

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Five Lady Indians named to 8-A All-Region Softball Team

By Joe Collins
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Towns County High School ladies softball team has received some more good news concerning the 2012 season.

Five of the players have been honored with all region recognition and this is a testament to how talented the team was this year.

Top honor was given to senior Claire Wilson as she was declared as a First Team All Region member.

She had a great year at the plate as well as a solid performance on defense. She was a team leader and was very calm under pressure. She has a very quick bat which produced several home runs and extra base hits. She has a really strong arm and girls trying to steal a base while she was catching had to beware.

As a third baseman, her fielding was great and her throws were always sharp and on target. She hopes to further her softball career on the collegiate level next year and she would enhance any team lucky enough to get her. Good luck Claire we all wish you well.

Senior Emily Anderson received the status of Second Team All Region and is another

testament to just how good the 2012 team was. She had an impressive year at the plate and used her power well. She produced several home runs and a bag full of RBI's. She was also one of the veterans who returned for the season and used her experience to not only leave a legacy but to mentor the younger girls for next year's season.

Her biggest claim to fame is that she hit the first ever home run for TCHS at the Lowell Nicholson softball field in 2011. The ball is in the trophy case at TCHS.

She is also hoping to further her career on the collegiate level. Good luck and way to go Emily, you will be missed on the softball diamond.

Senior Meagan Ellis, Senior Brittany Ledford and Sophomore Tori Morgan were all in the mix as well and received All Region Honorable Mention for the great year they had this season.

Ellis was solid at short-stop with very few errors on the year and her bat was vital in many of the wins.

Ledford pitched many games and the Indians depended on her arm all season, while Morgan was very impressive as a sophomore and will be back next year to carry on the growing softball tradition that these girls helped boost this year.

Head Coach Tonya Martin summed it up best, "I am very proud and honored that the region is recognizing these girls for their talents, work ethic and superior performance during region play this year. It is truly an honor for them."

It is very difficult to achieve this recognition in the ladies world of high school softball and these girls deserve all the credit they received. They all had impressive years and were very instrumental in the record season that 2012 produced.

Way to go girls, we are all proud of you and thank you for the memories of this season.



Meagan Ellis - All Region Honorable Mention



Tori Morgan - All Region Honorable Mention



Claire Wilson - First Team All-Region



Brittany Ledford - All Region Honorable Mention



Emily Anderson - Second Team All Region

Wrestling season just around the corner

By Joe Collins
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Towns County High School Head Coach Jeff Stowers is very excited about the prospects of the 2012-2013 wrestling season.

Last year was a good year for the high school in that five young men represented TCHS at the state level and as a team they finished tenth. That is very impressive for the guys from Towns County.

"We were banged up last year and through all the adversity we still had a good year. Our best wrestlers were injured most of the year so this year should be a lot better. We should be as strong this year as any year we have ever had. We have several athletes back and this year we should be able to fill every weight class and that helps. If we can't fill a weight class then we have to give up six points for each weight class we can't fill and that is hard to overcome when you're a small school," said Stowers.

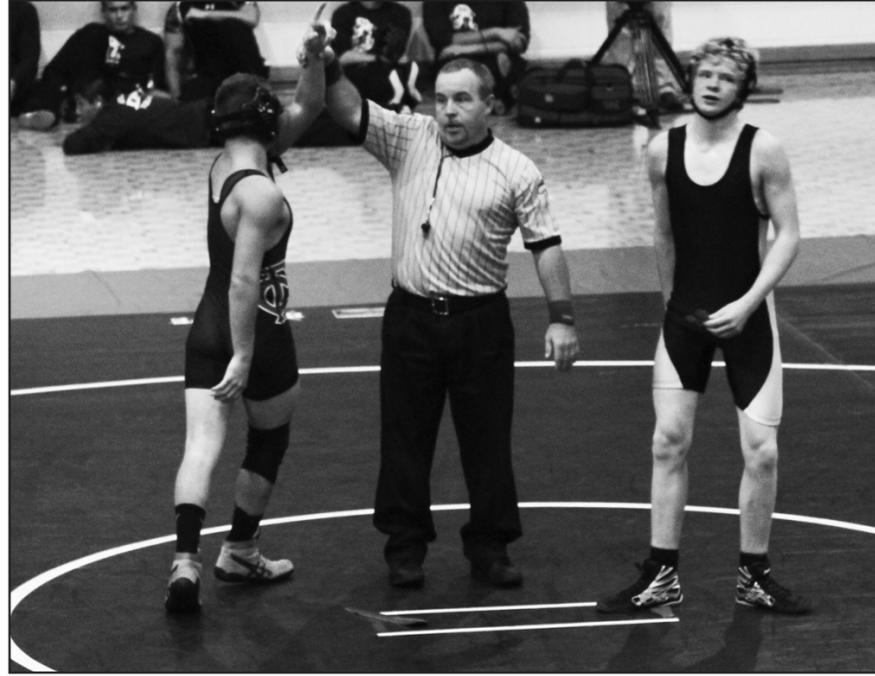
Towns County has a strong wrestling program and this year should be no exception for the high school as well as the middle school.

The program is now in its ninth year and is growing each year. Being able to fill all the weight classes at each meet is a boost in the prospects of making it to the State Championships and Stowers believes they have a legitimate chance of doing just that.

"If we can keep everybody healthy this year, then I truly believe that we have a good chance of making it to State. We got a lot of guys back that have a tremendous amount of experience and that will help the younger guys who are filling the gaps we had last year," stated a confident Stowers.

Coach Stowers is no rookie to winning State Championships. In his sophomore year of wrestling at Dawson County, they won State. They also had a two-time State Champion on their team so winning in wrestling is something he and his assistant coach are familiar with.

Coach Harrison, his assistant, was a collegiate cham-



Towns County Wrestling Coach Jeff Stowers has high hopes regarding TC wrestling in 2012-13

pion at the University of Pittsburgh and volunteer coaches the high school team to add even more of a winning atmosphere to the team.

The season begins on Nov. 27 at Dawsonville and will go on through the Area Championship in early February. If everything goes well the team should have a good shot

at the State Championship on Feb. 16-18. "Wrestling is a tough sport and requires a lot of work, but right now I feel we have a good shot at state," declared Stowers.

Coach Stowers is prepared to get started with the regular season workouts that start soon. Right now it is "Open Mat" each week where

the guys have to work on their own. Coaches are not allowed to work with their teams until the first of Nov. but when the time comes, the fun will start.

"We work hard but we have fun too. That is kind of how we operate and the guys will tell you that wrestling is hard but it is also fun," said Stowers.

Joe Collins

Tips from the Range

I have received many questions on putting recently so I think it might be prudent to look at the whole of putting and not break it all apart because everything works together in a proper putting stroke. Get your notebook out cause good putting can change the way you look at golf.

Good putting can affect your total score in a round of golf more than any aspect of the game. If for instance a course has a par of 72, then theoretically you will stroke it 36 times on the putting surface. Even if you "one-putt" every green, that still makes the putter the most used club in the bag. This fact alone means we should focus on putting more than hitting.

When I hear that a player is a good putter, then automatically I think of two different abilities this player possess. To be a good putter, then one has to be a good reader of greens and probably has a solid stroke to react to that read. The combination of these elements makes a good putter.

If someone says, "He/She is a good sand player." That means they are good putters because if you missed the putt after a good sand shot, then you failed to get it up and down. A good sand player is a good putter and a good putter is a good reader of greens and so on. Putting is very important to all aspects of golf and you will find that if you putt well, you will hit the ball better. It's one of the phenomenon's in golf.

First let's look at green reading. Simply put, this is inspecting the lay of the ground your ball will roll across as it makes its way to the hole. Finding the slope of the lay is a crucial point that has to be dealt with for left and right breaks. The actual lay of the green is the relationship of uphill and downhill from front to back of the green. Every putt that has break will be influenced by the lay and slope of a putting surface. Logically then, downhill is fast and uphill will be slower. So goes the lay of the green from front to back.

Once you feel comfortable with how the ball is going to roll, you will have to learn to match

the speed of your roll with the read of the green. The only way to master this is through practice to develop feel. It will always be a guess as to how hard to roll the ball but practice gives you feedback and that is what you look for when practicing your putting stroke. Here again, read will affect speed and speed will affect the read so you have to take a little time to study your putts. More time than I see a lot of amateurs taking. It is almost impossible to get a correct read from only one side on the hole.

The stroke itself is simple to understand but difficult to perform. You must take out all the moving parts that you can. Let only your arms swing from under your shoulders. Use no wrist in any part of the stroke and keep your head perfectly still until the ball is on its way to the hole.

Always make sure that your alignment is correct as faulty alignment will cause the ball to start off on the wrong line. Your sub-conscious will know you are off line and you will pull or push the putt to compensate. Poor alignment is very detrimental to rolling the ball well.

Always make sure that you are in balance as poor balance will cause the putter head to wobble and that will also make the ball start on the wrong line. Center your weight over your ankles and stay steady. Don't rock back and forth.

As you look down at the ball, notice you have made a triangle with your arms. Focus on this triangle moving back and forth during the stroke and this will help eliminate wrist motion. Do not use your wrist for any part of the stroke.

I hope this helps with putting. Make sure you spend a little time reading the green from both sides of the ball and you will see a different world when it comes to reading greens. Don't be bothered if someone gets on to you for "acting like a pro" because when you start making more putts, and your score starts dropping, you will see them start walking to both sides of the ball to read the green just like you.

Let me hear from you. I know some of you are having trouble with your swing so just ask and let's see if I can help. Please send your questions to jcollins.tcherald@windstream.net. Remember, practice will make you better and that makes golf more enjoyable.

Good luck and I will see you on the course!.