

Sports



Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Hiawassee, Georgia

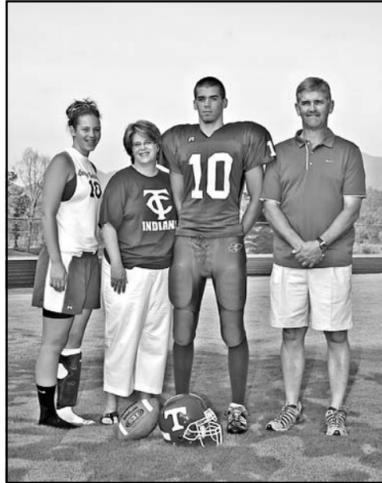
Indians close out 2009 with 37-0 loss

By Charles Duncan
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD
The Towns County Indians finished off the 2009 regular season with 2010 hopes for a return to success.

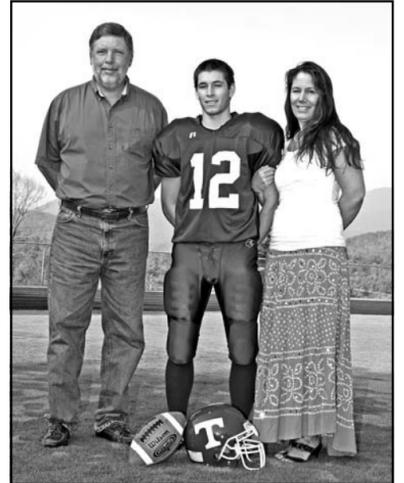
The Indians, (2-8), took one on the chin against an underrated Glascock County team as the Panthers dominated the Indians by a score of 37-0. Head Coach Kyle Langford was wary before the game citing the fact that the Panthers have the most underrated running back in the state in Montavious Myricks.

attack was too much for the Indians. Indians' quarterback John Swilley was named the Jacky Jones Offensive Player of the Game for Towns County, while Indians' secondary specialist Mat Hogsed was selected as the Jacky Jones Defensive Player of the Game. "Montavious Myricks is one of the best running backs we've seen all year," Langford said. "His team has struggled and that makes for the reason he is less publicized than most of Georgia's high school running backs."

"He's only a junior so that is subject to change," Langford said. Langford said he was proud of the way his Indians handled adversity in 2009. "We lost a lot of good athletes to graduation, but you didn't hear us whining about that because everybody does," Langford said. "You have to play with the hand that is dealt and we went out and played our hearts out every Friday night this season. I'm proud of these guys because they never gave up once."

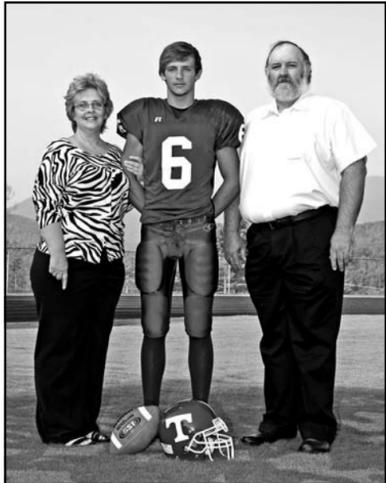


John Bleckley & Family

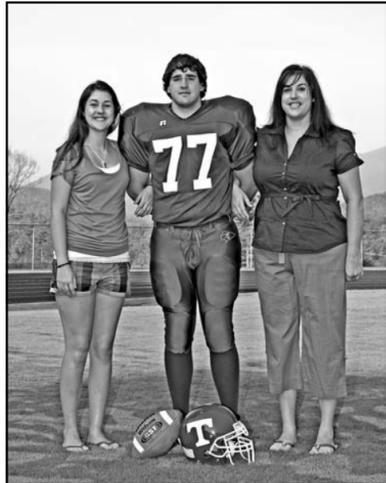


Matt Beni & Family

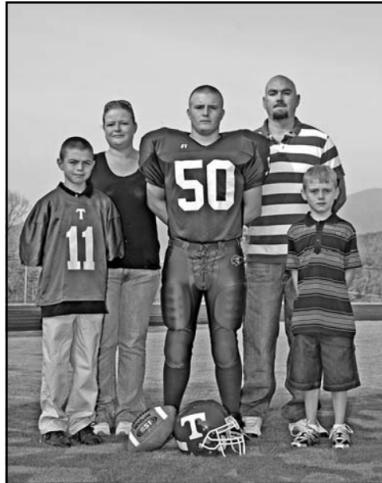
Photos by Jim & Lisa Bryant



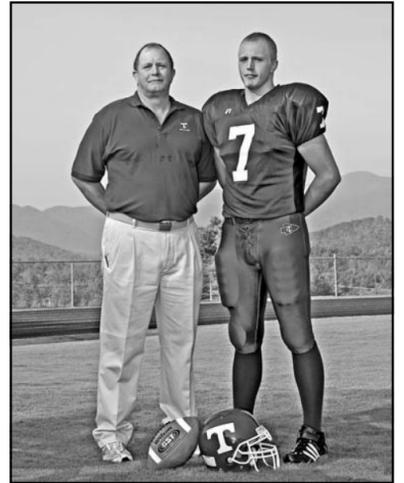
Mat Hogsed & Family



Zack Johnson & Family



Cody Partin & Family



John Swilley & Family

Junior Pee-Wees, Termites fall in playoffs

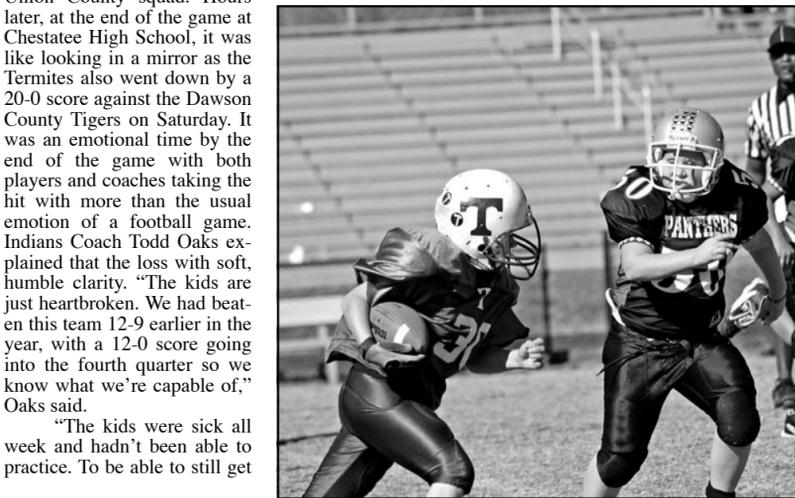
By Matthew Jarrard
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD
Championship hopes were dashed in Rabun and Hall counties as the Towns County Indians 9-year-old Junior Pee-Wees and the 5- and 6-year-old Termites both were eliminated during the second round of the Conference Playoffs. Both teams received trophies for their championship efforts. In Rabun County, the Junior Pee-Wees fought hard but came up short in a 20-0 loss to a tough Union County squad. Hours later, at the end of the game at Chestatee High School, it was like looking in a mirror as the Termites also went down by a 20-0 score against the Dawson County Tigers on Saturday. It was an emotional time by the end of the game with both players and coaches taking the hit with more than the usual emotion of a football game. Indians Coach Todd Oaks explained that the loss with soft, humble clarity. "The kids are just heartbroken. We had beaten this team 12-9 earlier in the year, with a 12-0 score going into the fourth quarter so we know what we're capable of," Oaks said.

out here and play tonight, despite the past week, is great, especially for five and six year olds," he said. Despite their loss, the Termites didn't go down without a fight as quarterback Kyle Oaks managed numerous solid runs and Keegan Pollock hung tough on defense registering several successful tackles. "It's been a rough week but they're a strong team. We have a good director in Jimmy

Smith," explained Oaks. Smith, the team's head coach and football director for the Towns County youth football, was absent for this game as he coached the Junior Pee-Wees in their matchup against Union County in Rabun County. Towns County Herald photographer Lowell Nicholson contributed to this sports report.



Towns County Indians Junior Pee-Wees pose for a team shot following Saturday's heartbreaker in Rabun County.



Towns County Indians' Termites 5- and 6-year-olds pose for a team photo with their coaches on Saturday in Gainesville. The Termites lost 20-0 to Dawson County. Photo/Matthew Jarrard

X-Country Ladies finish 15th in state



The Towns County Lady Indians celebrate their effort following the 5K state event.



The Towns County Lady Indians' Brittany Walls is on a mission as she focuses on the 5K state championship event.

By Charles Duncan
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD
Senior Amy Vardeman's 82nd place finish helped lead the Towns County Lady Indians' Cross Country team to a respectable 15th place finish in the state cross country championships held Saturday. There were 27 total teams and 188 runners in the Class A Division. Vardeman finished with a time of 24:14.45 for the Lady Indians. First-year runner Brittany Walls, finished closely behind Vardeman with an 86th place finish, running her best race of the season at 24:33.25. Lady Indians Head Coach Jeannie Ledford-Stephens said. Fellow rookie and Lady Indian, Cassie Buck, finished just seconds behind Walls, claiming the 95 slot with a time of 24:59.47. Senior Melissa "Missy" Conrad finished 104th with a finishing time of 25:30.74. Kristin Fuhs suffered an injury and was determined to have finished in 131st place. Her final time was posted as 27:22.94. Rookie Dadrion Blythe finished 141st to round out the scoring for the Lady Indians with a time of 27:58.32.

The top four teams and top six individual qualifiers from each region arrived at 202 Trojan Drive in Carrollton with hopes of championship glory on their minds. When the dust settled, the Towns County Lady Indians had taken their place among the state's elite at Carrollton High School for the fourth consecutive year. The Ladies from Hiawassee finished ninth in the state at the 2008 State Championships held at Carrollton High School. With Class A Ladies' competition swamped with private schools, the Lady Indians finished 1 point better than Athens Christian to claim the No. 9 slot in the 2008 State Championships as well as the honor of being the top public school finisher. The Lady Indians have always had to fight the odds of competing against private schools, which have the liberty of offering scholarships to athletes outside of their communities. Coming into the 2008 season, Class A gained four schools that were top notch competitors in Class AA, becoming a stacked region. The successes of 2008 included a first ever win over Athens

Christian. When the team scores were posted in 2009, once again, the proof was in the pudding. The Lady Indians had once again answered the challenge of their head coach, Jeannie Ledford-Stephens. "I told them to go after 15th and that is exactly what they did," Ledford-Stephens said. "They worked hard and fought strong through injury, illness and small numbers to get here. "I am proud, and sad to see another XC season end," she said. "It's hard to see my two seniors go. I have had Amy and Missy since they were minis. They have helped build this program. Those are two girls that are truly irreplaceable. They went out with grace and pleasant exhaustion." Only one public school edged by the Lady Indians in 2009 as Bremen finished in 14th place. "The Lady Indian XC Team would like to thank doctors Susan and Kirk Vardeman for all their support and kindness this season," Ledford-Stephens said. Lady Indians Notes: The Carney Classic 5K Run, rescheduled twice because of rainy weather is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 14. The race is a public 5K run scheduled to be held in Hayesville, NC. The cost to enter is \$10. A Carney Classic T-Shirt is awarded to each participant.

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The Towns County Lady Indians' Amy Vardeman paces herself during the 5K state event in Carrollton on Saturday.