

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Lady Indian golfers take back-to-back Area titles



The Towns County Lady Indians and Head Coach Brett Keller won the Area championship on Tuesday April 22, for the second year in a row. Towns County Lady Indian Kenzie Jenkins took Low Medalist honors – the second year in a row that a Lady Indian has won. The Lady Indians qualified for the state tournament to be held in Augusta on May 19. Nick McConnell (right) qualified for the Class A Public School Sectional tournament by being the lowest scorer on the non-advancing teams. The Sectional tournament will be held in Colquitt on May 5th.



Joe Collins
Tips from the Range

A score that qualifies as a legal USGA round of golf consists of 18 holes. You are only allowed 14 clubs under the rules of golf if you are using a stipulated round to confirm or establish your handicap. Your handicap is based on an average score total of at least 10 legal rounds. The score of each round is the base number used to confirm a USGA handicap. Nothing affects this base score more than the "short game".

When we talk about the short game, we are talking about what we do on and around the green. Chipping is the act of hitting really short shots from the edge of the green and trying to get the ball as close to the flag as possible. Putting is in direct association with the ball lying on the green and our efforts to roll said ball into the hole. These short shots have the most positive or negative influence in relation to our total score of any of the shots we hit in a legal round of golf. Trust me on this!

You are only allowed 14 clubs as I mentioned earlier. What is the only club that one uses, theoretically, on every hole? Answer: the putter. If the putter is the most used club in a given round then it will probably have the biggest influence on your score. If short putts are easier than long putts, then chipping becomes the second biggest influence on your score. Get the picture of how important the short game is? The short game really affects your total score and by relation your handicap.

It's hard to be consistent with your short game unless you play a lot of golf and even then it's difficult. The fundamentals we use in performing the short game are based on one concept and that is acceleration. The club must be speeding up as it goes through impact on a short shot. If it's slowing down, then you will have problems.

The proper fundamentals of correctly hitting a chip shot are simple. First, place almost all your weight on the front foot and open your stance to the line you want the ball to travel on. This line will be determined by the slope and speed of the green. You must play the curvature of the green with a chip the same

way you would a putt. Your feet will typically be closer together than on a full shot.

Next, place your hands in front of the ball with the grip of the club ahead of the club head. Use the same grip you would use to hit a full shot. Your hands will stay in front of the club head all the way through the shot. Never let the club head outrun the hands. Finally, use only your shoulders to move the club not your wrist and hands. Keep the backswing short and accelerate through the impact area while keeping your eye on the ball until it is gone on its way.

The fundamentals of putting are simple but very difficult to do correctly. First, find a balanced stance the same way you would on a long shot. Center yourself over the ankles with your weight distributed equally from the front of your feet to the heels.

Next, let your arms fall limp under your shoulders to determine the placement of the putter grip in relation to your stance. Grip the putter with a reverse overlap so that the forward index finger is lapped over the bottom hand fingers. Work with this concept because grips are very independent from golfer to golfer. The point is that the forward wrist never breaks down. This will cause the putter head to close and you will pull the putt. Most importantly never move your head until the ball is rolling down the intended line. Head movement is the number one fault of a bad putt.

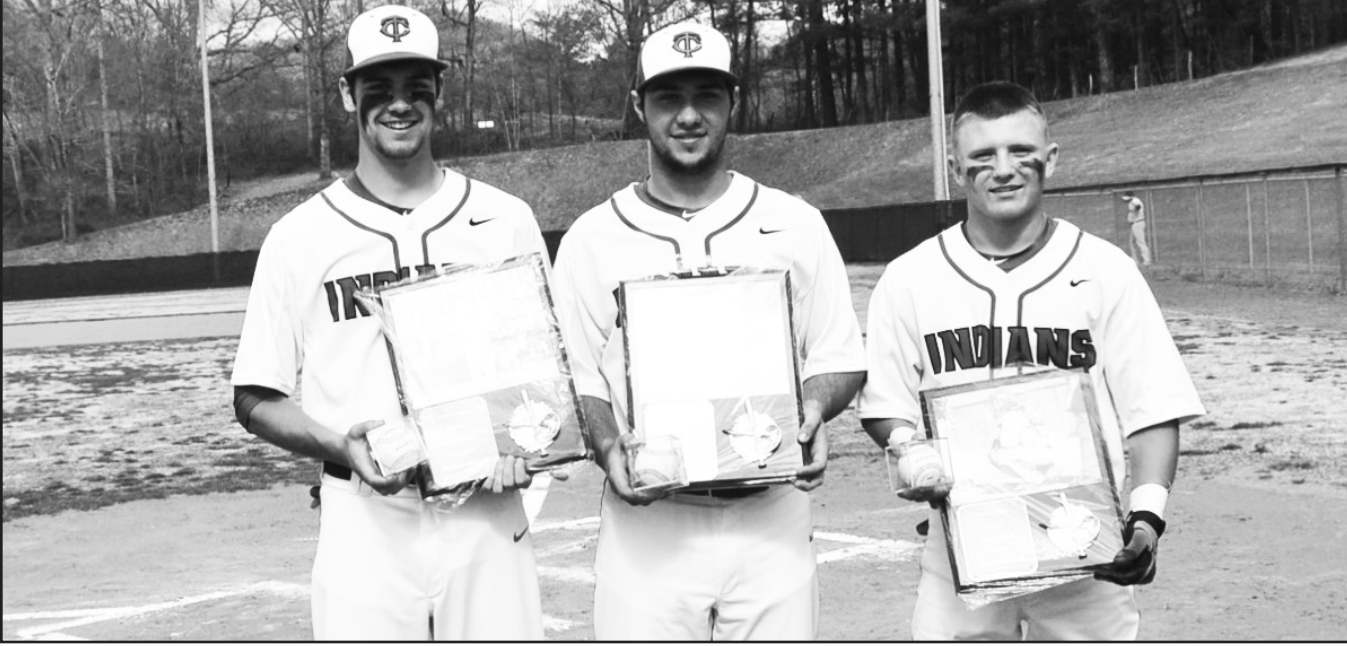
Finally, use your shoulders to move the putter head and not your hands and arms. The small muscles of the hands and arms are extremely detrimental to a good stroke.

Practice is the key to maintaining a solid short game and it does not have to be done on the course. Putting and chipping at home on the carpet drives my wife crazy but it is the only way that I can get enough practice in to keep my short game sharp. Besides, she calms down when I bring home some "skins" money and take her out to dinner.

Try these fundamentals and hopefully you will lower your scores but remember that practice is the key. For every hour you practice swinging, spend two hours on your short game.

Good luck and I will see you on the course!

Towns County Indians baseball honors seniors



Left to right: seniors Harrison Hobbs, Jackson Noblet, and Vonya Baldwin are honored before the Lakeview game last week. The Lions won 8-1 in Hiwassee and 9-0 in Gainesville to close out the Indians' 2014 campaign. Towns also fell to Athens Christian 7-0 and Providence Christian 9-2 last week. Towns finishes the season with two wins inside of Region 8-A and three overall. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Annual kids fishing rodeo June 14

Kids Fishing Rodeo: Saturday, June 14, Vogel State Park - Blairsville, GA. Wolf Creek will be stocked with plenty of trout to be tempted by anglers 12 and younger. Prizes will be given to the

lucky ticket holders. Adults must accompany the children that will be fishing at the registration tent prior to fishing. A limited amount of fishing poles will be loaned out. \$5 parking. 706-745-2628. N(Apr30,A1)SH

Lady Indians soccer going to State for fourth consecutive year

The Towns County Lady Indians completed the 2014 regular season with a 7-5-1 overall record and a 4-4 Region mark

Towns visits 5th ranked Pace Academy (9-5) on Friday at 6 p.m. as the No. 3 seed after falling 5-1 to 7th ranked Providence last week.

New exercise classes offered at Rec Department

The Towns County Recreation Department and certified instructor Jentry Moss Taylor are offering evening exercise classes at our new Recreation and Conference Center. The classes are held each Monday and Wednesday from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$5 per class or \$30 monthly. The fitness class is recommended for ages 13 and up. It will consist of moderate to high intensity training through the use of Aerobic step to the most up to date trendy and fun music. The class will provide a

complete cardio workout combined with training, strengthening and ultimately a total body workout. Modifications will be offered for different fitness levels. Class began this week so don't waste any more time. Come join us and begin burning those calories and tighten the tummy. For more information contact the Recreation Department at 706-896-2600 or call instructor Jentry Moss Taylor at 706-970-9445. T(Apr30,F2)SH

1st Annual Casting for a Cure Bass Fishing Tournament May 10

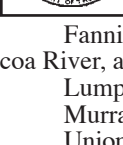
Please join us on beautiful Lake Chatuge for Blue Ridge Mountain EMC's 1st Annual Casting for a Cure Bass Fishing Tournament, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, Blue Ridge Mountain EMC and many generous sponsors. Saturday, May 10, 2014, Lake Chatuge, Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds Boat Ramp, Blast Off: 7 a.m.; Weigh In: 3:30 p.m.

The tournament is for two-person teams, artificial lures only, with a limit of five (5) fish per boat. Largemouth,

Smallmouth and Spotted Bass will be weighed. First Place: \$1,000; 2nd Place: \$450; 3rd Place \$200; 4th Place: \$100; 5th Place: \$100; 6th Place: \$50; Big Fish: TBD, \$5 pool - winner takes pool). 14" minimum fish size.

If you would like to support the tournament but do not fish, there are several other ways you can help. You can make a donation, become a sponsor, or volunteer your time. For more ways to get involved, contact Telida Lovell at 706-379-3121 ext. 119. T(Apr30,X4)CA

Trout stocking sites week of April 21-25, 2014



Fannin: Big Creek, Hemptown Creek, Rock Creek, Toccoa River, and Toccoa River Tailwaters of Lake Blue Ridge. Lumpkin: Etowah River and Niblewill Creek. Murray: Holly Creek. Union: Cooper Creek, Toccoa River, Winfield Scott Lake.

Note: Information is subject to change. Please call the hatchery at 706-838-4723 for questions. The hatchery also provides trout for the state. Please contact Georgia DNR for information on sites stocked by the state. N(Apr30,Z13)CA

Summer baseball camps at Young Harris College

YHC's Head Coach Rick Robinson & his staff of COLLEGE COACHES COORDINATE ALL INSTRUCTION to ensure a professional experience for your player(s)! This is a camp that will help the motivated player to get better in a positive atmosphere. Two Camp Weeks: June 23-27 & July 14-18. Three camps are offered each week to accommodate players of all ages and levels of play. Visit us on the web for more details @



www.TheRockSports.com REGISTRATION OPEN 10% discount for early registration (before June 1).

Season complete for Towns County 4-H BB team



Members of the 2014 Towns County 4-H Shooting Team. They say, "All good things must come to an end." This is appropriate for the Towns County 4-H BB gun teams who recently completed the season after only eleven practice days, having lost two snow days of practice. An ideal year allows about nineteen practices. 4-Hers participated in a qualifying match in March and proceeded on to Rock Eagle 4-H Center in Eatonton the first weekend

Seven competitors, one 6-person team and one person shooting as an individual, left Hiwassee on Friday, 4 April with UGA Extension Associate Billie Harvey (the 4-H Lady) at the helm and spent that night in the cabins at Rock Eagle along with 587 other contestants. They were preceded to Rock Eagle by their coaches, Carol Rosenqvist, A.T. Sorrells, Ruby Rhinesmith, Bill Christine and Ed Jones, all of which are members of the Chatuge Gun Club. Saturday morning they were met by a host of parents and family as they took to the range to fire 40 shots for record; 10 shots each from the prone, standing, sitting and kneeling positions. It sounds easy, but it takes all day. The teams

fired scores a bit better than their daily scores and placed in the upper half of the total competitors. The competitors were: Destiny Waiters, Isaiah Wood, Brian Lovingood, Savannah Mitchell, Amethyst Patrick, Abby Mauldin, Taylor Thompson, Dylan Youngblood, Aaron Matetzsch and Olivia Batye. Thanks to these folks and groups: Towns County Rotary Club, Chatuge Gun Club, Joan Moody, Janet Finnegan, and Elliot Parsowith for their donations which make this program possible. Well, this year has passed, but we will be looking forward to next year for another enjoyable season. Ed Jones T(Apr30,H1)SH

VFW Post #7807 supports Towns County Indians Band



VFW Post #7807 steps up with a donation to the Towns County School Band to assist them in the purchase of band member uniforms. We believe that our band is an excellent group of performers and that they should look as good as they play. Presenting a check for \$300 from the VFW: Mel Halfon, Commander and Glen Greenwald, Quartermaster. Receiving the check for the band: Frank McKinney, Band Director.

2nd Annual Junior Indian Tennis Clinic

TCHS Tennis Team is hosting a Tennis Clinic Mon., Tues., and Wed. after school May 5, 6, and 7 (8th -rain date) From 3 to 4:30 p.m. On the High School Tennis Courts Grades 4-12 will be divided into age groups Cost is \$30 Checks payable to Towns County High Tennis Register before Friday, May 2 Come and learn the basics of tennis and have some fun! If you have questions please call Coach Heather Moss at 706-896-4131 Ext 1207 or email hmoss@townscountyschools.org T(Apr30,G1)SH

VFW Golf League news

The Zimmerman team was in fine form Thursday. Carl Zimmerman, Vince Cooper, Gary Nichols and Claude Sears won by 6 under. Highlights of the day started when they drove the green on the 18th and then went on to 1 putt for an eagle, the only one of the day. With better weather here now we will be starting at 9 a.m.