

# Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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## Eryn Cochran completes a stellar college basketball career

By Jerry Kendall  
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Staff Writer

All enjoyable and noteworthy things must come to an end and this was the case last Saturday at the University of South Carolina at Aiken when Towns County's own Eryn Cochran saw a most memorable amateur basketball career come to an end.

Although her Young Harris College Lady Mountain Lions team fell to a 64-49 defeat to USC Aiken, Cochran had an outstanding game, easily leading her team in scoring for the game with 21 points and she contributed the third highest total for her team of 5 rebounds from her guard position.

She included five treys among 7 for 16 field goal shooting and sank her only two free throw attempts in the game.

She was instrumental in her Towns County High School Team qualifying for trips to the Class A State Tournament during all four of her years with the Lady Indians, including a berth in the state final four during her junior year of 2013.

For her career, she scored 1,152 points for the Lady Indians in spite of missing the first half of her senior season when she sustained a serious injury in an overtime preseason scrimmage loss to Class AAAA Gilmer High School of Ellijay.

Perhaps of greater significance than her outstanding point totals, however, were her overall talents with especially high points being her leadership skills as a superb floor leader.

Cochran returned to her home county for two years at YHC



Left: Eryn Cochran drives inside for two during her days as a Lady Indian. Photo/Lowell Nicholson.  
Above: Cochran as a Young Harris College Mountain Lion the place she spent the last two seasons of her college basketball career. Photo/YHCathletics

after two successful basketball seasons at Columbus State University following the resignation there of ultra successful head coach Jonathan Norton whose parents, Junior and Peggy Puett Norton, are Towns County natives and TCHS graduates.

She was required to sit out her junior year at YHC last year due to transfer rules but provided an outstanding season for her home county collegiate team this year. She actually has a year of basketball eligibility remaining but, as an academic senior, will now forego another year of play to pursue a career in the medical field.

Cochran completed this season at or near the top in several statistical categories for the Moun-

tain Lions. Her 312 points for an 11.1 points per game scoring average, 60 three point field goals, and 97 assists for an average of 3.5 per game led the team and she tied for the team lead in steals with 43.

She made the second highest number of both field goals with 92 and free throws with 68 for her team and was second by one tenth of a point at 33.9% in three point field goal percentage.

Players who play the position of guard at any level of play, with duties often located far from the basket, usually are not among the leaders for their teams in rebounds but Cochran finished third on the YHC team this year with an average of 3.4 rebounds per game.

She was in the top eighteen

in the prestigious twelve team Peach Belt Conference in no less than six statistical categories through the completion of regular season play last week.

She was second in the conference in the number of three point baskets made, fourth in the number of assists, tied for eleventh in steals, twelfth in three point field goal percentage, fifteenth in free throw percentage at 71.6%, and eighteenth in scoring average with most of these stats already reported above.

She was selected as the Peach Belt Women's Basketball Player of the Week when providing a spectacular game in leading her team to an overtime victory over her former team, Columbus State University, as reported in an

article submitted to this newspaper prior to the announcement of the award several weeks ago.

She also had an outstanding game earlier that week in a decisive 80-60 YHC win over Augusta University.

There are two other connections between Young Harris College basketball and Towns County High School basketball within the overall information provided above that might be of interest to readers.

Former George Walton Academy star Jada Williams and Cochran faced each other on three occasions in the Region 8A Girls Basketball Tournament with the Lady Indians defeating George Walton of Monroe in the championship games of the tournament

in 2012 and 2013 while George Walton defeated the Lady Indians in the region semi-finals during the senior seasons of Williams and Cochran in 2014.

And on the evening that Cochran sustained the serious injury in a preseason scrimmage game mentioned above, a young guy by the name of JB Charles gave Towns County and YHC fans attending the game that night a preview of his future at YHC when he scored 27 points in a Gilmer High School victory over the Towns County Indians.

This total turned out to be three tenths of a point above his scoring average of 26.7 points per game that season for his Class AAAA State Tournament Team.

Charles also completed his YHC career at USC Aiken last Saturday by including four treys among six for twelve shooting for 16 points in a hard fought YHC 87-82 loss with the scoring stats in that game being quite typical of his production this year for the Mountain Lions as he finished the season as the team's second leading scorer with a 13.2 points per game average among other very admirable statistics.

Believe that I, as a reporter who covered Eryn's entire high school career and observed much of her season at YHC this year, can express for not only myself but innumerable other observers our appreciation for a job well done. But above all of the stardom on the basketball court for so many years, even more admiration and appreciation is expressed to the wonderful person Eryn has proven herself to be. Best wishes are extended to Eryn and her family for all the best in the future.

## Soccer: Barrett's two second half goals lead Lady Indians past Fannin

Fannin County boys set the tone with four early goals in 10-0 victory over Indians

By Todd Forrest  
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Towns County soccer opened the 2018 season with mixed results last week as the Fannin County Rebels paid a visit to Hiwassee.

Fannin County, who already had two games under its belt with North Murray and Union County, was able to hang with the Lady Indians for a half before two Brooke Barrett goals in a span of 68 seconds put Towns on top for good.

Meanwhile, the Indians were unable to recover after Fannin exploded for four goals in the opening nine minutes.

Leading 5-0 at the half, the Rebels scored two goals in less than 10 minutes for a 7-0 advantage.

They would later tack on goals at 19:20, 14:21, and 8:42

to play. In the first game, the Lady Indians and Lady Rebels battled to a scoreless tie after 40 minutes.

In the 16th minute, Fannin missed wide on an excellent scoring opportunity while Barrett sailed a free kick over the cross bar later in the half.

Towns County was able to make some halftime adjustments and settle down after being a little too fired up in the first half.

A breakaway by Taylor Cornett resulted in a foul and a Barrett penalty kick with 30:12 remaining. A little more than a minute later, Barrett struck again off a Cornett assist.

That would be all the offense keeper Jordan Hyatt and the Lady Indians defense would need as Fannin never threatened again.

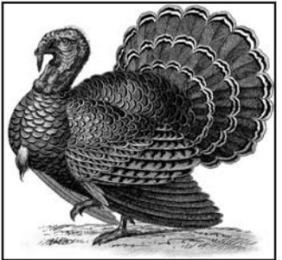
Towns will visit Lumpkin on Friday at 5 and 7 p.m.



Georgia Southern signee Brooke Barrett scored both of Towns County's goals in the 2-0 victory over Fannin. Photo/Todd Forrest



### Free Hunter Education class



Cross Church, located at 2113 Baldview Rd., Young Harris on March 17 from 9 AM to 5 PM with a break for lunch. Instructors will be David Webb, Ranger First Class and other volunteer instructors.

Though walk-ins are welcome, you may pre-register online at www.gohuntgeorgia.com/hunting. A minimum of five students is required for the class to take place. TFeb28,FJSH

### Towns County U-8 Soccer Team Fire for Fall 2017



U-8 Towns County Fall Coed Team, Fire, (l-r): Chet Ford, Brandi Rutan, Nathan Ford, Jacob Caldwell, Cooper Church, Ryan Ford, Cole James, Hayden Stancil, Addison Rutan and Maeleigh King; (not pictured) Chance Burger

Chet Ford and Brandi Rutan were volunteer coaches for the U-8 Towns County Fall 2017 Coed Team, "Fire." United Futbol Academy sponsored this extra opportunity for the kids of Towns County with the game of soccer. They provided support with practice plans, ensuring quality soccer techniques were instilled in every child; skilled workshops; wonderful uniforms; all-stars; and focused primarily on fun.

Soccer is a great outlet for any kid to come out and have fun no matter what their skill level might be. If you are looking for a wonderful environment for your child not only to excel individually in a sport, but also as a team, then soccer is the name of the game. TFeb28,FJSH



Towns County Indian and Lady Indian soccer photos by Lowell Nicholson and Todd Forrest