

# Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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## Tough week for TCHS wrestling

By Joe Collins  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Fate was not kind to the Towns County High School wrestlers this past week as they suffered two losses to Smoky Mountain and White County.

The Indians lost to SMHS with a team score of 60-24 and then to White County 59-22.

SMHS is one of the best teams in the area and is tough to defeat on a bad day, but they were wrestling very strong at home and the tribe met its match.

Senior Tyler Hoffman got the ball rolling early as he pinned his man for a fall in the 170 lbs. class but the joy was short lived and the Indians fell 60-24.

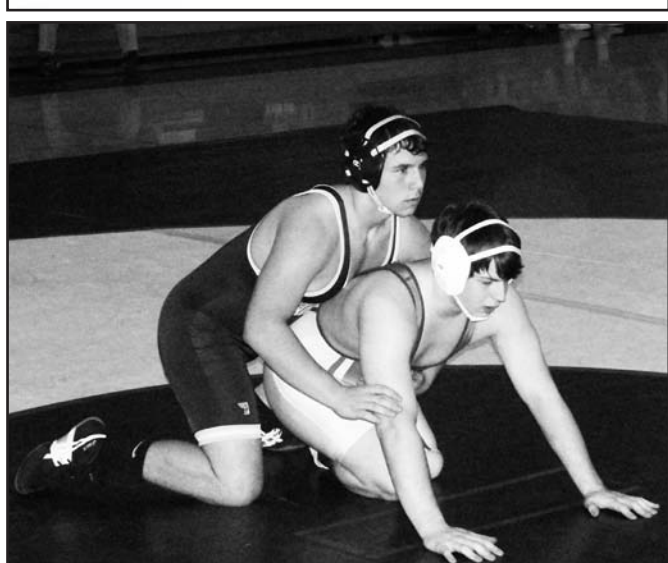
Juniors Aaron Collier and Vonya Baldwin also had strong bouts as they won by fall.

"SM is a tough team to beat. They've got some good athletes on their team that know how to wrestle with good technique," stated Senior Heavyweight Wesley Bloodworth when discussing SMHS's win at the King of the Mountain tournament recently.

The tribe then traveled to White County on Friday to challenge the Warriors on their turf and the results were not what the Indians had hoped for as they fell 59-22. The White County tribe had a good solid night wrestling while receiving some early Christmas gifts from the Indians in the form of forfeits. Four to be exact and that makes it difficult to win as a team.

"The odds were stacked against us tonight. We had to win many forfeits and to little experience in four other matches. It was a hard night for us. We need to get better physically," declared Head Coach Jeff Stowers.

The Indians have done well against White County this



Towns County in action at White County. Photos by Joe Collins

year and were favored to win but illness and injuries took their toll on the team.

However; there were some bright spots in the match as Junior Garrett Parker won by fall in the first match of the night.

Sophomore Kyle Davis had another strong match and won by fall in the 182 lbs. class, as did Collier in the 120 lbs. class. Baldwin had a hard fought bout that went the distance and ended in a major decision for him in the 132 lbs. division.

"I didn't wrestle well in

that bout," said Baldwin. "I feel like I could've beaten him by fall."

The Indians will be getting better and their wrestling will improve as they continue to work hard to prepare for the League Duals on Jan. 4th and 5th, 2013 at Holy Innocents and the State Championship on Feb. 16-18, 2013 in Macon.

Their next match is on Dec. 28-29 at the Amicalola Classic in Dawsonville at the Dawson County High School.

Make plans now to attend and see some really exciting wrestling.

## TCMS boys basketball falls to Union

By Joe Collins  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

The Towns County Middle School boy's basketball teams hosted the Union County Panthers last Thursday and faced a Panther team that was out for revenge after suffering a season opening home loss to the Indians on Nov. 5.

The tribe was outplayed in both games with the Seventh Grade falling 49-27 while the Eighth Grade missed several opportunities in the paint and lost 42-30.

It could have been an effort of excuses but the Indians held their heads high and took the loss like true champions.

"Its never fun to lose but we can learn a lot from certain losses and that is what we will do now," stated a very confident Head Coach Duncan Weekley as he and his teams took the blunt of the losses head on.

The first game of the afternoon saw the up and coming seventh grade team trailing from the start of the game and never catching up. Union was playing some solid ball and the Indians were loose. They had trouble with a half court press that the Panthers were very aggressive with, and left Towns out of sync running their plays, when they were able to get the ball down the court.

The big move came in the third quarter as the Panthers out scored the Indians by 13 points. The rest of the game was closer with the Indians failing to hit some crucial shots that would have made the game much closer in the final minutes.

The seventh grade was aggressive on the boards but had trouble running the fast break. Zack Davenport was the Indians high scorer with 10 points. He also had 4 rebounds and 3 assists. Trent Bradshaw was solid with 6 points and 6 boards while Evan Berrong had another good game with 4 points and 2 rebounds. It was an exciting effort with



Indians get hacked in the paint against Union. Photo/Joe Collins

some hard play and aggressive rebounding but still the Indians fell short 49-27.

The second game of the afternoon saw the eighth grade team challenging the Panthers with a short roster because of sickness. They missed Will DeVries and his excellent rebounding and ball handling ability but still played hard as usual. They were unable to execute their offense to an effective level to out score the Panthers but their hustle was there, and if they had hit their shots underneath, could still have pulled it out.

Union has a solid ball club and the Indians were a little sloppy in their execution and in hitting the free ones, which is something the Panthers, took advantage of.

"We still need to work on our offensive execution and free throw shooting as we needed to hit more shots from the line," stated a concerned Weekley.

Weekley is a calm coach and has a group of boys that admire him. He returned their admiration in the final minutes of the game against Union as he stormed the sidelines like a Division I head coach. The

referees knew they had been in Weekley's domain when they left the game that evening.

Major Moss had another good game with 6 points, 5 rebounds and 5 assists. Brady Moss also had a solid game scoring 7 points with 5 rebounds and 2 assists.

Kobe Denton kept up his great play with 6 points and 4 boards and some solid defense. Adam Barrett had 4 points and 3 rebounds including a 3-point shot.

Chayton McClure and Darringer Barrett both had good games with some really good defense causing several turnovers and harassing the Union ball handlers, but in the end it was just not enough as the Panthers went home victorious 42-30.

The Indians next game is against rival Hayesville, N.C. away. The Indians vs. Yellow Jackets games are exciting so make plans now to catch the boys and girls teams on Dec. 20th as both are scheduled to play. Game time is 4:30 p.m. at the Hayesville Middle School.

Come out and support the middle school Indians and see some good, fast paced basketball.

## NASCAR 2012

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

## Christmas with the Arkansas traveler

Each year during Christmas we break from our traditional NASCAR racing news in order to bring a story that blends in with the holiday season. This year's story comes from Bobby Ward, an early sprint car racer from Arkansas. While he was not well known along the east coast, he was a household name among racing fans in the Midwest. When Ward showed up at the race track, he was always the "one to beat."

"I think that sometimes people overvalue the things of Christmas, and forget to really focus on their friends and the actual holiday season," said Ward. "I certainly have more material things now, which I thoroughly enjoy, but as far as true happiness goes, I'm not so sure that we weren't just as happy back in my early years."

Ward was born in 1935 in the community of Bee Branch, Arkansas, about 40 miles north of Little Rock, in a one-room log cabin. His racing career began in 1956.

He raced hard, traveled long distances, won many, many championships, accumulated a large fan following, and became known as "The Arkansas Traveler."

"Christmas for us was very light," continued Ward. "Mom and dad, and sometimes all the family would go out on Christmas Eve and cut down a tree. It wasn't always a cedar tree. Sometimes it was a pine. After getting it set up in the house we would decorate it. The decorations consisted of some colorful ribbon that had been cut in strips, and strings of popcorn.

"That was all the decorations we used. There were no lights, or anything shiny.

"My three sisters and I each got one toy. That's the only time of the year we got any store bought toys. But I don't ever remember a Christmas when we didn't get that one toy.

"On my sixth birthday I had asked my mom for some type of Tinker Toy. On Christmas Eve, I happened by the bedroom and saw a Tinker Toy sticking out from under the bed. Mom saw me, and said, "Son, would you believe



Bobby Ward holding trophy after winning the 1963 Southwest Supermodified championship at Amarillo, TX.

that Santa Claus came by earlier today and left this for you? And he might even come back again tonight."

Well, I believed her, and sure enough, the next morning Santa had paid us a second visit and left some oranges, apples, and cookies.

"Our Christmas dinner consisted of chicken and dumplings, and dressing, along with ham and some other vegetables, plus a cake and pie.

"We never had turkey or anything you had to buy.

"Around Christmastime, daddy would kill some hogs and cure the meat. He would take some type sugar cure and put it all over the ham, and inject it all around the bone. This not only flavored the meat, but preserved it. The meat would keep in a smoke house for at least a month.

"In my very early childhood, we had Christmas by ourselves. We lived a pretty good way from our neighbors, and traveling in our wagon would have taken too long.

"As I got older, we moved and dad bought a car, and we visited my father's mother and dad on Christmas. I had a cousin that always got lots of toys and we were allowed to play with them while the rest of the family visited.

"I never said anything to mother and dad about the single toy I got, because I knew how things were with us.

"During the year, I was able to make homemade cars out of blocks of wood.

"We used our imagination and what we had, to enter-



Bobby Ward in 1957 after winning the Arkansas championship.

tain ourselves.

"We always ate well, even outside the holidays. We had pork, along with fried potatoes, pinto beans, and corn bread. Every Thursday night we had corn bread and butter-milk.

"There was no electricity in my early years. Our traditional lighting was a simple kerosene lamp. One day my dad brought home a new type of kerosene lamp, called a "Latin Lamp." It gave a much brighter light, and that was the first time my sister and I had been able to do our homework together at the kitchen table.

"Sometimes at night I would get a glass of milk, and only drink half of it. I would leave the rest of it setting in the kitchen. When it was really cold, the next morning I would have a half glass of ice cream.

"When we moved from Bee Branch to Shirley, Arkansas, there wasn't any boys

around to play with, just girls. Mother made me a doll on her old treadmill sewing machine, and filled it with straw and rags, so I would have something to play with.

"It might seem funny now, but I had the time of my life playing with that doll, along with my three sisters and the other girls.

"Whenever my dad took corn to the grist mill to get it ground into meal and grits, I always went along. The corn was yellow. We never raised any white corn like they have now.

"My childhood was good. I thoroughly enjoyed growing up with my sisters and we were a loving family. We worked hard, and loved each other. We didn't go around hugging each other, saying, "I love you," but we all shared a bond of love.

"I don't ever remember a day growing up when I didn't feel loved.

"I tried to race everyone just like I would want him to race me.

"I didn't always win, but I knew it was important for me to try and finish each race. I think in order to enjoy our success we've got to put forth effort. The races that I enjoyed winning the most were those I really had to work for.

"Greater labor leads to greater love.

To maximize our present enjoyment in life we might need to give up some of the comforts an easy life style brings us. Instead of buying a present ready-made this Christmas, why not see what kind of physical chore you could do for your neighbor? Instead of buying a pre-cooked pie or cake for Christmas dinner, why not bake it yourself?

"Christmas happiness can still be found. You just need to know how and where to look."

Racing Trivia Question: How many regular Cup teams will Joe Gibbs field in 2013?

Answer: The driver is Ricky Stenhouse. His team is Roush-Fenway Racing.

You may contact the Racing Reporter at hodges@race500.com. NT(Dec19,12)ac

## State Champs recognized by Board of Education



Last week the Towns County State Champion Cross Country team was honored by the Towns County Board of Education.

## TCHS Wrestling Schedule

- 12/18 Riverside, Dawson Co., Johnson, Riverside TBA
- 12/20 Oconee Duals @ Watkinsville 1:00/10:00
- 12/28-12/29 Amicalola Classic @ Dawsonville TBA
- 1/4-1/5 Area Duals @ Holy Innocents TBA
- 1/7 Robbinsville @ Robbinsville 5:00/2:30
- 1/11 \*\*\* Hayesville, Cherokee \*\*\* Hayesville 5:00/ 3:45
- 1/11-1/12 State Duals @ Macon TBA
- 1/15 White Co./Union Co./ Rabun Gap Home 5:00
- 1/18 Stephens Co. @ Toccoa 6:00/ 3:15
- 1/25-1/26 Burnt MTN Classic @ Jasper TBA
- 1/29 Rabun Co. @ Clayton 5:00/ 3:30
- 2/1-2/2 Area @ Commerce TBA
- 2/8/2/9 Sectionals @ Mt. Vernon TBA
- 2/14-2/16 State Tournament @ Macon TBA

## Blairsville's Dyer among those honored from YHC

LOUISVILLE, Ky. - Seven members - Tori Dyer, Kayla Jones, Kacey Miller, Brittany Olsen, Hunter Sims, Victoria Sink and Sydnee Weaver - of the 2012 Young Harris College softball team have received All-America Scholar-Athlete accolades from the National Fastpitch Coaches Association All-America Scholar-Athlete their efforts in the classroom during the 2011-12 academic year.

The award is bestowed upon any player submitted by a member coach who achieved a 3.50 grade point average or higher during the 2011-12 academic year.

Dyer, a sophomore in-

fielder/outfielder from Blairsville, Ga., and Weaver, a sophomore outfielder from Sylvania, Ga., each had a perfect 4.00 grade point average. Weaver is a biology major while Dyer is undeclared. Miller, a senior from Kingsland, Ga., had a 3.85 GPA as a biology major while Jones, a senior infielder from Covington, Ga., had a 3.72 GPA as a history major. Sink, a senior from Hoschton, Ga., had a 3.68 GPA as an education major while Sims, a sophomore outfielder from Franklin, Ga., had a 3.66 GPA as a liberal arts studies major. Olsen, a junior outfielder/infielder from Lithia, Fla., had a 3.62 GPA as a business and public policy major.