

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Indian grapplers ready for mat time, first match at Andrews on Nov. 18

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The wrestling season is gearing up at Towns County High School, and students will be ready to hit the mat come the first match of the season in Andrews, NC, on Wednesday, Nov. 18.

"It's always fun and exciting the first couple of weeks when you get back in the room with the guys and spend some time with them, haven't seen them in a while," said Indians Head Coach Jeff Stowers. "I catch them in the hallway every now and then, but there's some that I don't see because I don't teach them anymore and stuff like that, so it's always good to get with them and spend some time."

"We've been pretty thin this first week, because I gave the football guys a week off if they wanted it, and so most of those football guys took a week off to kind of get healed up from some things. We should have our full crew starting Monday, Nov. 9."

The Indians are coming off of a successful 2014-2015 season, having hit both the 100th and 120th dual match win marks in school history last year.

Several Indians placed at area, sectional and state competition, and at Area Duals, Towns County wrestled for True Second, falling but just barely to



Coach Stowers and Towns County wrestlers of all ages are gearing up for the 2015-16 wrestling season. Photos/Lowell Nicholson

St. Francis.

"I think that it's going to come down between us and St. Francis again at Area Duals this year," said Stowers. "I think that Commerce is far and away the best team in the state, but I really do feel that we are as good as anybody else in the state when we're on, so our goal is to go to area and finish second to Commerce, and then go to the state tournament and see what happens. You never can tell, if we have a good day and they have a bad day I think we can beat them. We just have to get down there first."

With student athletes returning this week to wrestling from cross country, which just finished its season with a fourth straight State Championship by the girls and Third Place for the boys, as well as kids returning from the end of football season, Coach Stowers expects his ranks to start filling up.

"Where we have kids we are going to be pretty good," said Coach Stowers. "Our problem is that everybody has grown and bunched up some, so we have like seven kids at 170 pounds, we've got six or seven kids between 120 and 132 pounds. And



unless they can separate, we're going to struggle to fill all the weight classes. I'm hoping they can separate some and we can find a big guy, we don't really have a big guy yet.

"If we can fill every weight class, we're going to be pretty hard to handle. Right now, we're just trying to fill every weight class. We've got tons of kids coming back from last year. The only two we lost were Aaron Collier and Kyle Davis that scored any points, and Aaron stayed hurt most of the year, so we're only trying to replace Kyle for the most part.

We're just trying to find kids to stick in some gaps."

Realistically, Coach Stowers know that it will probably take a month or two for kids to adjust to the weight classes in which they are needed.

"It may take until Christmas to get everybody in the right weight class," said Coach Stowers. "We may struggle a little bit early in some dual match stuff, but I would hope by Area Duals that we'll be able to put a body in every weight class. That's kind of the goal. Our light kids from last year grew more than I was hoping they would, so Thomas

Mitchell and Kaine Hoffman, instead of being at 113 and 120, this year they're at 120 and 126.

"So, what that did, the kids that were at 126 and 132 last year didn't grow any, so they're still there. Now we've got six kids that are quality wrestlers that are going to have to fight it out for three weight classes. Which makes us more competitive, but it doesn't help us out because we have some forfeits in some weight classes. We're going to get kids in there, get kids in weight classes and all that good stuff, it just may be a struggle for a little while in a dual match setting to try to get everybody on the same page."

Again, the team's first match is Nov. 18 at Andrews, NC.

"We're going to wrestle Andrews and Hayesville at Andrews," said Coach Stowers. "And then Friday night, Nov. 20, we've got our Melee in the Mountains duals tournament at our place in the middle school gym, and it's going to be us, Hayesville, Smoky Mountain, Dawson County and Hiwassee Dam maybe."

The day following the Melee, the Indians will travel to the Union Invitational to test their might in the annual Panther Throw-Down on Nov. 21, while the middle school team will stay home to host the Middle School King of the Mountain, also on Nov. 21.

More photos from Towns Cross Country's trip to the State Championships

Towns County Cross Country photos by Todd Forrest



UGH Auxiliary Scholarship Fundraiser - Linens Plus More Sale

This is our first Linen Sale, sponsored by Union General Hospital Auxiliary (volunteers). Something new and exciting this Pre Christmas Season! Add a little individualism to your linens—bed, bath, and kitchen. There will be special deals presented at the

set-up. The sale will be held Thursday and Friday, November 12 - 13, 7 a.m. - 4 p.m., at Union General Hospital, in the Old Lobby—Deep South Farm Road side of building entrance.

The Linen Sales have been very popular with hos-

pital auxiliaries throughout our state and also nationwide. Our Hospital Auxiliary have different fund raisers for the purpose to give scholarships to students who are training in a medical/ health care related field of study. We are thrilled to say that we have given a to-

tal of \$26,500 in 2014 & 2015. This happens because of you -- our supporters.

Cash and credit/debit cards and payroll deduction accepted. Please tell your friends about the sale! If you need more information, contact, Susan Hahn, at 706-379-9600.

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Run for Recovery 5K

The first Run for Recovery 5K takes place at the beautiful Meeks Park in Blairsville, GA, during the peak of fall November 14th. Located in the picturesque North Georgia Mountains, your 5K journey will present an experience of breathtaking art by God's nature and man's handiwork. Beyond the personal race for victory, your participation will support the fight against drug addiction. Come help us celebrate the drug free life.

We will begin registration at 8 a.m., race at 9 a.m. The course will start at the end pavilion of Meeks Park signified by a sign. Abundance of parking is available. Make sure all waivers are signed, and bring a picture ID. Rain or shine - dress accordingly. Pre-register at www.ACTIVE.com, \$25 online, \$35 morning of race. Call 706-487-8100 for more information.



On-line registration is now open for Upward Indoor Soccer for boys and girls in grades Kindergarten through 8th Grade at www.hopb.org or at www.fum-cunionscounty.org.

The registration price to participate is \$60, through December 10, 2015, and an additional \$10 will be applied thereafter. Payment plans are available, if needed. Convenient weekly practices commence January 11, 2016, while games will be held every Saturday between January 30 and March 5, 2016.

Registrants should attend the evaluation that will be held on Thursday, December 10, 2015 on a drop-in basis between the hours of 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. at the House of Prayer Family Life Center located behind the sanctuary.

For more information regarding registration, contact (706) 745-5925. Information regarding Upward Sports can be found online at www.upward.org.