

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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TCHS sports heating up following Spring Break

By Joe Collins
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Staff Writer

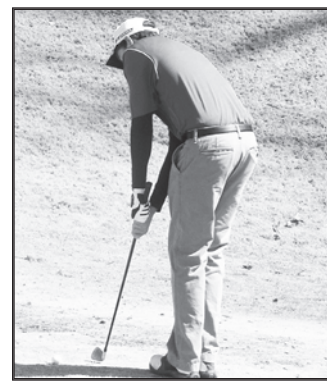
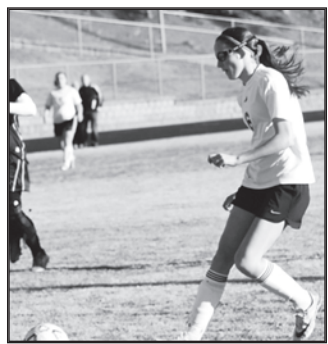
Towns County High School will be busy following the recent Spring Break with the winding down of the spring sports schedules.

The Middle School programs have concluded now and only the high school schedules are left to complete. There are still games left in soccer and baseball and matches left in golf and tennis all of which will end at the end of April unless teams advance to the Sectional and State Tournaments.

The TCHS boys and girls varsity soccer teams have three regularly scheduled games left with the final game to be played April 23rd at Lakeview starting at 5 p.m. for the girls and 7 p.m. for the boys.

The next scheduled game is on Thursday, April 18th at Providence Christian with the girls' kickoff at 5:30 p.m. and the boys at 7:30 p.m. The final home game will be on Saturday, April 20 against George Walton with the girls game starting at 1 p.m. and the boys beginning at 3 p.m. The Area Tournament and State schedules are undetermined and will be released soon.

The TCHS varsity baseball team has six regularly scheduled games left for the 2013 season. Their last home game is on Thursday, April 18th as they host Pinecrest Academy with the first pitch at 5 p.m. The team will travel to Hebron Christian Academy



Towns County sports photos by Joe Collins and Lowell Nicholson.

on Friday, April 19th for the next game on the schedule with the first pitch at 4:30 p.m. They go on the road to Prince Avenue Christian on Tuesday, April 23rd with a starting time of 5 p.m. then cover a make-up game on Wednesday, April 24th with Pinecrest also starting a 5 p.m. Lakeview is next on Friday, April 26th with the first pitch at 4:30 p.m. and the final game will be at Tallulah Falls on Monday, April 29th starting at 5:15 p.m.

The TCHS boys and girls varsity tennis teams will play their last home match on Wednesday, April 17 as they try to defeat Lakeview

Academy when they come to town. First serve will be at 4 p.m. The teams will then travel to Rome, Georgia on Monday, April 22 to participate in the Area Tournament and Coach Heather Moss feels as though her teams are ready.

The TCHS girls and boys varsity golf teams have both ended their regularly scheduled matches and the girls had a very good year as the boys have finished a rebuilding season. Both teams will travel to the Area Tournament in Ringgold on Tuesday, April 23rd and if they qualify to advance to the sectionals then the qualifying team will play in the sectionals


on Monday, May 6th.

The boys would play Southern Hills in Hawkinsville and the girls would go to Perry and challenge the beautiful but difficult Houston Lakes, Country Club. Match tee times start at 8:30 a.m.

The 2013 spring athletic programs at TCHS are coming to a close so if you've wanted to catch a game or come and see a match then the time is now.

The teams need your support and you will enjoy some good high school sports action in the process so make plans now to attend an event of your choice.

Joe Collins
Tips from the Range



Now that we have learned a lot about the fundamentals that control the set up and backswing, lets take a look at getting the club through impact, or in other words, the downswing.

Last week we looked at the weight transfer and how it helps lead the start of the backswing. We also touched on the beginning of the downswing in relation to that weight transfer.

The center of gravity moves to the back foot by rotating the upper body and the club is then released to the top of the arc where it will begin its downward motion into impact.

At this point in the swing, you should feel as though you are away from the ball with your knees bent.

Your balance should be over the ankles with most of your weight on the inside of the back foot. I like to think of this inside position as the "pivot point" of the weight transfer. Keeping the weight over the pivot point will really help you maintain your balance and allow you to start the downswing with the lower body.

Now that your weight is on the back foot and located over the pivot point, we must focus on the position of the spine angle.

The spine must remain in the original position that

you established at address so the shoulders can rotate on the same path back and through. The proper shoulder rotation is crucial in keeping the club on the proper path during the downswing.

Another very important aspect of the downswing is keeping the forward arm straight.

This rigidity of the forward arm is the main connection of the club to the shoulders and will allow the club to follow the correct inside path it needs in order to be square at impact.

Make sure that you don't re-grip the club during the start of the downswing or the club face will not square correctly at impact.

When the above mentioned elements are in place, things become pretty simple. You push off the inside pivot point and rotate the hips to transfer the weight to the front foot while keeping your back toward the target for as long as you can. Let the arms fall to the inside of the backswing path so the forward arm will rotate the club face square.

Don't force any action with the hands and make sure you keep your head behind the ball.

The downswing is a complicated motion and requires some dedicated movement. Take it slow and make sure the positions you place the club in are correct in relation to your balance because balance is the key to making the swing happen correctly.

Good luck and I will see you on the course!

Wilson preparing for future as Auburn-Montgomery Warhawk

By Joe Collins
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

On May 24th, Towns County High School senior Claire Wilson will join her classmates and graduate from Towns County High School.

This date marks the end to Wilson's career as a varsity softball star for the Indians and will begin her transition into being an Auburn at Montgomery Warhawk. She signed a letter of intent to play ball there on Dec. 7, as her family and friends looked on in the media center of TCHS. This made her the first ever Lady Indian to sign a college scholarship to play softball.

The date of her first pitch as a Warhawk is fast approaching and she is getting ready.

Wilson is a great individual, on and off the field. She makes excellent grades and is involved in several extracurricular activities at school and even finds time to work as a mentor.

She is devoted to God and her faith and relies on her family as much as they rely on her. Incidentally, her father was a professional baseball player so one could assume that is what the strong arm and fast bat comes from. She certainly looks natural on the field just like she is part of it.

As Wilson readies for the next level she's elevating herself



Claire Wilson with parents on Senior Night. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

to a higher level of play, and looks forward to the challenge of playing at the college level.

"I do think there will be some adjustments at the higher level, but I am looking forward to the challenge," Wilson said. "I have faced some of the best players in the state while playing travel ball and I think that will help me with what is to come."

With her father as her mentor, Wilson began to emerge as a softball talent.

"My dad has been my mentor and my biggest influence," she said. "It is definitely hard to be coached by my dad especially since he accomplished so much in his career. He has always seen my talent and abilities and pushed me to

be my best. I reverently refer to him as 'the Legend' and I am blessed to have had him as my father and as my most influential coach."

She also discussed Coach Wally Lewis.

"He's always had a lot of confidence in me and has never doubted my ability," Wilson said. "He and my dad always told me the same thing, 'you have the talent to become a collegiate athlete, all you have to do is stay dedicated, determined and disciplined.'"

"They also said that hitting is easy. It isn't rocket science," Wilson said. "Be disciplined at the plate. See the ball, hit the ball and keep your hands inside."

Wilson describes her softball experience at TCHS and includes the good and the bad.

She's mature enough to elaborate on what she learned / gained from the time spent as a Lady Indian.

My softball experience at TCHS had its ups and its downs," she said. "I was proud to be a member of the first ever Lady Indian softball team to get invited to the region tournament. Also, one of the best things for me was playing for coach Tonya Martin and coach Laykn Traquair, who both played at the collegiate level; two different coaches who believed in me and pushed me to my highest potential. I am also so thankful for the team we had my senior year and that we accomplished what we did. I am proud to be an Indian."

The highlight of her softball career was being named All-Region four times, she said.

"The highlight of my career at TCHS is being selected to the All-Region team four years in a row, and holding the homerun record for TCHS softball," Wilson said. "I also will never forget the doubleheader this season at George Walton."

"I hit back-to-back homeruns. One a two-run homer and the other a grand slam."

Wilson isn't sure where she will play in the field for Auburn Montgomery.

"I have been signed as a

utility player but I expect to be in the outfield a lot," Wilson said. "I really don't have an expectation for any specific position. I am just excited and blessed to have the opportunity to play at AUM."

In the classroom, Wilson plans to take on a Communications Major, she said.

"I am going to major in Communication with a focus on journalism. I also hope to minor in English or General Business," she replied. "It is my dream to become a sports broadcaster for ESPN."

She also believes coaching might be in her future.

"I think coaching is definitely in my future," Wilson said. "I would love to have the opportunity to help players who want to play at the next level grow and develop their skills."

Wilson is adamant when asked what advice she would give up and coming young athletes.

"Set goals for yourself and don't stop working until you reach those goals," she said. "Don't let anybody hold you back or tell you that you can't do something."

"You can do anything you set your mind to," she said. "Don't play because other people want you to, but play because you love it."

"And most importantly, give your all, all the time," she said. "When the going gets

tough and it seems you can't overcome the obstacle, keep going and never give up. Hard work and dedication will always pay off."

Wilson, a natural catcher, has a rifle for an arm and at the plate, she gets the bat through the ball very fast.

Her hitting technique is next to flawless and she is very brave in the field.

A memorable moment from this season, the ground ball she took against Hebron.

She was playing third base and one of their strongest hitters was in the box. The girl connected on a solid ground ball and it was hit straight at Wilson.

She never flinched.

She got herself in front of the oncoming rocket and fielded it cleanly. The batter was out at first before she got two steps out of the batter's box.

It was as solid of a hit as one will ever see and it was moving, but Wilson never missed a beat as she did her job perfectly.

She started playing ball at the age of 10 and has a ton of experience traveling on the travel team circuit where she has seen the best and judged herself suitable to compete in that arena. She most certainly has the talent to do well as a Warhawk and we wish her the best. She has worked hard for this honor and she deserves it.

Weekley returns to the High School ranks

By Joe Collins
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Towns County School Indians basketball team will have a new look next season, if only from the coach's seat.

Duncan Weekley, the former long-time assistant coach for the Towns County Lady Indians has been named head coach of the Indians for the upcoming school year.

The school system announced last week that Weekley was the new boys' head coach and named replacements for other coaching vacancies.

The Indians athletic program definitely will have some new blood on the sidelines and in the dugout.

Other coaching changes for 2013-2014 include a new softball coach and a new boys' middle school basketball coach to replace Weekley.

The changes are being announced as the 2012-2013 seasons come to an end so the athletes participating in the impacted sports can develop a grasp of the leaders they will be playing for next season.



Jonathan Gibson

to determine whether or not these changes will be positive or negative for each individual athlete.

Towns County Athletic Director Joseph Gibson will allow a more in depth look into the qualifications of each new position later in the year and will announce any unexpected new changes, but for now these are the confirmed moves.

The Lady Indians' Head Softball Coach Tonya Martin will be leaving to further her career in coaching, even though she did a really good job with the softball team this year by leading them to

the school record for most wins in a season. Martin will return to her roots in North Carolina and will be returning there to coach her true love, Volleyball. She was All-Conference in volleyball, basketball and softball during her college career.

Jessica Berrong, a veteran of Towns County softball and an important part of the team this season will replace Martin.

She has a true love of softball and a tremendous amount of ability and integrity. She will fill the position well as she steps into some big shoes left behind by Martin.

The staff and softball team members at Towns County are very excited by this change and look forward to her leadership this summer.

Weekley will assume the role of TCHS Varsity Boys Basketball Coach when the bell rings for the 2013-2014 season. Weekley brings with him a load of experience and integrity.

He coached the middle school boys team this year and had a solid winning season.

The team lost four games on the season and came close to advancing in the year-end tournament losing in double overtime in the first game.

The team improved on the year in all statistical categories and

developed a much better aptitude for the game as a whole through his leadership.

TCHS is excited about this change and looking forward to the new season starting in October.

The one and only Darryl McClure will be replacing Weekley as coach of the TCMS boys basketball team and anyone who knows McClure understands just exactly what he brings to the table.

Six state championships for the Lady Yellow Jackets at Hayesville High School in North Carolina and a boat load of coaching integrity.

He has the experience to further the development of a team that lost all its starters last season. He will be working with a young team and there is no better talent to take on this responsibility.

As of now these are all the confirmed changes and it looks like the Towns County athletic programs affected will be in some very confident hands. Change can be exciting and these changes are solid and will make the participants of these related sports better individuals and athletes.


Experience in athletics is priceless and these new coaches bring a lot of valued experience to their designated sports.

Good luck coaches and thank you for your dedication to Towns County and its athletes.

Fundraiser for wrestling team

Come to Bear Meadows Grill in Hiawassee on Thursday, April 18 from 5 PM to 8 PM and support the Towns County Wrestling Team. A percentage of total sales will

be donated to the team! Let's support our wrestling and help make their Disney Duals dream come true! Bear Meadows is located at 715 N. Main St. in Hiawassee. TR April 17, G1 JSB




Turkey Shoot

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For More Information Contact:
Larry Stover 706.897.9769

Directions from Blairsville: Take Hwy 129 South (Gainesville Hwy.) approx 8 miles. Turkey Shoot will be held in the field on the left just past Owltown Rd. If you make it to Hwy. 180 East you've went too far.