

# Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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## Youth football attendance down despite big wins this season

By Shawn Jarrard  
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When Jimmy Smith looked into the stands at the start of the home games against Copper Basin this past Saturday, what he saw dismayed him – there was hardly anyone there.

“I was like, wow – there wasn’t anybody there at all,” said Smith, who directs the Towns County Youth Football League. “It was the smallest crowd I’ve seen in three or four years, at least.”

The kids could tell the stands were empty, too, and Smith said that he hopes the turnout is much better for this Saturday’s home games against Hayesville, which kick off at 11 a.m. in the new youth football field at the Towns County Recreation and Conference Center at Foster Park.

“I’m proud of all the guys, they work hard,” said Director Smith. “I’m proud of all the coaches, what they’ve been doing this year, they’re working hard every day. It’s volunteer time, all the coaches, and I appreciate everything they do for the program.”

As for the Copper Basin games, the Indian Termites had a bye week because the Cougars didn’t have a Termite team, and everyone else played hard.

The Midgets improved their record to 3-0 on the season, with a resounding 40-0 shutout win against their Cop-



Towns County youth football in action during a recent game. Photos by Lowell Nicholson

per Basin counterparts.

And that game ended early, too, in the first half, thanks to a mercy rule in the Smoky Mountain Conference – the Midgets scored 8 points in the first quarter and 32 in the second quarter.

Collin Crowder scored four touchdowns and Kyle Oakes scored the fifth, followed up with multiple 2-point conversions from Crowder, Oakes, Christian Wade and Austin Bradley.

“The offense did amazing blocking to get a total of 233 yards in the short time they played,” said Midgets Head Coach Damon Crowder. “The

defense stood strong, not even allowing the Cougars to get a single first down, and showing how they could get the ball back not once, but twice on kickoffs.

“They truly are all you have heard and more, so come out Saturday and cheer them on against the Hayesville Yellow Jackets.”

The Towns County Mites also fared remarkably well that day, shutting out their Cougar rivals 40-0 to bring their season record to 2-1.

“Our hard work paid off – our boys came together this week in practice,” said Mites Head Coach Joseph Goble.

“That’s when we coaches knew that this was going to be a good game for us. Yes, we won 40-0, but it wasn’t about the win this week – it was the team working as one.

“When practice was over our boys were still running the hill, doing pushups, cheering each other on and striving to become better, not because of us coaches, but for the love of the game. I could mention every boy’s name in the newspaper and list their accomplishments over and over, but there would not be enough room to express the achievements that these boys made together.

“It was a good day for all of us. The hardest part of the day was who we were going to put in next. Our minds are now focused on Hayesville this week, therefore it is back to the gridiron.”

The Indian Pee Wees ended up with a loss, bringing their season record to 0-3, but they played against adversity and came up with a score in the 22-6 defeat.

“Tucker Wheeler got his first touchdown,” said Pee Wee Head Coach Jason Wheeler. “We’ve got Hayesville at home this week, and we’re hoping we can work hard this week and bring home a win.”

Everyone is looking forward to the Hayesville games this Saturday, which take place at home, and Director Smith is optimistic that the community will show up to voice its support for the little Indians.

“We’ve got Hayesville coming up, and that’s a rivalry from pee wee football to high school,” said Director Smith. “I’d like to see more people out for a home game. We have to travel next week after this home game. I’m hoping we have a good crowd that shows up this Saturday. It’s a big rivalry, from the little guys on up.”

## Girls Cross Country takes third at Meeks Park; guys place fifth



Taylor Cornett (left) placed fourth with a time of 23:02 at the Union County race. Photo/Todd Forrest



Towns County’s boys cross country runners in action at Union County’s Meeks Park. Photo/Todd Forrest



## TCHS softball owns wins over Fannin, Lithonia, and Wheeler



The Towns County Lady Indians at Rabun County last week. The Lady Wildcats prevailed 8-0 with two runs in the first and second innings, and four in the fifth. Tatiana Baldwin, Kristen Henson, Madison Landress, and Zandra Churchill each recorded a hit for Towns. Henson pitched a complete game from the circle. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

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Last week the Lady Indians wrapped a pair of contests at Rabun and Prince Avenue to fall to 3-7 on the year.

However, Towns picked up its first victory of the season back on Aug. 17th when they defeated Class AAA’s Fannin County by a score of 6-1.

Tatiana Baldwin finished 2-for-4 with 3 runs scored as

the Lady Indians out-hit Fannin County 6-to-3.

Towns scored one in the first and two in the third before the Lady Rebels got one run back in the bottom half of the third.

The Lady Indians responded with one in the fourth and two in the seventh.

On Aug. 20th, Towns County routed Lithonia, 14-2 at the Norcross Invitational for their second win of the season.

The Lady Indians drew 13 walks to go with nine hits in the one-sided win.

Following the win over Lithonia, Towns picked up their second-straight win with a 5-1 victory over Wheeler, despite being out-hit 4-to-2.

However, the Lady Indians were issued 11 walks – three going to Henson and two to Madison Landress.

Baldwin and Churchill each singled and drove in a run.

## TCMS caps off another perfect week



Towns County Middle School Lady Indians score on a wild pitch. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

## Family Hiking Day September 24

On September 24th, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy invites families of all ages and hiking abilities to join us for Family Hiking Day. Bring your loved ones, get outside, and experience the adventure of being active on the Appalachian Trail!

Held on National Public Lands Day, Family Hiking Day is an opportunity to introduce your family to America’s premier footpath, and all of the benefits that come from being active and spending time outdoors.

On Family Hiking Day, guided hikes, trail cleanups, and celebrations will be held up and down the length of the Appalachian Trail. The Top of Georgia Hostel & Hiking Center will be conducting two family hikes on the 24th – both will include a workshop

and cleanup of an area on the AT. One hike is 2 miles round trip and the other is 5.5 miles round trip so you can select the hike that works best for your family. Be sure to RSVP with the Towns County Chamber of Commerce so that you can stay up to date on any changes to the event and so that they can plan the best possible hike for you! There are a limited of number of spots in each hike so call 706-896-4966 to reserve your spot.

Whether you’re able to participate in an official Family Hiking Day event or not, anyone who hikes on the Appalachian Trail with their family September 24-25 is welcome to post photos and stories to Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram with the hashtag #ATfamilyhike. Five of our favorite photos and stories will

be chosen, and the winners will receive an Osprey backpack to use on future hikes with their families!

To see all of the family hikes being conducted in conjunction with Family Hiking Day visit [appalachiantrail.org/docs/default-source/Family-Hiking-Day/family-hiking-day-2016-event-list-PDF](http://appalachiantrail.org/docs/default-source/Family-Hiking-Day/family-hiking-day-2016-event-list-PDF).

## VFW Golf League

Last week’s event at Chatuge Shores Golf Course was won with a score of 12 under par. The winning team consisted of Norvel Hasley, Greg Jacobson, John Harkins and Ed Gosnell. Congratulations guys! That is the lowest score ever on our league. Not bad, for a bunch of “old geezers.” TAUG31.K1SH