

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Lady Indians have a roller coaster week with Union, Hebron

By Joe Collins
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

It was sugar and salt last week for the Lady Indians soccer team of Towns County High School.

They played host to Union County on Wednesday and defeated the Lady Panthers by a score of 1-0.

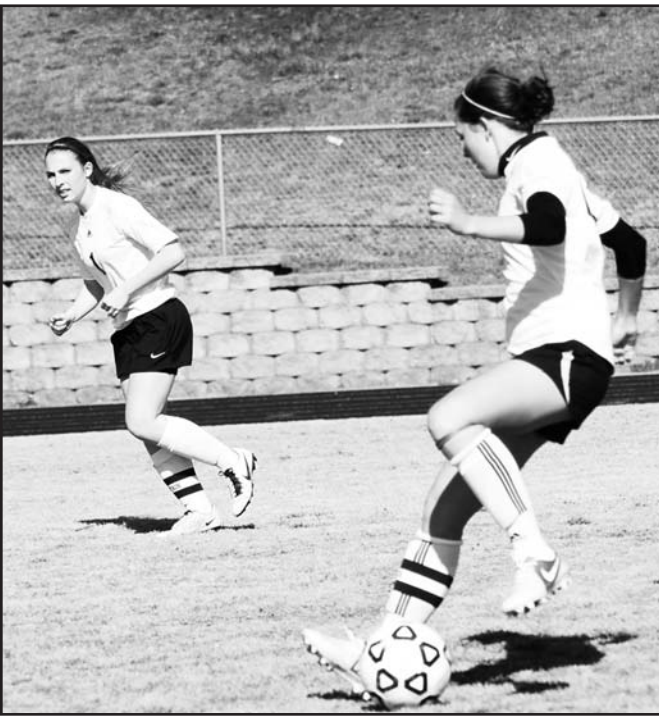
"This is the first time in Towns County High School history that a varsity soccer team has beaten a Union County team and I am very proud for them," said Towns Head Coach Peter Byrne of the win.

But the sugar only lasted a couple of days and the girls faced their toughest adversary of the year, Hebron Academy. The Jacks are ranked third in Class A and they won 6-0.

"We played well but the best team won today," declared a humble Byrne.

Coach Byrne praised the girls for the Union game and said, "we fully deserved that victory. We dominated overall and our keepers only had to make one save all game. I am very proud of the girls."

The Indians played solid defense all game and controlled



Towns County Lady Indian soccer photos by Lowell Nicholson

the ball well. It was a difficult night for junior Faithe Robinson who failed to score even though she hit the upright and the crossbar on attempts during the game.

Key players according to Byrne against Union were sophomore Karlie Albach, freshman Ally Settles, freshman Taylor (Chicken)

Underwood and sister, junior Makayla Underwood, junior Kaila Reece and Robinson.

The Indians scored when Reece found the goal off of an assist by junior Taylor Vardeman.

The only goal scored in the game proved to be enough for a Lady Indian win.

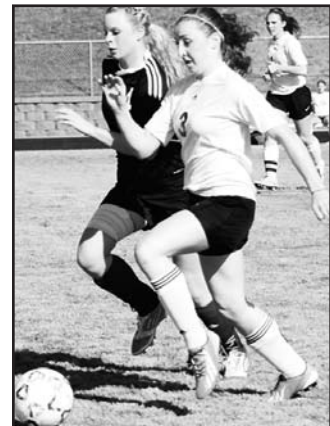
Against Hebron, Towns



came close to not being shut out, and who knows what a goal can do in high school sports, but it was just not meant to be. Robinson was rejected three times by the Jacks keeper and Reece had a shot cleared off the line by a Hebron defender but drew no blood for this game.

Teams are recognizing the talent of the Lady Indians and are starting to key on certain positions and it is making the girls play harder.

As a wise man once said, "Winners adjust."



"Our key players for this game were Vardeman, Reece, Makayla Underwood, Albach and Settles and of course Rob-

inson played well especially in the second half," praised Byrne of the girls' performance.

The girls played hard but the Hebron team is very solid and will possibly go far down the road to a State title.

The Indians can hold their heads high for their effort as a team especially in their win against Union.

The girls will take on this same Hebron team at the Hebron Academy School in Dacula on April 16th with kickoff at 5 p.m. and the varsity boys immediately following around 7 p.m.

Make plans now to come out and support the Indians.

Joe Collins



Tips from the Range

Now that we have established the proper stance, we need to look at the bodies' attachment to the swing. We are going to look at the way we hold the club, aim and position the ball in relation to the club we have chosen for the shot at hand. These are the swing mechanics that prepare you to make a solid backswing.

The most difficult of these three aspects is the grip. I know that sounds strange but the grip is the main connection we have with the club. In other words, what the hands do affects what the face of the club does. The back of the forward hand is a direct representation of how square the club is at impact, so if the grip is wrong, impact will be out of square.

To establish the correct grip for your swing, observe the actual grip on the club and notice that there is a slight rise at the very end of the club. Do not grip the club past the start of that rise. It is there to prevent the club from slipping further into your hand.

Open the forward hand and lay the clubs' grip at the base of the little finger with the end extending about an inch past the base of the hand. Now close the hand over the club shaft until you can see at least two of the knuckles on the back of the forward hand. The shaft should run through the middle of the index finger and the connection of the hand and the thumb should form a line as the hand tightens around the club. This line should point toward the back shoulder. Work with it and you will find your happy place on the club just remember to never change

your hold on the club during the swing.

Aiming is really simple. Imagine a set of railroad tracks. The rail away from you will be the target line and the inside rail will represent the tips of your toes. Now, take your club and lay it across the tops of your knees, then in front of your hips and finally across the front of the shoulders. All 4 of these lines should be parallel to the outside rail and all 4 lines should be pointed at the target. There you go; alignment set.

Ball position is even simpler. While you are in your stance, look down at the distance between your feet. Remember to keep your feet a little less than shoulder width apart. Find the center point between your feet and always play normal shots from that point, or a little forward of that point, with the ball position moving toward the front foot as the shaft gets longer. Knockdown shots or low shots will be played behind this point in order to keep the ball low. Drivers should be just inside the front foot.

These swing mechanics are the general rule for basic golf swings. The more you practice the better it will feel but be careful to not reinvent the wheel. Stick to these simple thoughts and the process will become easy.

I hope that you have been able to establish a good comfortable stance and that these mechanics fit well with your set up. It is important to get things stable because the hard stuff is on the way.

In the next tips we will start learning how to take the club away and return it to impact so practice making your stance balanced and your swing attached.

Good luck and I will see you on the course!

Towns has mixed results at Fannin County

By Joe Collins
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Blue Ridge - The Towns County High School tennis teams were back in action last Thursday and found themselves playing two tough Fannin County Rebel squads at Fannin County High School.

The girls winning in the end and showing some solid offense by defeating the Fannin County girls varsity 4-1 with their only loss coming after a hard fought doubles match. The guys struggled again but continue to show improvement with form and working the ball better off of their serves. Their effort was not reflected in their 0-4 loss.

The ladies opened the show again and dominated the singles matches by winning all three.

Junior Eryn Cochran controlled the ball well in the opening singles match and won 8-2 to start the ladies off right. Senior Kayla Olin followed her



Lesleigh Irvin

winning ways in the singles arena by defeating her opponent 8-2 while senior Mackenzie Mirandi finished the singles shut out 8-3. It was a good day on the courts for the Lady Indians singles.

The double barrel team of junior Allison Page and sophomore Carly Gilfilian scorched the court and won their doubles



Kayla Olin

match 8-2 but the team of juniors, Courtney Marshall and Lesleigh Irvin lost their second match of the year to a good Rebel team. The match was close at times and the girls fought hard but could never quite get it closed out losing in the end 6-8.

The boys had another difficult go of it on Thursday

against the Fannin County boys varsity and lost in an overall shutout 0-4.

The doubles team of junior Cody Canterbury and junior Garrett Bradshaw pushed their match to extra games but lost a very close match 7-9. Bradshaw, senior Tyler Hoffman and senior Wesley Bloodworth all played hard but came up short in the end on the singles side.

Towns County tennis is showing some life as the teams prepare for the Area tournament the latter part of April.

The ladies varsity is on track to have a winning season and maybe a ranking in the Area, while the boys will need to focus on improving their individual and double division play. The team's next opponent will be Lakeview at home on April 17th for their final regularly scheduled game before the Area Tournament at Darlington.

First serve is at 4 p.m. so make plans now to come out and support the teams and the seniors for their last home game of the year and their last matches at Towns County.

Towns Middle School baseball finishes season at 7-4

By Joe Collins
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Towns County Middle School baseball team finished its 2013 season with a win and a loss to rivals White County and Rabun County respectfully.

The bats were hot and the team's defense was strong on Thursday as they traveled to White County and beat the warriors 13-8 on 9 hits and 10 RBIs.

The tide turned on Saturday as Rabun came to town and found themselves with the hot bats to boost some solid pitching while shutting out the tribe 7-0.

The Indians hit the road on Thursday and crossed the ridge down into the Enotah Valley and met a White County Warriors baseball team on its home turf and brought home the victory 13-8.

Adam Barrett was on the mound to try and handle the Warriors who were set on revenge after the tribe had defeated them at home.

The first inning was an indication of what the Warriors would face for the next 4 2/3 innings with Barrett striking out 3, walking one and giving up a single to the clean up hitter.

Barrett would face 24 hitters throwing 74 pitches of which 36 were strikes. He had 7 strikeouts, gave up 8 walks with 5 of those coming in the Warriors' rally in the fifth inning. He only allowed 2 earned runs in the game both coming in the bottom of the fourth.

Zac Davenport came in with the bases loaded and one out in the fifth and took a ground ball from the first hitter he faced and nailed the runner at home to make the second out of the inning. He gave up two walks for runs but had a crucial 3-2 called strikeout for the final



The Towns County Middle School baseball team, led by Coach Kyle Langford finished its 2013 campaign with seven wins including two over Union County and Lumpkin County and three wins over White County. TCMS baseball photos by Lowell Nicholson.

out of the fifth. The Indians had the Warriors down 13-3 in the bottom of the fifth but White County rallied on the walks by Barrett and were able to avoid the mercy rule, as the score was 13-7 after the fifth.

Davenport followed in the sixth where he left off in the fifth striking out the first hitter he faced and then forcing a pop out to Major Moss in left field for the second out.

He then proceeded to hit the next batter and walked the next putting runners on first and second with two outs. He hit the next hitter and loaded the bases.

Head Coach Kyle Langford found himself with a decision to make and as you see him do a lot, he went with his player. He left his seventh grader on the mound in the heat of the game.

Davenport then struck

out the final Warrior batter of the inning with a 2-2 fastball that found the outside corner. It was a big strikeout for the young pitcher to end the sixth with the Indians leading 13-8.

The seventh inning Davenport still on the mound and it was another exciting inning of baseball. A career catch for Moss in left field that required him to stretch his full frame out to catch it produced the first out of the inning. A hit batter and a single to left field put runners on second and third with one out and the kid was facing issues again in the seventh.

A good breaking ball to the fourth hitter of the inning forced a pop up to Will DeVries and the second out of the inning was in the bag. Now with two outs and runners on second and third he is facing the anchor of the line up. Two big swings and a called strike three put the Warriors away and Davenport got the save advancing the Indians record to 7-3 with the number one ranked team in the region coming to town Saturday for the last game of the season.



Could the Indians declear the Wildcats of Rabun County?

It was a beautiful day for baseball as the Indians took the field in the top of the first against rival neighbor Rabun County.

The Wildcats were hot and undefeated on the year and this was the first look the tribe had gotten of the visiting Cats this season due to foul weather and scheduling conflicts.

Brody Graper took the mound against the visitors and kept them at bay for most of the first three innings leaving after starting the fourth inning trailing 2-0 with only one run earned. A solo homer that cleared the left field fence in

the top of the third.

Jackson Taylor moved from catcher to pitcher but had trouble finding the strike zone so Langford went to one of his starters who had just pitched on Thursday, Barrett.

He struck out 2, and with several ground ball outs from the infield and a couple of pop ups to Kobe Denton and Russell Cox in the outfield, shut the Wildcats down holding the score at 7-0, Indians trailing.

The tribe could not get anything going in the bottom of the sixth or seventh and the game ended in a loss for Towns County 7-0. The team still had a great season by finishing 7-4.

"I hope the kids realize that at 7-4 this has been a successful season. But, I want them to know that they need to keep working to improve and if they don't they will level off and we don't want that. I

believe the strong integrity and character of these guys will continue to guide them to be the best they can be in the classroom and on the athletic field. The most important part of the season has been that we have enjoyed being around each other and I sincerely hope that they have become better people and better ball players as a result of this season," said Langford giving his thoughts about the positives on the 2013 season.

The team can be proud and hold their heads high. They beat some good teams including Union, White and Lumpkin each time they played them. Commerce beat them twice and Lakeview beat them once and the loss to Rabun made the 4 losses on the season.

Way to go Towns County Middle School baseball team members on a successful and rewarding season.