

# Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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## Baseball: No. 5 Towns County opens 2024 with 2-1 record

By Daysha Pandolph  
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The Towns County Indians baseball team opened their season with a setback when they lost a blowout game to Lumpkin County. Over the next few days, however, they redeemed themselves with victories over Union County and Hayesville, North Carolina.

On Monday, Feb. 26, the team faced Lumpkin County on the opponent's diamond. With only one hit by Ethan McNabb the entire afternoon, Towns County left LCHS with a 13-0 loss.

The next day, the Indians traveled to Blairsville for a contest against Union County, which they won 5-1.

Contributing to the win were Tanner Cunningham, Zane Floyd, Connor Chastain, Kade McConnell and Ethan McNabb with one hit each. McConnell McNabb also contributed an RBI each, alongside Cale Kirby's three.

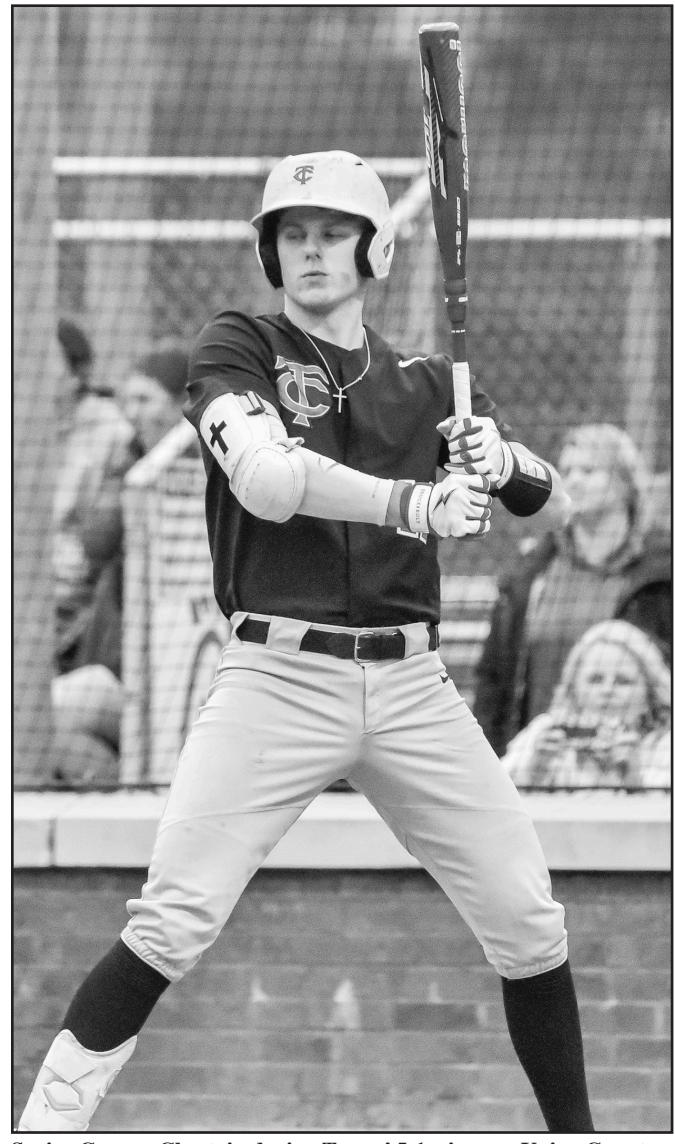
Matthew Chastain tossed a complete game in the win, allowing three hits, one unearned run and striking out nine.

Following the victory, the boys hosted Hayesville, NC on Thursday, Feb. 29.

With hits by Floyd, Stone Chauncey, Matthew Chastain and McNabb, the Indians secured a 6-1 win.



The Indians score on a close play at the plate during their Thursday Feb. 29 victory over Hayesville, NC. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



Senior Connor Chastain during Towns' 5-1 win over Union County on Feb. 27. Photo/Todd Forrest

## Soccer: Gardella's haul leads No. 2 Lady Indians past Hart County

Indians rebound from loss with 2-0 victory over West Oak, SC

By Daysha Pandolph  
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The No. 2 Lady Indians continue to roll and the Towns County men picked up their first win of 2024 last week.

**No. 2 Lady Indians 5, Hart County 3** - The Towns County Lady Indians soccer team fought hard for a 5-3 win against Class AAA Hart County last week.

Tuesday evening, Feb. 27, the girls travelled to their opponent's field for a non-region game against a team who had scored at least four goals in each of their past four consecutive wins.

Abby Gardella managed to meet that number and pace the Indians in scoring with four goals and an assist of her own. From a corner kick, Halie Arrowood also managed to send the ball into the goal. She contributed an additional three assists alongside one by Emma Lallement.

"Halie, Emma and Dani Schmeltz have done a good job controlling the middle of the field for us," shared coach Clay Livingston, who showed up Tuesday night expecting a challenge. "We don't like to give up three or more goals, but all in all, we played pretty well in the back and between the posts against a very good offensive team."

The next Friday, March 1, the Lady Indians were scheduled to play Crescent, South Carolina, but the game was cancelled. The teams plan to reschedule, although a make-up date has not been announced yet.

The next scheduled match will be on March 6 at Greene County.

**Indians 2, West Oak, SC 0** - After a disappointing 8-0 loss to Hart County a few days prior, the Towns County Indians soccer team showcased their resilience when they rallied



The Towns County Lady Indians following last month's victory over Class AA Banks County. Photo/TCHS

together to secure a 2-0 victory over West Oak, South Carolina High School last week.

The team is fresh on the field this season, with seniors Christopher Bechtol and Brock Murray at the helm. Juniors Max Baron, Connor Williams, John Durham, Blake Gleaton, Justin Cantrell and Seth Hurley

also provide their leadership this season.

Dustin Barrett, Jason Chavero, Cruz Kitchens, Logan Kerlin, Brennan Puckett and Hensel Martinez represent the sophomore class, while Caden Coggins, Jordan Lopez, Reed Adams, Emory Harden, Leland Wilson, Collin Hurley and Gabe

Calhoun play as freshmen.

Following the blowout loss on Tuesday, Feb. 27, the Indians returned to the field ready to avenge their defeat on Thursday, Feb. 29.

Thanks to Connor Williams and Jordan Lopez, who each found the back of the net, Towns County was able to

push ahead in scoring. From the goalpost, Dustin Barrett made an impressive 16 saves to deny West Oaks High School any chance of a comeback.

"The boys played well offensively and the defense stepped up big in the West Oak game," commented coach Art Cartee.

While he and his team had big plans to lock down another victory against Crescent High School on Friday, March 1, the game was unfortunately canceled.

The Indians will face their next opponent in Greene County on Wednesday, March 6.