

# Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports



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## Indians' baseball season ends on the downer against Prince Avenue



Dillon Diehl scores on a Jake Mullins Triple. Photo by James Reese.

By James Reese  
Towns County Herald  
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Athens - The Towns County Indians baseball season abruptly came to a merciful end Thursday. The Indians were on the wrong side of the scoreboard dropping a Region 8-A contest 19-3 in seven innings to the Prince Avenue Eagles.

Earlier in the week, the Indians came up just a bit short in their comeback bid against the Tallulah Falls Indians with 10-8 loss in their final home game of the season.

Seniors Brad Smith and Jake Mullins would suffer their final home defeat but became key players in a Towns County Indians' rally.

Harrison Hobbs took the hill for the Towns Indians.

The Tallulah Falls Indians came prepared to avenge an earlier 4-0 season defeat from the Towns County Indians touching up Hobbs for five runs in the first inning. The Tallulah Falls Indians added a couple more in the second inning to chase Hobbs.

Looking at a 7-0 deficit, Towns Head Coach Chris Vardo looked to his bullpen and called on Dillon Diehl to put out the fire. In the bottom of the second the Towns County Indians managed to load the bases but plate only one run.

The Tallulah Falls Indians tacked on a couple more

runs in the top of the fourth inning seeking to put the game out of reach 9-1.

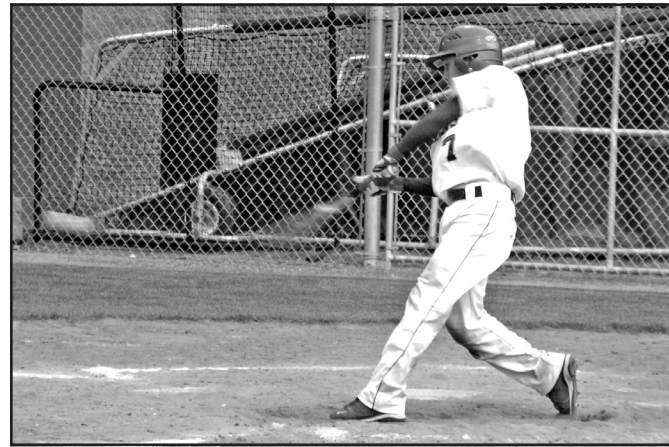
In the bottom of the fourth, the Towns County Indians' bats came to life and responded by loading the bases. Jake Mullins plated two runs cutting the Tallulah lead 9-3. Both pitchers were settled in for a scoreless fifth inning. However, Tallulah Falls added another run in the top of the sixth pushing its lead to 10-3.

The Towns County Indians responded with a big sixth inning sparked by a leadoff Boone Moss walk. Cruz Shook doubled deep to centerfield leaving runners at second and third base.

Vonya Baldwin doubled in two runs to cut the Tallulah lead 10-5. Dillon Diehl stepped to the plate and singled in Baldwin closing in on Tallulah 10-6.

Tallulah Falls Head Coach Patrick Mayfield had seen enough determining starting pitcher Thomas Hand had run out of gas; he went in favor of reliever Sam Roberts.

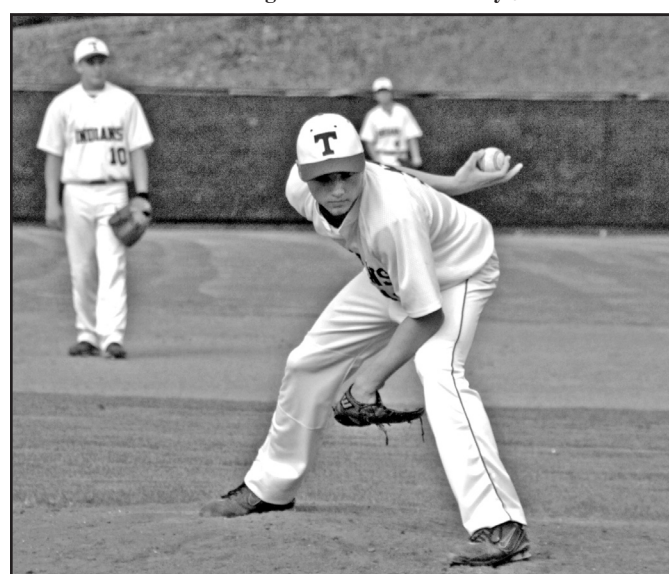
The outburst continued for the Towns Indians on a Mullins triple scoring Diehl narrowing the gap to 10-7. The hit parade continued for the Towns Indians when senior Brad Smith singled up the middle to score Mullins drawing the Towns Indians within two 10-8 with no outs.



Vonya Baldwin drives home a pair as the Indians rally against Tallulah. Photo by James Reese.



Harrison Hobbs delivers against Tallulah. Photo by James Reese.

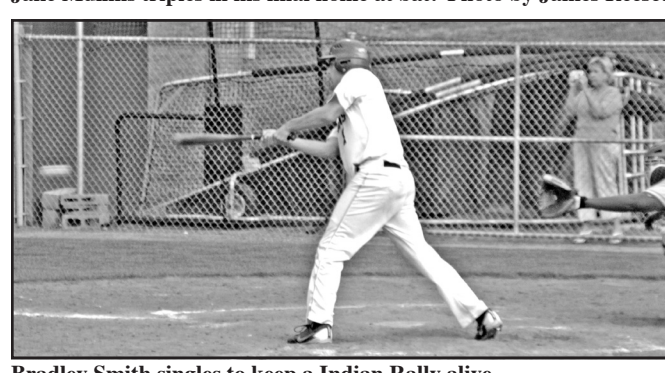


Dillon Diehl gets the sign from Vonya Baldwin. Photo by James Reese.

However, Roberts found the zone and struck out the side to end the sixth inning. That would prove to be the final score as Roberts closed the door on the Towns Indians in the seventh inning ending the comeback bid and the Towns County Indians' final home game.



Jake Mullins triples in his final home at bat. Photo by James Reese.



Bradley Smith singles to keep an Indian Rally alive. Photo by James Reese.

Learn from the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 23

### About Boating Safely

May 17 & 18 2012  
4pm - 8pm

Hosted by Towns County Schools  
21<sup>st</sup> Century Afterschool Program.  
FREE!!

Spots are limited please contact Jenny Stowers to Register  
706-896-4131 x1155 or jnstowers@towns.k12.ga.us

Ages 14 to Adult

This two evening program is open to anyone interested in learning how to boat safely through a NASBLA approved course. The course covers GA & NC boating laws. Completion of this program and passing a short exam qualifies most boat owners for a discount on their vessel insurance and satisfies the NC boating law for those under 26 operating a boat.

## Towns 4-H BB Team looks forward to next season



Some of the competitors in the state championships.



More of the competitors in the state championships.

They say "all good things come to an end". This is appropriate for the Towns County 4-H BB gun teams who after nineteen weeks of practice and a qualifying match last month; traveled to Rock Eagle 4-H Center in Eatonton to compete in the 2012 BB Gun State

Championships. Fifteen competitors, 2-7 person teams and one person shooting as an individual left Hiwassee on Friday the 13th with Marlene and Reggie at the helm and spent that night in the cabins at Rock Eagle along with 567 other contestants.

They were preceded to Rock Eagle by their coaches, Gene Blackburn, A.T. Sorrells, Bill Christine, Ruby Rhinesmith, Diane Hamilton and Ed Jones, all of which are members of the Chatuge Gun Club.

Saturday morning they were met by a host of parents and family as they took to the range to fire 40 shots for record; 10 shots each from the prone, standing, sitting and kneeling positions. Sounds easy but it takes all day. The teams fired scores a bit better than their daily scores and placed in the upper third of the total competitors. The competitors were: Alexis Ledford, William Lovelady, McKenzie Henderson, Kyler Garrett, Cody Bowman, Emma Watkins, Journey Waiters, Tyler Sisco, Brett Hooper, Devin Hunter, Zandra Churchill, Brandon Shirley, Chase Rogers, James Norton and Phillip Lovell.

Well, next year is coming and we will be looking forward to another enjoyable season. TM(May2,GI)SH

## Young Harris College to host annual Clay Dotson Open



YHC President Cathy Cox (far right) presents the 2011 Clay Dotson Open Alumni Challenge award to Young Harris College alumni Larry Kimsey, '65, Jimmy Stewart, '89, Jerome Burch, '94, and Michael Kimsey, '96.

The annual Clay Dotson Open golf tournament to benefit student scholarships at Young Harris College will be held on Friday, May 18, at Brasstown Valley Resort.

More than 90 percent of YHC students receive some form of financial assistance, and all proceeds from the Clay Dotson Open are used toward scholarships for Young Harris College students. Generous support of this annual event allows a new generation of students to achieve their academic pursuits and become part of a 125-year legacy. "The scholarship funds

I have received have enabled me to obtain a quality education as I prepare to pursue a career in communications and business," said Matt Wilmer, a junior communication studies major from Conyers, Ga. "I am thankful for the opportunities the scholarships have afforded me and am proud to be part of the Young Harris family."

"There's no place like the Enchanted Valley, and I am grateful that my scholarship has allowed me to spend my college years at YHC," added Emalyn Cork, a junior biology major from Marietta, Ga. "This would not have been

possible without the help of a scholarship, so I am incredibly appreciative of the people who give to scholarships in order to make it happen."

Players will enjoy morning and afternoon flights, a complimentary continental breakfast, lunch and/or snack, an awards ceremony with prizes for low net in each flight, a putting contest with prizes and a complimentary team photograph.

The tournament will also feature the Alumni Team Challenge in which teams of four YHC alumni receive a special discount and compete to win a special award for the lowest score. The award will be presented at a special reception for all alumni on Friday evening at Brasstown Valley Resort.

The deadline to register for the Clay Dotson Open is Friday, May 4.

For player registration and sponsorship opportunities at this event, contact Director of Development Mark Dotson, '88, at (706) 379-5355 or mcdotson@yhc.edu. NT(May2,NI)SH

## Lady Indians travel to Columbus with hopes of soccer Gold

By James Reese  
Towns County Herald  
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The Towns County Lady Indians have their work cut out for them on Friday.

They face the Brookstone Lady Cougars out of Region 2-A in Columbus. Coached by Courtney Norris, the Lady Cougars have an overall season record of 10-5. They boast a conference record of 6-3.

The Lady Cougars started off season 3-3 before going on a tear, winning six in a row. They face the Lady Indians' soccer team at 5 p.m. on Friday in the Class A play-in game before the Class A state playoffs begin.

The Lady Indians made it this far by weathering a rain storm and visiting Georgia Military Academy a week ago.

However, Senior Day Magic happened like the lightning that struck the team's scoreboard. Senior Ali Bleckley would score a pair leading the Indians to a 6-1 playoff clinching victory over the GMA Lady Bulldogs.

Kayla Reece kicked in the initial go ahead goal early in the contest. Mackenzie Moss followed shortly thereafter with the Indians second goal. Senior Ali Bleckley kicked a pair of back to back goals, two of her three on the day. Reece fired another goal prior to the half giving the Lady Indians a commanding 5-0 halftime lead.

Returning from the break, the Lady Bulldogs were awarded a penalty kick and successfully converted. The goal would be the only one allowed by Indians' goalkeeper Alex Fagin on the day. Fagin would deny all other shots on goal. Bleckley would boot one passed the GMA goalie at roughly the 8-minute mark remaining in the contest giving the Lady Indians the 6-1 victory and insuring them a spot in the state playoffs.

The Lady Indians now have to keep relying on the grit and determination that have kept their 2012 season alive and driven to the state playoffs.

Head Coach Peter Byrne said he felt like the team stepped up for their seniors.

"They have really played hard and give a little extra," Coach Byrne said. "We're going to play our hearts out. That's all you can ask."



Taylor Vardeman brings an abundance of energy to the Lady Indians soccer attack. Photo by James Reese



Ali Bleckley is an important cog in the Lady Indians pursuit of a state soccer title. Photo by James Reese.



Makayla Underwood will contribute some fancy footwork to the Lady Indians' soccer game. Photo by James Reese.



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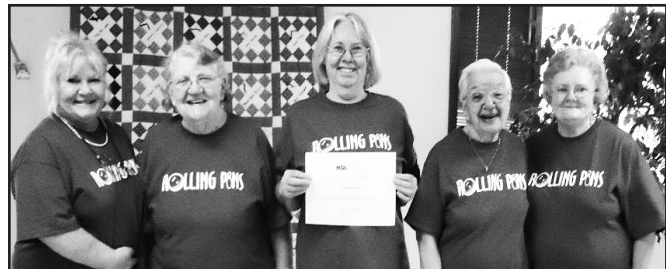
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## Senior Center goes to playoffs in National Wii Bowling Senior League

The Towns County Senior Center bowled in recent National Senior League tournaments for Wii bowlers. The Senior Center had two teams. The Hiwassee Hotshots was in the Elite Division and bowled in the Georgia State Championships. The Rolling Pins were in the Master Division and bowled for the Eastern Region Championship. After seven weeks of hard competition both teams were in the playoffs. Both teams lost out the second week of playoffs after a hard-fought battle. The finals were held at Brass-town Valley Resort with the Heavy Rollers and Pin Crushers of Atlanta competing. The Pin Crushers prevailed and a wonderful time was had by all. At the present, the Hiwassee Hotshots are ranked 6th and the Rolling Pins 9th in the NSL of over 100+ teams. Eugene Hedrick and Murlene Bradley rank in the top 100 bowlers out of 600+. Eugene ranks 48th, averaging 261.71. Murlene ranks 71st, averaging 247.93. Hotshot players were Eugene Hedrick, Murlene Bradley, Kathy Potts,



L to r: Lucy Aparo, Kathy Potts, Eugene Hedrick, Murlene Bradley and Tina Cataldo.



L to r: Nancy Ferguson, Ann Adams, Annette Adams, Gladys Stevens and Pat Horton.

Lucy Aparo and Tina Cataldo. Rolling Pins were Annette Hedrick, Pat Horton, Gladys Stevens, Ann Adams and Nancy Ferguson.

Great effort was made by each player and we are proud

of all of them. The next tournaments for the NSL will be in August. With the fever catching on, more new players are joining forces to make Towns County Senior Center an even stronger team. TMay2,H2/SH



Bradley Smith and Jake Mullins bid farewell to the Indians Baseball team. Photo by Lowell Nicholson.

## Blairsville Scottish Festival & Highland Games June 8 - 10



Pipes & drums band

The Blairsville Scottish Festival & Highland Games will be hosting its 9th annual festival in the beautiful mountains of North Georgia in Blairsville, June 8-10. Our venue in Meeks Park is superior and BSFHG has been named one of the Top 20 Events in the Southeastern US by the Southeast Tourism Society for the 5th straight year.

Friday morning brings the Kilted Golf Tourney at Butternut Creek Golf Course. Friday night's Ceilidh is truly memorable with lots of food, Scottish ceremony and entertainment at the new Community Center Banquet Hall.

Saturday's activities will include Opening Ceremonies in which all clans march in the

Parade of Tartans with all the pipe and drum bands and other participants. There will be six outstanding pipe & drum bands and many other musical groups, Highland dancers, SSAAA heavy athletics, Historic Reenactors, Gordon Setters and Border Collie and sheep dem-

onstrations, Falcons and other raptors will be demonstrated, Highland cattle and children's games. Saturday evening a Celtic Concert will be held featuring Uncle Hamish and The Hooligans... great party!

Sunday morning brings a worship service and Kirkin' O' the Tartans. Then all the aforementioned activities are available again.

We have a great variety of food vendors and many Scottish/Celtic goods are available for purchase on both Saturday and Sunday. Mark your calendar for a fun weekend!

For information, see our website: blairvillesscottishfestival.org E-mail: bsfhg1@yahoo.com or phone Chamber of Commerce at 1-877-745-5789. Mail: Blairsville SF&HG, P.O. Box 766, Blairsville, GA 30514. NTMay2,Z5/egg

## NASCAR 2012

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

### Busch Brothers Sweep Richmond

Kyle Busch took advantage of a late caution to win Saturday night's Cup race at Richmond, while his brother Kurt won Friday night's Nationwide race.

The Cup race turned on the last caution, which was called because of a plastic water bottle in Turn 2. Tony Stewart, the leader and Busch pitted for fresh tires.

Busch's team got him out of the pits ahead of Stewart. On the restart with eight-to-go in the 400-lap race, Stewart spun his tires. Dale Earnhardt moved into second, but did not have the car to catch Busch.

"I don't know where that last caution came from, but it was our saving grace," Busch said in Victory Lane. "It was a gift. We came down pit road and (crew chief) Dave Rogers and the guys went to work and gave us a great pit stop, got me out front."

Earnhardt, who took over second in the standings -- five points behind series leader and 18th-place finisher Greg Biffle -- experienced brake problems for much of the race, but used the late restart to improve his position after Stewart fell back.

"We had some brake problems all race long," Earnhardt explained. "I had a great restart, and I ran really great for one lap, and the pedal went back to the floor. I just had to pump it up all the way down the straightaway and I didn't have any front brakes getting into the corner, so I couldn't get in real hard."

Tony Stewart, the race leader before the final caution, lost ground on the restart and finished third.

"That's the best car I've had here at Richmond in a long, long time," said Stewart. "It was something I felt really comfortable with today. We were where we needed to be at the end of the day. When the caution is for a plastic (water) bottle on the backstretch, it's hard to feel good about losing."

Denny Hamlin ran fourth, followed by Kasey Kahne, Jimmie Johnson, Clint Bowyer, Mark Martin, Brad Keselowski, and Carl Edwards.

Jimmie Johnson, came to pit road during a caution on lap 319, but was penalized for a tire violation on his pit stop, after one of his crewmen rolled a tire unattended toward the pit wall, and had to restart from the tail end of the field.

That same restart proved disastrous for Carl Edwards, who led the most laps. He was black-flagged for jumping the start before reaching the restart lines on the outside wall.

Top-12 leaders after 9 of 36: 1. Biffle-338, 2. Earnhardt-333, 3. Hamlin-329, 4. Kenseth-328, 5. Truex-316, 6. Johnson-314, 7. Harvick-313, 8. Stewart-307, 9. Edwards-287, 10. Newman-278, 11. Kyle Busch-265, 12. Bowyer-264.



Kyle Busch celebrates his Richmond Cup win

**Kurt wins Nationwide Race for brother**  
Kurt Busch beat Denny Hamlin to the checkered flag by .062 seconds to win Friday night's Nationwide race at Richmond.

Busch delivered the first-ever Nationwide Series victory to the team owned by his brother, Kyle Busch. The win was Busch's fourth in the series and his first on a short track. Hamlin came up two feet short after a phenomenal drive from the rear of the field after a pit road mistake.

"To get KBM (Kyle Busch Motorsports) its first win -- this is unbelievable," Kurt Busch said in Victory Lane. "It's harder than you think, putting a program together. You think you can come in here and muscle your way to the top, but you have to think your way to the top."

Pole-sitter Kevin Harvick ran third, followed by defending series champion Ricky Stenhouse Jr. and Sam Hornish Jr. Elliott Sadler finished sixth, followed by Ryan Blaney, Michael Annett, Autin Dillon, and Kasey Kahne.

"This is the most emotional I've ever been for a win," said Kyle. "Man, this is cool. When you're behind the wheel, it's a lot easier to do. Kurt ran him really tough, and then Denny ran us clean."

Top-10 leaders after 7 of 33: 1. Sadler-285, 2. Stenhouse-283, 3. A. Dillon-262, 4. Hornish-232, 5. Annett-220, 6. Whitt-207, 7. Allgaier-192, 8. Malsam-182, 9. Bayne-180, 10. Bliss-174.

**Lack of cautions a no-no**  
There have only been 43 yellow flags this season, going into the Richmond race. At this same point last year there were 80. The last caution for a multicar wreck came April 1, at Martinsville.

Blame it on the cars, tracks, safer racing, or more caution on the drivers part, the lack of action hasn't made for an exciting year of racing.

It's left many fans wanting more.

Wrecking, crashing, and bumping and rubbing, has always been an inherent part of the sport of racing.

But not in 2012. Bruton Smith, owner of Bristol Motor Speedway is in the process of tearing up parts of the track pavement, after the dismal attendance at this year's Spring race. He plans to grind down the top portion of

the racing surface in order to return the racing to its original style.

His decision not to seek driver input on how to fix the track didn't sit well with several drivers. And not all drivers are convinced the decision by Smith to grind the top groove will return racing at the half-mile track to the bumping and grinding it was known for before the 2007 reconfiguration.

"I think they're wasting their time," said Greg Biffle.

Some drivers point to the uniformity of the car design as the culprit.

"The Car of Tomorrow has brought a lot of great things for us," said Jimmie Johnson. "But I don't think we can look at the garage area for the next change. I think the change comes with the venues. The change comes with the resurfacing of tracks and reconfiguring tracks to make more side-by-side racing."

"And then there's also the argument of tracks that create more cautions that some people want to see. From a competition side, NASCAR has created a very level playing field, which we were all after. And now we need to look at the venues and try to put on a better show based on the tracks."

Two track examples would be California and Texas. At California the race ran 124 caution-free laps. Two weeks later at Texas, there was a 219-lap green flag run.

Then came Kansas. There were three cautions for a total of 18 laps. One came when Clint Bowyer spun, and the other two were for debris.

In 2011, there were 18 cautions. This year there were only five.

This is not the type racing fans are accustomed to. Racing is an emotional sport. Except for a couple brief finishes, where the leaders made contact, fans haven't been treated to much excitement.

Hopefully, the next three races, Talladega, Darlington, and Charlotte will see the action pick up. Fans not only deserve it, but demand it.

**Weekend Racing:** The Sprint Cup and Nationwide cars will be at the 2.66-mile Talladega Superspeedway, the longest track on the circuit. The trucks do not race again until May 18.

Sat., May 5, Nationwide AARON's 312, race 8 of 33; Start time: 3 pm ET; TV: ABC.

Sun., May 6, Sprint Cup AARON's 499, race 10 of 33; Start time: 1 pm; TV: FOX.

**Racing Trivia Question:** What ancient site was the Talladega Superspeedway built on?

**Last Week's Question:** Who drives the No. 3 truck in the Camping World Truck Series? Answer: It is Ty Dillon.

You may contact the Racing Reporter at hodges@race500.com. NTMay2,Z11/egg

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