

Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports



Friday, Nov. 6: Towns at Glascock Co., 7:30 p.m.

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Hiawassee, Georgia

Lady Indians X-Country returns to state championships

By Charles Duncan
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD
The Towns County Lady Indians' Cross Country team is returning to the state championships in Carrollton as the No. 3 seed out of Region 8-A.
Coach Jenny Ledford-Stephens' boy's squad came up just short of a trip to Carrollton, finishing fifth. Only the top four teams out of region head to state.
"They've battled illness, our top two runners were so sick, but they ran as hard as they ever do," she said. "They worked so hard to get here, but they finished just short. I'm so proud of them, I don't know what to say."
"If they're healthy, they're there," she said.
The Lady Indians finished ninth in the state last year, and proved to be the only public school in the Top 10 finishers.
"I graduated a lot of kids last year," she said. "It takes a special person to be a cross country runner. It's not something someone is going to do unless they have that special gift in their bodies. It's the toughest thing you will ever learn to love."
Coach Ledford-Stephens is realistic in her hopes for this year's event. She believes her ladies can finish in the Top 20 teams, "hopefully Top 15," she said. "It's a different race this year over last year."



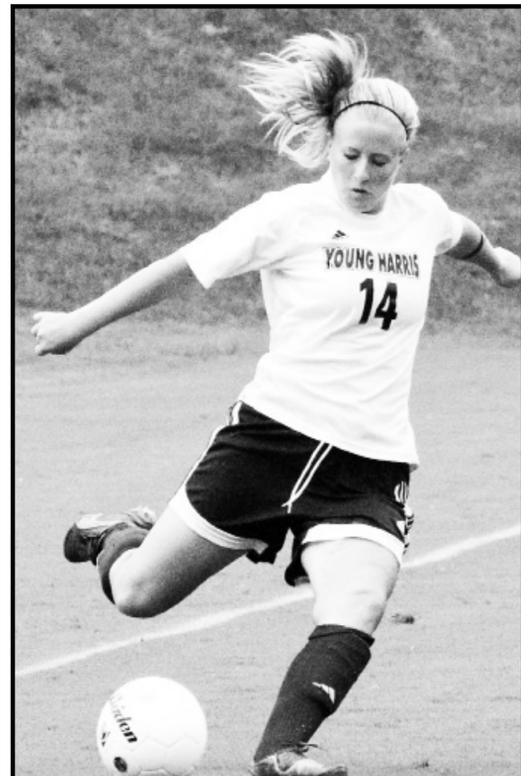
The Towns County Lady Indians are returning to state after placing third in the Region 8-A championships. The Lady Indians finished ninth in the state in 2008. Photo courtesy of gatfxc.com

"The two girls (Amy Vardeman and Melissa Conrad) that I have as seniors have now done a complete set from 9 through 12 going to state," Coach Ledford-Stephens said.
"We're absolutely nervous, we're battling to stay healthy," she said. "We've had a lot of injuries and we're still trying to make sure that we stay healthy and not get the flu. I only have

six girls; my seventh had a knee injury that put her out for the rest of the season."
"Three of those six are now starting basketball, Amy is dancing and Cassie Buck and Kristin Fuhs are literally the only ones that I have that aren't doing double duty," Coach Ledford-Stephens said. "They work very hard, they really do."

The future is bright for the Lady Indians as Ansley Vardeman, her twin Taylor Vardeman and Caitlin Sheffield are rising through the ranks.
Ansley Vardeman ran away from a field of older runners in the JV race at the Region Championships. Her sister Taylor finished third on the heels of a runner from Lakeview Academy.

Six Mountain Lions named to All-Region; Brown Region Coach of Year



Lauren Martin

Young Harris College women's soccer coach Kathy Brown has been named National Junior College Athletic Association Region XVII Coach of the Year in a vote by the region's coaches, while six Young Harris players earned either first or second team All-Region honors.
Brown led the Mountain Lions to an 8-6-1 overall record while coaching a team made up completely of freshmen and sophomores into several matches against NCAA Division II or NAIA opponents that feature more experienced juniors and seniors. Of the six losses, all came at the hands of teams that were either NCAA Division II members or ranked ahead of Young Harris in the NJCAA national poll.
Of the six Mountain Lions to earn All-Region honors, Emily Villas, Rachel Wilkes and Lauren Martin all earned first-team honors, while

Kelsey Cunningham, Jolie Kahn-Foss and Mica Lopes were all named to the second team.
Villas, a sophomore defender from Jupiter, FL, finished the season with three goals and two assists. Wilkes, a sophomore midfielder/forward from Crawford, GA, scored twice and assisted on three goals. Martin, a sophomore forward from Acworth, GA, led the team in scoring with 13 goals and three assists.
Cunningham, a sophomore from Cumming, GA, was the team's primary goalkeeper, putting together a 1.53 goals against average for the season. Kahn-Foss, a sophomore midfielder from Athens, GA, was second on the team with seven goals scored and also passed for three assists. Lopes, a freshman forward from Portugal, scored five goals and dished out a pair of assists. NT(Nov4,5,A26)SH

Indians flood the field with twenty-two seniors



Other seniors receiving recognition were cheerleaders, band members, softball players and cross country runners. Photo by Jim & Lisa Bryant

Fall sports programs give accolades to seniors.
By: Jim Bryant
The night started with a mad scramble to get through the masses of trick or treaters on the square in Hiawassee. A smaller than usual crowd that knew the back roads and streets braved the Halloween revelers to see the Indians take on the always powerful Black Knights from Robbinsville, NC. The honored event occurred prior to the start of the gridiron action as twenty-two seniors received accolades for their performances on the fields of honor. Starting the large parade of seniors were the football players, managers and cheerleaders. Band members, softball players and cross country harriers followed in

close succession as they were escorted on the track by family or friends.
For these seniors, this night marked their last night of home participation for many

on their various fields (football will play one final road game next week at Glascock County). For others, this night was the introduction to still further participation in other events of winter and spring. Still, with such a large following, it is always saddening to lose so many participants we have come to know both on and off the field. Due to newspaper space, special senior photos of individual football players will be run in the November 11th issue. As fans and sportswriters, we wish them our best and hope that they may have opportunities to continue their lover for their activities. Due to the large size of the group, the seniors were grouped into two photos (the players had to get to the locker room).



Seniors do their annual balloon release prior to the start of the Senior Night football game. Photo by Jim & Lisa Bryant



Senior football players, managers and their parents were recognized prior to the game. Photo by Jim & Lisa Bryant

Indian softballers receive accolades



Freshman, Claire Wilson, 1st Team All Region. Photo by Jim & Lisa Bryant

By: Jim Bryant
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The TCHS Lady Indian softball season has ended but accolades are still being recognized. Three Lady Indians were selected by voting from the Region 8-A softball coaches to receive honors from the 2009 season. Selected to the 1st Team All-Region was freshman shortstop, Claire Wilson. Wilson batted .400 for the season and led the Indians on defense at the hot spot. Heather Hamilton was selected to 2nd Team All-Region for

her performances. Center fielder, Hamilton had a .365 batting average and twelve stolen bases. Rounding out the accolades was Kayla Roberts who was selected to Honorable Mention All-Region. The junior catcher threw out 40% of runners attempting to steal and hit .404 at the plate. Although TCHS Softball Head Coach Shannon Floyd was not present for the voting, he stated "in my opinion (Kayla) should have been voted in."



Senior, Heather Hamilton, 2nd Team All-Region. Photo by Jim & Lisa Bryant



Junior, Kayla Roberts, Honorable Mention All-Region. Photo by Jim & Lisa Bryant

by Jim Bryant

Men's Collegiate Soccer	South Georgia 1	Middle Georgia 3
	Gordon 1	Darton 2
Women's Collegiate Soccer	YHC 4	ABAC 0
	South Georgia 0	Middle Georgia 1
	NGCSU 1	Columbus State 0
NJCAA Region XVII Men's Soccer Play-In	YHC 2	South Georgia 0
Prep Football	Towns County 0	Robbinsville, NC 36
	Union County 27	Riverside Academy 28
	Athens Academy 28	Lakeview Academy 7
	Social Circle 14	Commerce 42
	North Forsyth 34	Chattahoochee 31
	Hebron Academy 17	Georgia Military 21
	Athens Christian 7	Wesleyan 56
	Jefferson 20	North Oconee 6
	Dawson County 0	East Jackson 41
	Buford 21	Westminister 0
	Banks County 12	Oglethorpe County 28
	White County 49	Pickens County 7
	West Forsyth 41	Chestatee 7
	Stephens County 23	Elbert County 17
	Oconee County 13	Jackson County 0
	Gilmer County 0	North Hall 49
	Lumpkin County 7	Creekview 48
	Hart County 16	Franklin County 6
	East Hall 34	West Hall 28
	Johnson 0	Gainesville 63
	Habersham Central 7	Salem 21
	Forsyth Central 26	North Springs 0
	Apalachee 31	Madison County 14
	South Forsyth 8	Collins Hill 45
	Andrews, NC 14	Cherokee, NC 21
	Hayesville, NC 6	Murphy, NC 69
	Swain, NC 40	Rosman, NC 8
	Smoky Mountain, NC 7	Pisgah, NC 47