

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Towns County football hits the ground running

By Joe Collins
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Wednesday evening marked the beginning of the 2012 Towns County High School Football season. The coaching staff and players met at Frank McClure Memorial Stadium to begin what many believe will be a very successful year for the Indians.

The atmosphere around the stadium was electrifying as the players hit the field with the only piece of gear allowed by the Georgia State High School Association, their helmets.

"We are restricted to helmets only for the first five days of official practice due to the new regulations focused on heat related health concerns by the GSHSA, but we have been working out without pads all summer," Indians Head Coach Kyle Langford said. "Our guys are really dedicated to being the best they can be this year. Its going to be an exciting season."

The team hit the field at 6 p.m. and finished within the given time frame set up by the new regulations. Not a minute was wasted as Langford and his staff worked feverishly to cover not only the basics but to learn new formations and establish the perfect positions for each athlete.

Senior Joseph Gibson seemed to be comfortable in any spot he was placed. At quarterback, he drilled several perfect spirals to the receivers in the wide out positions then led the tight end across the middle with amazing accuracy. When placed as a receiver, one would have thought his hands



Head Coach Kyle Langford gets his team primed for the new season. Photo/Lowell Nicholson.

were covered in Super Glue.

Junior Jackson Noblet can throw a spiral so tight it appears to be shot out of a cannon. Receivers need only to open their arms and make a pocket and the ball just settles in and disappears. The younger players at QB had trouble throwing the ball and within minutes Noblet had instructed them in the art of passing. His poise and confidence are reassuring to his teammates. Maturity has sharpened his talent and it shows.

Senior Wesley Bloodworth is very impressive at fullback. He is quick out of his stance and stays square like a bulldozer when approaching the line of scrimmage. His strength and agility will enable the Indians to control the ball on the ground, but it is his quickness at linebacker that will give opposing teams fits. He reads a play with the intensity of a jewel cutter and opponents would be advised to watch their step when he gets a bead on them.

Coach Jason McClure has some very impressive linemen that he is working with. They are agile and very talented. It is rare to see size, strength and coordination in one complete package but this team has several players who meet that description.

While learning how to block, it is apparent that these linemen will be able to open holes in opponents' front lines that a Mack truck could drive through.

On defense, their speed will close holes and stop running backs in their tracks.

"You are better than 90 percent of the guys you will face this season," declared McClure as he urged on his players. You could hear it in the tone of his voice that he believes just that.

Coach Brett Keller is going to really enjoy his job this season. As defensive coordinator, he is working with talent that will absolutely shut down offensive drives in their infancy. It is amazing to watch

how fast his guys move and cover the field. His direction and practice drills bring the defense together as one unit and one must feel for future ball carriers as their world is going to be turned upside down when facing his well-oiled machine. Defense is a major key in winning football games, and his unit will prove that time and again this season.

Coach Thomas Boyd has so much energy that he can make coffee nervous. This energy is spreading like wildfire throughout his defensive secondary and they feed off of it. The practice drills he puts his defensive players through prove just how much confidence he has in their ability. They're quick and fearless when it is time to move and opposing quarterbacks are going to feel the sting of his instruction when they make even the slightest mistake.

Likewise, his receivers run patterns that are sharp

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Striking a balance

Golfers are constantly asking me for the "magic move" to assist them with their swing. Too answer a question like this, one must first realize that there are some common fundamentals in each and every proper golf swing. Of these certain fundamentals, only one is a sure fire way to help with any decent effort at attempting the golf swing and that fundamental is Balance.

Balance is the first thing that goes away when we feel nervous or tired and it is the least emphasized aspect in most modern day literature. I have seen really good golfers try many different things to fix their faults and all they really succeed in doing is learning a bad habit. Have you ever been on the golf course and everything seems to go just right? You can't wait to get back out there and play again, but unfortunately the next time you tee it up you feel as though someone else showed up instead of you. All of the sudden an "A" game turns into something that reminds you of Charles Barkley and that thing he has that almost passes as a golf swing.

Poor Charles lost his balance and instead of breaking it down, he tried to fix something that was not the actual problem. Now his confidence is shot and without the help of a "shrink," he is doomed. He developed a bad habit trying to fix the wrong thing. All that really happened was that his balance got off.

To make proper impact, you must stay away from the ball and let the arms extend through the hitting area. The path of the club head must be from the inside. Has anyone ever said to you, "you came over the top?" Well that is an example of bad balance. The upper part of the body is ahead of the lower body and the path of the club gets outside of the takeaway path. You must always start from the ground up to swing the club properly and this means starting the downswing with the lower body.

Next time you play or hit some balls for practice, make sure you stay away from the ball throughout the swing and let the arms find their path on the downswing. Once you get to the top, start your downswing with a reverse hip turn and see how smooth the swing feels then. Don't force the arms simply let them drop behind the hip turn while keeping your back to the target as long as possible. Remember to always keep the spine at the original angle that you had at address and stay behind the ball.

Good luck and I'll see you on the course.

Joe Collins is a sports and news staff writer for the Towns County Herald and the North Georgia News. He's also a pretty good golfer too.

Joe Collins



Tips from the Range

Lady Indian Softball 2012: A whole new ball game

By Joe Collins
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The 2012 Towns County Lady Indians softball season is set to begin on August 1st with their first official practice.

The Georgia State High School Association prohibits teams from starting organized school practices until then, but does allow workouts and scrimmages as a means to familiarize players with the fundamentals of the sport.

This year's team is showing an amazing sense of dedication and determination.

"It is obvious that our girls are committed to being successful this year because all of them have shown up for the voluntary workouts", praised Head Coach Tonya Martin.

Following the guidelines set up by the GSHSA, Coach Martin and her girls traveled to North Hall High School on Thursday to participate in a full team scrimmage. They played two games with the first starting at noon and the second at 3 p.m.

You could feel the girls' intensity as they prepared for play while the temperatures soared into the upper 90s.



The 2012 Towns County Lady Indians at North Hall last week. Photo/ Lowell Nicholson

Stamina shouldn't be an issue in 2012 as none of the girls complained about the heat.

It just wouldn't be fair to this team to describe the action in each of the games because they have not had a chance to learn how each individual player works the field nor have they had a chance to work with their new coach.

Each game was limited to 1 hour and 15 minutes and gave coaches and players a chance to bond and to become familiar with each other's talents.

With Coach Martin being new to Towns County,

this scrimmage was a good icebreaker for all involved to show their strengths and weaknesses in relation to each other's expectations.

During the first game, nerves were on edge with even the veterans being uncomfortable with their surroundings. Assistant Coach Shannon Moss, proved his ability by being calm under fire and providing a stable base for both Coach Martin and the players.

He directed the early efforts of the girls and helped them get to know their new coach. This made the transition

of command more comfortable for all involved.

When asked between games about the team's performance Coach Martin said, "we got better as the game went on and that shows me that this team has the ability to win."

The fans attending the games were in accord with her observation and supported their play with enthusiastic cheers for individual performances.

It takes a lot of effort to mold a solid softball team and the Lady Indians have their work cut out for them. Fortunately, there is a lot of talent on this team to aid in doing just that. During the second game, that talent became apparent as the Indians held their own against a mature North Hall team for the first couple of innings. Rookie mistakes and faulty fundamentals led to a disappointing finish if you were interested in final scores, but these two games were not about winning or losing.

These games were about learning and the Indians are off and running. It became clear that coaches and players are on the same page and this team will do what it takes to become

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Coach Martin looks to start a practice of winning

By Joe Collins
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Tonya Martin of Bell Creek has accepted the position of Head Softball coach for the Lady Indians of Towns County High School.

Coach Martin brings several years of coaching experience with her as she begins the 2012 softball season and looks forward to working with the girls to build a solid softball program.

Coach Martin attended Reinhardt University on a volleyball scholarship where she received a bachelor's degree in Biology.

As a senior, she was named All Conference Basketball, Softball, Volleyball and Female Athlete of the Year. She also received the Most Improved Player for Softball.

She was a 2004 graduate of Hayesville High School in North Carolina and was a member of the Lady Yellow Jackets' softball team all four years of her high school career.

In her senior year, the Jackets went 10-0 and missed competing in the State Championship by one game. She



New Towns County Head Softball Coach Tonya Martin. Photo/Lowell Nicholson.

learned as a Lady Jacket how to win and the Lady Indians will certainly benefit from her experience.

The Lady Indians will be considered a young team this season with only six returning seniors and no juniors.

"We have some big shoes to fill and I feel we have some really good sophomores and freshman girls that can do the job," said Martin who knows that the seniors will step up and guide the younger athletes. "I want the seniors to shine this year but I also hope that they will pass on the knowledge of their individual positions to the underclassman so that they will be proud to have been a soft-

ball player for Towns County, not only this season, but for years to come."

Coach Martin is a very calm and understanding leader. She has a maturity that could only have been chiseled from raw talent and rare courage. A veteran of many years of volleyball and softball competition, she has played under the tutelage of several winning coaches and hopes to forward her athletic wisdom to her players.

Her soft spoken demeanor could easily be mistaken for weakness but on the field she will take charge in a way that would make any veteran ballplayer respect her. Her con-

fidence is contagious and the Lady Indians will walk away from this season with a different attitude toward softball and life because of her guidance.

"I want the girls to know that my door is always open and that I'm here for them whether it is concerning softball, school or just everyday issues. I prioritize my life by putting God first, family second, school third and sports last. This concept has served me well throughout my career and I believe God has led me to Towns County to coach the Lady Indians softball," declared Martin.

Parents should feel very comfortable with Martin.

She is a caring and involved coach that sees things as they are instead of trying to sugar coat her environment. She knows that the Lady Indians need more participation from the girls in the student body and she invites all girls who play travel ball or have turned away from softball to give it another try.

She is a local girl who has done well and she will give it her all to make Towns County Lady Indians softball the best it can be but she needs the help of the community and the students.

TCHS 2012 Football Schedule

Aug. 17: @ Dawson Co. (Scrimmage)

Aug. 24: @ Hayesville, NC

Aug. 31: vs Union County

Sept. 7: @ Fellowship Christian

Sept. 14: @ Rabun County

Sept. 21: vs Rabun Gap

Oct. 5: @ Copper Basin, TN

Oct. 19: vs North Cobb Christian

Oct. 26: vs St. Francis

Nov. 2: @ Lakeview

Nov. 9 vs Hebron Christian

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.

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, Hiwassee, 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 Hiwassee, 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.