

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Towns holds its own against Tigers

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A sea of maroon and gold invaded Frank McClure Stadium on Friday, Aug. 16th.

A long line of Dawson County Tigers flooded the field, including 22 seniors.

It was just a scrimmage game, and Towns County Indians Head Football Coach Blair Harrison treated it as such.

He wasn't trying to develop an offensive or defensive rhythm. No, he was putting his young Indians into positions to succeed.

Crowds for both teams filled Frank McClure Stadium. The smell of popcorn, hot dogs and hamburgers was in the air. It was football time and Mother Nature cooperated with temperatures in the upper 50s.

Judging by the score in a game where no one keeps score, the Indians fared rather well.

Dawson County out-scored the Indians 28-14. But, the real score wasn't on the Coca Cola sign. It was in the film.

Coach Harrison loves to dissect game film. He now has his Indians encrypted on film.

"We're going to get better," he said, referring to his offense's first game-like situation using his patented Wing-T offense. "This game is a lot like chess. We hung in there, we stood our ground."

The scrimmage gave Harrison a chance to evaluate his team. It wasn't about winning or losing. It was all about seeing which piece of the puzzle fits where.

The Tigers were up on the Indians 28-0 at the end of the first half. Harrison had a trick up his sleeve for the second half.

He only planned to use Jackson Noblet in a couple of defensive series. He pulled that card in the third quarter. Noblet responded as did the Indians defense.

"Jackson made the first two tackles after he came into the game," Harrison said. "We were hoping to get away without playing him on defense. He gave us an edge presence that we needed and didn't have the first half."

The Tigers scored early following an Indian fumble deep in their own territory. The extra point was good, and Dawson led 7-0. The Indian defense held strong again until the Towns offense gave



Towns County Head Coach Blair Harrison addresses his team during a timeout. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



Junior running back Cruz Shook (#10) carries the ball as senior quarterback Jackson Noblet (#8) plays fakes to senior end Brett Barrett. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

the Tigers another short field. They scored again with 1:39 left in the first quarter.

Dawson put two more scores on the board, one at the 5:22 mark in the second quarter, followed by another score with 46 seconds remaining in the first half.

The Indians went into their 2-minute offense and drove to the Tigers 47-yard line with 11 seconds left in the half. Noblet let one fly intended for Shea Underwood as time expired. The pass was a bit off the mark.

In the third quarter, the Indians drove to the Tigers 43 yard line with the clock winding down in the quarter.

With 18.7 seconds left in the third, Noblet connected with Brett Barrett for a 20-yard touchdown strike.

In the fourth, the Indians capitalized on another quick strike, this time as freshman signal caller Russell Cox connected with Underwood on a 40-yard play down to the Tigers 30-yard line. Four plays later, Zach Sewell found pay dirt into the Tigers' end zone with a 17-yard run. That would conclude the night's scoring.

"We were soft on the corners, soft around the edges," Harrison said. "We had some bright spots. Daulton Rogers, he's just a sopho-

more, hasn't played much. He played his heart out and won himself a position tonight.

"We had a lot of guys that got to play and show what they can do," Harrison said. "Dylan Roberts played hard, he ran the ball up the middle. We've got some people that have won some positions, I'll just go ahead and tell you.

"I've put this team on notice, I'm going to play the best 11 players on both sides of the ball," Harrison said. "We ran some stuff tonight, I just wanted to see if people would block. I'll say this, where we're trying to go, this was a good night for us."

Joe Collins

Tips from the Range

The first tee "butterflies" are feelings most golfers experience at some time or another and it is that high level of excitement that keeps the game fresh as we play for the enjoyment of playing.

That rush of anticipation of the days round last about as long as the second or third shots for many and that leads to a long day on the course.

The problem is, that early intensity burns out at the first sign of a miss hit or a missed short putt for par early in a round. You know you got some game and you want to see it each time you play but unfortunately our attention span lapses as the shots get worse. We start thinking about honey-do list or what work will be like on Monday, all because of a miss played shot. This does not have to happen!

A round of golf takes about four hours and could take up to four and a half hours if the heat is on. Competition players are required by the rules to play in a reasonable amount of time and if you go to a tournament just watch how fast the players walk. They want as much time to think their next shot over as they can get.

Check out Phil Mickelson the next time you get a chance and watch how long his strides are. He must cover five feet or more per step.

I have played in many pro-am events in my time at the professional level and the main problem I always saw, with players that could actual hit shots, was their inability to think their way around the golf course. Their scores were dramatically higher than they should have been because their brains were in low gear. Golf is a mental game and your mind can make you play well or play poorly. It is up to you.

What I am saying is, use

your brain when you are on the golf course. Take time to think shots through carefully and don't be afraid to hit more club than you think you need. I was playing with a student at Butternut Creek recently and he hit his tee ball on #2 real solid and straight up the middle. His remaining yardage was 135 with a slight breeze in his face. He hit pitching wedge, which he plays 140, and he hit it solid straight at the hole. I questioned his club selection. His calculations were short and so was his shot, 10 yards to be exact, one full club.

Uphill topography always adds yardage just as downhill topography takes away yardage and both should be calculated by full club increments. In other words, his shot played 145 but he was playing uphill so he needed to allow for backspin, which amounts to about five yards at "The Nut". His total playing yardage was actually 150. A smooth nine iron for him.

The pin was tight to the front and his chip was long so he made bogey. A poor club selection led to a two shot difference in that situation. The right club from the fairway and he would've had a tap-in birdie, no doubt.

Make club selecting and yardage calculations a priority during your next round and you will find yourself on the green more often. Your scores will go down because you are using your number one attribute, your mind.

Club yourself better and always hit the longer of the two clubs if you are between clubs on a shot. Smooth swings work better than hard swings at keeping balls on the golf course.

"Think better to play better" is our new motto, so work on thinking better while enjoying your time on the course and away from the other things. There are no practice drills for poor judgment, so stop making those careless mistakes that haunt us when we play.

Good luck and I will see you on the course!

Mountain Gymnastics registration

Fall Registration for Gymnastics, Preschool, and Tumbling Classes has begun.

Classes begun the week of Aug. 5th. Stop by the gym to sign up for a class.

See our schedule at www.mtngym.com or call (706)745-3325.

Mountain GYMNASTICS CENTER
(706) 745-3325

Fish for Food Fishing Tournament

Matthew 25 Food Ministries presents "Fish for Food Fishing Tournament". 60 percent of tournament money goes to feed needy families in our area. The remaining 40 percent will go to tournament prize money. Prize money will be awarded for 1st Place, 2nd Place and 3rd Place and biggest fish. Actual prize amount will depend on number of entries. Entry fee is \$50 per boat,

the tournaments end in October, occurring the second Saturday of each month rotating between Lake Chatuge, Woods Grove Boat Ramp and Lake Nottely, Deaver Road Boat Ramp, from 7 a.m. - 1 p.m. Tournament schedule: September 14 - Lake Chatuge; and October 12 - Lake Nottely. For contact information call David Crisp at 706-897-5347.

Marine Corps League Golf Tournament

The 17th Marine Corps League Golf Tournament will be held at Chatuge Shores Golf Course in Hayesville, NC on Oct. 10th.

The tournament benefits children, elderly, families and individuals in need within our communities through-

out the year and charities of Union and Towns counties and worthy military charities.

For more information please call Bobby Jarrard at 706-896-6084 or Walt Scott at 706-897-9610.

BMTA Hike

Scenic BMTA Hike, Saturday, August 24th, 5 miles in and out along Emery Creek in the Cohuttas. Twelve stream crossings ending in a pair of waterfalls. Bring hiking poles and wear sturdy shoes. Rough footing as trail climbs over some large boulders. Plan to get wet! Meet at Home Depot in Blue Ridge. Pre-registration required. Contact Pam and Richard Sullivan, pams11@tds.net or 706-374-5281.

Mountain High Hikers Hiking Club

Mountain High Hikers schedules two hikes each Tuesday, occasional specialty hikes, and regular trail maintaining trips - all in the beautiful mountains of Georgia and North Carolina. Check the website www.mountainhighhikers.org for schedule and meeting locations.

VFW Golf League news

This week we had a great showing of players and a beautiful day to play golf. What's more we had some pretty good scores. The winning team of Mel Halfon; Larry Jordan; Charlie Logan; and Frank Geddings posted a score of 63, 9 under par. Great shooting fellas. We also had 3 or more teams come in under par. So the golf plus the great company

made for a super day. The winning team on Aug. 8th consisted of Mel Halfon; Bob LeHoullier; Bart Rodgers; and Butch Patterson with a score of 65, 7 under. Next week we will be drawing teams for our tournament on Aug. 29. Our banquet is scheduled for Aug. 31 at 5 PM social time, dinner probably at 5:30 on. Looking forward to seeing you all there.

2013 Youth Coed Basketball

The Towns County Recreation Department will begin registration for the Youth Coed Basketball League for children ages 5 thru 7. (Must turn 5 by November 1st of 2013 to be eligible).

Boys and girls will be placed together on teams. Teams will have volunteer coaches who will lead, teach and direct their team.

Registration will begin on

August 24th and run thru Saturday, September 7th. Fee for the program will be \$25 per child (this includes a uniform). You must register your child and volunteer to coach during this period. For more information contact the Recreation Department at (706) 896-2600 Monday thru Friday 9 a.m. till 8 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. till 4 p.m.

Lady Indians take care of Lakeview

By Heather Poole
Towns County Herald
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There must be something about Taylor Swift when it comes to softball.

The girls warmed up while listening to "22." And while the Lady Indians of Towns County High School may not have been able to relate to the lyric, "I don't know about you, but I'm feeling 22," they did seem to be feeling ready to play ball as they practiced pitching while singing along.

In 2011, the Lady Indians entered the record books when they celebrated the second consecutive region win at Lowell Nicholson Field. Based on the determination on the young ladies' faces Thursday, August 15, they are ready to taste that kind of victory again.

In the home game, the girls took on the Lady Lions from Lakeview Academy in Gainesville.

At the start of the game, all of the Indians shouted encouraging remarks to their teammates, displaying an admirable sense of community amongst the team. They were so focused on the game they hardly realized the score board was not working.

Once the board did start working, it was in the Indians' favor. The girls were winning 5-0 when the Lions showed up and got themselves on the board. Not at all concerned with the threat of a loss, the Indians kept their heads in the game and continued to support each other, never once showing any signs of nervousness or frustration towards a teammate.

Emily Ledford really had her head in the game, grunting every time she pitched, as if



adding power to her throw. It seemed to work, because the opposing team continued to strike out. Never getting overly confident though, the Indians continuously gave it all they had.

Their focus on the game paid off, because the girls won 5-4. Certainly relieved to have won on their turf, the girls are now gearing up for the next time they play.

The Lady Indians will travel to Dacula on Thursday to face Hebron Christian Academy.

With a win fresh on their minds, the girls are sure to work just as hard against another Region 8-A foe, and hopefully make Towns County proud again.



Towns County Softball Photos by Lowell Nicholson