

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Towns County High School honors athletes at Winter Banquet

By Joe Collins
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Towns County High School held its 2012-2013 Winter/Spring Athletic Sports banquet at Brasstown Valley Resort last Thursday, May 2 to honor its elite athletes that were involved in basketball, soccer, wrestling, golf and tennis.

It was a great time with some really good food prepared by the professional chefs at BVR as the faculty and coaches of TCHS honored their award-winning athletes.

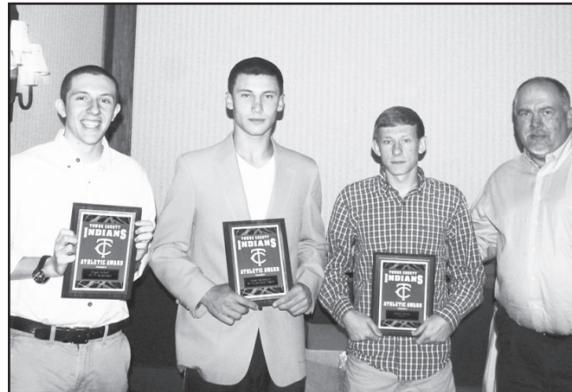
TCHS Athletic Director Jonathan Gibson was in charge of the awards ceremony while delegating the presentations to each individual coach. Gibson has established two new awards this year that recognizes the male and female athletes of the year. Senior Dadrion Blythe had the honor of becoming the first recognized Female Athlete of the Year for her dedication and commitment to TCHS through her performances in basketball, soccer and school. Senior Ryan Tallent was the recipient of the first Male Athlete of the Year for his dedication to TCHS through his leadership in basketball and with his scholastic achievements. Congratulations to these two fine athletes and for the dedication to the programs at TCHS.

"I am proud of these two fine athletes for all their achievements and for representing TCHS in a dignified manner. They are the perfect example of the athletes that represent TCHS," said Gibson. "It was a difficult choice but one made easier by their abilities and attitudes."

Head Coach Jeff Stowers presented the awards for TCHS Wrestling. Junior Vonya Baldwin was awarded the all important Most Outstanding Wrestler of the Year for his great season that included a sixth place finish at the State finals in Macon and freshman Aaron Collier, who also earned a trip to the State meet, won the Most Improved Wrestler of the Year. Junior Bradley Rogers



Towns County baseball



Towns County Indians basketball



Towns County Indians tennis



Towns County Lady Indians basketball



Towns County Indians soccer

won the Come Back Player of the Year for his outstanding effort and attitude.

TCHS girls varsity basketball Head Coach Jim Melton was missing from the awards banquet as he had traveled to Roswell to support his daughter, junior Kaila Reece, in the first round of the State soccer playoffs.

TCHS principal Roy Perren had the honor of presenting the girls basketball awards.

The offensive award went to sophomore Stephanie Patton while the defensive award went to junior Eryn Cochran. Two senior awards were presented to Dadrion Blythe and Emily Anderson for the leadership and

talent on the court. Congratulations to these athletes for winning their individual awards.

Michael Anderson was on hand to award the boys basketball team for their individual achievements awards. Tallent was also awarded Mr. Towns County Basketball for his leadership and all around good play. Junior Slade Davenport won the In the Paint award for his defense and rebounding efforts. Sophomore Dallas Manus was honored with the Most Valuable Player award for his all around solid play and sophomore Trace Moss was awarded the Most Developed Player award for the season. Congratulations to these fine athletes for the

accomplishments.

Perren was again called on to present the TCHS soccer awards as Head Coaches Tim Rosser of the boys varsity and Peter Byrne of the girls varsity were in Roswell to play in the State playoffs.

For the boys varsity, Manus was again awarded the coveted overall Most Valuable

Player award for his exceptional play this year while junior Nick Santisi won the honored Coaches Pick award.

Junior Cesar Bustamante was awarded the Offensive Player of the Year for his outstanding play on the field and freshman Shea Underwood won the Defensive Player of the Year award for his great hustle

and determination. The girls varsity soccer saw junior Faithe Robinson win the Offensive Player of the Year while junior Taylor Vardeman won the Defensive Player of the Year. Sophomore Karlie Albach received the Coach's Award and junior Makayla Underwood won the overall Most Valuable Player of the Year award.

Head Coach Brett Keller was on hand to present the Low Medallist awards to the varsity girls and boys golf teams winners. Junior Tracy Smith won the boys award while sophomore Stephanie Patton won for the girls.

"We are very proud of our girl's team as they won the Area Championship recently and will be traveling to Royston on May 20 to compete in the State Championship. This is quite the honor for TCHS girls golf as they are the first girls team from our school to win an Area Championship and go to State. They are very excited and working hard to get ready," said Keller.

Head Coach Heather Moss presented the varsity tennis awards. The Golden Racket award was presented to junior Eryn Cochran while the Coaches Award went to seniors Mackenzie Mirandi and Kayla Olin. The doubles team Coaches Award was presented to juniors Courtney Marshall and Lesleigh Irvin.

"I am very proud of what our girls accomplished this season and just want to remind both the boys team and the girls team to 'be a fountain and not a drain,'" advised Moss.

Gibson closed the ceremony by thanking the athletes, coaches, faculty and parents for all their sacrifice and dedication.

"We have some really good athletes and coaching staff at TCHS and I am honored and proud to be a part of such a successful athletic program. We all look forward to next year, as the TCHS athletes will again make us all very proud to be a part of their athletic careers. Thank you and good night to all," proclaimed Gibson.



Towns County wrestlers



Towns County Lady Indians tennis
Banquet photos by Lowell Nicholson



Towns County Lady Indians cheerleaders

Lady Indians' soccer ends at Fellowship

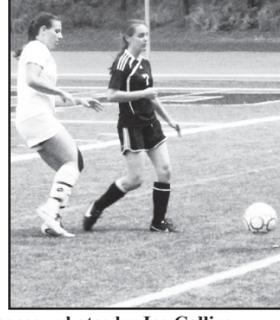
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Roswell - The Towns County Lady Indians soccer team finished its 2013 season with a loss to Fellowship Christian 8-1 in the first round of the State playoffs.

The Lady Indians entered the playoffs ranked third in their division and drew Fellowship Christian who finished second in their division. The Fellowship Paladins were hitting on all eight cylinders as the game got underway and basically dominated the tribe for the win.

The Paladins drew blood early from 3-yards out at the 36:13 mark to take the lead 1-0 and never looked back. Sophomore keeper Taylor McCarter had her hands full as the Paladins handled the ball with intensity and determination and scored again at the 30:03 mark from 5-yards out to lead 2-0. Fellowship again put the ball in range at the 27:54 mark and scored from 5-yards to lead 3-0. Another goal at the 22:11 mark from 10-yards which sailed over McCarter's head and then again at the 17:55 mark from 10-yards to lead at the half 5-0.

The Indians hustled well and put forth a solid effort but just couldn't get it done in the second period against a determined Fellowship team on their home field. Junior Taylor Vardeman and junior Makayla Underwood were solid in the midfield on defense but the Paladins were handling the ball well and recovered every



Towns County Lady Indian soccer photos by Joe Collins

steal the Lady Indians could muster.

Junior Kaila Reece had some good fast breaks off the left side but the Paladins defense was solid and forced several shots at goal to go off line. Junior Faithe Robinson had several shots at goal with only one finding its mark as she scored off an assist by junior Destiny Blythe.

Senior Dadrion Blythe played a solid keeper position in the second half and had many good stops at goal from the Paladins. She was caught in

close on two different occasions and one long 40-yard kick that carried over her head for the score and the Paladins won 8-1 as the time ran out.

It was a sloppy end to a good season for the Lady Indians as the team was dealing with injuries and fatigue. They got down early and it took the air from their sails and they could not find the angle to overcome the effort by Fellowship.

Their individual play was good but the team just couldn't get things going and the season ended in a 8-1 loss.

YHC to host Clay Dotson Open Golf Tournament

The annual Clay Dotson Open golf tournament to benefit student scholarships at Young Harris College will be held on Monday, May 20, at Brasstown Valley Resort.

More than 90 percent of YHC students receive some form of financial assistance, and all proceeds from the Clay Dotson Open are used toward scholarships for Young Harris College students. Generous support of this annual event allows a new generation of students to achieve their academic pursuits and become part of a 127-year legacy.

"YHC offers students a wide variety of opportunities to get involved, and I love the emphasis that is placed on individual discovery," said Jessie Robinette, a junior early childhood education major from Madison, GA. "By becoming immersed in the YHC community, I have embarked on a

journey of personal growth. None of this would have been possible without the help of a scholarship."

"When I first visited YHC, it felt very similar to the private high school I called home. I knew right away that I would be comfortable spending my next four years here," added Lou Roland, a sophomore outdoor leadership major from Woodstock, GA. "The opportunities and atmosphere YHC provides for students is exactly what I was looking for. I feel so blessed to have become part of the Young Harris family. The scholarship I received is a huge part of my success, and will continue to be as I further my studies."

Players will enjoy morning and afternoon flights, a complimentary continental breakfast, lunch and/or snack, an awards ceremony with prizes for low net in each flight, a putting contest with

prizes and a complimentary team photograph.

The tournament will also feature the annual Alumni Team Challenge in which the team with the lowest score will win a special award. Teams of four YHC alumni will also receive a special discount rate and an invitation to a kick-off alumni reception at Brassie's on Sunday, May 19.

Located in Young Harris, GA, Brasstown Valley Resort is home to a 7,000 yard, championship par-72 links-style golf course that is ranked by Golf Digest as one of the top 10 places to play in the state.

For player registration and sponsorship opportunities at this event, contact Director of Development Mark Dotson, '88, at (706) 379-5355 or mcdotson@yhc.edu. For more information about the Clay Dotson Open, visit yhc.edu/claydotsonopen.

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