

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

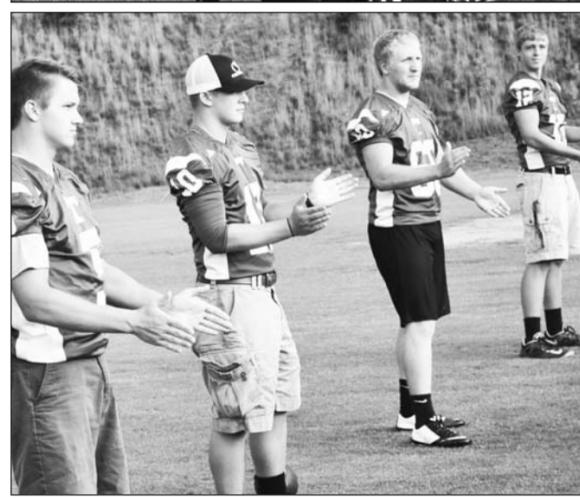
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Lady Indians softball summer league action



The Towns County Lady Indians softball team was in action at Union County last week. The Lady Indians picked up a pair of wins over Union County and Fannin County's JV squads on Tuesday. Photos/Lowell Nicholson

Fifty-four attend youth football summer camp



On Saturday, 54 kids, some first timers, attended the Towns County Youth Football Camp. The Towns County High School football coaching staff and players were in attendance to assist with the camp. Towns County Youth Football Director Jimmy Smith wishes to thank everyone from the high school, coaches and players, who assisted with the camp. "We had a great time," Smith said. "I can't thank the coaches and players enough. They did an awesome job." Practice for the upcoming youth season began on Monday, but Smith announced that the league will still accept registrations for two more weeks. "I'm really excited about playing in the Smoky Mountain Conference this year, and I think we'll do well," Smith added. Photos/Lowell Nicholson

Travis Huffman named YHC head baseball coach

The new Young Harris College head baseball coach will be a familiar face as Director of Athletics Randy Dunn announced Travis Huffman as the skipper of the program for the Mountain Lions.

Huffman has served the past four seasons for Young Harris as an assistant to former head coach Rick Robinson, who left to become the head coach at the University of Tennessee at Martin last month.

"I believe Coach Huffman is the right person to guide our baseball program as we move to the next level," said Dunn. "The baseball student-athletes truly trust and respect him and coupled with his ex-

perience, passion and work ethic our committee thought he was best candidate for the position.

"Coach Huffman has been at YHC for the past four years and he saw firsthand what the expectations are from the College, Peach Belt Conference and NCAA. Knowing he understands the NCAAs "Life in the Balance" philosophy and he will run the baseball program in this manner was important to our committee as we made our selection."

With the Mountain Lions, Huffman worked with the infielders and outfielders as well as hitting. He implemented weight programs for all position

players and was responsible for the pregame scouting reports on opponents. He was also responsible for summer league player placement.

During his time in the Enchanted Valley, Young Harris, which has won 114 games over the past four seasons, has transitioned into a member of NCAA Division II and the prestigious Peach Belt Conference. During that time, the Mountain Lions have had four players named to the All-Peach Belt team, five named to the PBC All-Academic team, three all-region, two Capital One Academic All-America® NCAA Division II Baseball selections, and one All-American.

"I would like to thank President Cox and Director of Athletics Randy Dunn for allowing me this opportunity to lead the Young Harris College baseball program," said Huffman. "Young Harris College has been a special place for my family over the past four years and we are thrilled that I will be the next head baseball coach."

"It is an exciting time at Young Harris College after becoming active members of NCAA Division II and able to compete for conference and national championships," Huffman added. "Young Harris baseball has had a rich tradition of winning in years past as a junior college and I look forward to establishing the program at the Division II level while competing in one of the best baseball conferences in the nation."

Prior to coming to Young Harris, Huffman served as an assistant coach at Old Dominion University where he worked with the hitters and

outfielders for three years. During his time with the Monarchs, pitcher Daniel Hudson was drafted by the Chicago White Sox in the fifth round in 2008. Hudson is currently on the 40-man roster for the Arizona Diamondbacks.

Before working at Old Dominion, Huffman served as an assistant coach at Hampden-Sydney College where he worked with the Tiger hitters and outfielders, while also helping with recruitment of prospective student-athletes.

Huffman was the head coach at Pleasant Ridge High School in Easton, Kansas, for two seasons, where he compiled a 26-18 record, and helped lead the 2005 squad to their first-ever state playoff appearance. The Pleasant Ridge team won the 2005 qualifying regional and earned its first-ever top-10 state ranking. In addition to the playoff berth, Huffman's squad set school records for most wins in a season (16) along with establishing new standards in every offensive category.

In the summer of 2005, Huffman served as an assistant coach in the Shenandoah Valley League with the New Market Rebels. With the Rebels, he coached the hitters and served as third base coach. Huffman also helped the team to a second-place finish in both the regular season and playoffs.

Huffman is a 2003 graduate of the University of Saint Mary in Leavenworth, Kansas, where he earned his bachelor's degree in sports management.

Travis and his wife Erin, who also graduated from Saint Mary, have one son, Charlie (2).

YHC accepted into Full NCAA Division II Membership

Young Harris College has been granted full membership status in the National Collegiate Athletic Association's Division II.

YHC President Cathy Cox and Director of Athletics Randy Dunn were notified during a phone call with NCAA representatives that the Mountain Lions will become active Division II members Monday, Sept. 1, culminating a three-year transition process for the College that began in July 2011 when the NCAA granted the institution candidacy status.

"It is truly a special day for YHC," said President Cox. "Our entire campus community has worked extremely hard over the past several years to make this goal a reality. We are thrilled to achieve active membership in Division II."

The NCAA Division II membership process prepares institutions for success as a Division II athletics program. The process consists of a candidacy period and a provisional period in which institutions function like NCAA members including completion of all necessary paperwork, compliance with all rules and regulations, and adherence to recruiting and scheduling guidelines.

"It's a great achievement for YHC to be accepted as an active NCAA Division II member," said Dunn. "It was truly a team effort on behalf of the College administration, coaches and student-athletes."

The membership process also includes opportunities for education, assessment, and growth as institutions integrate the Division II philosophy, strategic positioning platform, and best practices.

"We've had plenty of time to embrace the way the division is structured, and we all feel very prepared for the NCAA," said Women's Soccer Head Coach and Assistant Director of Athletics for Community Involvement Kathy Brown. "I love being part of the Peach Belt Conference and can't wait to climb to the top."

The Mountain Lions will begin their third season as members

of the prestigious PBC this fall. YHC is now eligible for all NCAA postseason competition as well as all PBC postseason tournaments.

"We are very excited that Young Harris College successfully completed the membership process and are now full-fledged members of NCAA Division II," said PBC commissioner David Brunk. "President Cox and Randy Dunn are to be commended and YHC should become the benchmark for any institution moving into the NCAA ranks. Their dedication to meeting and surpassing every standard has been nothing short of inspirational. They will begin their journey as an NCAA institution with every piece in place to allow them to be competitive on the field and leaders in the division."

Fifteen Mountain Lion teams compete in nine intercollegiate sports: baseball, basketball, competitive cheerleading, cross country, golf, lacrosse, soccer, softball and tennis.

"Division II is the perfect place for YHC's student-athletes," said women's cross country runner Nicole Smith, a sophomore from Ball Ground, Georgia. "It's a good mix of being able to concentrate on academics, compete in your sport and enjoy college life."

The 2014-2015 athletics year kicks off Thursday, Sept. 4, when the Mountain Lions host a soccer doubleheader at the YHC Soccer and Lacrosse Field. The women will host Christian Brothers University in a 3:30 p.m. contest followed by the men's match against Nova Southeastern University at 7 p.m.

VFW Golf League News

Thursday's winning team of Mel Halfon, Jerry Sullemberger, John Harkins, Norvel Halsey and Bill Musantte scored 7 under par for a score of 65. Second place team at 6 under were Patterson, Goring, Jacobs and Tompkins. Even with the overcast weather we had another really good turn out.

MUSA Fall registration now open

MUSA Fall registration is open for age Groups 6&U to 16&U. Register online at <http://mountainsoccer.wordpress.com/>. Registration forms are also available to print from the website. Forms can be mailed to P. O. Box 1862, Blairsville, GA 30514. For additional information contact the league at: musa.soccer@gmail.com or



visit us on the web at <http://mountainsoccer.wordpress.com>.

Trout stocking sites week of July 7-11, 2014

Fannin: Rock Creek and Toccoa River Tailwaters (below Lake Blue Ridge Dam).
Union: Cooper Creek.

Note: Information is subject to change. For the latest on stocking and event information, remember to "like" us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ChattahoocheeForestNationalFishHatchery.

Please call the hatchery at 706-838-4723 for questions. The hatchery also provides trout for the state. Please contact Georgia DNR for information on sites stocked by the state.

Recreation Department's Basketball Fundamentals Camp

Towns County Recreation Department Basketball Fundamental Camp. Dates: July 28th - 30th. Where: New Towns County Recreation Center. Ages groups: Boys and Girls Ages 8 - 14 years old. Session: 9 AM - 12 PM (3 hours per day). Cost: \$80 per child (sibling discount offered).

Elite Level Training is happy to announce it will be hosting a fundamental based basketball camp in Hiwassee, GA. The focus of this camp will be player and skill development through focused teaching of fundamentals and functional movement.

All instructors of this camp will have collegiate basketball experience through their playing

or training backgrounds to better help campers achieve their own goals and improve their own personal development.

For additional information and registration forms email ELT instructor Michael Ross at rossma24@yahoo.com; phone number 706-897-4581 or call the Towns County Recreation Department at 706-896-2600.

Acceptable payment methods - cash or check and must be made out to TCRD. Registration forms and payment in full should be mailed to P.O. Box 381, Hiwassee, GA 30546 or turned into Michael Ross. We look forward to helping our athletes improve their skills and overall game!