

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Towns' Youth Football League comes to a close

By Joe Collins
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Staff Writer

BLAIRSVILLE - The Towns County YFL Pee-Wee squad ended its 2012 season with a semi-final loss to the Flowery Branch Falcons Saturday at the Mike Colwell Memorial Stadium 31-13.

Head Coach Rodney Thomas said before the game, "We have got to play well. They have some really good-looking kids that can play some football and we can't make any mistakes. We gotta' stop the big plays."

Unfortunately, big teams are prone to making big plays and that was the case on Saturday.

On the opening kickoff coach Thomas proved he was going to be aggressive and ran the old switch back hand-off from Payton Ivestor to Hayden McClure that resulted in a return for a touchdown. The extra point was good by Colin Crowder and the Indians led 7-0 with 7:46 left in the first quarter. The Falcons were not to be outdone and ran the following kickoff back for a score and the Indians momentum was short lived. The extra point was successful and the score was now tied 8-7 with 7:26 left in the first quarter.

The Indians fought hard behind some good offensive line blocking and were able to move the ball during the first quarter but a crucial turnover in the second quarter resulted



The Towns County Pee-Wee Indians stand strong at the goal line. Photo/Joe Collins

in a good drive by the Falcons and they raised their lead to 16-7. Another big play later and Flowery Branch led 24-7.

The switch back hand-off kickoff return fooled the Falcons again and McClure and Ivestor performed it perfectly to score again with 6:28 left in the second quarter to narrow the Falcons lead 24-13 as the first half ended.

The second half was more of a defensive struggle with both teams holding the other down. The Falcons scored on the first play after the kickoff with a 65-yard run from the line of scrimmage to increase

their lead 31-13 and that is how the game ended. Neither team was able to score on the other after that opening kickoff. Towns County's defense played solid.

Coach Thomas told the boys after the game, "Hold your heads up guys. That was a good football team we just played and we almost won a trip to the Super Bowl. That is nothing to be ashamed of. We have had a good season and we will work hard and be back here next year." The team finished in the number one spot in the order of merit for the North 9U YFL.

YFL Director Jimmy Smith would like to thank all the kids and their parents for the successful season the football teams have had.

"We were the only Class A school in the whole league and we had three teams in the play-offs, with one of our teams actually playing for a chance to play in the Super Bowl. That's a credit to our kids and our coaches. I also want to thank our cheerleaders and their parents for all the support they have shown us this year. I am looking forward to next year," Smith said.



Tips from the Range

One of the greatest assets of a solid golf game is confidence. The belief that you can play well is a major score improvement area that we all need to look at. Confidence is really the only way a golfer can overcome the first tee jitters or sink that short putt for the lowest score they've ever had while their nerves are on edge. Positive results like a good shot on a certain hole you hit every time you play that hole or a putt you made that is similar to the one you are facing to win a match or shoot that career round we all dream of. As they say, "Confidence is key."

I have interviewed many good pro golfers and they all play better when their mental attitude stays positive and their emotions stay level. Tom Watson says, "Never get too high and never get too low. The game is bigger than that when you are playing well or finding the day to be a struggle. An even temper is based in confidence."

This coming from one of the greatest ball strikers to walk the earth who knew he could hit the ball the way he wanted most of the time. We, on the other hand, must follow this example to steady ourselves when our shots find the rough and our score starts to rise, even though we are not on his level. His calm demeanor and patience won him many championship titles. His caddie, the late Bruce Edwards, was a friend of mine and he explained Watson's ability to win tournaments this way, "We would just rely on Tom's confidence in himself and play steady while everyone else backed up trying to do something that was out of their comfort zone. His confidence proved to be his biggest advantage over the rest of the field and gave him patience."

Another example of confidence being important was the failures Watson had with his putter in the eighties. He simply lost his confidence in the short putts that he was used to making and after awhile he had no positive thoughts about putting, just the negative thoughts about all the missed short putts that had cost him several Major tournaments. He lost his confidence in his putter and therefore lost control of his ability to sink the ones that mattered. If he could have regained his positive attitude about his putting stroke then he would have won at least three more Master's titles in the mid to late eighties.

To build good confidence, a golfer must stay calm. Throwing clubs or using bad language to describe how you are performing on the course will always leave you with a bad case of the doubts and that is very detrimental to your game. If, and when, you hit a bad shot don't let it surface. You may be boiling on the inside, but if you stay calm about the situation, your focus on the rest of the round will help you score better. Every round has bad holes and good holes. Stay confident that the good holes are on the way and you will have a chance to improve your overall score somewhere on the course, so be patient. When you finally hit that good shot, you will be more confident on the next shot even though you are playing bad. My friend Toby Swartz is one of the best examples of confidence controlling ones game as anybody I have ever played

with. His calm approach to his game just exudes confidence and therefore makes him a really tough competitor. We have had some great matches that have come down to the wire because we both knew that the good shots were on the way and we were confident of that fact.

When I asked the late and great Chuck Matlack, who played on the P.G.A. Tour for over twenty years, how he held it together during a big tournament he would answer with one word: Confidence. "I knew I could hit certain shots and I believed in myself so that gave me the edge I needed to play well. It is confidence that overcomes the bad in a round of golf. You must believe in your ability and know your limitations. Find your strengths and use them to your advantage, if you know you can do it then the nerves are easier to control."

Confidence is built through positive results on the course. Do you have a certain hole you play often and you find yourself hitting the same good shot there over and over? That is confidence. Have you ever been addressing a putt and you knew without a shadow of a doubt, even with your eyes closed, it was going in the hole? That is confidence.

I was playing a U.S. Open qualifier in Newnan in the late nineties and I was paired with then P.G.A. touring pro Peter Jordan. The last hole was a dogleg right around a fairway trap that was perfectly placed on the corner of the fairway to catch wayward drives but was "in play" if you wanted to attack the hole. As we teed off, Jordan was three under and I was even. I knew I wasn't going to qualify but he felt if he could get to four under he might have a chance. He cut that drive around that corner trap and found the right side of the fairway. The pin was cut on the far left of the hole and he had placed himself perfectly to go for birdie. The pin was a "sucker" pin and tucked in behind a green side bunker. He hit the perfect little draw to within ten feet of the hole and sunk the putt for a 68. As we were walking off the green he made the statement, "I wish I could bottle the confidence I had on that hole and carry it with me always. I could win tournaments on a regular basis if I could maintain that positive approach." You see it was the need to make birdie and a positive experience from his memory that triggered that needed birdie. His confidence made it happen.

Next time you tee it up and you find yourself doing better than normal, don't tighten up. Think back in your past and find a good shot you hit somewhere and focus on that good shot. Use the positive aspects of the good shot you had before to influence the round you are in at the time. This is how you build confidence, it doesn't just happen overnight. Stay calm on the outside and remember to think about the positive shots you have hit before and not the bad shots you've made. Build a bank of good shot memories to pull from and your handicap will start to fall.

Remember, you must practice building up confidence whether you are a rookie or a seasoned veteran of the game. Without positive shot thoughts your confidence will be in the freezer and so will your game. Stay positive and build confidence by focusing on the good shots and not dwelling on the bad. Good luck and I will see you on the course!

TCMS begins wrestling season with duals wins

By Joe Collins
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Staff Writer

The 2012 Towns County wrestling season got underway with their first Dual match being at home against Dawson and Riverview on Tuesday Oct. 30.

The Indians won the first match against Riverview in a very impressive fashion with a score of 96-3 and wrestled well down the line and only lost one match.

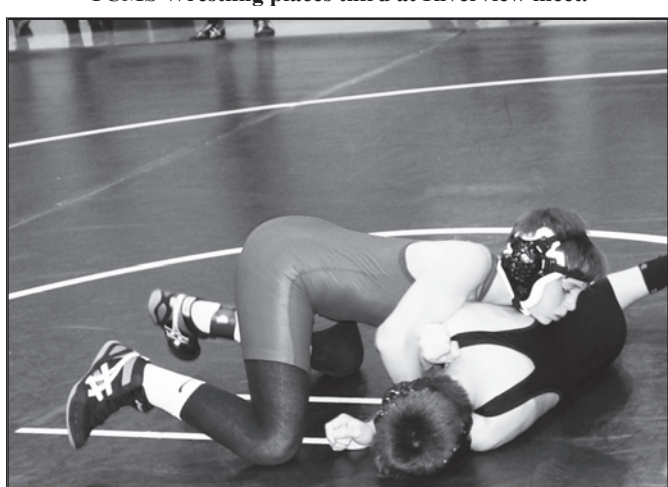
Russell Cox won the toughest match of the dual by fall in the second period. Newcomers Alex Barrett, Kaine Hoffman, Blaine Rogers, Dawson Hunter, Daylen Esplain and Jonathan Watson all picked up their first wins as middle school wrestlers.

"We came out of the gate strong and wrestled well down the line and dominated our first match of the dual," said Head Coach Jeff Stowers.

The second Duals match of the night also belonged to TCMS as they out wrestled Dawson 59-18. Logan McClure, Dawson Hogsed, J.W. Rosser, Trent Whidden, Blaine Rogers, Owen Bouchard, Russell



TCMS Wrestling places third at Riverview meet.



TCMS Wrestling in action last week. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Cox, Logan Quinton, Kendal Barnard and Ian Thompson all won their perspective matches and increased the Indians Duals record to 2-0.

The TCMS Indian wrestlers then traveled to Riverview in Dawsonville to compete in their first tournament of the season and after nine hours of competition placed third out of 10 teams with nine wrestlers taking home individual medals.

Bouchard finished first in the 120-pound class, J.W. Rosser had a second in the 98-pound class, Daulton Key placed second in the 128-pound class, Kaine Hoffman was third in the 77-pound class, Logan McClure took third in the 91-pound class, Ian Thompson won third in the 285-pound class, Dawson Hogsed finished fourth in the 98-pound class and Nick Shook had a fourth place finish in the 152-pound class.

The middle school is off and running and have already made some noise.

Their next meet will be Saturday's King of the Mountain in Hiwassee. Make plans now to go and watch some good wrestling as the TCMS is on a roll.

YHC Homecoming

Young Harris College students and alumni and Mountain Lions fans will kick off the 2012-2013 basketball season with Homecoming, Friday-Saturday, Nov. 16-17. With festivities centered around the theme "Blast from the Past," this exciting annual event will be presented in collaboration with the offices of Student Development and Alumni Services and the Department of Athletics.

Throughout the week, students will compete in a variety of challenges and events, including a trivia game, spirit sign contest and block party, car decorating competition and lip sync challenge, in anticipation of the big weekend.

"Part of our goal with Homecoming is to develop traditions," said YHC Resident Director Hilary Martin, who serves as program coordinator for Homecoming and game day activities. "Some of this year's competitions were established in 2011, and we hope these events will draw a lot of excitement and talent so students will look forward to them year after year."

Homecoming weekend will kick off Friday night, Nov. 16, with a student-led pep rally and bonfire.

The public is invited to join the festivities on Saturday, Nov. 17, beginning with a Homecoming parade at 11 a.m. that will include a variety of student-created floats as well as local civic leaders and businesses. The parade will begin on Maple Street and progress up toward U.S. Highway 76 where

it will turn south. The route will lead back into campus at College Street and continue into the interior of campus, past Susan B. Harris Chapel and Sharp Hall, ultimately ending at the Recreation and Fitness Center.

Tailgating festivities and a celebratory pre-game picnic lunch catered by Atlanta's world-famous drive-in The Varsity will follow for YHC students and alumni, beginning at 12 p.m. A special reception for all former YHC athletes will begin at 1:30 p.m. in the Recreation and Fitness Center.

Also on Saturday, YHC's Student Government Association (SGA) will host a special exhibit celebrating Sharp Hall's 100th birthday that will include a cake reception.

The women's basketball team will take on Bryan College at 2 p.m. in the Recreation and Fitness Center, and the men's basketball team will play Shorter University at 4 p.m.

Homecoming Week champions and individual competition winners will be announced and the Homecoming King and Queen will be crowned during the basketball games.

Combination tickets for lunch and both games are available to YHC alumni for \$20 per adult and \$10 for children under 12 through the Office of Alumni Services at (706) 379-5334 or online at yhc.edu/homecoming.

Towns County Middle School Basketball Schedule 2012-2013			
Opponent	Place	Time	Bus Leave
1 st Practice/Tryouts	TCMS Gym	TBA	
Union County (7 th /8 th Girls)	Home	4:15pm	
Union County (7 th /8 th Boys)	Away	4:15pm	2:50
Lumpkin County (7 th /8 th Girls)	Away	4:15pm	2:00
Lumpkin County (7 th /8 th Boys)	Home	4:15pm	
South Habersham (7 th /8 th Girls)	Away	4:15pm	2:15
South Habersham (7 th /8 th Boys)	Home	4:15pm	
Lakeview Academy (7 th Boys/8 th Girls and Boys)	Home	4:00pm	
North Habersham (7 th /8 th Girls)	Away	4:15pm	2:15
North Habersham (7 th /8 th Boys)	Home	4:15pm	
Wilbanks (7 th /8 th Girls)	Home	4:15pm	
Wilbanks (7 th /8 th Boys)	Away	4:15pm	2:15
Tallulah Falls (7 th Girls and Boys)	Away	10:00am	8:15
White County (7 th /8 th Girls)	Home	4:15pm	
White County (7 th /8 th Boys)	Away	4:15pm	2:45
Rabun County (7 th /8 th Girls)	Home	4:15pm	
Rabun County (7 th /8 th Boys)	Away	4:15pm	2:45
Hayesville, NC (8 th Girls and Boys)	Home	10:00am	
Union County (7 th /8 th Girls)	Away	4:15pm	2:50
Union County (7 th /8 th Boys)	Home	4:15pm	
Lakeview Academy (7 th Boys/8 th Girls and Boys)	Away	4:00pm	8:00
Hayesville, NC (8 th Girls and Boys)	Away	4:30pm	3:00
South Habersham (7 th /8 th Girls)	Home	4:15pm	
South Habersham (7 th /8 th Boys)	Away	4:15pm	2:15
Lumpkin County (7 th /8 th Girls)	Home	4:15pm	
Lumpkin County (7 th /8 th Boys)	Away	4:15pm	2:00
Tallulah Falls (7 th Girls and Boys)	Home	4:00pm	
Boys Tournament (7 th and 8 th)	Lumpkin County Middle School		
Girls Tournament (7 th and 8 th)	White County Middle School		

TOWNS CO. MIDDLE SCHOOL WRESTLING 2012				
Date	Opponent	Location	Time	Leave Time
10/30	Dawson / Riverview	Home	5:00	
11/3	Eagle Classic	Riverview	TBA	6:30 am
11/7	Lumpkin Co. / Union Co. / Jasper	Home	5:00	
11/10	Junior Mountaineer	Dahlonega	TBA	6:30 am
11/13	White Co. / Fannin Co.	Cleveland	5:00	3:15
11/17	King of the Mountains	Home	TBA	
11/27	Dawson / Riverview	Riverview	5:00	2:45
12/1	League Duals	Pickens	TBA	6:30 am
12/4	Franklin Co.	Franklin	5:00	2:45
12/11	Hiwassee Dam	Home	5:00	
12/14	Union Co.	Away	5:00	3:45
12/15	League Championships	Union	TBA	7:00
12/17	Murphy	Home	5:00	
1/7	Robbinsville	Robbinsville	5:00	2:30
1/16	Pickens Co.	Jasper	5:00	2:30