

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Lady Indians' Summer League in the books

By Todd Forrest
Towns County Herald
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As of Monday night, the Towns County Lady Indians concluded its summer league action and first-year Head Coach Jessica Berrong and her squad can officially begin gearing up for the 2013 season.

Towns County lost several key players to graduation but Coach Berrong is confident in her young group of Lady Indians.

Youth will be served early on, but as the season progresses, Coach Berrong believes that youth will give way to experience that will benefit the up-and-coming program.

"We lost a lot of players with last year's seniors graduating," Coach Berrong said. "We are a very young team now, and the summer games have given us the opportunity for the girls to start getting comfortable playing with each other. It also gives us, as coaches, time to move some players around and figure out what will work best for the team."

Over the summer, the Lady Indians haven't loaded up on a cupcake schedule. The Lady Indians have challenged the best teams in North Georgia to prepare them for Region 8-A play.

Towns has faced Lumpkin County who were Region Runner-Up in Region 8-AAAA last year. Fannin County has made consecutive trips to the State Tournament in Class AA and AAA, meanwhile, Union County's hasn't missed a State Tournament since 2008.

"Teams like Fannin, Union, and Lumpkin are a good comparison to the teams in our region," Coach Berrong said. "Playing these schools has helped us get ready for this fall."

The summer league has also given the Lady Indians a chance to face live pitching in 10 games and according to Coach Berrong, that is what makes the summer games so valuable.

"In years past, most girls wouldn't see live pitching in a game situation until the season's first game," Coach Berrong said. "That's not the case this year."

It also gives the coaching staff a chance to see how the players react under pressure, and what adjustments need to be made.

"The summer league has pointed out a few areas in the field we still need to work on," Coach Berrong said. "We plan on dedicating a good amount of time to those between now and



our first game. I am proud to say we have gotten to see a few girls step up to the challenge this summer and I am really excited to see their growth continue through the season."

Emily Ledford will be relied upon for a lot of innings from the circle. The bats of Tori Morgan and Jordyn Gurley should provide the run support, while having enough speed around them in the lineup to allow Coach Berrong to be aggressive on the base paths.

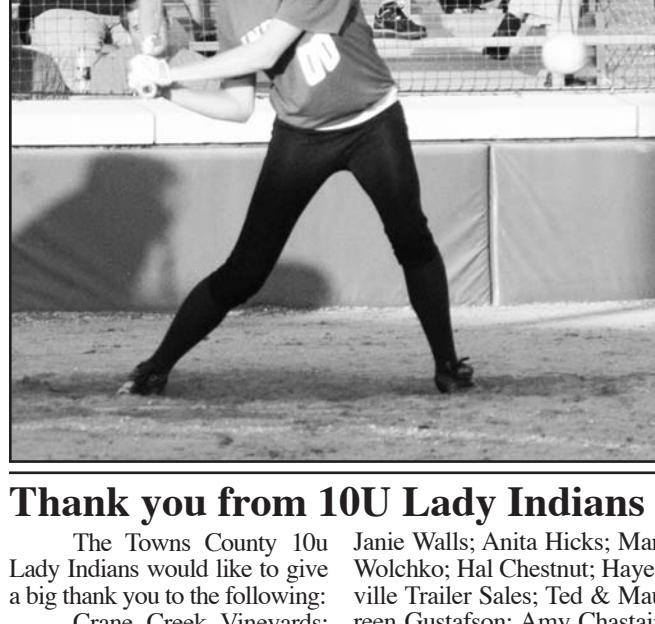
"Ledford is doing a great job from the mound," Coach Berrong said. "Morgan and Gurley's bats have been impressive this summer. We also have some speed coming in from Alyssa Pyle and Bailey Sutton. I am looking forward to several stolen bases between these two this year."

As for what's in the store for the 2013 season, Coach Berrong expects her team to be competitive, but she also expects this season to lay a solid foundation for the future of Towns County Softball.

"Of course I want to compete, and I believe that we can," Coach Berrong said. "I also want the girls to become comfortable playing with each other. With only one senior, these girls have several years to play together. I look forward to seeing what happens this year and in future years."

The Lady Indians season gets underway on Aug. 12th when they visit Region 8-AA's Rabun County Lady Wildcats. On Aug. 13th, Towns will host Prince Avenue in its Region 8-A and home opener.

"This year, the girls need to encourage and push each other to work harder and commit to the program," Coach Berrong said. "Without commitment, it will be hard to take our program to the next level. I feel that if the girls are willing to make this commitment, we will have a good season."



Thank you from 10U Lady Indians

The Towns County 10u Lady Indians would like to give a big thank you to the following:

Crane Creek Vineyards; Towns County Lions Club; Jacky Jones Ford; Dairy Queen of Hiawassee; Stephanie McConnell Law Office; Owle Containers, Inc.; Churchill Cabinetry; Laney Construction; Holiday Inn Express of Hiawassee; Mountain Graphics; Boundary Waters Resort & Marina; Vernon Owenby; Mason Lodge # 259; Blue Ridge Mountain EMC; Eastern Star Hiawassee Chapter; Brown Haven Builders; Dr. Kilee Smith; Richard Schmidtke.

Chatuge Medical Supply; VFW; Bonnie Magar; Chatuge Land Company; Hiawassee Discount Pharmacy; Dollar General; Asiano's; Threadz, Inc.; Angela Moss; Bruce Ferguson; Mildred Underwood; Raymond James Financial Services; United Community Bank; Cathy Cox; Don Housholder; Charles & Betty Adams; English Country Gardens; Leon & Judith Lee; Premier Stonework; Blairsville Quarterback Club; Moore Insurance.

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