

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Indians sweep GSIC ahead of region series vs. No. 8 Washington-Wilkes

No. 7 Towns County takes home-opener 13-3 over Hiwassee Dam, NC

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Seventh-ranked Towns County improved to 6-3 on the year and 3-0 in region play by outscoring the opposition 42-11 over four wins in four games last week.

The Indians started the week with a 13-3 win over Hiwassee Dam, North Carolina in the Tuesday, March 7 home opener. The following day, Towns County thumped Georgia School of Innovations and Classics (GSIC) 14-6 during Wednesday's region opener in Hephzibah. The Wednesday meeting was bumped forward from Friday, March 10, due to the threat of rain.

The Indians returned to central Georgia on Saturday to wrap up the three-game sweep of GSIC, notching a pair of victories, 4-0 and 11-2.

Indians 4, GSIC 0 - Junior Zane Floyd fired an 81-pitch, three-hit shutout in game one of Saturday's Region 8 twin bill, striking out seven while issuing only one walk. Junior Tanner Cunningham turned in a 2-for-4 day at the plate with a double and 2 RBIs. Caleb Berrong and Kade McConnell also delivered a pair of 2-for-4 outings; Lane Rouse added an RBI and Stone Chauncey scored twice.

After Floyd pitched around his lone walk during the first inning, singles by Chauncey and McConnell set the table for Cunningham's RBI double in the second.

An error off the bat of Chauncey kicked off the two-run fourth, followed by a McConnell base knock. With runners at the corners, Cunningham lined a run-scoring single up the middle. Later, Rouse scored courtesy runner Eli McNabb by lacing a base hit to right field.

Connor Chastain led off the fifth with a single before Morgan Walker replaced him on the bases. Following a Berrong hit, Walker came around via an error off the bat of Chauncey.

Floyd, who was gifted a four-run lead, navigated a two-out base hit in the sixth inning and a leadoff single in the seventh to close things out.

Floyd and Chastain each went 1 for 4; Chauncey scored twice during a 1-for-4 game and Rouse finished 1 for 3.

Berrong and Chauncey stole a base. Seth Gillis reached on a hit-by-pitch and swiped a bag.

Indians 11, GSIC 2 (Game 3) - The Indians swept the series, breaking things open courtesy of a six-run seventh in the second game of Saturday's doubleheader.

Braydon Barrett took a two-hit shutout into the seventh before running out of gas with one away. Cale Kirby entered an 11-0 game with the bases loaded, recording the final two outs after giving up two hits and fanning one batter.

Barrett, who struck out five while allowing four hits and a walk over 6 1/3, was charged with both GSIC runs.

Gillis went 2 for 4 with a double, 2 RBIs and two runs. Chauncey scored twice and knocked in one during a 3-for-4 game. Berrong doubled, walked, scored twice and drove in a pair while finishing 2 for 3.

Floyd went 2 for 4 with a double, an RBI and two steals; Kirby turned in a 2-for-4 day, scoring twice and driving in one run. Cunningham finished 1 for 3 with a run and an RBI. Rouse scored once during a 1-for-3 game.



Matthew Chastain deals during his 13-strikeout performance in the Indians' home-opener vs. Hiwassee Dam, NC. Following a shaky first inning, the junior right-hander settled in and retired 14 of the next 15 Eagles. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Berrong, Chauncey, Gillis, Kirby and Rouse added one steal each.

Gillis started the scoring by getting hit by a pitch and swiping second. With two down in the first, Berrong put Towns County ahead to stay by bouncing a base hit into left field that plated Gillis.

The Indians extended the lead to 4-0 in the fourth when Chauncey singled and later stole home. Cunningham reached and came around on an error, and a two-out double by Floyd plated Rouse.

Chauncey made it 5-0 with one away in the fifth, scoring Berrong with a base hit to left field.

The six-run seventh got underway with a Gillis double and an error off the bat of Chastain. Berrong's infield single brought home Gillis before Chauncey loaded the bags with a line drive to right.

After a force out at home, Cunningham made it 7-0 on a hit-by-pitch and Kirby roped a run-scoring single to right field. Walker worked a seven-pitch, two-out base on balls for a 9-0 score, and Gillis' two-run single capped off the scoring at 11-0.

Two singles and a hit batter loaded the bases in the GSIC seventh, bringing Kirby to the mound, who quickly induced a pop-up for the first out. A one-out single made it 11-1, and a two-out hit brought the final tally to 11-2.

Indians 14, GSIC 6 - Berrong knocked in five runs during Wednesday's series opener, and McConnell picked up the win on the bump -- tossing 6 1/3 before Chauncey nailed down the victory.

The final score is a bit deceiving as the Indians broke a 3-3 tie with four in the fourth, then pulled away for good in a seven-run seventh.

Floyd, Chastain and Kirby drove in three runs apiece and Gillis scored three times as Towns County finished with 14 hits and overcame four fielding errors.

Gillis singled and stole a base in the first, eventually coming around on Berrong's first ribby of the game -- a two-out single to center. Towns added two more in the second courtesy of run-scoring singles from Kirby and Floyd.

A leadoff single in the bottom half allowed GSIC to get on the board via an RBI groundout. A costly error and a walk during the GSIC third tied the game 3-3 when both runners scored on a

base hit to left.

An error and two walks sparked the Indians' fourth, setting the stage for Chastain's two-run single. Berrong added another run on a base hit to centerfield -- spotting Towns a 6-3 advantage.

AGSIC sacrifice fly made it 6-4 in the bottom half of the fifth, but Chastain doubled and scored on a Berrong flyout in the sixth.

Cunningham opened the seventh with a single, and Kirby followed by getting plunked on a 2-1 count. Rouse's bunt moved the runners up 90 feet, and Floyd sent a two-run single up the middle for a 9-4 lead. Gillis was hit by a pitch, then moved into scoring position on a double-steal that advanced Floyd to third. After Chastain bumped the lead to 10-4 on an error, Berrong scored two via a bases-loaded double. Later, Kirby's two-out, two-run single built a 14-4 margin.

Three Indians' errors in the seventh helped the home

team tack on two runs for a 14-6 final score.

Berrong's career night ended 3 for 4 at the dish. Kirby also turned in a 3-for-4 game, Floyd went 2 for 4 and Chastain finished 2 of 5. Chauncey went 2 for 4, and Cunningham walked twice during his 1-for-2 performance.

Kyle Davis, Rouse and Walker added one run apiece. Chastain, Floyd, Gillis and Rouse stole one bag each. McConnell worked a leadoff walk in the second.

Lasting 6 1/3 on the hill, McConnell fanned five and walked one, allowing six hits and four runs (three earned). Chauncey surrendered one hit and two unearned runs to close out the seventh.

Indians 13, Hiwassee Dam 3 (six innings) - Towns County's home opener went as well as it could have on Tuesday, March 7, sending home Hiwassee Dam, NC courtesy of another late-inning outburst.

Soccer: Towns dominates Greene, drops two at Aquinas

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The 8th-ranked Lady Indians split a pair of games last week, blasting Greene County 9-0 at home before dropping a 3-1 decision at No. 1 Aquinas on Friday.

Meanwhile, the Towns County men knocked off Greene County 5-2 on Tuesday, March 7, then suffered a 2-0 loss at No. 8 Aquinas later in the week.

Towns County hits the road on Friday, March 17 to face another pair of ranked squads at Lake Oconee Academy.

The LOA guys will enter as the No. 1 team, while the girls' game will feature a top-10 clash between the fifth-ranked Titans and the No. 8 Lady Indians.

Along with No. 3 Lincoln County, Region 8 features three ranked girls' teams.

No. 8 Lady Indians 9, Greene County 0 - Abby Gardella, Emma Lallement, Sarah Shook and Jayden Taylor scored two goals apiece on the home pitch as Towns County never looked back from a 6-0 halftime lead.

Halie Arrowood finished with one goal and two assists. Gardella added two assists, while Jaedyn Hancock, Lallement and Taylor had one helper apiece.

"We played really well," said head coach Clay Livingston. "We had great ball movement



The 8th-ranked Lady Indians blitzed Greene County for six first-half goals. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

and many unselfish plays setting each other up for scoring opportunities."

Indians 5, Greene County 2 - Towns County raced ahead 3-0 at the break before cruising to a 5-2 victory on Tuesday, March 7.

Brock Murray led the way with two goals. Jay Grimsley provided a goal and one assist; Dren Green and Curtis Markham chipped in one score each.

"We played our strongest game of the season," head coach Rollie Thomas said. "We moved the ball around well and finished okay, considering the amount of

goal-scoring opportunities and shots that we had."

No. 8 Lady Indians 1, No. 1 Aquinas 3 - Arrowood accounted for Towns County's lone score via a feed from Shook at top-ranked Aquinas on Friday, March 10.

"We were just a little bit off," Livingston said. "The girls played hard and we'll get better from it. There is still a lot of soccer to be played, and our main goals are still within reach."

Indians 0, No. 8 Aquinas 2 - The Indians entered the half in a scoreless tie before the home team pulled away with a pair of

late goals.

"We played very flat and we lacked heart," Thomas said after the match. "We were missing a couple of gears. We were late to first and second-time balls, which hurt us in possession. "I'm disappointed because that was one we could have won. We were the better team, we had chances and couldn't finish. We just didn't show up."

Friday's showdown at Lake Oconee Academy gets underway at 5:30 p.m. for the Lady Indians.

The Towns County men kick off at 7:30 p.m.

After three scoreless innings, Hiwassee Dam pushed across a run off Kirby in the sixth. But Towns County uncorked a seven-spot in the sixth, sending the Eagles back to North Carolina with a mercy-rule-shortened defeat.

All 11 Indians that came to the plate in the sixth inning reached base, beginning with a hit batter to Rouse and a single by Floyd. Gillis singled home Rouse, then Connor Chastain reached on an infield hit and scored courtesy of Berrong's two-bagger.

Chauncey walked, McConnell doubled, Cunningham drew a free pass and Kirby singled for an 11-3 score. Rouse worked a bases-loaded walk, and Floyd ended the game with a mishandled grounder to second.

Kirby fanned two during his 22-pitch sixth frame, yielding two hits and one earned run.

Berrong scored twice during a 1-for-4 day; McConnell knocked in two during his 1-for-4 outing. Kirby went 1 for 4 with an RBI; Rouse scored twice and knocked in a run; Chauncey added one run and a stolen base.

Rouse, Gillis and Berrong added one steal apiece.

The Indians resume region play against 8th-ranked Washington-Wilkes, opening a three-game set Tuesday in Hiwassee at 5 p.m.

Towns County travels to Washington on Friday for a 5 p.m. doubleheader.

State Top 10 - Atlanta Journal-Constitution's Class A-Div. II rankings (as of March 2): No. 1. Charlton County, 2. Johnson County, 3. Clinch County, 4. Wilcox County, 5. Schley County, 6. Bowdon, 7. Towns County, 8. Washington-Wilkes, 9. Baconton Charter, 10. Lincoln County. (Region 8-A teams in bold)