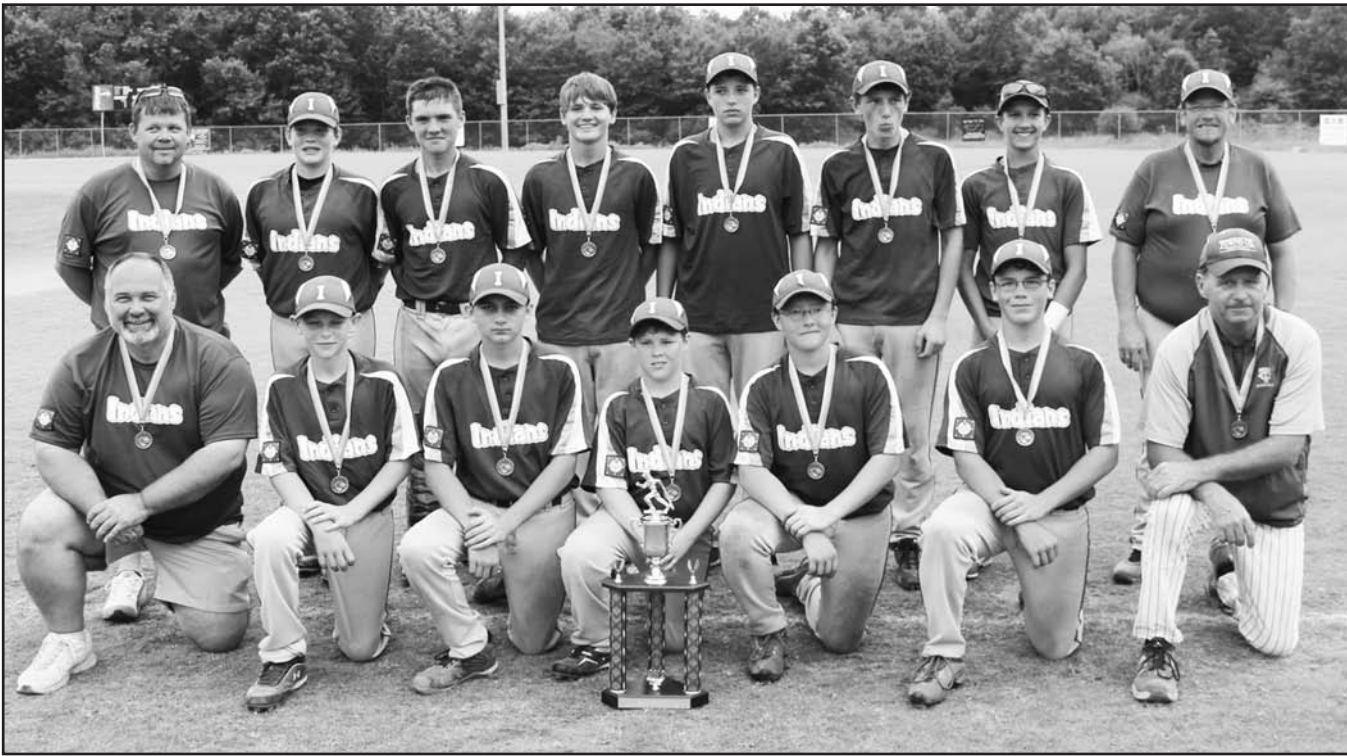


Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

www.townscountyherald.net • E-mail: tcherald@windstream.net

14U Baseball Team State Playoff Bound



Towns County's 14 and Under Baseball Team will travel to Jefferson this weekend for the Dizzy Dean State Tournament.

The Towns County Indians 14 and Under baseball team is headed to state.

The boys played in Jefferson over the weekend, opening with a victory over White County. Their second game they lost a hard fought battle to Jefferson. The third game for the Indians they beat Lumpkin County. The fourth game the Indians defeated Barrow County

in the semi-finals. They then lost a very hard fought battle to Jefferson 8-7 in the tournament finals, placing the Indians 14 and Under All-Star Team with a second place finish in the district.

The Indians will be playing in the Dizzy Dean State Tournaments this weekend in Jefferson.

Other Towns County All-Star Teams played in the Dizzy Dean District 6 Tournament as well over the weekend.

The 10 and Under Boys played in Hall County. They lost their first against Commerce. They lost their second game in a hard fought battle to North Hall.

The 12 and Under boys played Fannin County in their

first game. They lost a tough game to the Rebels on their home field. The second game they lost another close game to the Tigers of Commerce.

The Recreation Department would like to thank all players, parents and coaches for a very successful season and wish the 14 and Under boys the best of luck in the Dizzy Dean State Tournament.

Youth Football Registration

Sign-ups for ages 5-12 years old will begin on Saturday, June 30 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Towns County High School Field House. Sign ups will take place every Saturday, at the same time, until July 28.

The registration fee is \$90 and you will need to bring a copy of the player's birth certificate. Players who played last year will not need to bring a birth certificate. No sign ups can be accepted until the registration fee is paid. The fee will cover their insurance and equipment. The players will be allowed to keep their jersey at the end of the year. Players must be present at sign up so they can be sized for their uniform.

Practice begins on Mon-

day, July 30. Practices will take place from 6 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday.

As for the younger squad, 5 and 6 year olds will play together but each age from 7-12 will have its own team.

There will be a free Towns County youth football camp on July 19 and July 20 at the Towns County High School Football field from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The camp will once again be conducted by Towns County High School Head Coach Kyle Langford along with his staff and players. The Youth Football League coaches also will be in attendance.

For more details Jimmy Smith can be reached at (706) 896-2622 or (706) 835-6176.

Mountain United

Soccer registration begins

The Mountain United Soccer Association is ready for Fall Soccer. Registrations are currently being accepted. Forms will be mailed to all players who have participated in a previous season. Forms are also available by visiting the league's website: www.mountainssoccer.org.

The spring 2012 season was a big success. Our younger teams played in Blairsville, Hiwassee, and Blue Ridge. The older age groups competed throughout Georgia. We had players registered from all the surrounding counties as well as some from North Carolina.

In Blairsville, Cott Beverage is our community host for the soccer fields. In Hiwassee, the fields at the Towns County Fairgrounds are utilized through the cooperation of the local recreation department. The league is grateful for their commitment

and support.

The fall season will begin in early September. Anyone who is interested in playing needs to register promptly. In some cases space is limited.

M.U.S.A. is a volunteer run organization and is also a 501C3 non profit. Any and all donations are directed to the youth player. Field Sponsors, Sign Sponsors, and Team Sponsors are always needed. If you are interested in supporting the youth soccer player in our community through sponsorship and/or a donation, please contact the Association.

For additional information contact the league at 706-835-1077, musa.soccer@gmail.com, or visit www.mountainssoccer.org on the web.

Like "Mountain United Soccer Association" on Facebook and follow the league on Twitter @MUSoccerA.

Young Harris announces new softball coach

By Todd Forrest
North Georgia News
sports@nganews.com



Coach Paul Raccio. Photo/Courtesy YHC Athletics

Young Harris College softball turned the page last week as they announced that Paul Raccio will become the Mountain Lions' new softball coach.

Coach Raccio comes to Young Harris, via Connecticut, where he spent the past eight seasons as the assistant softball coach at Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven, Conn. SCSU went 43-13 this past season and advanced to the NCAA Division II Softball Championship last month. SCSU, who finished ranked No. 6 in the final National Fast pitch Coaches Association's NCAA Division II poll, advanced to the third round where they were eliminated by the eventual national champion, Valdosta State University.

"We felt like Coach Raccio's work ethic of the game, commitment to the student-athletes, and positive attitude about moving the program forward would be a great fit for YHC," said Young Harris College Athletic Director Randy Dunn.

During his tenure at the SCSU, the Owls amassed a 256-145 record, including this past year's school record 43 wins. Raccio's SCSU teams won two Northeast-10 Conference titles, made five appearances in the NCAA Division II tournament, took home the East Region title in 2012 and advanced to the regional championship game twice.

According to the New Haven Register, Raccio received a letter from SCSU Officials in May, stating that the University would not renew his contract after the 2012 season.

Raccio's contract expired on June 15th. Six days later, he was announced as the new coach at Young Harris College.

However, the news came at a bad time for the SCSU squad, as the Owls were two

wins away from their first berth in the College World Series.

Raccio's coaching style was considered "aggressive" by some of his former players and they feel that could have led to his termination. Although, one of his players came to his defense and said she wouldn't be the player she is today without Coach Raccio's bare-knuckle approach.

When the news broke, the SCSU team rallied behind Raccio and went to meet the school president but we're told she was out of the office. The team then went to meet with the athletic director, but were refused a meeting.

Dunn believes that Raccio's personality will make him a perfect fit for YHC.

"Coach Raccio has a tremendous work ethic and is a very personable individual that we believe will fit well on the YHC campus and local community," said Dunn.

Raccio also served as the SCSU assistant volleyball coach for five seasons. He assisted with academic monitoring and student-athlete development, as well as fund raising and community outreach efforts.

Raccio has obtained sig-

nificant administrative and coaching experience at different levels of competition. He served as athletic director at Hyde Leadership School in Connecticut from 1998-2004.

In 1994, when he created Hyde's baseball program. His teams qualified for the state tournament on five occasions. Four players received college scholarships, while one was selected in the Major League draft. Raccio also served as assistant varsity football coach and Dean's assistant.

Raccio earned his bachelor's degree in history from the University of Connecticut in 1996.

Since 2000, he was the head coach with the Connecticut Bombers AAU baseball program. During his time as coach of the 14U and 16U teams, he led the Bombers to seven state championships.

The UConn grad also served as an assistant coach with an American Legion baseball program from 1997-2001.

Raccio replaces Eric Geldart who led Young Harris to a 26-21 record in 2012 and compiled more than 500 wins in his illustrious softball coaching career before he was fired at season's end.

Recreation Department's July 4th Activity Day 2012

The Towns County Recreation Department's annual July 4th Activity Day will be on Wednesday, July 4, 2012 at the Recreation Department Ball Fields. The Recreation Department invites everyone to come out and have fun in the sun! The schedule of the events during the day and locations are as follows:

Youth Single Horse-shoes (16 & Under Division) (Boys & Girls) Ball field 9:30 AM.

Men's Single Horse-shoes (17 & Older Division) Ball field 10 AM.

Women's Single Horse-shoes (16 & Older Division) Ball field 10:30 AM.

Men's Partner Horse-shoes (17 & Older Division) Ball field 11 AM.

Men's Homerun Derby (15 & Older Division) Ball field 10:30 AM.

Women's Homerun Derby (15 & Older Division) Ball field 11:15 AM.

Youth Homerun Derby

(14 & Under Division) (Boys & Girls), Ball field 10:45 AM.

Youth Homerun Derby (11 & Under Division) (Boys & Girls) Ball field 11 AM.

Team Cornhole Tournament (10 & Under Open Division) 2 Person Team, Ball field 11:30 AM.

Team Cornhole Tournament (16 & Under Open Division) 2 Person Team, Ball field 12 PM.

Team Cornhole Tournament (Adult 17 & Over Open

Division) 2 Person Team, Ball field 12 PM.

In each of the Recreation Department events, plaques and trophies will be given to all winners in each event. There is no charge for any of the activities. All events will begin at the times listed. To pre-register just be on time for the events you wish to participate. See all of you on July 4th.

For more information call the Recreation Department at 706-896-2600.

Towns County Recreation 2012 Summer Day Camp

Summer is just around the corner and that means hot weather and Summer Day Camp for boys and girls ages 6 thru 12. This summer The Recreation Department will offer day camp for 3 sessions, each session being two weeks, running Monday thru Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Session III - July 9th thru July 20th.

The fee for the two week session is \$120. The fee is payable to the Towns County Recreation Department the first Monday of each session.

Day Camp offers children sports game activities,

social game activities, field trips, nature hikes and much more. Give your child a lot to do this summer and sign them up for Day Camp. You may send your child to any or all of the sessions. Children need to bring a swimsuit, towel, sprayable sunscreen and sack lunch. The Recreation Department will furnish the drinks for the campers.

Registration will be the first Monday of each session at the Recreation Department located on Hwy. 76 west of Hiwassee. For more information please call the Recreation Department at 706-896-2600.

YHC Basketball Camps

1st Camp is our "Junior Mountain Lion Camp" July 9 -12th - 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Boys & Girls Ages 5-10 years old. T-shirts will be provided. Fundamental Individual/Group Work and Fun Games. Cost: \$100. 2nd Camp is our "Young Harris Basketball Camp" July 16-19th - 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Boys & girls ages 8-15 years old. Cost: \$150. Lunch Provided

VFW Golf League News

On 6/21/12, we had a beautiful day although a little warmer than perfect.

We also had a great turnout considering we played at Apple Mountain Resort, with 17 players. Again we had 2 foursomes and 3 threesomes. Again the winning team was a

w/ t-shirts. Fundamental Stations, Games and Tournament Play. Learn with YHC Coach's & Players. Contact Information for Both Camps: Heath Hooper hwhooper@yhc.edu (706) 781-5974. To download camp brochures please visit our website www.yhcatletics.com and click on the link inside athletics, 2012 Summer Camp.

threesome consisting of Bill Kiser; Glenn Greenwald, and Frontz Goring with a score of 61, a minus 11.

Great shooting guys! We had just 1 team come in over par. All in all, a great day with great fellowship. It can't get any better than this.



Towns County Rec News

Hours of Operation:
Mon - Fri 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Class: each Monday from 4:00pm-5:15pm. Morning Class: each Thursday from 9:30 a.m.-10:45 a.m.

Dance and meeting rooms are used for special programs and classes. The general public can also reserve it for small gatherings such as birthday parties, showers, etc. with a two hour limit.

Gymnasium: Check at front desk for gym hours of availability. Gym is open to general public unless organized programs are in session.

Exercise and Weight room: Must be a resident of Towns County. Must be 16 years of age or 13 if accompanied by a parent. Must go through orientation. Check with office on dates and times. There is no charge to use the exercise and weight room. All Participants must attend an orientation session prior to using the exercise areas. Times and dates for training sessions are available at the lobby office.

Children under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent on the initial visit. A parent will complete the application, release, and attend a training session with the child. No children under the age of 13 will be allowed in the exercise areas. Children 13 and 14 years of age must have a parent present in the recreation center while using the exercise facilities.

Yoga Classes: We have 2 separate class times instructed by Pat Tomczyk. Evening

Morning Aerobics Classes: Each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings from 9:30 a.m.-10:45a.m. instructed by Donna McAuliffe.

Evening Aerobics Classes: Each Tuesday and Thursday evening from 5:30 p.m.-6:30p.m. instructed by Jeannie Ledford.

Fresh Air Qigong: Each Tuesday morning from 9 a.m.-10 a.m. instructed by Michelle Holmes LMT

Sun Style Tai Chi: Each Thursday from 11 a.m.-12 p.m. instructed by Pat Tomczyk.

Any additional information on these programs or other questions about the facility see the person on duty or call (706)896-2600.

The Towns County Recreation Department Full Time Staff:

Wes Hooper, Director
Alan Rogers, Assistant
Michael Kimsey, Assistant
Tammy Holcomb, Recreation Center Attendant

The Towns County Recreation Department is always interested in beginning new programs and classes. If you have a special talent and are willing to instruct and teach others your skills, we would be delighted to talk with you about offering such a program to interested people through the recreation department please call us at (706) 896-2600.