

# Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports



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## Seniors honored at final regular season finale



Winter sports athletes, cheerleaders, managers and pep band members were honored at the annual Senior Night activities between basketball games. (Front L-R) Kaleb Garrett, Ethan Burch and John Bleckley. (Back L-R) Stephanie Fagin, Chelsea Noblet, Ashley Chastain, Tiffany Garrett, Heather Hamilton, Kerri Abernathy, Sheena Kendall, Missy Conrad and Alex Bohannan.

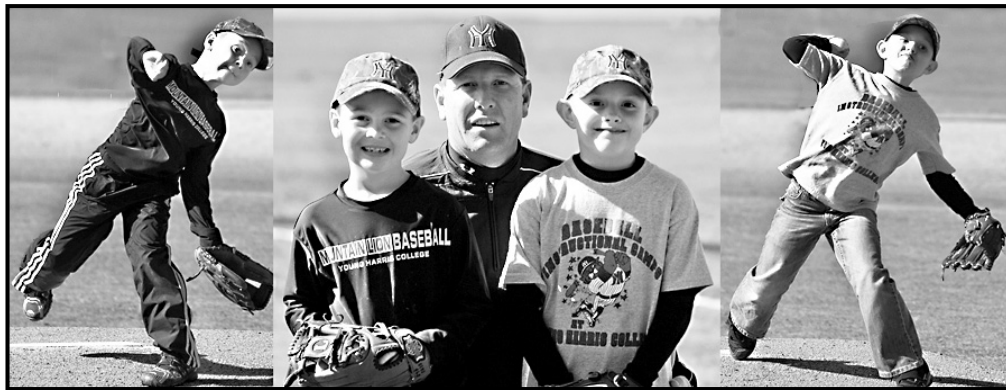
**Jim Bryant**  
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Thanks to the winter weather, the TCHS Seniors of the winter sports programs were finally able to receive their due accolades at the regular season basketball finale. After a couple of weather related postponements, the senior activities were finally recognized. Despite the chilly temperature outside, the crowd inside the gym gave the seniors a warm reception as coaches in the various sports gave out handshakes, hugs and

flower bouquets. Receiving recognition at the activities were basketball players: Kerri Abernathy, Missy Conrad, Heather Hamilton, Sheena Kendall, Kayla Anderson (mgr), Alex Bohannan (mgr); Amy Vardeman (mgr), Ethan Burch and John Bleckley. Basketball cheerleaders: Ashley Chastain, Tiffany Garrett, Chelsea Noblet and Stephanie Fagin. Pep band: Allison Arnold, Kaleb Garrett and Jeff Stewart. Wrestlers recognized but away in competition were:

Mat Hogsed and Parker Bradshaw. All the seniors were escorted on to the floor by persons that are special in their lives. With the awarding of bouquets and basketballs, the night was almost complete. The only thing lacking was a couple of basketball wins. The boys and girls basketball teams made it complete Senior Night 2010 with 64-58 (G) and 63-50 (B) wins. TCH Spts (Feb24,3)ac

## Local baseball campers throw out first pitch



(L) Carter Wright, (C) Coach Robinson with Wright and Wilson and (R) Brady Wilson opened the YHC Mountain Lion home stand.

As the YHC Mountain Lions took the field for their opening home game of the 2010 season, two local boys got the dream of a lifetime. Each year after summer baseball camp, YHC Head Baseball Coach Rick Robinson picks a couple of his "campers" to have the honor of throwing out the first

pitch. For the 2010 season two youngsters that almost never miss a Mountain Lion ball game got the chance to toss out the first two pitches. Towns County residents and YHC baseball fans, Brady Wilson and Carter Wright took to the hill for the honors as they threw

to Cat catcher, Brett Armour. Following the pitches they had their picture made with Coach Robinson and following the game, got the two balls autographed. Brady is the son of Brad and Andrea Wilson while Carter is the son of Terry and Beth Wright, all of Hiawassee. TCH Spts (Feb24,3)ac

## Phillies dominate Cats 9-0 in tennis outing

**by Mickey Seward, YHC SID**  
Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College's 14th ranked women's tennis team defeated No. 21 Young Harris 9-0 in a match played at Brasstown Valley Resort in Young Harris, Ga., Friday.

Sarah Deese was the lone Young Harris player to win a set, defeating Keri Huett 6-3 in the second set of the No. 3 singles match.

**Doubles:**  
1. Miranda/Huett def. Brinkley/Deese (YHC) 8-4  
2. Gamboa/Smith def. Black/Smith (YHC) 8-0  
3. Myers/Pope def. Allen/Maxwell (YHC) 8-2

**Singles:**  
1. Alejandra Gamboa def. Kinsley Black (YHC) 6-4, 6-0  
2. Beatriz Miranda def. Brianna Brinkley (YHC) 6-0, 6-1  
3. Keri Huett def. Sarah Deese (YHC) 6-1, 3-6, 6-2  
4. Jahyna Pope def. Holly Smith (YHC) 6-2, 6-2  
5. Marley Myers def. Michelle Allen (YHC) 7-6(4), 6-2  
6. Lauran Smith def. Mary Beth Maxwell (YHC) 6-2, 6-0  
Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, ranked No. 6 in the nation by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association, narrowly escaped an upset bid by No. 17 Young Harris Friday, defeating the Mountain Lions 5-4 in Tifton, Ga. TCH Spts(Feb24,4)ac



Sarah Deese was the only purple Cat to win a set against powerful ABAC.

Photo by Jim & Lisa Bryant

## Young Harris Wins Twin at Ringor Fastpitch Invitational

Kayla Jones scored what turned out to be the game-winning run on a fielder's choice in the bottom of the sixth inning as Young Harris College's softball team defeated Spartanburg Methodist 4-3 in the Mountain Lions' second game of the day at the Ringor Fastpitch Invitational in Aiken, S.C. Young Harris won its first game 5-4 in nine innings over South Carolina-Salkehatchie.

In the decisive sixth inning against Spartanburg Methodist, Jones led off the inning with a single, before going to second on a passed ball. After the next batter in the order drew a walk, Jennifer Watford swung at a third strike and bolted to first when the ball got away from the catcher. The catcher's throw hit Watford in the back, and she was called safe, loading the bases. Brittney Allen then grounded into the fielder's choice that drove in Jones.

Jones was 2-for-4 with a run and an RBI in the game. R i k k i Powers earned the victory in the nightcap, allowing three runs on seven hits and one walk while striking out six batters.

In the Mountain Lions first game of the day, Watford scored the winning run in the ninth inning on a play in which Allen reached base safely on an error by the USCS first baseman. Emily Wilson led Young Harris at the plate in the opener, going 4-for-4 and scoring a run. Jones had a double and drove in a pair of runs. Victoria Sink pitched



Jennifer Watford hits for the M'Lions and scored the winning 4-3 run in extra innings.

Photo by Jim & Lisa Bryant

a complete game to earn the victory. Sink struck out three batters. The victories improved the Mountain Lions record to 4-2 in 2010.

## Indians close out regular season with impressive win over Prince Avenue

By Jerry Kendall

After getting themselves in position for a possible victory in several recent games but not quite able to pull off a win, the Towns County Indians Varsity Basketball built a sizeable early lead and withstood a last half Prince Avenue rally for a rewarding 63-50 victory last Tuesday in the Towns County Gym. The win completed regular season play and clinched seventh place in Region 8A for the Indians, allowing them to avoid the dreaded play-in game required of the eighth and ninth place teams for just one of the two to qualify for the region tournament.

The Indians finished with a 4-12 record in regular season region play while Prince dropped to 2-14 with the loss, leaving them to host last place Tallulah Falls with an 0-16 record in the play-in game on Wednesday. The Indians, on the other hand, earned a day off on Wednesday as they prepared to face second seeded Lakeview Academy on Thursday at Athens Academy with the winner to advance to the Region Semi-Finals and Finals on Saturday and Monday at Towns County.

After falling behind 4-0, the Indians pretty much dominated the first quarter, springing out to a 20-7 lead at quarter's end and maintaining the margin for a 37-24 lead at intermission. The Indians fell on hard times for awhile, however, after opening the third quarter with the first four points for their biggest lead of 41-24. Prince rallied to within 42-33 by the 1:36 mark of the third quarter before Senior Ethan Burch broke the Indian scoring drought with two free throws at the thirty seven second mark. When the Wolverines sank a trey to pull within 44-36 just sixteen seconds into the fourth quarter, Burch responded with a jumper in the lane, again giving the Indians a bit of breathing room with a 46-36 score.

The Wolverines still weren't through, however, as they reduced the lead to 46-41 with 6:44 on the clock but Bradley Swanson pretty much seized control of the game for the Indians after that. The sharp shooting junior assisted Senior John Bleckley on a field goal



Ethan Burch spent time on the floor in his last regular season senior game.

Photo by Jim & Lisa Bryant.

at 5:38 and then scored eleven of the next twelve Indian points by the 1:35 mark for a suddenly prominent 60-46 Towns advantage which became a 63-50 Indian victory.

Swanson and DJ Rogers provided most of the first half fire power for the Indians with nine and five points respectively in the first quarter with Rogers adding seven and Swanson five in the second and Swanson's late heroics highlighting the final quarter.

For the game, Swanson, Rogers, and Bleckley each put points on the board in every quarter in leading the way to victory with 27, 14, and 10 points respectively while Bleckley led in assists with 5 with Burch, Devin Henderson, and Rogers contributing 2 each. TCH Spts(Feb24,4)

## YHC home opener 15, Potomac State Catamounts 6



Greg Bowder dives for home in YHC 15-6 home opener against Potomac State.

Photo by Jim & Lisa Bryant

**by Mickey Seward, YHC SID**  
Six different Young Harris College batters collected at least two hits and five players drove in at least two runs as the Mountain Lions defeated Potomac State College 15-6 in the first game of a three game non-conference series in Young Harris, Ga. on Friday. The victory was the ninth in a row to start the 2010 season for the Mountain Lions.

Matt Lowery led Young Harris with three hits, going 3-for-5 with three runs scored and two runs batted in. Will Callaway, Matt Lobacz, Michael Squires, Brett Armour and Greg Bowder all had two hits for Young Harris. Armour led the team with three RBIs, while Lowery, Callaway, Daniel Marsh and Bowder drove in two runs. Overall, the Mountain Lions pounded out 16 hits in the game.

Still, Young Harris was forced to come from behind for the win after the Catamounts (0-1) received a two-run home run from Tim Hayes in the first inning. The Mountain Lions would answer with nine unanswered runs, including six in the second inning, two in the third and one in the fourth.

A two-run single by Armour and RBI singles by Callaway and Squires highlighted the second. Lowery and Callaway accounted for the third inning runs with back-to-back RBI doubles and Bowder delivered a run-scoring single in the fourth. Potomac would pull to within 9-4 in the fifth inning, when Kurtis Voytell picked up an RBI double and Tim Hayes followed with a single that scored Voytell. But another big inning loomed for the Mountain Lions, who plated six more runs in the bottom of the fifth to take a commanding 15-4 lead. Potomac State would get two runs in the eighth inning, but they were too little, too late.

Young Harris starter Mitchell Knox (3-0) earned the victory. He allowed four runs (three earned) on six hits and one walk while striking out three batters. He was the first of four Mountain Lions pitchers used in the game.

Josh Rudnik pitched one shutout inning, walking two batters and striking out one; Lobacz allowed two runs on two hits and one walk while striking out one batter; and Brice Baker pitched a pair of shutout innings, allowing two hits and two walks with one strikeout. TCH Spts(Feb24,3)ac



by Jim Bryant

SPORTSWATCH

<b>Girls Prep Basketball</b>	Towns County 67	Social Circle 43
	Princeton County 64	Princeton Avenue 58
	Union County 44	Gilmer County 35
	Union County 51	Rabun County 73
	Athens Academy 57	Tallulah Falls 21
	Albany County 79	Commerce 44
	Rabun County 69	Dawson County 40
	Princeton Avenue 48	North Oconee 63
	Pickens County 31	Hebron Academy 39
	Jefferson 30	Creechview 52
	Chestate 88	Norcross 58
	Bufoord 46	North Hall 44
	East Hall 50	Lovett 46
	West Forsyth 60	West Hall 36
	Jackson County 58	Flowers Branch 58
	Oconee County 58	Franklin County 59 (OT)
	Murphy, NC 56	Mountain View 46
	Murphy, NC 76	Robbinsville, NC 67
	Hiwassee Dam, NC 44	Cherokee, NC 66
	Hiwassee Dam, NC 70	Highlands, NC 36
	Robbinsville, NC 100	Blue Ridge, NC 29
	<b>Girls Regions Play-offs</b>	Rosman, NC 36
	Towns County 54	
	Towns County 46	Commerce 26
	Princeton Avenue 53	Athens Academy 38
	Social Circle 45	Athens Christian 51
	Social Circle 38	Lakeview academy 42
	Hart County 63	
	Banks County 62	Princeton Avenue 46
	Banks County 55	Oconee County 59
	Apalachee 57	East Jackson 41
	Clarke Central 67	Rabun County 82
	Madison County 49	
	Madison County 66	Rockdale County 78
	Gilmer County 46	Rockdale County 46
	White County 30	Heritage 28
	Pickens County 47	Loganville 47
	Lumpkin County 28	Flowers Branch 63
	Dawson County 49	Gainesville 53
	Dawson County 29	West Hall 28
	North Hall 57	West Forsyth 41
	North Hall 48	Oglethorpe County 7
	Bufoord 73	North Oconee 55
	Bufoord 45	Lambert 36
	Forsyth central 31	East Hall 62
	Flowers Branch 42	Avondale 40
	<b>Boys Prep Basketball</b>	Lovett 35
	Towns County 34	Southwest DeKalb 55
	Towns County 63	Chestate 40
	Princeton Avenue 51	
	Athens Academy 62	Social Circle 38
	Rabun County 49	Princeton Avenue 50
	Rabun County 74	Hebron Academy 67
	Banks County 54	Tallulah Falls 27
	Jefferson 65	Dawson County 58
	White County 47	North Oconee 73
	Johnson 73	East Jackson 65
	West Forsyth 50	North Oconee 36
	North Forsyth 54	Lumpkin County 50
	South Forsyth 34	Lambert 37
	East Hall 60	Flowers Branch 58 (OT)
	Chestate 44	Chattahoochee 65
	Apalachee 48	Norcross 83
	Bufoord 51	West Hall 50
	Walnut Grove 48	North Hall 80
	Cedar Shoals 40	Salem 62
	Madison County 67	Lovett Academy 52
	Smoky Mountain, NC 63	Winder-Barrow 55
	Hiwassee Dam, NC 50	Monroe Area 58
	Hiwassee Dam, NC 61	Pisgah, NC 76
	Murphy, NC 75	Nantahala, NC 61
	Murphy, NC 75	Highlands, NC 59
	Hayesville, NC 64	Robbinsville, NC 62
	<b>Boys Regions Play-offs</b>	Swain, NC 60
	Towns County 50	
	Lakeview Academy 60	Lakeview Academy 72
	Social Circle 65	Athens Christian 66
	Union County 35	Athens Academy 50
	Dawson County 35	Fannin County 38
	Commerce 75	East Jackson 17
	Jefferson 78	Princeton Avenue 48
	Oconee County 31	Fannin County 36
	Morgan County 60	Franklin County 53
	White County 47	Jackson County 43
	Chestate 61	West Hall 64
	Lumpkin County 54	Johnson 65
	Lumpkin County 40	Flowers Branch 42
	Gilmer County 38	North Hall 57
	Pickens County 56	East Hall 86
	Pickens County 53	Lambert 46
	Madison County 60	East Hall 75
	Bufoord 52	Clarke County 57
	Johnson 51	Westminister 57
	West Hall 66	West Forsyth 41
	Riverside Academy 55	Gainesville 65
	<b>Prep Tennis</b>	Walnut Grove 47
	(B) Riverside Academy 5	Chestate 0
	(B) Riverside Academy 3	Johnson 2
	(B) Lakeview Academy 0	Bufoord 5
	(B) Madison County 5	Stephens County 0
	(B) Lakeview Academy 0	Bufoord 5
	(B) Madison County 5	Stephens County 0
	(G) West Forsyth 5	Gainesville 0
	(G) West Forsyth 3	Flowers Branch 2
	East Hall 5	West Hall 0
	<b>State Prep Wrestling Championships</b>	
	<b>Class A</b>	
	Commerce First Place	
	<b>Class AA</b>	
	Jefferson First; Henry County Second; Lovett Third;	
	Jackson County Sixth	
	<b>Class AAA</b>	
	Flowers Branch First	
	<b>Women's Collegiate Tennis</b>	
	YHC 0	ABAC 9
	Brenau 1	Columbus State 8
	<b>Men's Collegiate Tennis</b>	
	YHC 4	ABAC 5
	<b>Collegiate Softball</b>	
	YHC 4	Spartanburg 3 (OT)
	YHC 5	SC-Salkehatchie 4
	YHC 2	Calhoun CC 1
	YHC 8	Alabama Southern 4
	YHC 1	Wallace State 2
	Cleveland State 6/6	Lee University 2/2
	Coastal Georgia 0/6	St. Johns River 2/0
	<b>Collegiate Baseball</b>	
	YHC 8	JV GCSU 5
	YHC 15	Potomac State 6
	YHC 11	Potomac State 9 (10)
	Middle Georgia 0	USC-Summer 6
	Middle Georgia 12/15	USC-Salkehatchie 11/2
	South Georgia 6/8	St. Johns River 7/9
	Andrew 8	Chattahoochee Valley
	16	
	Andrew 2	East central CC 18
	Darton 4	Tallahassee CC 3
	Georgia Perimeter 3/0	Southern Union 2/1
	Georgia Perimeter 7	Chattahoochee Valley 2
	Louisburg 6/7	Patrick Henry 5/4
	Louisburg 1/0	Wake Tech 3
	North Georgia 1/17/16	Stillman 4/3/10