

Sports

Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2009

Mountain Lions reel in first tourney win

LAKE GUNTERSVILLE, Ala. — Young Harris College's newly formed bass fishing team scored its first tournament win on Saturday, Oct. 10, when team members Clint McNeal, a sophomore from Woodstock, and Brad Rutherford, a freshman from Lavonia, won the National Guard FLW College Fishing Southeast Division event on Lake Guntersville, Ala., with six bass weighing 19 pounds, 8 ounces. The victory earned the team \$10,000 to be split evenly between the College and the College's bass fishing club.

"This is awesome," said Rutherford. "I caught my first fish on my first or second cast and it was a six-pounder. It was tough fishing the rest of the day. We really had to work

hard. We had most of our success on isolated grass patches using large swim baits."

"We came here to win," said McNeal. "We didn't catch too many fish, but the ones we did were keepers. We never fished deeper than seven feet and kept to the edges of the grass patches. I am just pumped!"

Rounding out the top five teams at the tournament were Kennesaw State University, University of Tennessee, Auburn University and Faulkner University.

"Our team just started this semester, and this was our first tournament," said Danny Rubino, sponsor for the Young Harris College bass fishing team. "We are in the process of restructuring the club right now to accommodate grow-

ing interest." The team is organized as a club sport at the College, has at least six members and is still growing. Rubino's role involves overseeing the club's operation and helping them organize.

"Now we're trying to raise sponsorship money and support for the team so that they can travel and continue to compete. We also hope to get involved with some local community events," Rubino said.

According to Rubino, the team members prepared for the tournament by making an effort to fish "every day and all weekend" when possible. Rubino has 10 years of boat racing experience and also serves as assistant coach for the Young Harris College

softball team.

The Young Harris College team now advances to the televised Southeast Division Regional Championship in Stanford, Fla., Nov. 21-23, where they could ultimately win a Ranger 177TR with a 90-horsepower Evinrude or Yamaha outboard wrapped in school colors for the YHC club and \$25,000 for the College. They will receive team shirts and boats provided by Ranger.

If the team wins the Regional Championship in November, they will then advance to the National Guard FLW College Fishing National Championship, a three-day televised event hosting the top five teams from each regional event for a total of 25 teams. Teams will be provided shirts



Photo/FLW Outdoors

Young Harris College bass fishing team members Clint McNeal and Brad Rutherford accept the top prize at Saturday's National Guard FLW College Fishing Southeast Division Tournament on Lake Guntersville.

and wrapped Ranger boats towed by Chevrolet trucks for this competition. The purse for the championship ranges from \$25,000 cash and a Ranger 177TR with a 90-horsepower

Evinrude or Yamaha outboard wrapped in school colors for the winning club and \$50,000 for the school they represent to \$15,000 for fifth, split between the club and school.

YHC soccer match postponed

Women's match versus GMC to be rescheduled

YOUNG HARRIS — Young Harris College's women's soccer match against Georgia Military College, scheduled to be played Monday, Oct. 12, was postponed due to heavy rain in Young Harris. The match has not yet been rescheduled.

This is actually the second time the match has been postponed due to rain. It was originally scheduled to be played Sept. 27.

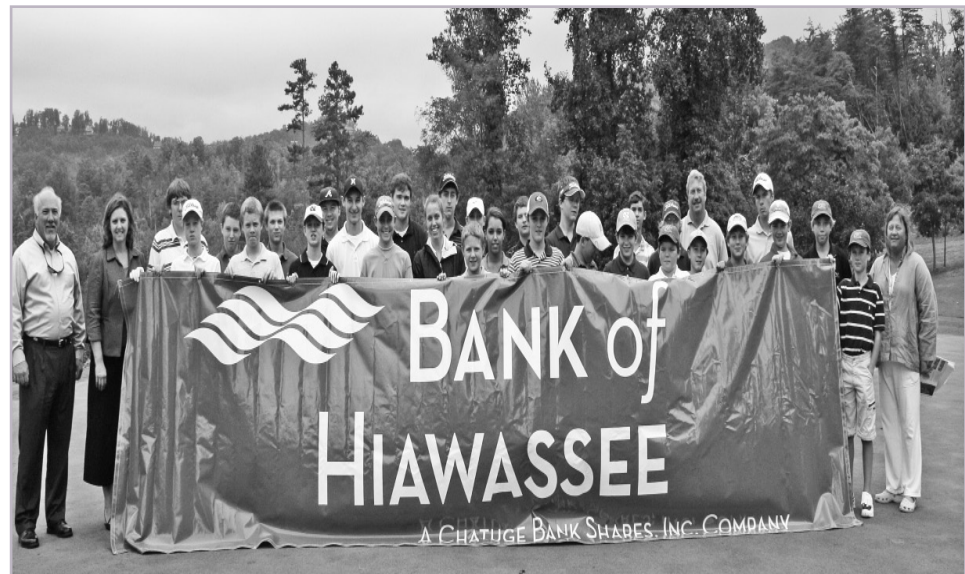
The Lady Mountain Lions are scheduled to return to action Thursday at Truett-McConnell College.

2009 TCHS Homecoming Court



Photo/Lowell Nicholson

It's homecoming for Towns County High School on Friday night as the 2009 football homecoming king and queen will be crowned. The Indians face Georgia Military on the gridiron. Come out and support the Indians and take in the festivities as a group of beautiful young ladies and handsome gentlemen vie for the title of Homecoming Queen and King.



Photo/Submitted

Junior players with Ron Tredway and Jacque Bentley on the left and Kellie Gonyea on the right.

Local junior golfers turn in winning scores

The Tri-County Junior Golf Association continued the Mountain Falls Junior Golf Tour with a stop at Brasstown Valley Resort. The Bank of Hiwassee sponsored the junior tournament. Ron Tredway and Jacque Bentley represented the bank and Brett Beazley along with Kelli Gonyea represented Mountain Falls and the Tri-County Junior Golf Association respectfully.

New winners took the first and second in the boys 15-17 age division. Scott Tredway from Union County carded a 45 to win the division followed by James Rowe also from Union County placing second. James and Eli Crumley from White County both shooting a 46 with James winning on the score card

playoff. In the girls 13-17 age division, Morgan Bentley from Union County continued her streak posting a 44 for the nine holes. She was followed by Miranda Carballo from Cherokee County.

In the boys 13&14 age division, Jacob Wallace from Clay County continued his string of first place finishes by shooting a 46 followed by Grant Schuette from Union County and Josh Sprinkles from Clay County. The boys 11&12 age division saw Zach Cottrell from Clay County take first place with a 28 followed by DJ Mock from Cherokee County and Austin Humphries from Clay County.



Swim team continues improvement

The first swim meet of the season was held in Gainesville, Georgia October 3rd. The meet's format was that of the classic "pentathlon" in which swimmers compete in all five events. The North Georgia Rapids sent ten of its more experienced swimmers to compete in this challenging venue. Several of the newer team members travelled down to offer their support and observe this unique style of

meet. All competing swimmers swam personal best times with Megan Foster and Tanner Gay earning personal best times in four out of five of their races. Lilly Smith of Morganton, Kori Sofield and Anna Knight swam three out of five of their races. The team has experienced tremendous growth over the past several months with thirteen new team members.

This new group shows great promise and exhibits a strong work ethic at team practices. The team looks forward to continued success with this new group of swimmers. The team practices year round at the Blue Ridge Mountain Fitness Club in Blairsville with team members scattered between Towns and Gilmer counties. For more information contact Coach Barry Gay at 706-835-1662.