

# Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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## Soccer: Towns County splits Region 8-A matchup at Lincoln County

Sports Special  
Towns County Herald

**Lincolnton** - On Friday, Feb. 26, the Towns County High School Boys and Girls soccer teams traveled to play conference foe Lincoln County.

The first half of the girls' game was a great battle. Miranda Spain scored the first goal from the field, as Kenzie Livingston followed up by landing a solid penalty kick for the second goal. The half ended with the scored being knotted up 2-2.

In the second half, Kenzie Livingston took another penalty kick to put Towns County ahead 3-2. Lincoln answered back, scoring another 3 goals to win with a final score of 5-3. This was the Lady Indians' second game in as many weeks, having defeated Greene County 10-0 the week before.

The Towns County boys were victorious against Lincoln County with a final score of 9-0 in their season opener. They scored a barrage of goals in the first 22 minutes to pull ahead 7-0.

By mercy rule, the half was called approximately 18 minutes short. The second half was also reduced from 40 minutes to just 20. Coach Rollie



The Towns County bench looks on during a recent Lady Indians' home soccer match. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Thomas rested many starters to give others more playing time, however, they still managed to tack on 2 more goals.

The scoring came from a variety of players: Jenson

Brown 1, Jay Grimsley 1, Garrett Oakes 1, Brayden Brown 2, and Peyton Barrett 4.

Jenson Brown was incredibly efficient in the mid-field, winning nearly every ball

in the air and distributing it to the front line to the Indians' swarming offense.

The defense, anchored by seniors Nick Houser, Reece Hampton, Mitchell Grimsley

and Jordan Lovelace, rarely allowed the ball to cross into Towns County's third, allowing senior goalkeeper Liam King a very quiet night.

Other bright spots in-

cluded spirited play from freshmen Jay Grimsley and Brayden Brown, both of whom are extremely welcome additions to the Towns County squad.

## TCHS remaining March baseball schedule

<b>Fri, 3/12</b> 4:00pm		<b>Washington-Wilkes</b> (Washington) Home • Region
<b>Fri, 3/12</b> 6:00pm		<b>Washington-Wilkes</b> (Washington) Home • Region
<b>Mon, 3/15</b> 5:00pm		<b>Copper Basin</b> (Copperhill, TN) Away • Non-Region
<b>Wed, 3/17</b> 5:00pm		<b>Social Circle</b> Away • Region
<b>Fri, 3/19</b> 5:00pm		<b>Social Circle</b> Home • Region
<b>Fri, 3/19</b> 7:00pm		<b>Social Circle</b> Home • Region
<b>Tue, 3/23</b> 5:30pm		<b>Commerce</b> Home • Region
<b>Fri, 3/26</b> 5:00pm		<b>Commerce</b> Away • Region
<b>Fri, 3/26</b> 7:00pm		<b>Commerce</b> Away • Region

The Towns County Indians are off to a 4-3 start in 2021 with three wins over Greene County and over Glascock County. In the win over Glascock, the Indians scored three in the first and two in the sixth to extend a 5-1 advantage to a 7-1 final. Drew Sofield pitched a complete game 3-hitter, striking out a whopping 18 batters in the win. Tanner Cunningham drew four walks with one RBI; Seth Gillis had two hits and Brian Cook knocked in two runs. Kade McConnell added one RBI for the Indians. Connor Chastain and Brack Burrell walked three times each.

## Moss takes verifiable overall TCHS career scoring lead

By Jerry Kendall  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

In a most eventful season for himself and his team, Towns County Indians senior Kolby Moss became the all time verifiable career scoring leader in Towns County High School basketball history last Saturday in the Indians' State Final Four victory at Chattahoochee County.

When scoring the 19th of 21 points he scored in the game, Moss passed the 1,870 total scored by Nikki Winn Kendall in four years through the 2009 season as she retains the career lead for the Lady Indians but relinquishes the overall record to Moss.

Using the word verifiable leaves the possibility that a Lady Indian could have scored more points in years prior to the 1971 season when different rules were in effect with just three stationary forwards and three stationary guards limited to half court play. This resulted in just three players sharing most of the points and the top free throw shooter for a team taking the free throws when a guard was fouled and thus providing more opportunities for scoring points.

The name of Bonnie Huggins Nicholson, a 1952 TCHS graduate, comes to mind as she scored 572 points for a 28.6 points per game average

in the 20 games available for that season. Records for her prior years are not known so it is possible that she could have eclipsed the number of points scored by Moss with additional spectacular seasons if a regular player for the Lady Indians for four or possibly just three years.

The Georgia High School Association shifted from half court play to rover rules for the 1971 season in allowing two players on each team to play full court as rovers with no more than four players on each end of the court at the same time.

The guards could at this point shoot free throws when fouled in the back court with a rover staying in the back court during these shots and four players sharing most of the points scored.

Beginning with the 1976 season, full court play was allowed for girls in Georgia so it can safely be stated that Kolby Moss holds the career scoring record for what might be described as the modern era from fifty years ago forward with sufficient stats available to be certain that no one has exceeded his remarkable total.

And some will recall mentions of 1956 TCHS graduate Bob Bryson likely being ahead of Moss points total at the time he passed Zach Davenport on the Indians career scoring list earlier this season but it can be certain now that Moss'

career points total exceed Bryson's since the verifiable total for Bryson is now 692 points short of Moss' total. It is not feasible to think that Bryson's total points in his sophomore season when that book is missing and probably just two or three games missing during his junior year would reach 692.

Moss scored totals of 209, 509, and 625 points during his first three years with the Indians and he has contributed 530 this year for a total of 1,873 with one more game, the Class A Public state championship game on Saturday in Macon, remaining to be played.

In conclusion, it seems safe to state that no Towns County Indian other than Bob Bryson has approached the career scoring total of Kolby Moss without reaching it and it is certain that no one in the modern era of Lady Indians basketball featuring rover and full court rules has surpassed Moss' total.

Amy Allen Silvey of the TCHS Class of 1986 is second on the Lady Indians verifiable scoring list with 1,753 points and the aforementioned Zach Davenport (Class of 2018) is second for the Indians with 1,542 points.

Another rousing round of congratulations is extended to Kolby Moss for an incredible career as a scoring and team leader for some truly outstanding Indians teams.

## NASCAR 2021

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

### Larson Is Back In Victory Lane

LAS VEGAS, NV - Kyle Larson is back in a big way.

After being banned for most of the 2020 season by NASCAR because of a racial slang, Larson was reinstated in time for the 2021 racing season. Hendrick Motorsports signed him to drive the No. 5 Chevrolet, and in his fourth start for the team came home a winner this past Sunday at Vegas.

In addition to winning Stage 2, he led 103 laps (the most of any driver) of the 267-lap race, and finished 3.10-seconds ahead of runner-up driver, Brad Keselowski.

"The team gave me such an awesome race car today," he said. "It was a fun car to drive. This is definitely a great win for me and my team."

This is the second consecutive week a Hendrick car has won.

Keselowski led 27 laps and was able to race with Larson during the middle stages of the race, but near the end didn't have enough speed to challenge him.

"I just had to congratulate him (Larson)," said Keselowski. "He had a lot of speed that we couldn't match. Our car handled good, but that's all we could do."

Kyle Busch finished third. "We couldn't have done any better," said Busch. "Maybe our car could have handled better, and maybe we should have done things different. There are things we are working on and will be better in the future."

Denny Hamlin was fourth, followed by Ryan Blaney, Martin Truex Jr., Christopher Bell, William Byron, Joey Logano, and Erik Jones.

Chase Elliott led 22 laps and was among the leaders until he was involved in a mishap during lap 170. While running in the middle of a pack of cars down the backstretch, Elliott got caught up in a bumping and shoving match. He was spun from behind, but managed to keep from wrecking. He had to pit for repairs and was never able to work his way back to the front. He finished 13th.

Polesitter, Kevin Harvick lost the lead on the first lap and dropped back after a fender rub and a flat tire near during Stage 1. He battled handling issues and finished 20th, one lap down.

Top-10 leaders after 4 of 36: 1. Hamlin-187, 2. Keselowski-149, 3. Larson-147, 4. Elliott-139, 5. Bell-138, 6. Logano-138, 7. Harvick-136, 8. Truex-131, 9. McDowell-126, 10. Kurt Busch-122.

### AJ ALLMENDINGER GETS FIRST VICTORY OF YEAR

AJ Allmendinger took the lead on the last Xfinity Series race restart with 12 laps remaining to earn his fourth NASCAR Xfinity Series win in the last 16 races, and the first of this season.

However, AJ had to fight hard had to hold off Daniel Hemric, who led a race-best 74 of the 200 laps.

"It's emotional because you don't know when you're going to do this again," Allmendinger continued. "You never know. This could be the last one (win), you never know, I hope it's not. I think we can do a lot more."

Hemric finished second, followed by Brandon Jones, Austin Cindric, Noah Gragson, Michael Annett, Josh Berry, Justin Haley, Harrison Burton, and Jeb Burton.



Larson Is Back In Victory Lane

33: 1. Cindric-191, 2. Hemric-170, 3. B. Jones-140, 4. J. Burton-133, 5. Haley-128, 6. Allmendinger-126, 7. Snider-123, 8. H. Burton-120, 9. Clements-107, 10. Brown-103.

### NEMECHEK HOLDS OFF "ROWDY" KYLE IN VEGAS TRUCK RACE

John Nemechek earned his first NASCAR Camping World Truck Series win in four years, holding off his boss Kyle Busch by 0.695-seconds for the victory Friday night at Las Vegas.

The remaining top-10 finishers: 3. Austin Hill, 4. Stewart Friesen, 5. Matt Crafton, 6. Zane Smith, 7. Grant Enfinger, 8. Parker Kligerman, 9. Christian Eckes, 10. Ben Rhodes.

Top-10 leaders after 3 of 22: 1. Nemechek-150, 2. Rhodes-136, 3. Creed-115, 4. Crafton-110, 5. Smith-90, 6. Friesen-80, 7. Enfinger-71, 8. Gilliland-69, 9. Sauter-69, 10. Hocevar-68.

Meanwhile, here are some quotes from Cole Custer, driver of the No. 41 Stewart-Haas Ford.

How do you feel about your first four races this year?

"Right now, I think we're honestly in a pretty good spot. I was happy with our runs at Daytona. We ran a lot of the race in the top-10. I think we just need to keep building off that. We had a good run going late in the race at Homestead. We were in the top-five for a long time and were two laps away from a top-10 finish when a tire started coming apart. That was disappointing, but if you can run in the top-10 and get stage points and not make the big mistakes, you're going to find yourself in some pretty good spots and you're going to find yourself right in the middle of the points battle to make the playoffs. I think it's just a matter of taking it week by week and making sure we keep progressing, but I think we're in a pretty good spot right now."

We saw a couple of first-time Cup Series winners in the first two races, and then William Byron won his second career race at Homestead. How does that affect the playoff picture, in your mind?

"It's definitely not ideal, but at the same time it's probably too early to know how that is all going to work out. At this point, you just try and keep being consistent, keep trying to work up to it, and run in the top-10 and get stage points and try to get as many points as you can. It's something where, halfway through the year

and you're in that spot, it's where you don't want to be, you're right on the bubble, you might have to be more aggressive. But at this point it's too early to tell. I feel like you just have to keep trying to be consistent."

Is there a point in the regular season when you really have to start pacing yourself?

"I think, starting off the season, you're just trying to make sure you don't put yourself in a hole. That's the biggest thing, at least from my standpoint. From there, you just try and build it and you try and get more and more confident, more comfortable with what's going on, just because we don't have the practice to work through a lot of things as a driver. So, limiting the big mistakes and kind of working into it is probably a smart idea. And then, once you get into the summer months, you're trying to perfect it more and more and get more and more aggressive. It's just a matter of working up to it. That's the biggest thing."

**Racing Joke:** It was wedding day for Alex, but all eyes were on the bride.

Her father escorted her down the aisle.

They reached the altar and the waiting groom.

Then, the beautiful bride kissed her father and placed something in his hand.

That surprised the father so much that he dropped the object.

Ripples of laughter went through the sanctuary as the guests watched as he bent down and picked up his credit card.

Alex felt a big lump come up in his throat.

**Weekend Racing:** The Cup and Xfinity teams head west to the 1.10-mile Phoenix, AZ track. The Trucks do not race again until March 20.

Sat., Mar. 13; Xfinity Series race 5 of 33; Starting time: 5:30 PM ET; TV: FoxSports1.

Sun., Mar. 14; Cup Series race 5 of 36; Starting time: 3:30 PM ET; TV: Fox.

**Racing Trivia Question:?** Which is the longest oval track on the NASCAR circuit?

**Last Week's Question:** What year did the Las Vegas Motor Speedway open. Answer: The first race was held in 1997. Jeff Burton was the winner.

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