



The Rock opens baseball camp at YHC campus

JIM BRYANT

Sports Writer

Following a series of summer sports camps around the county, The Rock opened its annual baseball camp on the campus of Young Harris College.

This regional sports academy has placed all of the summer sports programs on the YHC campus under one umbrella called The Rock.

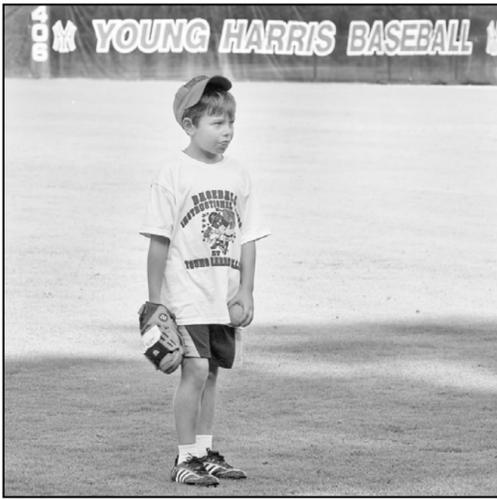
This places the co-ordination of all the summer programs under the direction of LuAnn Robinson. Various YHC head coaches conduct each of the summer camps (Alli Hillman, tennis; Eric Geldart, softball, Mark McKeever, men's soccer; Kathy Brown, women's soccer, Cross Training, LuAnn Robinson and Rick Robinson, baseball).

Baseball camp on the YHC campus consisted age groups, 5-10 stayed from 8:30-12 and 8-12 with sessions running from 8:30-3-30 for the week. The junior elite class of 5th-7th graders and senior elite group 8th to 12th grades went from 4:00-7:00.

According to Head Coach, Rick Robinson, the camp enrollment has stayed up this year despite the poor economy because many (12) of the sixty kids were staying in the mountains with their grandparents during the summer.

He stated that current and former players (Daniel Warzon, Travis Echols, Blake Roberts, Matt Lobacz, Sean Jenkins and Adam Camara) were assisting as were several volunteer teens (Brock Turner, T Bentley & Morgan Bentley).

The camp stressed hitting, fielding and playing the game.



Ryan Robinson attends his first baseball camp.



The 2009 baseball campers in the annual cap toss.

Photos by Jim & Lisa Bryant



Joshua Rice of Hiwassee catches the ball during fielding drill.



Brady Wilson of Hiwassee throws during a baseball session at the YHC campus.



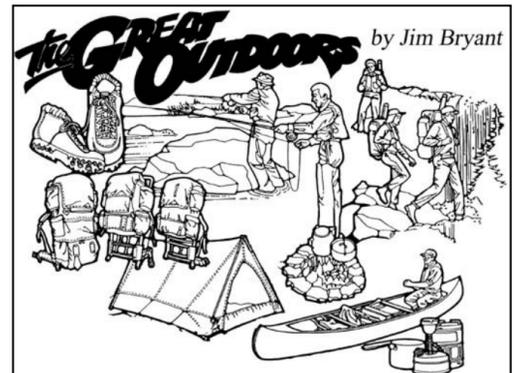
Carter Wright chases a long fly ball at baseball camp.

The Rock Regional Sports Academy

The Rock Regional Sports Academy (formerly Baseball Instructional Camps @ YHC) has set dates for summer camps for baseball, soccer and tennis.

Our 2009 Cross-Training for Christ Multi-Sport camp

and Leadership Training Camp dates are July 6-10. New to The Rock are Tennis, Soccer & Baseball lessons ranging from individual to small group to team. For more info or for a registration form, call 706-897-2363 or e-mail LuannR36@yahoo.com



Pitching and Striking the tent

Pitching the tent is the terminology for setting up a tent, although some people would like to "pitch" the tent after trying unsuccessfully to set it up, especially in windy conditions, darkness or thunder showers. IT IS THEREFORE IMPERATIVE THAT THE TENT BE SET UP AS PRACTICE PRIOR TO THE CAMPING TRIP. This will prevent the tent from becoming a nylon Rubik's Cube or the impossible dream without all the necessary parts. The best tents often defy comprehension as to the arrangement of criss-crossing poles. Some tent manufacturers now color code tent parts, anchor points and sleeves/hooks. If not, take a magic marker and mark your tent yourself.

You can forget the directions about repacking the tent the same way each time. To do so is impossible, even if you tried. It is difficult enough just to get it packed back into the carrying bag.

PITCHING
First, establish a location for the tent.

Next, check this location for small objects on the ground such as stones, sticks, etc. that might poke a home in the tent bottom or small tree roots that are very uncomfortable to sleep on.

Check overhead for possible dead trees or potential falling limbs.

When the site is ready, lay out all the tent components to see if you have the tent, rainfly, support poles and stakes.

Lay out the ground cloth: blue side up/summer, shiny side up/winter.

Lay out the tent on the ground cloth and arrange basically where you want it to be.

The tent should be laid out right-side-up, with the floor on the ground and the pole sleeves evident.

Next, assemble all the poles and lay them out on the ground according to size if the poles vary.

Run all the poles through the sleeves or hooks, beginning with the longest poles and working down to the shorter poles if there are varying sizes.

Tension all the criss-crossing poles and gently lift the tent into the upright position. This is done slowly to

allow for air to remove the surface tension created by the nylon fabrics.

The poles are then placed into pegs or grommets at the appropriate sides or ends of the tent.

Some tents need to be staked at several key points before you can feed the poles through the nylon and plastic hooks.

When staking a tent, be sure that the point of the stake is placed TOWARD the tent and at a 45 degree angle. In severe windy conditions, a rock or log may be placed over the stake to prevent it from pulling free. In extremely sandy soils, the use of a "sandhog" stake is advised.

Always carry extra pieces of equipment such as a patch, extra length of nylon cord, two extra stakes, seam sealant, which are all stashed in the tent carrying bag.

Despite the temptation to pitch your tent adjacent the campfire, remember that nylon is extremely susceptible to flames and sparks from a campfire can severely damage or destroy your tent. Keep the tent located well away from the fire and upwind if possible.

STRIKING
To "strike" a tent means to take it down and pack it. The method for striking a tent is similar to "pitching" a tent but in reverse.

First remove all objects from inside the tent, remembering to check the storage pouches.

Next unhook the tent from the stakes and if it is a free-standing tent, turn it over facing the sun and allow the bottom of the tent to dry. Moisture will form on the underside of the tub-bottom.

Remove all stakes, clean off excess dirt and set aside for later storage. Count all stakes.

Remove the rainfly and fold for storage.

After the tent had dried, remove support poles and break them down into sections, set aside for storage.

Fold the tent and pack it into the carrying bag.

Pack the folded rainfly next.

Gently pack the poles and stakes, being careful not to punch a hole in the tent.

Check the campsite for any missed items.

Brother Oh Brother, Where Art Thou?

JIM BRYANT

Sports Writer

When Old Mother Hubbard went to the cupboard, the cupboard was bare. If you have gone by the YHC tennis courts lately, they too are bare. Actually they are not even there! Instead of pretty young tennis players playing in the sunshine, there is a huge retention pond to handle run-off from all the construction going on about the campus. In case you have not heard, the college is rapidly moving to a four year institution and the entire campus is facing construction challenges. The tennis facility will be located and rebuilt elsewhere on the campus.

With the addition of men's tennis to the collegiate program for 2010, YHC has plans to not only relocate the by-gone courts, they plan to expand the number of courts to accommodate both men's and women's tennis. When completed, this should be great news for women's coach Alli Hillman and newly hired men's coach, Bruce Sibley.

Meanwhile, the search for courts to hold the usual summer tennis camps had moved to Towns County High. Unfortunately, with the economy still in the toilet and loss of the YHC courts both hitting at the

same time, it has been a slam shot to the summer camps. Such was the case Friday when the TC Herald went to the TCHS courts to cover the first scheduled tennis camp. The cupboard was bare. Two kids showed up Friday and were hitting the balls around but no camp. According to the parent, the enrollment was down

so much that the camp had to be cancelled, refunds made or optional private lessons given to the players that had enrolled. Contact with camp Director, LuAnn Robinson and Coach Alli Hillman confirmed the low enrollment and the nine that registered had elected to take refunds or private lessons rather than have camp for the

small enrollment (minimum of fifteen). Maybe the enrollment at the other sites and future dates will be better. Regardless, we wish the college a great season and welcome coach Sibley to the program. As a sidebar, the cost of the YHC Adult Tennis Camp has been reduced to \$100/couple or \$75/individual.



Tennis players from the 2008 camp vastly outnumbered the 2009 enrollees.

Holiday weekend sure to be busy on the water

Thanks to higher water levels and sunny skies, the upcoming Fourth of July holiday weekend is sure to be a busy one on Georgia's lakes and waterways, according to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division. Conservation Rangers with the Department will do their best to ensure the safety of everyone on the wa-

ter and boaters are strongly encouraged to use good judgment and exercise caution while on the water.

So far this year in Georgia, there have been 58 boating incidents resulting in 40 injuries and 5 boating incident-related fatalities. Additionally, there have been 21 drownings on public waters. Conservation Rangers have issued 69 boat-

ing under the influence (BUI) citations statewide.

DNR offers the following safety rules for boat and PWC operators:

Designate an operator. Don't drink and operate a boat.

While not illegal to have alcohol on a boat - it is always a wise idea to have a boat operator designated to stay sober. A person age 21 or over

with a blood alcohol content of .10 can be charged with Boating Under the Influence.

Take a boating safety course. To take a boating safety course.

Wear your life jacket. Recommended for all boaters. Children under 10 years of age are required by law to wear a life jacket while onboard a moving boat.

Don't overload your boat with people or equipment. Check on the capacity plate for the maximum weight or the maximum number of people the boat can safely carry.

Use navigation lights at ALL times when on the water at night. Check lights before it gets dark.

Watch your distance and speed. The 100-foot law applies to ALL size vessels and prohibits operation at speeds greater than idle speed within 100 feet of any vessel, unless overtaking or meeting another vessel in compliance with the rules of the road.

For more info on boating safety or how to take a boating safety course, visit the website www.goboatgeorgia.com or call (770) 535-5499