

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Soccer Elite Eight: Metter squeaks past Indians 2-1

By Shelly Knight
Staff Writer
Towns County Herald

Metter - Despite an incredible season, the fourth-ranked Towns County boys lost a nail-bitter in overtime last Tuesday, May 6 in the Elite Eight playoff game against the No. 3 Metter Tigers by a final score of 2-1.

Both teams went scoreless during the first half and were tied at 1-1 at the end of regulation.

The first 10-minute overtime session didn't net a goal, but Metter got one in the second session via a corner kick with just over three minutes remaining.

Metter advanced to the final four, where they dropped a 2-0 contest to No. 2 Atkinson County.

Region 8-A champion Lake Oconee Academy will face Atkinson County in the Class A (D-II) State Championship game on Thursday, May 15.

Towns County's playoff loss dropped their record to 18-3 but that speaks to a phenomenal season.

Team leaders include Caden Coggins with 41 goals and 22 assists this year and Cruz Kitchens with 14 goals and 16 assists.

On another note of interest, Coggins, Kitchens and Dustin Barret have been awarded player of the match several times during the year.

Towns County Principal Bryan Thomason made the trek



The senior class was instrumental in a storybook 2025 season.

to Metter, which is 63 miles east of Savannah, to watch and support the team.

"It was a heck of a game and it was a heartbreaker when

they lost," said Thomason.

The team will participate in their awards banquet on Thursday, May 22, at 6 p.m.

YHC Mountain Lions Walk-Off, Rally, and Rake Through Baseball Conference Tournament



Kyle Chatham Slides Across Home Plate

The 2025 spring semester has officially concluded, and most of the students have headed home for summer break. We eagerly await their return in August - along with the start of fall sports.

Year-after-year, the YH Athletic Department hosts the "Roaries," a ceremony to internally recognize all the great athletic accomplishments of all sports. This past Roaries was a blast!

All the awards are listed here: Mr. YHC (Sergio Llopart - MSOC), Ms. YHC (Gracie Hughes - SB), Female Athlete of the Year (Annalise Malone - WBB), Male Athlete of the Year (Jeremy Begora - BSB), Female Breakout Player of the Year (Riley Parker - WLAX), Male Breakout Player of the Year (Kade Smallwood - BSB), Female International Player of the Year (Shania Harris - WSOC), Male International Player of the Year (Adrian Ronn - MGOLF), Female Freshman of the Year (Courtney Davis - WBB), Male Freshman of the Year (Ryland Hunley - M T&F), Hype Man of the Year (Jensen Linton - MBB), Hype Woman of the Year (Emma

Hodges - WSOC), Defend the Den Team of the Year (WBB), Team of the Year (BSB), Coach of the Year (Stephen Waggener - BSB), Community Service Team of the Year (MLAX).

Spring sports are not quite done - YH Baseball just wrapped up a thrilling Conference Carolinas tournament run. In the opening round, the Mountain Lions edged Mount Olive 11-10 in extra innings after Jonny Smith's game-tying grand slam and Kyle Chatham's walk-off single on May 1.

The next day, in the quarterfinals, they erased a late deficit to defeat Belmont Abbey 6-5 behind timely hitting and 3.2 scoreless innings from Brady Caloway on May 2.

Young Harris made the CC semifinal game a laugher - outscoring Emmanuel 25-1 in seven innings May 3. The Mountain Lions recorded their season high in runs (25) and hits with (23) ...in addition to all starters reaching base.

The team reached base in every fashion! 25 runs is the greatest number of runs scored by a team in recent Confer-

ence Carolinas tournament history, with the last being 23 scored by Barton College. This win granted the Mountain Lions a spot in the championship round.

In the final day, Young Harris battled wire-to-wire in the championship games but came up just short in both contests against Belmont Abbey, 7-6 and 5-4 at CaroMont Health Park on May 5.

Game one saw both offenses come out swinging, as YH erased an early deficit with a three-run second inning fueled by RBI hits from Kyle Chatham, Jac Enrico, and Jeremy Begora. BAC responded with four runs, reclaiming the lead, and holding on. In game two, the Crusaders built a 5-0 lead through six before Kade Smallwood brought the crowd to its feet with a seventh-inning full count grand slam. YH threatened again in the ninth with runners on the corners, but a game-ending double play granted Belmont Abbey the title.

Young Harris Baseball ended their tournament run 3-2 and will now turn their attention towards NCAA Division II Regionals.

Rapids 10U Soccer team wraps up season at 8-1



The 10U Rapids soccer team closed out their impressive season with a dominant 8-1 record, showcasing teamwork, grit, and a deep bench of young talent.

Led by a strong core of players, the Rapids were a force on both ends of the field. Ezra "Big E" Allison anchored the defense with power and

poise, while Callaghan "Cal" Byrne and Andrew "Striker" Meraz-Davis delivered key goals throughout the season. Brian "Grandpa" Cook's field vision and calm demeanor brought leadership to the midfield, and Ezra "Energizer" Mlodzik's endless hustle kept the tempo high.

Charlie "Char" Stallings

and Jamison "Jimmy" Spade brought consistent energy and skill, often setting up crucial plays. Joshua "Joshie" Wright made his mark with sharp passes, timely positioning, and stellar keeper play while Judah "Snacks" Young lived up to his nickname with relentless effort and clutch moments.

Coach-led and family-supported, the Rapids' season was defined by unity, sportsmanship, and a love for the game.

Chatuge Shores Ladies Golf League



(L-R): Mary Mott, Debra Estes, and Martha Zimmer

Our golfers enjoyed a beautiful, sunny spring day on May 6, for our opening day of league play. The greens were rolling well, and the rhododendrons were in full bloom. Our game was Net Odd Holes.

The first flight winners were Martha Zimmer, who had the lowest net, and Glenda Geddings came in second. Linda Robinson had lowest net for first place in the second flight, and Debra Estes came in second. Martha Barker had a chip-in on Hole #2, and the low putts winners were Mary Mott and

Martha Zimmer.

Occasionally during our league play, we enjoy a laugh at a shot that defies the average laws of probability and physics.

This week one of our players had three backward shots on the infamous Hole #10. That's a tough achievement for any golfer, and it provided some good stories around the table as we enjoyed lunch after our round. Come join us for relaxed golf and some good memories with fun ladies.

Call Debra Estes at 352-284-8854 for more information.

Mountain High Hikers Schedule

Mountain High Hikers offers three hikes in the local area each week: Tuesdays - a long hike from 8-14 miles and a shorter hike of 5-8 miles. Thursdays we lead a leisure hike usually around 5 miles. We also maintain over 100 miles of trails in North Georgia and Western NC area and run trail maintenance hikes on Thursdays each week.

For more information visit <http://www.mountain-highhikers.org>. NT(May 14,M1)JH

Veterans Golf League

The league is open to all VFW and American Legion members regardless of post affiliation. This week, the winning team was led by Randy Tompkins. Team members contributing to the eight stroke under par victory were Susanna & Mel White and Steve Fisher. Congratulations!