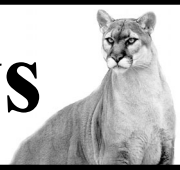




Towns County Herald's Sporting News



Indians net the Eagles in short game

JIM BRYANT

Sports Writer

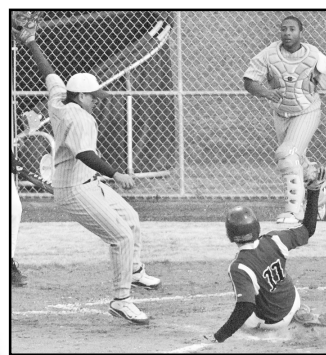
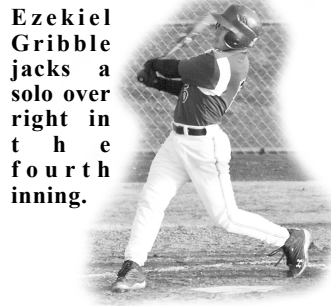
Gribble HR high-lights blow-out.

It was freezing cold and thank goodness a "mercy rule" shortened game as the TCHS Indians blew out the Rabun Gap Eagles 12-1. Matt Beni opened for the tribe with a single against the center field fence and was followed by a double by Charles Corn. Walks by Andy Page and Zeke Gribble go the Indians up by one run and a 2-RBI by Cody Harkins closed out the inning with a quick 3-0 lead for the Indians. The Tribe kept up the pace in the second when a sac by Andy Page got Matt Beni into scoring position for Charles Corn who hammered a 2-RBI double, 5-0. Cody Harkins dropped a single in right between three circling Eagles to get runners on the corners and Corn in for the 6-0 score after two innings. The Eagles finally got a

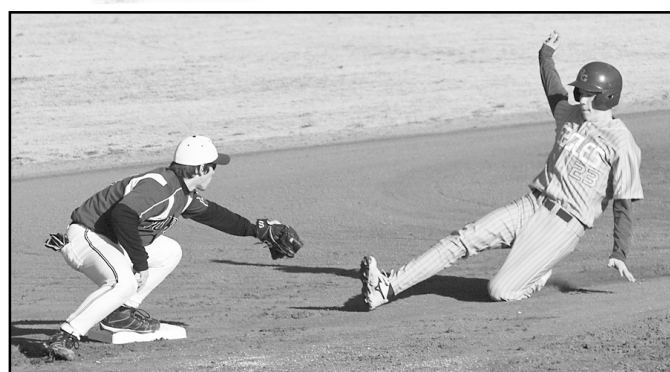
runner to third in the third but there he died. The Indians faired no better and action moved into the fourth inning. In the fourth, the two teams trade runs to make it 6-1 just before the Indians went on a hitting binge to break the game wide open. Zeke Gribble took the first pitch of the bottom of the fourth for a ride over the right field fence, 7-1 and was followed by a grounder by Charles Corn. Corn got caught in a run-down between first and second but James Mullins walked and Harkins moved to third. Billy Meier loaded the diamond with a walk and a 2-RBI single to the right field fence by Kyle McConnell made it 9-1. Randy Smith hit a shot past the shortstop and Billy Meier raced home, 10-1. Matt Beni walked to reload and a sac by Andy Page plated another run, 11-1. Randy Smith ended the game early when he raced home on a passed ball to make it 12-1 and after a final at bat by the Eagles, the game ended

12-1 in five innings. Andy Page went in relief of Trystan Drummond in the top of the fifth to close out the game.

Ezekiel Gribble jacks a solo over right in the fourth inning.



Randy Smith races home on a passed ball to make it a 12-1 game. Photos by Jim/Lisa Bryant



Matt Beni puts the tag on a sliding Eagle in game shortened win.

Lady Mountain Lions maul Piedmont College netters

JIM BRYANT

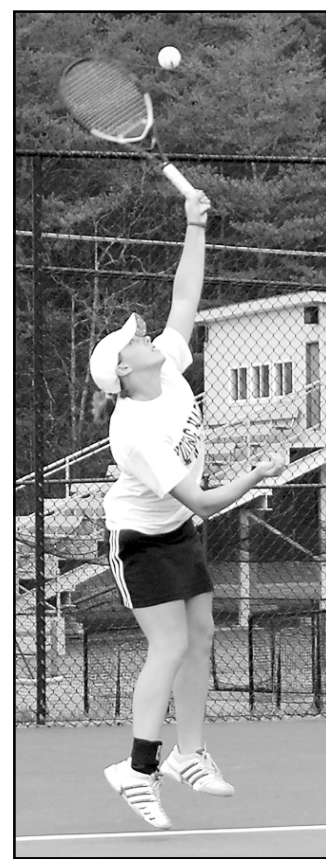
Sports Writer

Cats drop only two points in tennis match.

The YHC Lady Mountain Lions got back on their winning ways as they defeated Piedmont College handily, losing only two point in the match. The Cats dropped one of the doubles matches and one of the singles matches but dominated throughout in the 7-2 win.

Doubles Results: YHC Rogers/Dixon (W) PC Carter/Gathercoal 8-0; PC Shane/Smith (W) YHC Vaughter/Tannebaum 9-8 (3); YHC Mililli/Richardson (W) PC Baldano/Gurland 8-3.

Singles Results: YHC Sara Rogers (W) PC Stephanie Smith 6-0, 6-1; YHC Carrie Dixon (W) PC Jenny Shane 6-1, 6-1; PC Tyler Baldano (W) YHC by Default; YHC Jade Ringhoffer (W) PC Jen Gurland 6-3, 6-1; YHC Megan Wheatley (W) PC Laurel Carver 6-0, 6-1; YHC Victoria Mililli (W) PC Jennifer Gathercoal 6-0, 6-0.



Sara Vayghters serves against the Piedmont doubles team in win by the Mountain Lions. Photo by Jim & Lisa Bryant

Illinois Lakers outlast the Mountain Lions for 4-3 win

JIM BRYANT

Sports Writer

Cats utilize four pitchers in losing effort.

It was a blistering cold day and the Lakers from Mattoon, IL must have been accustomed to the cold as they downed the YHC Mountain Lions 4-3 in game one. It started as another good outing for the purple Cats as they jumped to a 1-0 lead in the first

inning when Austin Schultz and Bryson Smith both opened with singles. Daniel Warzon plated a sliding Schultz off an RBI to center. The Lakers then shut down the Cat bats until the last hooray in the bottom of the ninth.

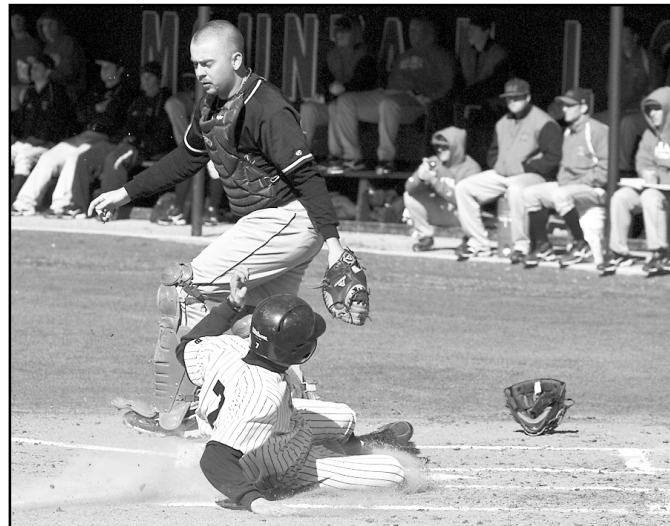
In the fourth inning, pitcher James Quinn hit a Laker in the back to load the diamond and after a single, the visitors took a 2-1 lead. Shortstop, Austin Schultz hauled in a line drive and rifled it to Clay

Remole at third for a DP that got the Cats out of the inning. In the bottom of the inning the Mountain Lions again stranded runners on the corners as they had done earlier in the third inning. It got worse for the Cats as the Lakers touched relief pitcher, Derrick Lowery for a 2-run HR to go up 4-1 in the sixth inning. In an effort to shut down the boys from Illinois, the Cats sent Andrew Chilcoat and later Daniel Warzon to the hill for the final

three innings. Not accustomed to being on the short end of the stick in the final inning, the Mountain Lions battled back when the Laker right fielder dropped a fly ball in sunny right field. Picking up two runs to make it 4-3, time ran out for the Mountain Lions and they fell by that score. Pitchers, James Quinn allowed 2-runs off 5-hits in the game while Derrick Lowery allowed 2-runs off a two run homeruns by the Lakers.



Austin Schultz slides in at home for the first and only Cat score until the ninth inning. Photos by Jim and Lisa Bryant



Clay Remole slides in at second base well ahead of the throw.

JV Rabun County Wildcats produce come-back victory

JIM BRYANT

Sports Writer

Cat HR welcomes Indian relief pitcher

The JV Indians started the game right by stranding a W'Cat runner at third then plating John Henry Hobbs for a 1-0 score in the bottom of the first inning. Again the Indians stranded a Cat runner in the second but they failed to produce after Jimmy Pearce took a hit for the team and was thrown out trying to steal second. The visitors from over the hill cranked out an RBI "T" to knot the game at 1-1 then moved to a 2-1 lead on a sac RBI before Taylor Denton cloud strike his way out of trouble. The Indians tightened

their defense in the fourth after Denton smacked a Cat batter, Alan Turpin tagged him out at second on a steal attempt. The Tribe turned the DP when John Henry Hobbs caught a fly ball in right and rifled it to Kyle McConnell at first for the second out. The Indians had a golden opportunity to win the game after loading the diamond but were caught looking at the plate to strand three on the basespaths. A ground ball past the third baseman plated another Cat for a 3-1 lead.

In the top of the sixth, Paydon Shook went in relief and the first Cat batter welcomed him to the hill by jacking it over the left field fence, for the eventual 4-2 winning score after John Henry Hobbs raced home for his second score of the game.



Houston Moss slide is at second base against a JV Wildcat.



Taylor Denton slides in safely in 4-2 JV loss to the Cats from over the hill. Photos by Jim and Lisa Bryant

Lady Cats explode in first inning and coast to win

JIM BRYANT

Sports Writer

McElheney blasts 3-run homerun in shortened game.

The Hiwassee Lady Tigers were out of the running after the first few minutes in the first inning. The YHC Lady Mountain Lions opened with a couple of walks, Emily Wilson hit an RBI double, 1-0, Whitney Robinson followed with a 2-RBI double, 3-0 and Amanda McElheney topped the first inning off with a 2-run homerun, 6-0. McElheney's ball danced on top of the left field fence and bounced over for the HR.

The purple Cats started the second with Emily Wilson scoring off an RBI single by Whitney Robinson, 7-0. As the game moved into the fourth inning, the Cats were still on the prowl as they loaded the dia-

mond with purple when Jamie Chapman walked to load. A 2-RBI single by catcher, Sam Woolf plated two runs, 9-0. It looked like the Cats were going to put the game away with the "mercy rule" when Britany Allen singled to load again but the Tigers escaped an early demise.

In the top of the fifth a great throw from Brittany McDade to Amanda McElheney off a ground ball towards first cut the lead runner down in a slide at third. On the next play however, a dropped ball on a throw at home, plated the first Tiger run, 9-1. The stripped Cats added another, 9-2 before the Mountain Lions got out of the inning. In the bottom half, Jennifer Watford doubled to left and raced home for the 10-2 early ending game off an RBI by Emily Wilson. The Mountain Lions took game two, 7-3. Whitney Robinson and Caitlin Duval were the two winning pitchers.



Sam Woolf drops the ball in a play at home as a Tiger skips by for the score. Photos by Jim and Lisa Bryant



Jennifer Watford sends the powder flying in a slide at second base.



Amanda McElheney jacked a HR ball off the top of the fence to score three runs.



Whitney Robinson sticks her head in the dirt in a slide at home.

Herald's sports quote of the week

"The key to winning baseball games is pitching, fundamentals, and three run homers."

- Earl Weaver, MLB manager

15th Annual Bass Tournament

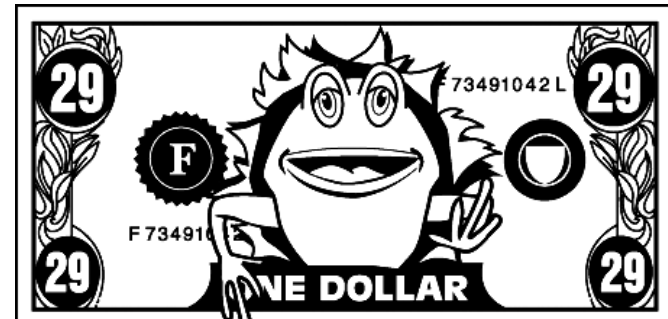
The Clay County Chamber of Commerce 15th Annual Bass Tournament will be Saturday, March 28 from 7 am to 3 pm.

Pre-register at the Chamber office by March 13 and pay \$75 per boat. Registration at the

event is \$10 more per boat.

Registration begins at 6 am at the Public Access Ramp at the end of Ledford Chapel Road. Max 2 fishermen per boat no refunds. First prize \$1000, 2nd \$400, 3rd \$300, 4th \$100, 5th \$75, and Biggest Fish \$100.

WILD FACTS: Helping Wildlife



Georgians can support nongame wildlife conservation, education and recreation projects by purchasing a wildlife license plate for their vehicles. A one-time \$25 tag fee applies in addition to annual registration and ad-valorem fees. The bald eagle and hummingbird license plates are a primary funding source for the Georgia Wildlife Resources Division's Nongame Conservation Section.

Another easy way to support nongame conservation is

through the Give Wildlife a Chance state income tax check-off. Just fill in an amount more than \$1 on line 26 of the long state income tax form (Form 500) or line 10 of the short form (Form 500EZ). For more details, visit us online at www.georgiawildlife.com or call 770-761-3035.

WILD Facts is a regular feature written by Linda May, a wildlife interpretive specialist with the Georgia DNR Wildlife Resources Division.