

# Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports



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November 25, 2009

www.townscountyherald.net

Hiawassee, Georgia

## Indians strike gold at KOM

By Charles Duncan  
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD  
Jackson Noblet and Austin Stephens were gold on Saturday and Koby Hughes and Evan Keyes claimed silver in the annual King of the Mountain middle school wrestling tournament on Saturday at Towns County.

The Towns County Indians finished sixth in a 13-team field during the annual middle school wrestling tournament, which packed

the wrestling gym with fans and family members from throughout the region.

Clear Creek, White County and North Hall finished 1-2-3 in the tourney. Dawson County, which yielded a champion in the 147-pound B category, Kevin Holtzclaw, finished seventh.

"It was a really strong field out there today," Indians' Head Coach Jeff Stowers said. "If some matches had turned out a little differently, we

could have finished as high as fourth.

"Hey, I'm satisfied with the effort. The guys wrestled their hearts out here today," Coach Stowers said.

Stephens, who drew a first round bye, defeated Reed Bowman of Franklin County, Josh Hicks of White County, and Tristin King of Franklin, NC to claim his KOM gold medal.

Noblet, who drew a first round bye, went through

Cameron Cearley of Franklin County, Dalton Lavender of North Hall and Andy Cantrell of White County en route to his KOM championship.

Keyes made it through Beau Cooper of Dawson County, Andrew Manley of White County, but lost to Brian Pritchett of White County in the title match and finished with KOM silver in the 123-pound B weight class.

Hughes, a first-year wrestler, and transfer from

Union County, made it through Franklin Burt of Riverview, Nolan Tucker of North Hall before falling to Holtzclaw in the 147-pound B finals to claim KOM silver.

The Indians also laid claim to several bronze medals.

Harrison Hobbs wrestled back from an earlier defeat to B.J. Whitfield of Lumpkin County to claim third in the 100-pound weight class. Vonya Baldwin lost an earlier battle

on points to Jake Holcomb of North Hall, but battled back to win the bronze in the 108-pound weight class.

Jaryd Shook battled back from a semi-finals loss to Josh Walls of Franklin, NC to claim the fourth place medal in the 130-pound B weight class.

Aaron Collier finished fifth at 86 pounds; Cory Ellis finished fifth at 108-pound B; Greg Penland finished fifth in the heavyweight category.

Photos by Lowell Nicholson



Towns County's Jackson Noblet takes Gold at KOM.



Towns County's Evan Keyes takes Silver at KOM.



Towns County's Vonya Baldwin takes Bronze at KOM.

### Varsity Indians out wrestle Wildcats

By Charles Duncan  
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD  
The Towns County Indians high school wrestlers started the season off on a high note Friday night at the Reservation.

The Indians vaulted to an early lead and continued to dominate throughout the 13 weight classes as they defeated the Andrews Wildcats in Duals competition 50-31.

Head Coach Jeff Stowers couldn't have been more pleased.

"Andrews is a very good wrestling program," Coach Stowers said. "We did okay. We wrestled sloppy in spots. We had some kids that I think could have done better."

"But, it's early in the year, first match jitters and we had a lot of young kids out there tonight," Coach Stowers said. "Andrews is a very improved wrestling team. Two years ago, they only had four kids on their wrestling team. They've come light years from where they have been."

Coach Stowers said it's exactly how he envisioned the start of the 2009-2010 wrestling season.

"It's always good to start with a win," he said. "We're wrestling light a weight class or two. We've got some kids that

are going to have to win in order for us to compete in Duals."

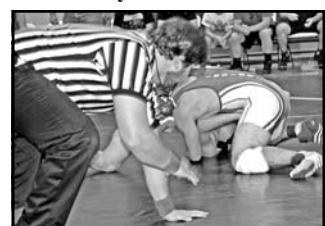
Coach Stowers said that the wrestlers that stood out the most were wrestlers that actually took a loss on the night.

"Wesley Bloodworth wrestled his guts out tonight," Coach Stowers said. "He had never been on a wrestling mat before. The first time ever and he went out there and faced a big strong kid. He wrestled great, but he just simply ran out of gas."

"We knew what to expect out of Tim Collier, Max Updike and Mat Hogsed. John Henry Hobbs looked good, Jaythen Burrell looked good," Coach Stowers said. "We did a lot of really good things. It's a good way to start the year and I think we've got a really good tournament team."

The Indians are back in action on Tuesday afternoon, Dec. 1 at Riverside.

Photo by Lowell Nicholson



Tyler Hoffman pins an Andrews Wildcat on Friday

## It's been "Paris" in Athens at UGA football

By Jim Bryant

From Fran Tarkenton to Herschel Walker he remembers them all

This past Saturday saw Paris in Athens, Georgia at the UGA football game. Actually it saw several Paris' but

on all Bulldog home games if you look upward in one of the sky suites, you'll see Hiawassee Hardware owner Dick Paris, son Dan and brother, nephew Lamar Paris, Blairsville Commissioner and his wife, Dinah. Even at age ninety-five, the completely devoted elder Paris still makes the Saturday home game trek to Athens. Once a Dawg...always a Dawg.

Dick Paris graduated from Hiram High School and attended ABAC where he played baseball in 1937. In 1940, the year before this reporter was born, Paris transferred to the University of Georgia. After serving a stint in the Army, Paris



(L-R) Lamar and wife Dinah Paris, son, Dan Paris and seventy year Dawg fan, Dick Paris. Photo compliments of Georgiadogs.com



At work in the hardware store, Dick Paris stated that after work Saturday he was heading to Athens for the final UGA home game of the season. Photo by Jim Bryant

began UGA football tickets and has continued his dedication to this day. According to Loran Smith, "While we haven't conducted any research, the guess here is that Paris is the oldest living season ticket buyer to Georgia games. There may be older fans, but not likely someone who shows up for every game."

Appearing on the UGA Football Program 1st page this past week, the Paris clan traveled together as is customary to see the Bulldogs

take another home win and qualify for another post-season BCS Bowl bid. When talking with Loran Smith prior to the game, Dick noted some of his favorite memories from players like Frank Sinkwich, Charley Trippi, Fran Tarkenton, Pat Dye, and of course Hershel Walker. Smith said the interview with Dick was a "heartwarming testimony." Paris simply said, "I just love driving to Athens to see the Bulldogs play between the hedges." Go Dawgs.

## Lady Indians rule over Lumpkin; Indians fall in the nightcap

By Charles Duncan  
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD  
The Towns County Lady Indians ran their record to 2-0 as they overwhelmed the Lumpkin County Lady Indians in a middle school basketball matchup last week in Hiawassee.

The Lady Indians led by double-digit high-scoring totals from Eryn Cochran and Madison Johnson, cruised to a 42-19 win over Lumpkin County.

"It went pretty well," Head Coach James Nelson said. "Everybody got to play. We're still working on the little things, but we're working hard and we're going to fix those little things."

The Lady Indians took the game to Lumpkin utilizing speed, quickness and a relentless press. The impressive win is the second of the season. A week earlier, the Lady Indians let the Fannin County Lady Rebels back into the game and squeaked by with a 33-30 win.

"I'm really proud of these girls, they played really hard, we had a really solid effort," Coach Nelson said. "We looked really good on

the press, these girls are really quick. We transitioned well and that's going to be the key for us this season."

Coach Nelson said she really didn't know what to expect from Lumpkin County. This is the first meeting between the two schools since Nelson took the head coaching reins.

"To tell you the truth, I didn't know what to expect out of Lumpkin County," she said. "I'll tell you this, I didn't expect us to dominate like we did, but, we did."

In the nightcap, the Indians' middle school boys coached by Tim Rosser hung with the much larger Lumpkin County squad for the first half, keeping it close.

However, the Lumpkin team dominated the boards and went on to a convincing double-digit victory.

The Indians and Lady Indians return to action next week at home. The teams will square off against White County on Dec. 1. The action gets underway at 4:15 p. m. with the Lady Indians taking on the Lady Warriors. Boys' action follows with the Indians facing the Warriors.

Photos by Lowell Nicholson



Eryn Cochran scores two of her game high points against Lumpkin



TCMS Boys lost a heartbreaker to Lumpkin.

## Junior Pee Wees, Termites honored

By Charles Duncan  
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD  
Indians Head Football Coach Kyle Langford told the Towns County youth football teams how proud he was of their 2009 accomplishments.

Both teams advanced to the second round of conference playoffs this season. The Towns County Indians 9-year-old Junior Pee-Wees and the 5- and 6-year-old Termites both fell out of championship contention on earlier this month as both suffered 20-0 losses.

Langford told the youths

that they had taken the first steps to competing on Friday nights under the lights wearing the blue and white of the high school Varsity Towns County Indians.

"I look forward to the days ahead," he said. "I'll be waiting on you."

Coach Smith, who was elected president of Towns County Youth Football, said the boys appreciated the support of fans during the 2009 youth football season.

Photos by Lowell Nicholson



Termites Youth Football players honored.



Junior Pee Wees Youth Football players honored.