris College's women's tennis team won for the second time Saturday, defeating Spartanburg Methodist 9-0 in a non-conference match in Spartanburg, S.C.

The Mountain Lions cruised to the victory, giving up just one game in three doubles sets and easily winning all six singles matches in straight sets.

Young Harris' top two doubles teams of Brianna Brinkley and Kinsley Black, and Sarah Deese and Holly Smith, respectively, each claimed 8-0 victories. The Mountain Lions' No. 3 tandem of Michelle Allen and Mary Beth Maxwell won their doubles match 8-1.

In singles play, Black, Brinkley and Allen all picked up 6-0, 6-0 shutout victories. Deese, Smith and Maxwell also each won one of their two sets 6-0. Deese won her match on the No. 3 court 6-3, 6-0; Smith won 6-1, 6-0 in the No. 4 singles match and Maxwell won her contest in the sixth position 6-1, 6-0.

The victory was the fourth in a row for the Mountain Lions, who are scheduled to return to action March 23 at Marion Military.

Doubles:
1. Black/Brinkley (YHC) def. Williams/Wilson (SMC) 8-0
2. Deese/Smith (YHC) def. James/Coan (SMC) 8-0
3. Allen/Maxwell (YHC)



Photo courtesy of

- 6-0, 6-0
- 2. Brianna Brinkley (YHC) def. Melissa Williams (SMC) 6-0, 6-0
- 3. Sarah Deese (YHC) def. Brittany James (SMC) 6-3, 6-0
- 4. Holly Smith (YHC) def. Kirstin Coan (SMC) 6-1, 6-0
- 5. Michelle Allen (YHC) def. Revelyn Venegas (SMC) 6-0, 6-0
- 6. Mary Beth Maxwell (YHC) def. Brittany Neal (SMC) 6-1, 6-0

T1Mar24_Spts10Jac

Mountain Lions Finish 12th at Berry Invitational

Young Harris College's women's golf team finished 12th at the Berry College Invitational at the Coosa Country Club in Rome, on Tuesday.

Kelsey McEntyre again shot the Mountain Lions' low round, firing the team's best round of the tournament at 80 to finish the 36-hole event tied for 14th overall at 83-80-163. Ironically, all four of Young Harris' players lowered their scores by three shots from the first round.

YHC's Courtney Moore shot 85 to finish at 88-85-173 and tie for 30th. Katie Bludworth shot 92 and tied for 55th at 95-92-187. Carol Raterman tied for 75th after shooting 101 and finishing at 104-101-205.

Young Harris finished the tournament with an overall score of 370-358-728, one stroke behind 11th place Columbus State

and 10 strokes behind 10th place Trevecca Nazarene. The Mountain Lions, playing with three freshmen and one sophomore (Moore), were the only team that competes at the junior college level in the tournament. Fifteen teams appeared in the event.

Shorter College won the tournament with a team score of 318-316-634, winning by 12 strokes over second-place University of the Cumberlands. Host Berry was third at 335-320-655. Mobile's Maegan Rice earned individual medalist honors by shooting 73-74-147, easily outdistancing second place Jayne Curtis of Berry (76-76-152).

The Mountain Lions were scheduled to return to action Monday and Tuesday at the University of West Georgia Invitational in Villa Rica.

Young Harris College Moves Up To No. 9 in NJCAA Division I Poll



Photo courtesy of Young Harris College

Young Harris College moved up two spots to No. 9 in the latest National Junior College Athletic Association Division I poll, released last week.

The Mountain Lions, who finished the week with an overall record (23-5, 5-1), own victories over two other teams ranked in the top 25, including No. 7 Gulf Coast Community College and No. 18 Wabash Valley College.

The Mountain Lions proved the pollsters correct with a 7-5 win Friday over Georgia Perimeter in Covington. YHC split a double-header on Saturday, winning 11-9 and coming up on the losing end of an 8-7 contest in the nightcap.

Ben Watson struck out eight batters in four innings and Brandon Curson belted his fourth home run of the season as Young Harris defeated Georgia Perimeter 7-5 in the first game of a Georgia Junior College Athletic Association series Friday in Covington.

Trailing 3-0, the Mountain Lions tied the score in the fourth inning. Curson led off the inning with a home run to put Young Harris on the scoreboard. Later in the inning, Brett Armour scored on Ethan Herron's groundball out, and Jake Montgomery made the score 3-3 when he dashed home on a wild pitch.

Young Harris would score twice more in the fifth, when Montgomery drew a bases-loaded walk and Herron delivered a sacrifice fly that scored Armour and gave YHC a 5-3 lead.

Georgia Perimeter pulled to within 5-4 in the bottom of the fifth on an RBI single by T.D. Davis, but Curson and Armour delivered back-to-back RBI singles in the eighth to give the Mountain Lions a three-run cushion.

Will Howard's RBI double in the bottom of the eighth made the score 7-5, but it was too little, too late for the Jaguars. Watson (3-0) earned the victory for the Mountain Lions. In four innings of relief, Watson allowed two runs (one earned) on five hits. He showed great control, not walking anyone while setting down eight batters with strikeouts.

Watson came on in relief of starter Mitchell Knox. Knox pitched four innings, and allowed three runs on eight hits and two walks while striking out three batters.

Adam Camara earned his third save of the season with a hitless ninth inning. He walked one batter and struck out one. Chris Holloway went 1-for-4, picking up an eighth-inning double to run his hitting streak

Georgia Southwestern defeats YHC 7-2

Young Harris College's men's tennis team picked up wins in the No. 1 doubles and No. 6 singles positions, but Georgia Southwestern State University used three 3-set singles victories to defeat the Mountain Lions 7-2 in a non-conference match in Americus Thursday.

Georgia Southwestern is a member of the NCAA Division II Peach Belt Conference.

The Mountain Lions' doubles tandem of Jamie Childree and Laurenz Schraepen defeated the Hurricanes' No. 1 team of Victor Pinones-Haltenhoff and Ryan Bartz 8-6, while Felix Reichl defeated GSW's Brandon Vann 6-2, 6-1 in the sixth slot in singles action.

Three of the singles matches went into a deciding third set. Schraepen defeated Pinones-Haltenhoff in the first set of their match in the No. 1 position, but Pinones-Haltenhoff rebounded to win 2-6, 6-3, and 6-4. Ryan Bartz and Will Dixon also went the distance in their match on the No. 2 court, with Bartz eventually winning 4-6, 6-3, and 6-2. The Mountain Lions' Mitchell Midkiff won the first set against Sebastian Munoz, but fell 6-7, 6-1, and 6-2. Koen Gottenbos nearly forced a third set in his



Photo courtesy of Young Harris College



Photo courtesy of Young Harris College

match against Rashad Carson in the fifth position, but narrowly lost 6-1, 7-6 (12-10).

Young Harris is scheduled to return to action Saturday at South Carolina-Lancaster.

- Doubles:
1. Childree/Schraepen (YHC) def. Pinones-Haltenhoff/Bartz (GSW) 8-6
2. Donnett/Munoz (GSW) def. Dixon/Midkiff (YHC) 8-5
3. Carson/Knight (GSW) def. Gottenbos/Reichl (YHC) 8-4
- Singles:
1. Victor Pinones-Haltenhoff

tain Lions to use three pitchers in the ninth, eventually loading the bases. Montgomery moved from first base to the mound with two outs and issued a bases-loaded walk, but struck out the next batter, Henry, to end the game.

Curson, Armour, Montgomery and Herron drove in two runs apiece for YHC.

Brian Holmes, the second of six Young Harris pitchers used in the game, earned the victory to improve to 3-0. He allowed five runs (four earned) on four hits and one walk. Holmes struck out four batters in 3.1 innings.

Montgomery picked up his first career save. He became the eighth different Young Harris pitcher to log a save in 2010.

Georgia Perimeter starter Jake Dyer was tagged with the loss. He allowed eight runs on nine hits.

In the nightcap, the Jaguars ended the Mountain Lions' eight-game winning streak with an 8-7 win.

Blake McCullers' bases-loaded single scored Scott King with one out in the bottom of the eighth inning to give Georgia Perimeter the 8-7 win.

The game was the second game of a doubleheader and was scheduled to go just seven innings, but Young Harris rallied from a 6-1 deficit to tie the score 7-7, thanks to a fourth-inning sacrifice fly from Curson, a five-run fifth inning highlighted by Holloway's two-run single and Curson's RBI single and a run generated by an error in the sixth.

The Mountain Lions (23-5, 5-1) left a runner stranded on second base in both the seventh and eighth innings, though, and weren't able to complete the comeback.

Alan Busenitz earned the victory for Georgia Perimeter. In two shutout innings, Busenitz struck out four batters while allowing two hits and no walks. Montgomery, who earned a save in the first game of Saturday's twin bill, took the loss in the second game. The fourth YHC pitcher in the game, Montgomery allowed one run on two hits and a walk while striking out two batters in two-thirds of an inning.

Holloway's fifth-inning hit extended his hitting streak to 27 consecutive games. Lowery and Herron each had two hits for Young Harris.

The loss put an end to YHC's second longest such streak this season. Young Harris opened the season with 11 consecutive victories.

The Mountain Lions are scheduled to return to action Friday in the first game of a GJCAA series against Middle Georgia in Cochran. T1Mar24_Spts6Jac