

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Postseason: Mens' soccer last TCHS team left standing

**By Shelly Knight
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Towns County Herald**

The Towns County Indians mens' soccer team won their first-round matchup against Elite Scholars Academy by a final score of 4-3 last Friday, April 18.

It was a nail-biter. Considering Towns County's offense had been struggling lately, the high-scoring outing was a much-needed turnaround.

They hit Elite Scholars Academy with a three-pronged attack, as the team got scores from Tucker Engert with two-goals, Connor Williams and Cruz Kitchens. The team has won nine of their last 10 matches. Their season record comes in at 17-2.

Towns County travels to Chattahoochee County on Wednesday, April 30 looking to punch a ticket to the Elite Eight. The winner either visits to Metter or hosts Irwin County on Tuesday, May 6.

The Lady Indians squared off in some playoff action on Tuesday, April 22, but Towns County had to settle for a loss. In their last match

they came up short against the Atlanta Classical Academy Cavaliers, falling 5-2. That makes it the first time this season the girls have let down their home crowd.

"We had a very tough first-round match up," said Coach Clay Livingston. "The two best areas in the state were pitted against each other in the first road game and it unfortunately resulted in probably at least an elite eight quality team, us, going home. The girls played and it just wasn't enough against a very good team. I'm proud of them and the season we had. We had great leadership from our seniors this year. I am very thankful for these girls and all of the support we've received from the parents and the community."

The Indians baseball team squared off against Irwin County in some playoff action on Thursday, April 24th in their last effort for the 2025 season.

After rain moved the series to Habersham Central, Towns County fell just short of Irwin County by a score of 6-5. Unfortunately, that was second loss as the prior match-up netted a final score of 13-0.

The team has really



Senior Connor Williams takes a corner kick during Towns County's playoff win over Elite Scholars Academy. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

struggled at the end of the year as they've lost six of their last eight outings. That put a noticeable dent in their 17-15 final record this season.

But as head coach Shannon Floyd has said many times, it's not just about scores, it's

also about learning from mistakes and working together as a team.

"We are a very young team, and we will just keep getting better," said Floyd.

During game two of the series, Towns County couldn't

protect an early 5-3 lead, giving up one in the third and two in the sixth.

Morgan Walker and Mason Pierson finished with two hits apiece. Eli McNabb drove in a pair of runs. Braydon Baldwin went the distance in the

loss, allowing 10 hits and four runs over six innings.

In game one, Walker accounted for Towns County's only two hits. Oliver Sarafin and Tyler Rawdon were victimized by seven Indian errors on the mound.

Young Harris College Mountain Lions Shine in Spring: Postseason Kicks Off with Big Wins and Honors

The postseason has officially begun and YH Athletics has hit the ground running! Several teams have advanced in the tournaments and are celebrating All-Conference honors. Baseball is the only sport left with regular season play – however, they have not taken their foot off the gas either.

YH Baseball has a bit of a longer season and is still competing in regular season ball. This past weekend (April 18-19), the Mountain Lions swept the Hawks of Shorter University by a scoring margin of 24-8 across the three games. While dominance was proved on the mound and at the plate, the Young Harris pitching staff went off, with all three starting pitchers going 7.0 innings or more (Zach Hart, Austin Ritchie, and Graham Edwards). Then, in the last midweek game, the Mountain Lions defeated Tusculum University with a final score of 12-5 on April 23. Big innings at the plate continue to be the story for the Young Harris offense, who had back-to-back four-run innings. Five players in the lineup put up a multi-hit performance.

Both Men's and Women's Lacrosse took part in the quarterfinals of the Conference Carolinas tournament on Tuesday, April 22. Men's Lacrosse lost a hard-fought battle to the Trojans of Mount Olive with a final score of 8-17. Colburn Connelly finished this YH career on a great note with four goals on seven shots, while picking up a ground ball. On the women's side, the Mountain Lions clinched a nail biter to advance to the conference semifinals with a final score of 14-13! With under two minutes to go, Brooklyn Kiest strung together a dominant performance with six goals on 10 shots, picked up one ground ball, caused two turnovers, and won one draw control.

In the opening rounds of the Conference Carolinas Men's and Women's Tennis tournament, both squads swept out their opponent 4-0 on April 25. The men took down Emmanuel University after taking two of three on the doubles side in addition to three straight singles wins. The women dominated early



Noah Pawirodirjo Celebrating Match Point



Mountain Lions Ready to Go in Conference Quarterfinals

in doubles play coming out victorious in the #1 and #3 slots, while also picking up three straight singles wins, leaving the rest unfinished.

The 2025 season has officially concluded for the YH Softball program, who fell one run short to the North Greenville Trailblazers in the win-or-go-home game of the Conference Carolinas tournament. Bailee Brown put the Mountain Lions on top 1-0 with an RBI single, but a Trailblazer two-run home run in the fourth turned the tide.

Riley Parker (First-Team Attack), Hayden Hennessy (First-Team Defense), Abbie Gallagher (Second-Team Goalkeeper), Ella Clifford (Third-Team Defense), and Mary Troyer (Third-Team Midfield) earned All-Conference Honors for Women's Lacrosse.

Young Harris placed four on the All-Conference Team in

Men's Lacrosse. Ben Soenen (First-Team Defense), Kieran Isbister (First-Team Long Stick Midfielder), Hunter Staggs (Second-Team Midfield), and Grady Stokes (Second-Team Attack) had impactful performances throughout the season, landing them spots on these impressive rosters.

The Men's and Women's Tennis squads picked up Conference recognition on both sides. Freshman Noah Pawirodirjo was appointed to the All-Conference Third Team. Futaba Saito was named to the All-Conference First Team and Maud Scholten the All-Conference Third Team.

Mountain Lion Softball listed four to All-Conference teams: Avery Fielden (First-Team OF), Shelby Duncan (Second-Team 3B), Grace Young (Second-Team P), and Gracie Hughes (All-Defensive Team). NT(Apr30/23)CA



Coach Clay Livingston looks on during the Lady Indians' playoff match vs. Atlanta Classical Academy. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



Rain washed out game one vs. Irwin County and left the field unplayable, shifting the series to Habersham Central the following day, where playing conditions were more favorable. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Chatuge Shores Ladies Golf League Season Opens May 6th

Our official season opens Tuesday, May 6 with play beginning at 9:30, and league play dates continue through September 30.

To get acquainted with new members and reconnect with former members, we will have an opening day lunch at El Charro Restaurant in Young Harris after playing our round.

We have the pleasure of playing golf with vistas of Lake Chatuge and the surrounding mountains. We have a different game each week, and members of our league

are from all over the tri-county area. We like to have fun while honing our golf skills!

Membership dues are \$30 per year, and the weekly course fee is \$35, which includes a cart. An official handicap is required. If you have no handicap established, the league can easily help you with that.

Come join us for the fresh air, beautiful scenery, and a good round of golf.

For more information, call or text Debbie Estes at 352-284-8854.

Veterans Golf League

Week 3 of the Veterans Golf League was held April 17 at Chatuge Shores Golf Course. The winning team was Winston Peak, Gary Lindblum, Lloyd MacBride and Mel Halfon.

Winners on April 24 at Chatuge Shores were Mel White and team members Steve Fisher, Gary Ide and Barrett Brown.

The league plays every Thursday at 8 a.m. Check in and tee times following at 8:30 a.m.. The league is open to all VFW, American Legion, Women's Auxilliary and Sons of the American Legion regardless of Post affiliation.