

Towns County Sports

Town's County's Leader In Sports



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Towns County youth football season kicks into high gear

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The Towns County youth football practice field was covered up with talent last week. Youngsters ages 5-12 came out and got a chance to practice under the supervision of the high school varsity coaching staff and a number of high school players.

It was all part of the annual Towns County Youth Football Camp, Youth Football Director Jimmy Smith said. "It's incredible, we had a great turnout this year," Smith said. "We've got 60 kids out here and they're all excited. They're excited to be working with Coach Kyle Langford and his staff and the high school players."

"Having the big guys out here makes these kids feel like they're something special," Smith said. "Having the varsity players and varsity coaches out here helping is just something else. I really appreciate Coach Langford and what he does out here for the kids."

Last year, three out of four Towns County Youth Teams made it to the playoffs. "I think we can do the same thing this year," Smith said. "Almost every kid that played last year is back again this year. We've got a few new ones this year as well."

Smith is experiencing his 14th year involved in Towns County Youth Football. "Every year is as exciting as the first year," he said. "I look forward to being

around the kids every year and watching them grow as people and as sportsmen. I think I've learned as much from the kids as they've learned from me.

"We're going to dress them out again this year and see what they can do," Smith said.

Coach Langford said he wouldn't miss Youth Football Camp for the world.

"It's amazing, another year, another good turnout," Coach Langford said. "We always want 160 out here, but we're glad to have these 60 players out here working their tails off and learning the nuances of football."

"They're really working hard," he said. "It may be the hardest working group of young people I've ever seen at a youth football camp. We're glad to be out here doing something football-wise."

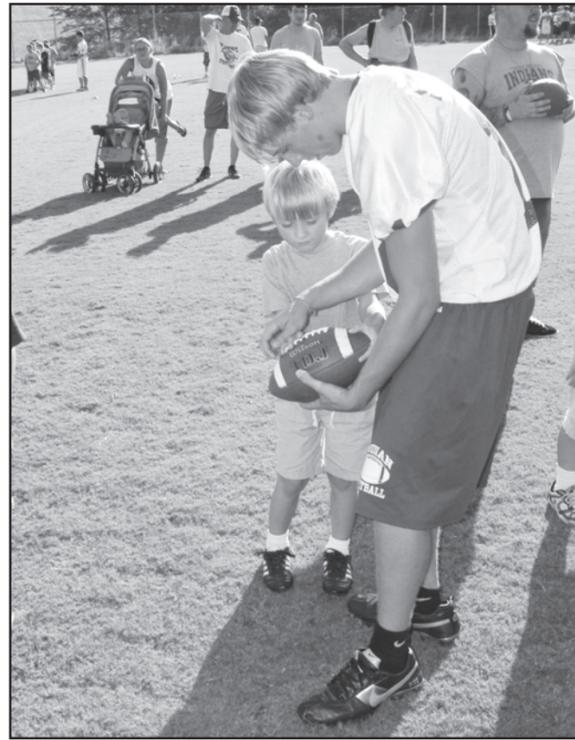
Langford and his staff were joined by a large contingent of varsity players offering their expertise to the young kids.

"I actually think this does the older guys more good than the younger guys," he said. "They remember when they were that age and trying to learn as much as they could about the game of football."

"They're getting a chance to give back and help these kids that come and support them every Friday night," he said. "One day, these young kids will be in their shoes. We want these young kids to think about football and have aspirations to play high school foot-

ball at Towns County. "We want them eager to win ballgames and championships," Coach Langford said. "That's what we're all out here for."

Coach Langford said that the ultimate goal was to give the youth players a good solid base of football knowledge going into the upcoming Recreation Season. "There's a lot of talent out here, a lot of heart," he said. "And this group came to



Indians quarterback Zach Stroud lends a helping hand

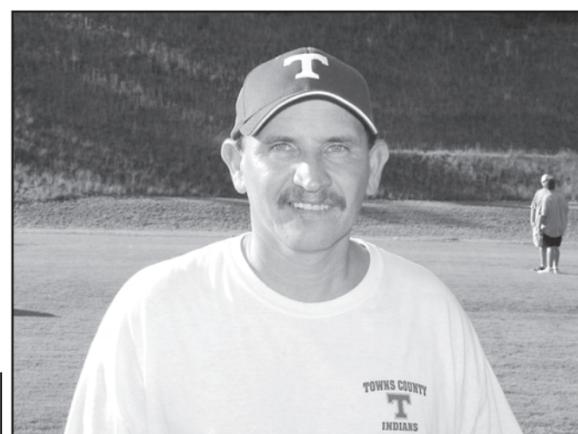
learn. They ask questions and they don't complain about the practices. We're excited about football in Towns County. And we're ready for those lights to go on each and every Friday night during the football season."

The Youth Football teams began practice for the regular season on Monday. They're anxious to experience the thrill of fall on the football field each and every Saturday.

Photos by Charles Duncan



Head Coach Kyle Langford gives helpful instructions



Towns County Youth Football Director Jimmy Smith

It's been a busy week at Young Harris College



Nikki Wynn gives some helpful advice during Youth Basketball Camp at Young Harris College

Men's Coach Pete Herrmann and Women's Coach Brenda Paul are holding their first basketball camp together for boys and girls ages 8-15. The camp runs through Friday.

Also this week, the college's baseball team continues to host a fundamental baseball camp through Friday. The Fundamental camp is for children ages 5-12 and offers full-day or half-day options.

Wow, school must be just around the corner.



Youngsters learn the fielding drill during baseball camp at Young Harris College. Photos by Lowell Nicholson

Public invited to open house for YHC new Recreation Center

Young Harris College President Cathy Cox cordially invites the local community to attend a special Open House for the College's new Recreation Center on Sunday, Aug. 1. The drop-in event will be held from 2 to 5 p.m. on the YHC campus. The event is free and open to the public.

The 57,000-square-foot Recreation Center will of-

ficially open in August when students return for fall semester. This newest addition to campus features a first-class, fully equipped weight room and fitness center, an impressive 37-foot-high rock climbing wall, an elevated indoor jogging track surrounding the facility and a state-of-the-art 1,100-purple-seat, NCAA - regulation arena that will serve

as the new home of Mountain Lions basketball. The center also boasts the Balance Café, a healthy food and juice bar, multipurpose classrooms for yoga, dance and aerobics, office space and locker rooms for the athletic department and wide expanses of windows to enjoy the surrounding mountain-landscape views.

Open House attendees will have the chance to learn more about Recreation Center amenities, the return of basketball to Young Harris College and center membership opportunities available to the local community.

The facility has been designed and constructed to LEED (Leadership in Energy

and Environmental Design) standards and is expected to earn LEED certification later this year. The Recreation Center will be the second new facility to be completed as part of Young Harris College's strategic plan to make the transformation to four-year status and the second facility to earn LEED certification. The 200-bed Enotah Hall residence hall, which opened in August 2009, was awarded LEED Silver certification. The local community is invited to visit Enotah Hall during the Open House event.

For more information, call Young Harris College at (706) 379-3111 or (800) 241-3754 or visit www.yhc.edu.

Yama Bushi Karate welcomes Masters Summit



In the photo(L-R) was Sensei Glenn Brackett 2nd Degree Black Belt, Master Charles Carter 6th Degree Black Belt, Master John O Hernandez 5th Degree Black Belt, Grandmaster John Chatwood 10th Degree Black Belt, Grandmaster Matt Molineux 10th Degree Black Belt, Yama Bushi Karate Head Master Ron Wallace 7th Degree Black Belt, Master David Patrick 8th Degree Black Belt, DJ Tunnell 4th Degree Black Belt.

Yama Bushi Karate recently held a Seminar sanctioned by the International Okinawan Budo-kai. We welcomed 10th degree Blackbelt Grandmasters Matt Molineux who currently resides in Okinawa Japan, and John Chatwood of Nevada. We also had masters from Georgia, North Carolina, Nevada and Florida present. The group trained on Friday night and all day on Saturday. The group trained in traditional Okinawan Kata(Forms) and broke them down to practical applications and usage. The group also reviewed Jujitsu techniques(Samurai Throwing Techniques) and Tuite techniques (Joint and Nerve Ma-

nipulations) which are the advanced levels to training. Host Sensei Ron Wallace stated this is one of the methods that senior karate practitioners continue and maintain their own training. A gathering of high ranking martial artists of this caliber is a real treat and the Yama Bushi Karate Students had an opportunity to meet and train with them. Since December, Yama Bushi Karate has had 4 Grandmasters visit our dojo and our town. This is something most karate schools and junior students never get to experience. Our status worldwide and our fully accredited rank and status in Okinawa Japan makes this possible.

First annual Mobility-Impaired Bass Tournament

Hey all you bass fishermen and women, do you know someone that loves to bass fish but has a physical challenge that is keeping them from enjoying the sport? Well, here is the chance to get out there and enjoy bass fishing at its finest. For the first time, several local bass fishing groups are donating their time and boats to take disabled men and women fishing. That's right, on August 14th, on Lake Chatuge the first annual mobility impaired bass tournament will take place. You may ask, what constitutes being mobility impaired? Okay, if you or someone you know who loves to bass fish uses a wheelchair, cane braces, etc. to ambulate, then this tournament is just for them. We will be pairing up a disabled fishing partner with a boat partner to fish as a team, and that team will compete against the rest of the field for top honors. Based on a full field of teams, which is limited to 20 teams, the winners are guaran-

teed a 100% payout, plus we will be paying for the biggest bass, also. Okay, if you are ready too have a great day on the lake, plus, put some greenbacks in your pocket, you need to sign up for this event. The deadline to sign up, that is August 1st, but I wouldn't wait that long because when the 20 teams have signed up, that's all that can fish this tournament. The entry fee is \$60 per team, that's only \$30 per team member. Dinner will be served at the Senior Center in Hiawassee on the 13th, the night before the tournament. I heard a rumor it's BBQ. Lunch will be provided to each team fishing the tournament. Here's how to get your applications: you can either call (706)379-1990 and speak to Rodney Anderson or email him at quadzilla@windstream.net and he will see to it that you are taken care of. So, folks, let's get out there and catch them bass; they are waiting. See you on the water!

Local Racing Action

By: Carl Vanzura



The Modified Street cars are action packed every Saturday night at Tri-County.

Jacob Anderson's final run ends in victory at Tri-County

Murphy's Jacob Anderson went to Victory Lane in the Late Model Sportsman feature Saturday night at Tri-County Race Track. Anderson who was getting married Sunday is moving to Australia and will be out of racing for a while. Morganton driver Bobby Panter gave Anderson a battle early in the race but fell about five car lengths at the checkers. Rounding out the top five were Preston Crisp, Doug Sneed and Jr. Carswell.

The GM Performance Late Models line up for their Mid-Season Championship which went to Copperhill's Jason Deal in front of Blue Ridge's Sam Parris, Kevin Sutton, Kevin Bradshaw and Tony Ledford.

Another strong field of Cornwell Tools Modified Street drivers saw Morganton driver Brad Thomas lead the pack across the finish line in front of Heather Taylor, Mike Bryson, Sammy Berrong and Greg Sudderth.

Robbinsville driver Charles Toomey made it two wins in a row when he held off several challenge from current points leader Ricky Smith as Josh Roberts, Harold Garrett and Clark Molster filled the top five positions.

Blairsville driver Shannon Jones pulled away to a commanding lead to win the Mini Stock feature over Doug Thompson, Joshua Cordin, Herbert Chinn and Eddie Chinn.

Racing returns to Tri-

County Saturday night with racing in all classes.

There was some big time racing all over the area this week. Jonathan Davenport earned another \$10,000 payday last week by winning the West Virginia State Championship at West Virginia Motor Speedway. The Blairsville, GA, driver was fast qualifier and started the FASTRAK National Touring event from the sixth position. Davenport is leading Ray Cool's Southern Nationals 10 races in 13 days tour after three races. The tour raced Sunday at Rome Speedway, but the results will not be in at press time. The next event close enough for this area is at Cleveland Speedway on Thursday night.

The Southern All Stars raced at Boyds Speedway Friday night and Randy Weaver was the big winner. On Saturday night, the series moved over to Cleveland Speedway and Ronnie Lee Hollingsworth won the \$5000 first place money. At Toccoa Speedway, David McCoy won the SLM feature and Young Harris driver Randy Nichols was fourth. At North Georgia Speedway, Shannon Bearden drove Randy Shope's Blairsville based Chevy to third place in the Limited Late Model feature. Jamie Lunsford placed sixth behind Bearden. Lanier National Speedway was off this week, but has Christmas in July schedule on the 24th with Blairsville's Tom Schuette set to run in the Super Six Series on the program that night at the asphalt track.

Mountain United Soccer registration

The Mountain United Soccer Association is still accepting registration forms for the Fall season. The association has provided youth soccer in Union and Towns counties for over 24 years. The program serves over 500 players annually.

The season will begin in early September. Teams will be filled based on date of receipt. A player must be at least 4 years old on August 1, 2010 to be eligible.

Registration forms were mailed to current members. Registration forms are available at

the following locations: Blairsville-Blimpie, Branan Lodge, Hiawassee-Towns County Recreation Department and the Marathon Gas Station and Mountain Lakes Mortgage.

We will be hosting our annual Rock N' Roll Festival "Kickin at the Park" on August 28th from 6pm to 10pm/ Bands will be performing good rock and roll music. Ticket are available by calling the organization.

For more information, contact us at 706-745-7865 or visit www.mountainsooccer.org.