

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Towns County 14&U Youth Baseball achieves perfection

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Towns County Indians 14U recreation baseball team finished regular season play with a perfect record, 11-0, and will be heading to Jefferson to compete in the All Star District Tournament on Saturday, June 19.

Tremendous effort and athletic ability on behalf of the young 13-and-14-year-old boys contributed to that record, and the team's Indians are as follows:

Brett Denton, Cooper Moss, Seth Fullerton, Kendall Floyd, Hunter Moss, Trent Bradshaw, Nathan Edwards, Manager James Norton, Lane Denton, Jacob Kinsey, Corbin Nelson, Andrew Griffin, Alec Youngblood, Devyn Burrell, Kayden McClure and Clyde Ledford.

"All the kids have contributed, all of them have done great things here and there throughout the season to cause the scores to be what they are," said Head Coach Cliff Bradshaw. "So, they all have done a really, really good job."

The all-volunteer coaching staff is made up of Coach



The 14&U Indians will take their unbeaten record on the road to Jefferson later this month to take part in the District Tournament.

Bradshaw, Coach Shannon Moss, Coach Matt Griffin, Coach Jamie McClure and team bookkeeper Tammy Griffin.

"Our success would not be what it is without them," said Coach Bradshaw. "They are good. They've put in a lot of time, and we appreciate it."

Aside from two or three full games, most of the Indians' games have been short – they run-ruled most of their oppo-

nents this season. That fact is not meant to downplay the efforts of any teams faced by the Indians – to the contrary, it speaks volumes to the level of play at which these Towns County boys have competed.

"The highlight of the season was beating a Fannin County team, which was undefeated also," said Coach Bradshaw. "I was nervous about that game, but we played them and

we beat them 2-1."

During that game, Trent Bradshaw pitched the entire seven innings and had 13 strikeouts, finishing up what his dad and coach called "the best game he's ever pitched in his life."

It was a come-from-behind win, however, as Fannin County scored the first run.

Bradshaw, along with Devyn Burrell and Kayden McClure, got the base hits that

allowed the Indians to score their two runs, and the coaches were proud of the entire team that day.

"And our defense played really well, made some really good plays," said Coach Bradshaw.

The last game of the season saw more excellent pitching from young Seth Fullerton, who won the day with his teammates, successfully striking out 14

batters.

"I've been coaching 12 or 14 years, and this is the most talent I've ever had on one team," said Coach Bradshaw. "It is unbelievable. We've got plenty of pitching, we've got two very, very good catchers you never have. We've got shortstops – we've got talent, and it's wonderful to have."

Coach Bradshaw stays busy in the community, as he is a coach and a parent, as well as a member of the Towns County Board of Education.

"I love the school, I love the community," said Coach Bradshaw. "I love living here. I love the people here. I love baseball and I love the kids. I love working with kids, that's my passion, I love it. It's been fun, it's not a job."

And the coaches and these Indians have a terrific helper in the highly observant team manager.

"Manager James Norton has such a passion for the game, a love of baseball, and his comments were that he's very proud of the boys, but it's not time to celebrate – not at all," said Coach Bradshaw. "He's ready to get back to work and get ready for All Stars. We have a lot of hard work to do to get ready."

Youth football season nears; camp June 11th, registration begins June 13th

By Shawn Jarrard
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It's nearly that time of year again, football fans – Youth Football Camp is almost here.

Camp will take place Saturday, July 11, from 8 a.m. until noon at the Towns County High School practice football field, and sign-up begins Saturday, June 13, between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. at the Towns County Recreation and Conference Center.

Interested young athletes and their parents should bring a copy of their child's birth certificate at sign-up, as it will be provided to the Smoky Mountain Conference as proof of age.

The camp will be free, but a one-time payment of \$90 will be required at the time of sign-up in order to cover costs of playing during the season,



including insurance, a game jersey that kids will get to keep at the end of the season, and a trophy at the end-of-year banquet.

Athletes can also sign up on Saturday, June 20, and Saturday, June 27, at the new rec center between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m., as well as the day of

the camp, July 11.

Again, in order to be accepted on one of the teams, parents will need to provide a copy of their child's birth certificate at the time of sign-up, along with the \$90.

Kids who played last year will not need to provide copies of their birth certifi-



cates at sign-up.

Teams are broken down into categories according to age: Pee Wees are 5 and 6-year-olds; Termites are 7 and 8-year-olds; Mites are 9 and 10-year-olds; and Midgets are 11 and 12-year-olds.

This year will be Youth Football Director Jimmy

Smith's 19th year directing the Towns County program, as well as the county's second year in the Smoky Mountain Conference.

"This year we're going to have sixth and seventh-graders, so we'll be able to compete with the Smoky Mountain Conference Mid-

ets now," said Director Smith, alluding to the formation of a freshman team at the high school starting next school year.

The freshman team will be drawing from an eighth-grade pool at the middle school, leaving seventh-graders free to play youth football.

Youth football kicks off its regular season on Saturday, Aug. 15, when the Franklin Panthers head over from North Carolina to play at Towns County.

"I'm hoping everyone comes out to support us again," said Director Smith. "We had a great turnout last year. I'm more excited about this year because we've been in it for a year now, and I feel like now we can compete better. We know what the teams are like, and I'm looking for a great season."

Towns County summer basketball camp season has arrived

By Shawn Jarrard
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Staff Writer

Rob Benson will officially begin his duties as head coach of the Indians basketball team on Thursday, June 4, as the boys, both JV and varsity, begin summer practice.

"We do the whole summer program together, that way when we go away to camps we have enough numbers for kids to rest and be able to play in multiple games in one day," said Coach Benson. "It also gives me a good look at everybody."

Practice will take place June 4th and 5th, and the following week June 8th through 11th. The Union County Team Camp will be



Under first-year head coach Rob Benson, the Indians should return enough talent and experience for more wins in 2015-16. Photos/LN

held June 15th-16th, and there will be a Tennessee Tech Team Camp June 17th-19th.

The boys squad will practice again on June 22nd, and play Stephens County away on June 24 before



Summer practice will

wrap up with dates for July 7th-9th, July 14th-16th and July 21st-23rd, and the rather extensive practice schedule

interspersed with games will help Coach Benson figure out his starting lineup for the season opener.

"I need to know what they can do, what their strengths and weaknesses are, and I can learn that in practice to an extent, but I'm also going to try and learn it through trial by fire, when they're playing games," said Coach Benson.

"I'm real big about us coming together as a family, being together and learning to play to the team and play for each other," Coach Benson added.

"And I think the best way to do that is to spend time, go through some adversity, work hard – sweat together, work together, play together."

TC Youth Cheerleading registration

Registration for Towns County Youth Cheerleading will be held June 4th from 5 - 7 PM and June 6th from 12 - 2 PM at the Towns County Recreation Center, 150 Foster Park Road, Young Harris. All

children that are in grades K - 5 are welcome to come out! Registration fee is \$80 for the season. For more info please call Megan Garrison at 706-897-8041 or Jessica Moon at 706-970-9851.

VFW Golf League news

The Hiwassee VFW Post 7807 golf league plays at Chatuge Shores every Thursday at 9 a.m. The league is open to all veterans, regardless of post affiliation. This week's com-

petition was won by Danny Barrett, Norvel Hasley, Russ Schoetker and Dick Moxler. They scored a blistering 65 which is 7 strokes under par.

Good job guys!

2015 Summer Day Camp ages 6-12

Summer is just around the corner and that means hot weather and Summer Day Camp for boys and girls ages 6 thru 12.

This summer the Recreation Department will offer day camp for 4 sessions, each session being two weeks, running Monday thru Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Day Camp begins June 8th.

Sessions will be as follows: Session I: June 8th thru June 19th. Session II: June 22nd thru July 3rd. Session III: July 6th thru July 17th. Session IV: July 20th thru July 31st.

The fee for the two week session is \$120 or \$60 per week. The fee is payable to the Towns County Recreation Department. Day Camp offers chil-

dren sports game activities, social game activities, field trips, nature hikes and much more.

Give your child a lot to do this summer and sign them up for Day Camp. You may send your child to any or all of the sessions. Children need to bring a swimsuit, towel, sprayable sunscreen and sack lunch. The Recreation Department will furnish the ice water for the campers.

Registration will be the first Monday of each session at The Towns County Recreation and Conference Center located 150 Foster Park Rd.

For more information please call the Recreation Department at 706-896-2600.

Hatchery construction and closure to visitation update

Mr. Kelly Taylor, Deputy Hatchery Manager at Chattahoochee Forest National Fish Hatchery, announces that the final phase of construction at the hatchery is set to begin June 1st.

The temporary closure of the hatchery to visitation will continue. The closure also includes the hatchery parking lot which provides access to Rock Creek. Other access areas will remain open. Stocking will continue on all streams as usual with the exception of Rock Creek which will be stocked downstream from the hatchery only. For further information as to when the hatchery will re-open to visitors and other updates, please contact the hatchery at 706-838-4723 and/or "like" us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ChattahoocheeForestNationalFishHatchery. NJun3,28/CA



Jamey Mull, Animal Caretaker, in the construction area

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