

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Summer basketball camp season underway

By Joe Collins
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Towns County High School hosted the 20th Annual Indian Basketball Camp last week and more than three dozen kids took advantage of being able to spend time with TCHS' varsity girls basketball head coach Jim Melton.

The 300-game winner was on hand to work with the up and coming stars of TCHS and try and instill some solid basics into their desire to learn how to play basketball, both as an individual athlete and as a team member.

"We work on the individual basics while in camp but we do run some team play as well," Melton said. "Sometimes its not real pretty and it can get sloppy and ugly, but they are learning and that's the goal. They learn a little here and it grows to talent later. Helps them to develop correctly."

The camp invited kids entering grades 1-8 for the 2013-2014 school year. It was taught in two daily sessions for divided age groups. Grades 1-5 worked during the morning hours from 9-11:30 a.m., while the kids from grades 6-8 worked in the afternoon session from 12:30-3 p.m. The high school varsity and junior varsity Lady Indian basketball teams were also there to assist Melton with

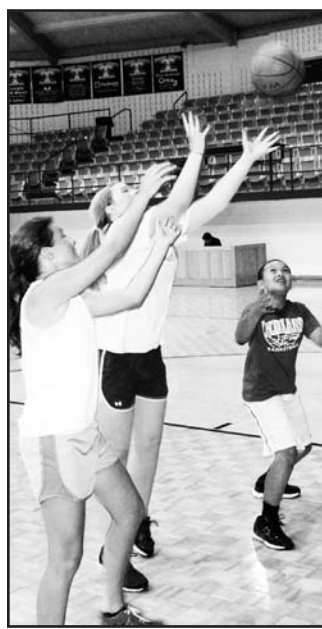


Participants at Coach Jim Melton's Indian basketball camp last week. Photos/Lowell Nicholson

the camp.

The camp focused on two aspects of how to play the basketball. First, on individual

basketball agility and quick-ness drills, shooting techniques and ball handling. Next, they learned how to work as a team



by focusing on offensive moves, basic defense positioning and team play. There were also individual camp awards for dribbling, free throws, "Hot Shot" and best camper, the later being voted on by the girls varsity team members. Coach Melton had no say in which child was voted best camper - the girls awarded that themselves.

Melton was pleased with how the camp went, "We had a good camp. This is our 20th year having this and some years we have had more campers and some years less so this is pretty

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Joe Collins

Tips from the Range

I'm getting a lot of questions about why it is so hard to hit the ball straight, so I thought I would cover some of the things you should look for if you are having trouble hitting greens or par threes or finding the fairway off the tee. Unfortunately, there is never the one fix that will work for everybody when accuracy is the problem, but there are some things that are very common among every golfer who struggles with accuracy.

The first thing a golfer should consider when working on hitting the ball straighter is alignment. Good golfers will first make sure that their alignment is good when trouble starts sneaking into their game. Have a friend or even a playing partner stand behind you and see if you are "pointed" to the correct area on the course or practice facility. If you aren't aimed correctly your sub-conscious will know it and force your swing to compensate for the poor alignment. The fix some of you need could be this simple.

If alignment is not your issue then we next need to focus on the club path. If the club path is incorrect it will cause the ball to start off either left or right of where you are aimed. The path of the club must start off straight away from the intended target and then continue on an uninterrupted path all the way to the end of the backswing. From there it must travel slightly inside the takeaway path to impact and beyond. The follow-through path should mimic the takeaway path. Never lean into the ball on the downswing because if you do you will cause the downswing path to travel on the outside of the takeaway path ("over-the-top") and that is bad. That path can cause all sorts of weird looking shots so stay away from bad balance on the downswing.

Now let's look at the shoulder turn because it will be the actual problem many of you will struggle with. The shoulder turn is crucial to making a good golf swing, but the problem with a lot of us is, we can't turn enough to get the shoulders in the correct position. We try to compensate by using the arms

more and that is where the problem lies. The arms have to stay "connected" to the body and must stay if front of the chest on the downswing. The distance the arms travel in a proper backswing is determined by how far the shoulders can turn. When the shoulder turn is complete, let the momentum the arms have built up set the top position. Focus on keeping the top of the spine, or your head, behind the ball as you make the downswing. Don't force the arms to travel farther than the shoulders can turn them in the backswing before you start down. This may shorten your swing a little but you will probably pick up some yardage because you will be hitting the ball more solid.

The last thing to look at when facing accuracy issues is the weight transfer. The proper weight transfer is very important to the club path and must occur at the right time in the swing. To early and you will push the shot and to late will make you pull the shot, so make sure your weight transfer is correct from back to front on the downswing. Your weight must be on the front foot at impact with your shoulders slightly open. The weight transfer starts with the hips and finishes through shoulders so make sure you push off the back foot and hold your back to the target to start the downswing. Always remember to keep your head behind the ball at impact.

Accuracy is difficult because to hit the ball correctly you must not really feel your hands. Shots need to be controlled by the big muscles and not the smaller muscles like is in your hands and wrist. This feels awkward when trying to hit a designated target but it is the proper way to swing. The back hand and arm can provide a lot of power but must be used at the correct time in the downswing. If you release the back wrist too soon it makes it really difficult to hit a straight shot with any club, so swing the club with the big muscles and stay in balance to improve your accuracy.

Hope this helps! Remember to send yours questions to jcollins.tcherald@windstream.net and hopefully a little insight can help make your game more enjoyable. Don't forget that practice makes golf better so get out there and work on your game. Good luck and I will see you on the course!

Help Wanted: wrestling teams invited to Sunshine State

By Joe Collins
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Hayesville, NC - The Towns County High School and Middle School wrestlers have been invited to Orlando, Fla. to participate in the KSA Christmas Classic Invitational to be held on December 19-21, 2013 at Disney World.

The teams are working hard to raise the funds they need to make the trip and have several fund raisers planned for the rest of the summer and fall. Last Wednesday the teams sponsored a golf tournament at Chatuge Shores and although they made a little money, the turnout was low. Wednesday was a rain out date from over a month ago and many players were just not able to make the 2 p.m. tee time.

"We are disappointed with the turnout but we still made some money after all the prizes were paid. I think if we had been able to go with our original date it would have been better with more players but we did okay," Towns County Head Wrestling Coach Jeff Stowers said. "We are planning another tournament here at Chatuge in the early part of October since our final payment is due shortly thereafter."

It is unfortunate for the local golfers because the weather was absolutely perfect and the prizes were really nice. The team prizes were paid out in cash and the on course prizes were great. Hayesville's own Eddie Coffey made out like a bandit as he played some solid golf for his team. He won the longest drive, which was a brand new Ping G-20 driver and he



Left to right: Zach Moore, Matthew Youngblood, Jeff Stowers, and Drew Gladfelter. Photo/Joe Collins

also won closest to the pin for a set of Adams wedges. His final score was a door prize, which was a Cleveland wedge. All total he won over five hundred dollars in prizes. Coach Stowers and his team won the team event with a total score of 54 (-18) for the 18-hole event.

The wrestling teams still need money and will be having their next fundraiser at Mary's Southern Grill on June 27. The restaurant will donate ten percent of their sales from 5:00-8:00 p.m. to help the grapplers with their expenses. There will also be another tournament at Chatuge Shores in the early part of October so make a note to sign up for this event as it will be even better than this last one.

"I want to thank our Gold Sponsors for the investment in these kids futures. We couldn't have done it without the assistance from Chatuge Shores

Head Golf Professional Matt Liss who was a lot of help. Also, we want to thank Golf-topia here in Hayesville and Jordan Jacobs for donating the prizes and to our hole sponsors for their help. I would like to thank all who played and I also want to let folks know that if they want to help the team with their expenses they can donate through the high school," declared Stowers.

This is a once in a lifetime chance for many of the kids who wrestle for Towns County and it will be something they will remember the rest of their lives. If you would like to help the team out and make dreams come true, you may do so by calling the high school at (706)896-4131 or by making out a check to the Towns County Wrestlers and mail them to: Towns County High School, C/O Jeff Stowers, 1400 Hwy 76, Hiawassee, Ga. 30546

Dr. Berrong: 'we will miss Pete Boyd'

By Joe Collins
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Towns County Middle School Social Studies Teacher, Pete Boyd is leaving Towns County to further his career as that of a teacher and missionary, to accept a position in study skills at Wayne County High School located in Jesup.

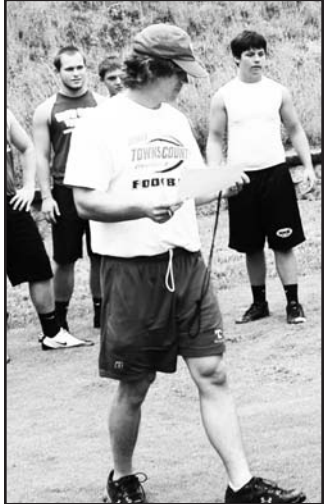
His hope is to work this study skills program into a social studies class at WCHS by next year.

Coach Boyd played his high school football for the Warner Robins Demons where he graduated in 1992. His team went 12-1 on the season with their only loss in the state semi-final game to Clarke Central in overtime 22-21.

He graduated from Georgia College in 1996 with a degree in History and is married to his lovely wife Kimberly. They have one daughter, Victoria.

Boyd was an assistant coach for Towns County High School football and baseball and was hired through Kyle Langford in 2007 to help with the football program.

His energy and enthusiasm was contagious and his love for the Lord inspiring to the athletes he coached. He worked first base for the TCHS Baseball Indians



Pete Boyd

and coached the receivers on the gridiron. He was a positive coach and helped his players bring out their best in game situations. The TCHS athletic program will miss him.

As important as he was on the sidelines for the athletic teams, his real passion was in teaching and he is one of the best in the state.

TCMS Principal Dr. Darren Berrong said, "Coach Boyd is a teacher that is not replaceable. His test scores have been consistently the highest in the state and the students absolutely love him and his class. I regret that my own son will not have the opportunity to have

such an inspirational teacher. This is a tremendous loss for the Towns County School system."

Boyd has a very deep faith in God and the Lord Jesus Christ. His beliefs are deeply rooted in his fiber and he will let you know that he is a missionary first. Berrong made it clear about Boyd's position, "He was honest with me from day one that he is a missionary and he goes where the Lord tells him, so I knew we would not have the luxury of his teaching and coaching for the remainder of his career. I wish him and his family the best and I know he will do well wherever he goes with whatever he does."

The administration is working hard determining who will replace Boyd on the football field, the baseball diamond and in the classroom, but they know it will be a hard job.

"He worked hard to produce a way to teach kids social studies and he is the best. His passing rate is at 94 percent and the closest rating to him by another teacher last year was in the mid 80s. I have watched him leave the football field after practice and return to the classroom to work on developing a productive way to teach his kids and he accomplished just that. You see it in his results," declared Berrong. "Towns County students will miss Pete Boyd."

TCJGA starts Summer Series

By Joe Collins
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Hayesville, NC - The Tri-County Junior Golf Association will be adding a summer series to their 2013 spring and fall leagues beginning on July 9th.

Chatuge Shores Golf Course Head PGA Professional, Matt Liss, has taken the controls and will add the summer series to the tours already successful regular season schedule. The TCJGA has become the training ground for many local youth golfers and will now call Chatuge Shores in Hayesville, N.C. home as the new summer series kicks off.

The TCJGA is moving into its 11th season and is going strong. It is considered by many to be the model for successful junior programs and is very popular among parents with golfing children.

It has helped produce many good junior golfers who have continued their golfing careers at the college level. Most recent of which was Union County graduate James Rowe, who received a scholarship from Young Harris College to play in their NCAA Division II golf program.

"The TCJGA really helped me learn the way competitive golf is played and I feel more comfortable on the course during a match because of my time on the tour. Somebody is always with you so if you screw up they tell you and then you know from then on not to do that anymore. That personal attention makes it easy to learn. It really helped me be a better player," declared Rowe on how his time with the junior tour helped him.

The program began as educational training for junior golfers in the area and has fulfilled its mission statement completely. Knowing how to play while on the course is just as important as equipment or talent. Each pairing of players during a tour event is chaperoned by a knowledgeable exper-



Chatuge Shores Head PGA Professional Matt Liss

rienced golfer that follows their play and assists when needed concerning etiquette and rules breaches, but cannot give swing or shot assistance. Shot assistance would be deemed player assistance and is not allowed by the USGA rules governing golf. The TCJGA adheres to the USGA rules of golf just like the junior events many of these kids will play in during their time as a junior golfer.

The kids are taught how to behave when playing golf, which is otherwise known as proper golf etiquette, basic fundamentals of how to play correctly, and the rules. It is very important to have a working knowledge of the rules and how to apply them when playing a stipulated round and this program teaches them how to use the rules to govern the game. Golf is still played with respect and integrity and the kids get that when they participate in the TCJGA.

The program has a new leader in Matt Liss who agreed to accept the responsibility of keeping the tour alive and he is excited about bringing the TCJGA to Chatuge Shores, "We are excited about the new summer series. I felt it was needed

to keep the kids in tune with the game and to get them better prepared when we start in the fall. The entire summer event will be held here at Chatuge and we will limit our enrollment to forty kids. There is a huge interest in the tour and we only have the resources to manage that number this summer. It is a nice problem to have," said Liss.

Liss is in his second year at CSGC. He graduated from North Carolina State University with a degree in Golf Management. He became a member of the PGA in 2008 and brings a lot of experience with him to the program. He agreed to take over as the tours executive director.

"I am honored to help in this program. These are the future golfers of tomorrow and it's nice to see them progress in a positive way," stated Liss. "Golf is a game and it is meant to be fun."

Teaching kids the proper way to play makes it fun for them, so the TCJGA helps to keep it that way. Please feel free to contact Matt Liss at (828)389-8940 if you have any questions concerning the schedule or policies of this wonderful junior golf program.