

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Indian athletes sharpen skills, teamwork over summer

By Jeremy Foster
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Towns County High School student-athletes have kept at it this summer with off-season training to stay in shape and prepare for the next year.

Students have been undertaking various activities such as weightlifting, mini-games, camps, practices and more to remain active and keep teamwork alive while enjoying their free time before heading into the 2022-23 school year for each of their respective sports.

High School Athletic Director Jim Melton shed some light on what the school sports teams have been up to so far during the break, now more than a month into summer vacation.

"It has been a busy summer with all of our sports," Melton said, "and it was exciting to see some fun competition during these basketball camps with teams from many areas coming including Murphy, Gainesville, White County, the Atlanta area and many more."

"On Thursday, June 30, we will be hosting an FCA 7-on-7 passing camp at the High School with several teams coming for that as well, and it is great for all of these kids to get more experience."

Girls Soccer Head Coach Clay Livingston said that his players are working out in the weight room three days a week "and trying to get some extra touches in the evening with some 7 versus 7."

"And we also have traveled to Hart County many times and will play them, Oglethorpe and some other schools as well," Livingston said. "It has been great to see all of these girls still want to work hard and get extra practice during their break."

"They all believe that if you are not doing something in the off-season to make yourself better, then you are going to get behind. Other schools are working hard, too."

"We are glad to provide opportunities for the kids to continue to develop and get better in the weight room physically and mentally and



Second-year head coach Brian Hunnicutt and his Indians basketball team prepare for the 2022-23 season during a recent summer camp that saw Towns County play three scrimmage games against Banks County, Tallulah Falls and Union County. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

on the field, too, and still enjoy their time with their friends and families during the summer."

Flag Football registration is happening now for kindergarten through fifth graders, spearheaded by the Towns County Parks and Recreation Department Director Stuart Nichols.

"We are working directly with the high school program and Coach Jason Roquemore to keep the kids moving and active while out of school and get them interested in football when school starts back up," Nichols said. "Registration is open now and people can go to www.townscountyrec.com or contact my cell at 762-294-9293 to sign their child up."

"Registration will close on Monday, July 25, and the fee is \$40. The games will start Saturday, Sept. 10, with practices starting on Thursday, Sept. 1. We are looking very forward to seeing everyone there and doing something for our youth."

Towns County High Wrestling Head Coach Brandon Rowland also shared what

his team has been up to this summer.

"We are working around football, because pretty much all of my guys play that as well, so we are practicing Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6-8 p.m.," Rowland said. "We go in and do some cardio drills and practice our techniques in a more relaxed environment, and we always end our sessions with live wrestling."

"Everybody does their football workouts in the morning and then wrestling at night, so much respect to all of our incredibly hard-working students."

Boys Soccer Head Coach Rollie Thomas wants to inform the community that he and his student-athletes are "definitely staying busy this summer," especially since his team features "a lot of two and three-sport athletes."

"We are all working around other sports and camps, so we are working with each other and primarily focusing our training in the evening times with smaller group workouts and team play," Thomas said. "Coming in July, we will most likely be doing

some pickup games and scrimmages, with some 3 versus 3 games coming in August, so we have many great activities, just spread out a little bit."

"We are working on getting as many touches as we can and staying fresh and keeping the rust off. We have most of our players returning next year with a few freshmen coming up who are really going to help us out, and we will be working on building our team chemistry."

Shannon Floyd, the Head Baseball Coach, has been

keeping busy with his players by playing some games, practicing and hitting up some double-headers as well.

"So far, we have played Fannin County, Rabun and Lakeview, and for all of us it is simply just getting some reps in," Floyd said. "It is great that we play in a relaxed environment; it gives all players time to slow down and work on the fine tuning of things, because most our students are multi-sport athletes, so none of us want them to get completely burnt out, and everyone can

still enjoy their break. "We hold our practices on the same day that we play our games, and the players, coaches and refs are laid back because we just want to use this time to learn more."

As for basketball, Girls Head Coach Shea Taylor said he ran his Middle School camp June 20-21.

"The camp was called Mountain Madness, and this was my fourth year doing it," Taylor said. "I had nine girls' teams and eight boys' teams show up to participate, and it was great being able to see the kids progress and get better."

Boys Basketball Head Coach Brian Hunnicutt has been playing different games throughout June, including a recent camp that featured teams from Banks, Rabun, Tallulah Falls and Union.

"The summertime is about learning more and growing together as a team; the points, wins and losses do not matter and is not our focus (at this time)," Hunnicutt said. "We will be finishing up with practices on June 30."

"We will still be doing workouts and weightlifting, just not team basketball so we can give more time and the month of July for the football team to start focusing on what they need to do to prepare for their season when school starts back up."

"I am very proud of everyone who came out this summer to play, work hard, and get stronger and better. That is what these kids do, and the attitude that they maintain to keep the honor, tradition and legacy of Towns County Basketball – and the legacy of all Indians – alive."

MGC collects five State championships

Lawrenceville - Representing Blairsville's Mountain Gymnastics Center (MGC), Shy'Ann Beasley, Lucie Burgess, Addyson Lee, Keely Shook and Baylor Sullivan were each crowned a State Champion in their respective divisions during the AAU and USA State meets in the spring.

Beasley took home first on the bars in the AAU Xcel Gold Experienced Division with a score of 9.450.

Burgess' score of 8.9 on the beam gave her a first-place finish in the AAU Xcel Silver Novice Division. Lee recorded a 9.2 on the beam to place atop the AAU Xcel Gold Novice Division.

Shook came in first on the beam in the AAU Xcel Gold Experienced Division, tallying a 9.5. And last but not least, Sullivan's 9.1 on the floor exercises earned a gold medal atop the AAU Level 1 Novice Division.

Along with a second-place performance on the vault, Burgess just missed an all-around

State title, placing second with a 36.125.

Scoring a 36.075, Madelyn Primeaux placed third all-around in AAU Xcel Silver with a runner-up performance on beam and a bronze medal score on the vault.

In other AAU Xcel Silver competition, Hartley Hodges placed ninth and Selah Patterson was 11th in the Novice Division.

In the Experienced Division, Kylee Coggins and McKenzie Duval finished ninth. Reagan Gwynn placed 11th.

Sullivan placed fifth all-around with a 35.225 in AAU Level 1 (Novice), while Hope Wright and Ellenore Perrone each came in ninth. Mattie Kate Alexander also competed for MGC in Level 1 Novice.

In AAU Level 1 (Experienced), Renley Loyd and Raelynn Thomas both placed seventh. Camilla Duello was 11th.

Lee placed third all-around in AAU Gold Novice, totaling a 35.875. Shook was second all-around with a 37.275 in AAU

Gold Experienced, thanks to a second on the vault to go with her gold medal on the beam.

Shaylynn Davis came in third all-around with a score of 36.925, via a second on the bars and third on the beam.

Beasley ended up seventh all-around in AAU Gold Experienced and Addison Harkins placed 11th.

In Level 7 competition, Emma Schuette turned in a top-10 showing on the bars with a 9.25.

Veterans Golf League Results

This week, Chatuge Shores Golf Course hosted our annual "Par 3 Tournament". We had 45 players and a good time was had by all. Winners in the gross score division were 1st Randy Tompkins, 2nd Ron Slatt and 3rd was Gary Nicholson. In the net score division Bobbi LeHollier 1st, John Harkins 2nd place. Ray Ide and Mel Halfon tied for 3rd place. T(June29,1)JH

"Happy Together" Pickleball Tournament thanks sponsors

The Georgia Mountain Pickleball Club hosted a tournament at the Towns County Pickleball Complex and Courts in Hiwassee on June 3 - 5.

The name and theme of the tournament was "Happy Together Tournament," which complemented the "Happy Together Tour," presented at the Anderson Music Hall on June 4. About 300 players from the surrounding states converged on Towns County for the 3-day event, bringing with them revenue and support to our local businesses and rave reviews about the tournament and our world-class pickleball facility. There were many spon-

sors who were largely responsible for making this event such a huge success. We wish to thank them for their kind support of our tournament and for their leadership and concern for the welfare and betterment of our community.

Please support the following businesses who sponsored our tournament and we hope you'll continue to support all our local and area businesses:

Armor Exteriors; Asiano; Atlantis Commercial Group, Inc; Athens Neurological Association; Boundary Waters Resort & Marina; Century 21 Black Bear Realty-Rick Andrews; Century 21 Black Bear Realty-Teresa

Newell; Chatuge Home Concierge LLC; City of Hiwassee; Collage Boutique; Eller Tire Company; Folger Gas LLC; Garrard Development Inc; Hayesville Brew; Hiwassee Package; Hiwassee Park Senior Living Community; Ingles; Jacky Jones Automotive; LaCabana Mexican Restaurant; Lake Chatuge Lodge; Leger & Associates; Marina Station; Mary's Southern Grill; Moss Forestry Consulting Services, Inc; Nelson Tractor Company; North Georgia Golf Carts; Paradise Bar & Grill; Pic-A-Nick Basket Deli; South State Bank; State Farm; Union General Health System; United Community Bank. T(June29,F)JH



TOWNS COUNTY

2022 FLAG FOOTBALL

K-1st Grade (Coed), 2nd/3rd Grade, 4th/5th Grade

Registrations begins:
Monday, June 20th - Monday, July 25th

Register Online!
Townscountyrec.com
\$40 to register