

# Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports



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April 28, 2010

www.townscountyherald.net

Hiawassee, Georgia

## Tennis season comes to a close



The Towns County Lady Indians' enjoy a feast at The Cheesecake Factory in Atlanta last week following an opening round state playoff loss to Pace Academy. The treat was a reward for making the Class A state playoffs for the first time in school history. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

By Charles Duncan  
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The season for the Towns County Lady Indians' tennis team ended unceremoniously at Pace Academy on Thursday.

The Lady Indians fell to top seeded Pace Academy 3-0 during the first round of the Class A state playoffs.

For Towns County, it was their first appearance in the state playoffs.

"I can't tell you how proud I am of these young ladies," Coach Shannon Floyd said. "It was one and out, but it was a valuable experience to have reached the state playoffs. We're one of the very few public schools that made it this far. It was quite an achievement given the level of competition that we faced this season."

The Lady Indians finished the season with a 12-7 overall record. Three of those losses came during the post season, two in the Region 8-A tournament and one during the state playoffs.

The Lady Indians finished the regular season at 7-1 in region competition. Their lone loss at the hands of



Towns County Lady Indians' Ginny Rhoades fires back a volley during a state playoff match last week at Pace Academy. The Lady Indians lost 3-0, ending their state title hopes in Atlanta. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Lakeview Academy may have been the reason their season ended so soon. Had they won that match, they could have avoided Pace Academy in the first round of the state playoffs.

"We learned a lesson that we'll always remember," Coach Floyd said. "Maybe that lesson will carry over into the season next year."

"We've got a ton of talent coming back next year," he said. "We're getting to that

point where teams are having to think about us being on their schedule."

The Lady Indians will carry lots of memories with them into next season, namely a 9-0 season start that put them in solid position within Region 8-A.

"We had our run," Coach Floyd said. "That's what we'll remember the most heading into next season's competition. We've got a real shot of getting back to the state playoffs next

the track. It is rescheduled for May 1.

Track promoter Steve Morris had the track in the best condition in several years. "I will get on the grader as soon as the rain stops and get the old girl back in shape for next Saturday", stated Morris.

Tri-County runs every Saturday night with the gates opening at 4 p.m. and hot laps starting at 7 p.m.

The list of tracks that fell to rain was long this weekend. North Georgia Speedway, Cleveland Speedway, Toccoa Speedway, Dixie Speedway and Hartwell Speedway all suffered the same fate. Westminster Speedway stated they were taking their Friday running track off last week, but rumors have that it might have shut down for the season after only four races. It is a shame because it is really a nice facility; we can just hope they get things worked out.

Boyd's Speedway which runs on Friday nights did get their race in and Todd Hernandez won the Late Model feature, his first since moving up to that class.

Jonathan Davenport raced Friday night in the Lucas Oil Series 50 lapper at Bedford Speedway in Bedford, PA and out of the 66 cars entered, finished fifth.

Tri-County did get the go kart races in Friday night and several local youngsters did quite well.

This year's Prelude at Tony Stewart's Eldora Speedway in Ohio will feature 25 NASCAR drivers racing dirt Late Models to benefit four children's hospitals. In the past, the Prelude has raised close to three million dollars for charity. This year's event will be held June 9th and can be purchased with no commercial from Pay-Per-View for \$24.95.

The NHRA Southern Nationals will be held at Atlanta Dragway May 14-16. One of NHRA's long-established events, the race celebrates its 30th anniversary this season.

N/Apr28/08gg

## Tribe drops a pair in region play

By Charles Duncan  
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD  
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The Towns County Indians' diamond hopes have faded with a lackluster finish in Region 8-A play.

The Indians lost in three innings to Athens Academy by a score of 15-0. The loss left the Indians with an overall record of 6-13 and 3-11 in region play.

The offense just couldn't muster up a run, nor could it keep the Spartans' bats silenced.

Things began to look up as the state's No. 4 team, Hebron Christian came to town. By the second inning, the Indians had the Lions wondering just exactly who they were playing. The Indians jumped out on top 3-2 and had the Lions in defense mode.

Hebron Christian's fortunes changed and so did the scoreboard.

It wasn't long until the Lions were leading 18-5 after five innings. It wasn't pretty and it was the final score.

However, Coach Shannon Moss believes that the lumps served up to some hungry Indians hitters and pitchers this season will serve the team down the road.

"It's all a learning experience," Coach Moss said. "Certainly we'd like to be winning right now and competing for a spot in the region playoffs, but that just didn't happen this season."

"What did happen is that I've got a pretty good baseball team coming back next year that really knows how to handle adversity," he said. "We're getting better with each game. We might not see that reflected on the scoreboard, but these young men will never forget the experiences they've picked up this season."

"They have a never say die attitude that beats within them and you'll never see this team throw in the towel," he said. "It's just not in their make up to do that."

The Indians played a late game in Andrews, NC. That score was not available at press time. On Tuesday, the Indians were slated to travel to Blue Ridge, NC to take on the Bobcats. The Indians have beaten both the Bobcats and the Wildcats in 2010.

On Thursday, the Indians travel to Hayesville to take on the Yellow Jackets and on Friday, they close out the season with Senior Night against the Tallulah Falls Indians. Game time: 5 p.m. Come out and support the Indians as they bring the 2010 season to a close.



Towns County Indians' Taylor Denton gave it all he could muster last week against Hebron Christian. The Lions took the match up 18-5, thus increasing their winning record to 22-1 on the season. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



Towns County Indians' Alan Turpin puts a successful tag on a Hebron Christian player last week who was trying to swipe second base. The Indians lost 18-5 despite having an early 3-2 lead. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



Towns County Indians' Billy Meier slides safely into third during the Indians' match up with Hebron Christian last week. The Indians lost 18-5 ending their 2010 region play. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

## First annual Castaway Critters Bass Tournament

The first annual Castaway Critters 2010 Bass Tournament will be Saturday, May 8 at Lake Chatuge in Hiawassee at Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds.

The tournament launch is at 7 AM and weigh-in at 5 PM with a penalty of one pound lost for every minute late.

Your \$75 tax deductible entry fee donation is all for Castaway Critters Pet Rescue, Inc. a 501 (c) 3 non-profit or-

ganization. Prizes galore will be awarded. First place guaranteed \$1000 cash, and prizes for second place, third place and biggest fish. Win it all - big fish pot - \$10 entry.

There will be BBQ, prizes, door prizes and gift certificates donated by local businesses in the area.

For information and early registration, call Ric or Lisa at 706-994-7097. NT(Apr28,May5)gg

## NASCAR 2010

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

### Third overtime is a charm for Harvick

For the first time in NASCAR history there were three attempts at a green-white-checkered finish in a Cup race, and Kevin Harvick came out the winner, Sunday at Talladega.

"Everything played out perfect of us today," said Harvick. "We had a plan to ride in the back until 50-laps to go and really push forward after that. It worked perfect."

Harvick was in the third spot at the beginning of the third and final restart. He made it to the rear of leader, Jamie McMurray's bumper and pushed him around the track until the third turn of the last lap, before giving McMurray a little sideways bump, causing McMurray to lose momentum.

Harvick then moved under McMurray's No. 1 and beat him to the finish by 0.012-seconds, or about a yard.

The win was the first Cup win for Harvick since the 2007 Daytona 500.

McMurray had the lead twice on green-white-checkered restarts when cars wrecked behind him.

The first time he was leading Greg Biffle and teammate Juan Pablo Montoya when Joey Logano got into the

back of Ryan Newman, collecting nine cars.

There were a total of 22 cars that were wrecked during the three green-white-checkered restarts.

Jeff Gordon was one of those. His teammate Jimmie Johnson forced him to go beyond the yellow line and he lost momentum. A few seconds later, Jeff Burton crashed into the outside wall and came down on Gordon.

"I don't know what happened, but I got collected," said Gordon. "We got a huge push down the back straightaway and I was running probably 10-miles an hour faster than the others."

"The 48 (Jimmie Johnson) is testing my patience. It takes a lot to make me mad and I am pi\*\*ed."

Gordon dropped from 5th to 10th in points.

The remaining top-10 finishers: 3. Juan Montoya, 4. Denny Hamlin, 5. Mark Martin, 6. David Ragan, 7. Clint Bowyer, 8. Kurt Busch, 9. Kyle Busch, 10. Mike Bliss

Dale Earnhardt Jr. led several laps, and each time he came by the grandstands as the leader, you could hear the applause from his fans. Talladega



is definitely Earnhardt country.

Top-12 Chase contenders after 9 of 36: 1. Johnson-1323, 2. Harvick-1297, 3. Biffle-1237, 4. Kenseth-1224, 5. Kyle Busch-1163, 6. Martin-1154, 7. Kurt Busch-1146, 8. Earnhardt-1142, 9. Hamlin-1138, 10. J. Gordon-1130, 11. Bowyer-1086, 12. Burton-1082

**Weekend Racing:** The Cup and Nationwide teams will have night races at the .75-mile Richmond, VA track while the Trucks race on Sunday at the 1.5-mile Kansas Speedway. Fri., Apr. 30, Nationwide Series, race 9 of 35; Starting time: 7 pm ET; TV: ESPN2.

Sat., May 1, Sprint Cup Crown Royal 400, race 10 of 36; Starting time: 7:30 pm ET; TV: Fox.

Sun., May 2, Camping World Trucks, race 5 of 25; Starting time: 12:30 pm ET; TV: Speed Channel. You may contact the Racing Reporter at: hodgesnews@earthlink.net. NT(Apr28,C4)hc

**Local Racing Action**  
By: Carl Vanzura



Go karts at Tri-County were the only one getting to race this weekend.

### Rain this week-end took the checkered flag

The highly anticipated 46th season opener at Brass-town's Tri-County Race Track received the red flag Saturday night when a bad storm passed through the area and flooded

## Tour Hightower Creek Clydesdale Farm

Grand Re-Opening for the Season - May 1<sup>st</sup>  
PUP (prevent unwanted pets) Fundraiser  
Admission \$15.<sup>00</sup> per Person, Children 6 & under Free!  
Come see our first Hightower bred foal.

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