

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Rogers, Swanger each finish Fourth Place at GHSA State Tournament

By Chad Stack
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Towns County High School seniors Blaine Rogers and Tyler Swanger finished Fourth Place in their respective weight classes at the GHSA State Traditional Wrestling Tournament in Macon last week.

The tournament ran between Thursday, Feb. 14, and Saturday, Feb. 16, and sophomore Garrett Oakes and freshman Hannah Wecer also grappled but were unable to place.

Wecer, wrestling up 10 pounds from normal in the 116-pound weight class, grappled in the first ever GHSA all girl wrestling tournament, and she was the only girl from a single A school.

Her first match was against Kennedy Shropshire from class 7A Mountain View High School in Lawrenceville. Wecer lost to Shropshire, who went on to finish Runner-Up in the tournament.

After her first match, Wecer had to turn around and wrestle again, leaving her no time to settle down and refocus, and she fell in her second match as well.

"She did a great job all season and this weekend. She



wrestled great," said Indian Head Coach Jeff Stowers.

Oakes, wrestling in the 120-pound weight class, grappled well in his first match, only losing by 1 point with a score of 7 to 6 against Brandon Shelnett from Strong Rock Christian.

"We thought if Garrett could have made it past the kid from Strong Rock, he had

a really good chance, and he wrestled tough – had the kid on his back and was getting points," said Stowers. "He made a little mistake that cost him the match, but I'm proud of how well he competed against some of the tougher talent in his weight class."

Oakes wrestled hard in his second match on Thursday

against Ethan Madaris from Trion High School, going all three rounds but losing in a 17 to 4 decision.

Swanger, who wrestles in the 170-pound weight class, lost his first match but came back strong, winning his next three matches.

"Tyler wrestled like a man all day Friday," said Stow-

ers. "That's probably the best single day of wrestling he has had in his career. He wrestled three studs in a row and absolutely dominated in all three matches."

Swanger got the chance to grapple for Third Place in the state, but he lost a decision 12 to 5 against Corey Morrow from Turner County High School.

Rogers, who wrestles in the 160-pound weight class and was the state Runner-Up just a year ago, went into the tournament as a No. 1 seed.

He grappled well Thursday, winning his first match by pinning his opponent in just over a minute.

On Friday, he went up against David Bertrand from Mount Pisgah Christian, whom he has wrestled twice already this year. Rogers went all three rounds and lost by only two points, 6-4.

Of course, Rogers fought hard and overcame adversity like he's done all year, going on to win his third match to put him in place to compete for Third Place.

Rogers wrestled the distance, lasting all three rounds, but experienced another tough loss in a 3-4 decision against Jacorian Prater from Turner County.

"Overcoming a loss like Blaine and Tyler did is a testament to their mental toughness," said Stowers. "I'm super proud of them. They wrestled their hearts out all weekend long."

"I'm very proud of how our kids represented our town, our school, and the community with such class. Our kids did the right things and said the right things, showing great representation for Towns County."

Towns County Indians ready to host home baseball games in 2019

By Chad Stack
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Staff Writer

The 2019 Towns County Baseball season is underway, and there's a lot to be excited about.

Last season, the Indians were forced to play all their games on the road, because their home field suffered from some major drainage issues.

The drainage problems were solved in the offseason, and now that the Indians' home field is playable again, the Boys in Blue are looking forward to bouncing back after their rough 2018 year.

Fifth-year Head Coach Shannon Floyd and the Indians Baseball team seem very excited to play home games.

"Last season was a difficult season with playing all of our games away, the constant travel wore our team down mentally and physically," said Floyd.

Not only do they have a home field to play on, but it's also a beautiful field they can be proud of, and the Indians are eager to host a home game.

The Indians made a playoff berth just two years ago in 2017 but got off to a rough start last year, finishing with a 3-24 overall record.

"We expect to improve our record and contend for a state playoff berth as a Top 24 single A Public School," said Floyd.

The Indians graduated some very talented players last year, including Zach Davenport, Dalton Key, Andy Chambers and Trey Chastain, but Floyd said there was still plenty of talent left on the team.

"We have a good group of seniors returning: Seth Fullerton, Andrew Griffin, Devyn Burrell, Lane Denton, Brett Denton, Trent Bradshaw, Kayden McClure and Chris Long," said Floyd. "We will lean on all of our seniors for leadership."

"Each one of these guys can contribute on the field and off. These are fine young men who I am very proud to be around."

It's important for the Indians to have strong leadership coming from the players with so many incoming freshmen that will see the field this year.



The Towns County Indians are looking to bounce back in 2019 and return to the Class A Public State Tournament for the first time since 2016. Photo/Chad Stack

Saturday, Feb. 9, was a chance to see the talented incoming freshmen Colin Crowder, Cabe Poston, Brack Burrell, Brian Cook and Colin Zuber, as the Indians hosted a 100-inning fundraiser scrimmage game at Towns County that day.

And it was a great opportunity for parents and fans to get a look at all of the Indians before they really get ramped up for the season.

Floyd and his staff are trying to help raise money for the team to play a tournament in Savannah that takes place from Feb. 21 through Feb. 23.

Anyone looking to donate money to help the Indians travel to the tournament in Savannah can make checks payable to the "Towns County Diamond Club," and all checks can be dropped off at the front office of Towns County High.

The Indians play in the toughest single A region in the state.

"All of the opponents are tough, mostly private schools such as George Walton Academy and Prince Avenue, who lost in the state finals last year," said Floyd. "Saturday was a great opportunity to evaluate our players before we start the regular season next week."

Towns County has some good depth on the mound this year, lots of senior and junior arms, and a promising group of younger guys as well.

"If we can stay healthy, we have a talented group of kids, and we are looking to make another playoff run this year," said Floyd.

The Indians lost their season opener in Lincoln County 6-1 on Thursday, Feb. 14, and the home opener that was scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 16, was rescheduled due to the bad weather.

Register now for Towns County Baseball and Softball

Towns County Recreation Department Baseball/Softball registration: January 1st - February 28th. Late Registration: March 1st - March 7th - \$15 Late Fee. The Towns County Recreation Department would like to invite you to participate in our annual Baseball/Softball season with Dizzy Dean. There will be evaluations held the second week of March. If you are interested in coaching, please fill out a coaching application at the Towns County Recreation Department & complete a mandatory background check only after you have been selected as a coach.

Boys Divisions: T-Ball: Ages 5-6 born May 1, 2012 to April 30, 2014 - \$55. 8u: Ages 7-8 born May 1, 2010 to April

30, 2012 - \$60. 10u: Ages 9-10 born May 1, 2008 to April 30, 2010 - \$60. 12u: Ages 11-12 born May 1, 2006 to April 30, 2008 - \$60. 14u: Ages 13-14 born May 1, 2004 to April 30, 2006 - \$60.

Girls Divisions: T-Ball: Ages 5-6 born January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2013 - \$55. 8u: Ages 7-8 born January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2011 - \$60. 10u: Ages 9-10 born January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2009 - \$60. 12u: Ages 11-12 born January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2007 - \$60. 14u: Ages 13-14 born January 1, 2004 to December 31, 2005 - \$60.

Please register online at www.TownsCountyRec.com or register in person at the Towns County Recreation De-



partment. Towns County Recreation Department will be providing jerseys, pants and adjustable hats that players will be able to keep at the end of the season.

If you have any questions please contact Matthew Youngblood or Tyler Garrett at (706) 896-2600 or by email at TCRecreation2600@gmail.com. T(Feb6,F)SH