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MDJ sports section honored with APSE national awards

Staff reports
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Bednarowski

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The Marietta Daily Journal sports section was recently recognized with three national awards at the Associated Press Sports Editors' winter conference in Las Vegas.

The MDJ earned national top-10 honors among small- to medium-sized publications for "Kickoff '25," the newspaper's annual football preview issue.

It is the 17th straight year the MDJ has earned APSE recognition for its print products.

"Kickoff '25" featured content each of the 22 Georgia High School Association-affiliated varsity football teams in Cobb County, the six in Cherokee County, as well as the Kennesaw State and Reinhardt college programs.

This year's edition was once again written primarily by college interns, including Kai Millette, Jack Martin, Lance Warren and Trey Perry from Kennesaw State, Paul Holm from the Savannah College of Art and Design and University of Georgia students Devyn Hlavek, Bryce Holder, Faith Stokes, Owen McDaniel and Grant Turnage.

Cherokee Tribune sports editor Griffin Callaghan and former MDJ sports writer Adam Carrington also contributed to the writing, while Holm and Anthony Stalcup handled the photography.

MDJ sports editor John Bednarowski was also recognized with two national top-10s in the writing categories — event coverage and high school beat writing.

The Masters entry was made up of all the work done over the course of a 48-hour period during the event, including:

- ◆ Do players consider what color shirt they wear on Sundays?
- ◆ Chris Kirk's trouble with the 13th hole ruining what was a good opening round
- ◆ Jack Nicklaus, Gary Player and Tom Watson picking Rory McIlroy to win the green jacket
- ◆ A column on the 1975 Masters

- ◆ A Masters notebook on Fred Couples and Bernhard Langer having a chance, but failing to make the cut◆
- ◆ Supplemental material, including information on how to watch the tournament, tee times and scoreboards.

The high school beat writing category included a breaking news story, an event story, an enterprise piece and a fourth of Bednarowski's choosing. The entry included:

- ◆ Marietta's football team set to open next season in England
- ◆ McEachern's Corky Kell-Dave Hunter Classic win over Walton
- ◆ Allatoona celebrating the 10-year anniversary of the Cobb County School District's first football title
- ◆ Hillgrove's success shows in bounty of NFL talent

The final rankings for writing categories are expected to be announced in April.