

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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The future starts now at Towns County's Youth Football Camp

By Joe Collins
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Towns County Youth Football League has begun with the start of the youth football camp hosted by the Towns County High School football team and their Head Coach Kyle Langford. The two day camp started July 19th, with 42 youth and 28 varsity members of the Towns County Indians football team enduring the scorching summer heat to work on enhancing the skills of up and coming youth football stars. Family and friends gathered to support the young athletes as the coaches and volunteers put their best foot forward in an attempt to introduce these rising Towns County stars to the fundamentals of successful football.

Towns County High School Head Football Coach Kyle Langford was very excited by the turnout in this the sixth year of his, and his high school players involvement with the youth football camp.

"We want to instill good solid principles in these kids so they will become good football players, but more importantly, good people," said Langford as he worked with the quarterbacks of his high school squad to teach proper technique to the young football players.

Youth Football League Director Jimmy Smith couldn't say enough about how good he feels about the upcoming season.

"Our players are going to be ready to play this season thanks to the help of the high school team and their commitment to our youth and Towns



A future Indian quarterback and current QB Jackson Noblet. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

County football," Smith said.

Last year the older youth went 7-3 with two of the losses coming from neighboring Rabun County. "Rabun County can hit like mad but our boys have the speed to redeem Towns County this year," said Assistant Youth Coach and Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton.

"Towns County loves their football as evidenced by the fact that Frank McClure Memorial Stadium is packed on Friday nights and this program is a good way to keep that love alive," Coach Langford said. Players and coaches alike were covering the practice field in five different groups teaching the basic fundamentals of passing and quarterbacking leadership, hand-offs and running styles, blocking and receiving.

Parents were not disappointed while observing the fundamentals that each child was learning as the high school

players acted as coaches to teach our football youth the aspects of proper football techniques.

The youth are not the only ones learning proper football coordination as the high school players were learning as well.

"Our players learn a lot in this camp too because what better way to learn something than to try and teach a five-year-old," Coach Langford said.

The camp has been running for six years under the tutelage of Coach Langford.

Youths ages 5 through 12 years old benefit from this free service.

During workouts, the kids are grouped according to age and spend approximately 15 minutes in each "pod" learning basic football mechanics.

"If we can teach them how to run and block then we have achieved our goal,"

determined Coach Langford as he called for order and the kids immediately responded. "This camp lets the youth and their parents become familiar with me so that when they get to high school they won't feel as though they are playing for a stranger," said Coach Langford.

This aspect gives the players a more comfortable environment and greatly enhances the on field ability of each athlete who attends this camp and then continues on to the high school level. Folks, that is priceless for future Towns County football teams.

Coach Langford and Director Smith are doing a tremendous job with this camp and it shows. The kids that got to the practice field early on Friday were setting up formations and running plays without the assistance of any adult.

"I learned how to take snaps and run the football. I also learned how to block and obey my coach's instruction," stated 9-year-old Garrett Oakes as he excitedly joined the rest of the boys in a quick pick-up game before the start of the actual practice.

Coach Langford has instilled a love for the game of football in the hearts of these young players and their desire to play is overwhelming. Parents consistently echoed the fact that all their children talk about in the off season is, when do we get to start football practice?

Indians' varsity quarterback Jackson Noblet was as patient as any seasoned coach while instructing the 5- and 6-year-old group. Teaching them to take command of the field and directing the kids in the proper way in which to



Players and coaches instruct at Towns County's Youth Camp. Photos by Lowell Nicholson.

hold the football when passing to achieve that perfect "catchable" spiral that so often wins a game during the most crucial time period.

Smith also would like to take this opportunity to thank Coach Langford and his players for coming out and helping with the Youth Football League.

"It means a lot for the high school team to help with our program, it's a huge benefit for the youth and for our community as a whole," praised Smith.

He also wanted to let

the youth volunteer coaching staff know how much he appreciated everything they do during the year.

"We practice three days a week from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. with games on Saturday and it means more than you can realize to have such an active and committed coaching staff," Smith said.

Smith also would like to thank the community for their support and to let them know that this year's schedule will be available on Aug. 18th, and there will be a copy of it in the Towns County Herald.

Kickoff Banquet positioning athletes for the future

By Joe Collins
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Staff Writer

Towns County High School Head Football Coach Kyle Langford and his staff got the 2012 football season underway Sunday with a kickoff banquet in the gymnasium at McConnell Memorial Baptist Church. Teams from four of the surrounding school systems attended and enjoyed some delicious barbecue and fellowship as the teams met in a cordial relaxed atmosphere before hitting the gridiron as competitors. Teams represented were Rabun, Fannin, Copper Basin and the Towns County Indians.

There are times in our life when we actually have the opportunity to positively change the life of friends, loved ones, coworkers or, in this case, teammates. The athletes that attended this banquet were given a life changing opportunity. Coach Langford, and the individual head coaches, proved that they care for the athletes that play for them this past weekend by hosting and attending the kickoff banquet. It truly was an amazing event.

Ask any successful athlete if they can remember a time in their career when a coach impacted their life and you will find that every single one will have at least one story of a coach that reached out and helped guide them down the road of life. Many of the athletes that attended this banquet will list the experience they



Over 225 football players from across the tri-state area attend McConnell Baptist's Kickoff Banquet. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

had Sunday night as one of those stories.

Liberal media is against many of the good things that will help high school athletes be better people so it is rare to read about an event that gives, in this case, football players something solid to believe in.

The choices that face our high school athletes these days were not even talked about in the past. A simple click of the button can display images that are not fit to enter the minds of our teenagers and so often we do nothing when we should be screaming in horror. Coach Langford has decided that he loves his players enough to at least offer them a choice to avoid that path and provide them with a chance to know the One who can save them from destruction, Jesus Christ.

The Rev. Buddy Norton, of Buddy Norton Ministries, laid it all on the line as he introduced the attending athletes to a better way of

living than what seems to be the popular lifestyle of a lot of our youth today. The Rev. Norton came to speak to these young athletes because he loves and cares about them. He knows that it takes a very special type of person to play high school football now, with all the distractions teenagers are bombarded with, and he addressed those issues by focusing on the choices they make and the pending results of those decisions.

The Rev. Norton explained to the crowd of more than 225 athletes that to make good decisions one must be in line with God.

"When you make bad decisions you become a product of that decision and where you end up in life is often times a result of the choices you make when you're young," declared Norton. "To play good

football, requires the athlete to be in the proper position on the field. Life is the same way. We must be in the proper position with God so we can have a chance to live a good life while on earth. Just being out of position by a few inches can cost a football team the game. Being out of position with God can cost a teenager their life," said Norton as he delivered his comparisons with sports and life.

A thought echoed by the head coaches of all four teams in attendance. At the end of the banquet, Rev. Norton gave all the people in the room a chance to make a life changing decision and over 40 kids decided to make that decision.

Football is important to the individuals who play the game but life is more important than any sport we can involve ourselves in. Coach Langford, and the other head coaches who participated in this banquet, prove that their commitment to their players goes beyond the preparation for the next week's game. It extends into the lives of the players they love and are responsible for. Football lasts but a little while yet eternity lasts forever. To be concerned for one's soul is the ultimate expression of love and caring.

Towns County should thank God every night that their football players are being cared for by a man as great as Coach Langford.

TC Rec Department Info

Attention Fitness Room Participants:

Listed are the operating hours and new participant orientation hours. Anyone using the equipment must go thru an orientation. The weekly schedule is as follows:

Orientation Instructor is Gary Noe

Hours of orientation:

Mondays: 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Tuesdays: 3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Thursdays: 3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Hours of Operation:
Monday thru Friday 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation. Please enjoy. Towns County Recreation Department.

Come Exercise With Us

The Recreation Department wants to remind everyone that we are offering the following

exercise classes each week at the Towns County Recreation Center.

YOGA CLASSES – We have 2 separate class times instructed by Pat Tomczyk.

EVENING CLASS- Each Monday from 4 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.

MORNING CLASS Each Thursday from 9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. (\$10 per Class or \$30 per calendar month.)

MORNING AEROBICS CLASSES – Each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings from 9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Our instructor is Donna McAuliffe.

Tai Chi- Each Thursday morning from 10:45 a.m. – noon. Our instructor is Pat Tomczyk. (\$10 per Class or \$30 per calendar month.

For these programs and any other information we can help you with, just call the Recreation Department at (706)-896-2600.

Youth Football Registration

Sign-ups for ages 5-12 years old began on Saturday, June 30 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Towns County High School Field House. Sign ups will take place every Saturday, at the same time, until July 28.

The registration fee is \$90 and you will need to bring a copy of the player's birth certificate. Players who played last year will not need to bring a birth certificate. No sign ups can be accepted until the registration fee is paid. The fee will cover their insurance and equipment. The players will be allowed to keep their jersey at the end of the year. Players must be present at sign up so they can be sized for their uniform.

Practice begins on Mon-

day, July 30. Practices will take place from 6 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday.

As for the younger squad, 5 and 6 year olds will play together but each age from 7-12 will have its own team.

There will be a free Towns County youth football camp on July 19 and July 20 at the Towns County High School Football field from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The camp will once again be conducted by Towns County High School Head Coach Kyle Langford along with his staff and players. The Youth Football League coaches also will be in attendance.

For more details Jimmy Smith can be reached at (706) 896-2622 or (706) 835-6176.

TCHS 2012 Football Schedule

August 24: @ Hayesville, NC
August 31: vs Union County
September 7: @ Fellowship Christian
September 14: @ Rabun Co.
September 21: vs Rabun Gap

October 5: @ Copper Basin
October 19: vs North Cobb Christian
October 26: vs St. Francis
November 2: @ Lakeview
November 9 vs Hebron

MUSA registration ends Aug. 10

The Mountain United Soccer Association is ready for Fall Soccer. Registrations are currently being accepted. Forms will be mailed to all players who have participated in a previous season. Forms are also available by visiting the league's website: www.mountainsoccer.org.

The spring 2012 season was a big success. Our younger teams played in Blairsville, Hiawassee, and Blue Ridge. The older age groups competed throughout Georgia. We had players registered from all the surrounding counties as well as some from North Carolina.

In Blairsville, Cott Beverage is our community host for the soccer fields. In Hiawassee, the fields at the Towns County Fairgrounds are utilized through the cooperation of the local recreation department. The league is grateful for their commitment

and support.

The fall season will begin in early September. Anyone who is interested in playing needs to register promptly. In some cases space is limited.

M.U.S.A. is a volunteer run organization and is also a 501C3 non profit. Any and all donations are directed to the youth player. Field Sponsors, Sign Sponsors, and Team Sponsors are always needed. If you are interested in supporting the youth soccer player in our community through sponsorship and/or a donation, please contact the Association.

For additional information contact the league at 706-835-1077, musa.soccer@gmail.com, or visit www.mountainsoccer.org on the web.

Like "Mountain United Soccer Association" on Facebook and follow the league on Twitter @MUSoccerA.



Towns County Head Coach Kyle Langford speaks to the audience at the Kickoff Banquet. Photo/Lowell Nicholson.