

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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No. 9 Indians bash Andrews, take two of three from GSIC

By Daysha Pandolph
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Towns County Indians baseball fans left Larry Kimsley Field smiling multiple times last week after the team won three of their four scheduled games. In the final game of the week, however, they were defeated by Georgia School for Innovation and Classics.

"We won three out of four, so overall I'm pleased with our performance," commented coach Shannon Floyd, who shared that even with the one loss, the team has done extremely well given their lack of practice time.

The Indians started out strong by shutting out Andrews, North Carolina, on Monday, March 4.

Towns first made it on the board during the second inning with a single by Matthew Chastain, who ended up contributing two hits throughout the game.

By the end of the game, the Indians totaled 12 hits, with Zane Floyd leading by batting in three runs. Connor Chastain was also crucial to the win, getting four hits in four at bats, doubling in the third inning and singling in the first and fourth innings.

Kade McConnell started on the mound for the Indians, allowing just one hit and no runs over 2 1/3 innings. He struck out seven and walked one. Morgan Walker relieved him to work one scoreless inning, striking out two and walking one.

During the third inning, the Indians scored five runs on four hits, including a steal of



Senior Stone Chauncey rounds third following his first-inning homer vs. GSIC. Senior Tanner Cunningham went deep two batters later. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

home, several walks and more singles. During the fourth inning, they scored eight more runs by Oliver Sarafin, Cale Kirby, Walker, Floyd, Eli McNabb, Connor Chastain and Stone Chauncey.

By the end of the game, the team had stolen a total of 16 bases and made no errors to secure a 15-0 victory over Andrews.

The following afternoon, the same teams were scheduled to play at the Andrews field, but were rained out.

For the next three games, Towns County faced Georgia School for Innovation and Classics (GSIC), who they defeated twice.

On Friday, March 8, the Indians won 16-0, largely due to 10 runs in the first inning. Chauncey, McConnell, Tanner Cunningham, Kirby, Grayson Youngblood and McNabb all contributed either by getting hit by a pitch, drawing walks or hitting singles.

Two GSIC errors also provided Towns County with an opportunity to score three

additional runs.

In the second inning, Towns County's lead grew with several walks, hits, runs scored and a steal of home by Connor Chastain.

McNabb led the Indians at the plate with two hits, and multiple Towns County players including himself, Kirby, Cunningham, McConnell, Chauncey, Matthew Chastain, Youngblood and Sarafin worked hard to total 20 stolen bases.

The next day, Saturday, March 9, the Indians faced

GSIC in two more games. In the first, they earned a 10-0 victory, but lost the second 13-3.

They took an early lead in the first game thanks to singles by Connor Chastain as well as a homers by Cunningham and Chauncey.

In the second inning, that lead was extended when Connor Chastain doubled and Chauncey singled. Chastain also stole home.

Two runs were scored from RBI ground outs by McNabb and Connor Chastain

during the third inning, and the Indians totaled at 12 hits throughout the game. Contributing to that number were Chastain, Floyd and Sarafin.

In the final game of the week, GSIC beat Towns County 13-3.

The Indians made it on the board as the first inning wound down after McConnell singled, Cunningham doubled and Youngblood stole home, but were unable to catch up to GSIC.

"Baseball is a tough game just to come out and start playing without ample practice time, and unfortunately, at a small public school, some of our players are wrestling or playing basketball (as well), so we don't get those kids out there when we start," Coach Floyd said. "The last basketball game was two weeks ago, so a lot of those guys walked off the basketball floor that Saturday night and had a (baseball) game on Monday.

Coach Floyd shared that his team has been "treating the first two weeks (of games) like practice" in order to get in reps for the players that came fresh off of the basketball court.

"We're getting contributions from multiple people, and that's what it takes in this game or any sport. I'm really pleased with them so far."

One outstanding contributor is Zane Floyd, whose on base percentage was almost 900. His coach and father, Shannon Floyd, is proud to see him "setting the table for the kids that follow him."

Coach Floyd also sings praise to Matthew Chastain, who has been doing an amazing job from the pitcher's mound.

No. 2 Lady Indians fall to No. 1 Aquinas; blank Greene 3-0

Indians demolish Greene County 10-0; shutout vs. Aquinas

By Daysha Pandolph
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The Towns County Lady Indians soccer team started last week strong with a 3-0 victory over Greene County, and despite noticeable improvements on the field at their next game vs. Aquinas, suffered a 1-0 loss two days later.

On Wednesday, March 6, the team traveled to Greene County, where they picked up three goals during the second half.

On Friday, March 8, Aquinas met the Lady Indians at Towns County High School. The girls fought hard to earn another win, but were unable to follow through.

"We're just a little bit inconsistent," commented coach Clay Livingston, who actually felt that his team played better in their losing match.

"(We're) up and down in preparation and readiness to play. We're still not where we need to be as far as being consistent in control, possession and things like that. We've got a long way to go.

"It's a different group this year, and it takes some time to find where everybody fits and then get them playing together on the same page. We graduated four stars last year and have a couple that didn't (return) to play this year, so there are a lot of new faces out there.

"We can't fix all these issues in one day or one week, we've just got to continue to embrace the process of trying to get a little better every day. Hopefully it (will be) enough



The Lady Indians and Aquinas battle in a 2023 State Championship rematch. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

at the end of the year to put us back in the spot to play for state championships."

On the brightside, the Lady Indians have several great players to help lead them towards this goal, such as their sweeper, Elizabeth Edwards, who did a great job directing her teammates on defense.

Laura Mauldin and freshman Reagan Rogers have also been standout players since the season began - Mauldin from the goalpost and Rogers on the back end.

The Towns County Indians soccer team defeated Greene County in a shutout game last Tuesday, but were unable to keep the ball rolling when they faced Aquinas in pouring rain.

On Tuesday, March 5, Towns County banded together to pull off an impressive 10-0 victory over Greene County.

Caden Coggins sat at the helm with three goals scored, one assist and seven steals.

Reed Adams and Connor Williams each contributed an additional two goals, with Williams adding one assist and four steals.

Jordan Lopez, Blake Gleaton and Justin Cantrell all made goals throughout the game as well, and Dustin Barrett sealed the deal with four saves.

"The team played well together. They passed the ball and moved it around well," commented coach Art Cartee.

"Defensively, we did a

great job of getting the ball outside and away from the center of the field."

On Friday, March 8, the Indians faced Aquinas on a soggy field and lost 7-0.

Despite a strong effort from Dustin Barrett, who made 14 saves throughout the game, the Indians weren't quite prepared to deal with the weather.

"We gave up five of the seven goals," shared Cartee. "We had opportunities to score but couldn't finish the ball on multiple occasions.

"It poured rain the entire game, which made it difficult for a young team to be successful. The boys played their hearts out, but just couldn't pull it together."

Girls Basketball: Coach Shea Taylor steps down

By Daysha Pandolph
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In the constantly evolving world of sports, personnel turnover is inevitable, and although coaches and players are accustomed to bidding their colleagues farewell, it isn't always easy to say goodbye to someone as impactful as Shea Taylor.

After spending three prosperous years at the helm of the Towns County Lady Indians basketball team, he has announced his intent to step down from his coaching position to prioritize his family.

"It was a good three-year run, but I have decided that I need to spend more time (at home)," commented Taylor, whose commitment to the rigorous basketball schedule has cost him many afternoons and weekends.

He remains grateful, however, for the opportunity to lead the Lady Indians as well as for the support he has received from the school and community.

Despite the brevity of his term as head coach, Taylor has already left a legacy on the

Towns County basketball court by guiding his team to three consecutive playoff appearances, as well as making it to the elite eight in 2023.

Just this past season, his coaching saddled the Lady Indians as the third-place champions of the Battle of the States tournament. Overall, the team's record under his three years of instruction was 46-38.

In recognition of his leadership, Taylor was also selected as the Region 8-A Coach of the Year last season, which only served to reinforce what his team already knew and expected from him.

Moving away from the basketball court, he acknowledges that fostering a competitive and successful environment was a team effort.

"I would like to thank the administration for always being supportive, my assistant coaches, Sheena Kendall and Chase Phillips, for all of their help over the past three years and all of the girls I (have) coached for making this team very successful and giving me some great memories that I will always cherish."



Shea Taylor (far left) during a game earlier this season.