

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Baseball: Indians improve to 6-1 before season postponed for coronavirus

By Chad Stack
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Staff Writer

The Indians improved to 6-1 last week with wins over Copper Basin, Tennessee, and Hiwassee Dam, North Carolina, even as the season came to an unexpected early end – at least until further notice – due to the worldwide effects of the coronavirus.

In their opening week, the Indians went 4-1, and on Monday, March 9, they continued to dominate at the plate, defeating Copper Basin 7-2.

Towns County took a 4-1 lead into the top of the third inning before allowing Copper Basin to score their last run of the game in the third inning.

The Indians added another run in the fifth and two more runs in the seventh inning, defeating the Cougars of Copper Basin to improve to 5-1 on the season that Monday.

After the Indians played their first five games on the road, they hosted the Hiwassee Dam Eagles for their home opener on Wednesday, March 11.

Sophomore Collin Crowder started on the mound for the Indians on Wednesday. After Crowder hit the first batter and walked another with two outs, he retired the next batter for his third strikeout of the inning to hold the Eagles scoreless in the top of the first inning.

Indians leadoff man junior Aidan Berrong took first base after the Eagles pitcher threw four balls in a row. With sophomore Brack Burrell at the



Collin Crowder deals during Towns County's victory over Hiwassee Dam, NC. The sophomore got the start and worked two shutout innings. Photos/Chad Stack

plate, Berrong moved to second and then to third on two passed balls to put the Indians in scoring position.

Two more pitches outside of the strike zone put Burrell on base with no outs, and Berrong scored on the fourth passed ball that put Crowder on first base, while Burrell moved to third with no outs.

The Indians scored five runs in the first inning on wild pitches from the Hiwassee Dam pitcher.

Freshman Layne Rouse stepped into the batter's box with two outs and drove the ball to center field for an RBI single, giving the Indians a 6-0 lead.

Towns County scored seven more runs in the second to take a 13-0, as Crowder pitched another shutout inning in the second.

With a 13-0 lead, Head Coach Shannon Floyd made a pitching change, calling sophomore Cabe Poston to the

mound that Wednesday. Poston pitched a shutout inning to start the top of the third, while the Indians added another run in the bottom of the third to take a 14-0 lead into the fourth.

Hiwassee Dam made a pitching change that would hold the Indians scoreless in the fourth and fifth innings.

The Eagles managed to generate some offense in the top of the fourth, scoring three runs to cut the Indians'

lead from 14 to 11, and Floyd called on junior Berrong to close out the game in the top of the fifth.

Berrong walked two batters, allowing the Eagles to add another run in the top of the fifth, but the Indians had a 10-run lead to close the fifth inning, and the game ended by way of the Georgia High School Association Mercy Rule.

Rouse batted a perfect game, going 3-3 at the plate

with four RBIs and one run. Berrong batted .500, going 4-2 with a run.

Freshman Mason Yeomans also went 3-3 at the plate with an RBI and a run; Crowder was 4-1 with one run and an RBI; and sophomore True Youngblood went 1-1 with two runs.

With the Indians starting their season 6-1, they are currently sitting in the Top 10 in the GHSA Public 1-A standings as the sixth ranked team.



Soccer: Boys and girls victorious at Washington-Wilkes; season currently on hold

By Chad Stack
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The Indians Soccer Team defeated Washington-Wilkes and Stephens County last week to improve to 3-0 before the season was postponed indefinitely last week, following guidance from the Georgia High School Association due to COVID-19.

After the Indians defeated Commerce 8-1 recently, they traveled to Washington-Wilkes for another region match on Tuesday, March 10.

There, Towns County continued their dominance, beating Washington-Wilkes 2-0 to give the Indians their second region win of the year.

Junior Jensen Brown struck first for the Indians for a 1-0 lead in the first half, followed by a goal from junior Peyton Barrett to put the Indians up 2-0 at the half.

Junior goalkeeper Liam King held the Tigers scoreless in

Tuesday's match at Washington-Wilkes.

After starting the season 0-1 with a loss against Commerce, the Lady Indians bounced right back, getting their first win of the season over the Washington-Wilkes Lady Tigers under new Head Coach Clay Livingston.

Freshman Jayden Taylor scored both goals to give the Lady Indians their 2-1 victory and first region win of the season.

Following the wins at Washington-Wilkes, the Indians took to the road for their third away game of the season, traveling to Toccoa for a non-region match against the Stephens County Indians on Thursday, March 12.

Heading into Thursday's match against Stephens County, the Indians had not trailed during any point in their first two games of the season, but that changed Thursday.

After the teams traded goals throughout the first half to

tie it up at 2 points apiece, Stephens County scored one more goal just before the half to take a 3-2 lead into the break.

The Indians regrouped during halftime, coming out and scoring a goal to tie the game at 3-3. Following the tying goal, the Indians struck again to take the lead and the win, as goalkeeper King held Stephens scoreless in the second half.

With the win over Stephens County, the Indians were unbeaten after last week, with a 3-0 record to start the 2020 season.

Unfortunately, the Indians are unable to continue with their season, said Head Soccer Coach Rollie Thomas, noting they had big aspirations this year.

With the amazing talent on the team, Thomas said everyone felt they had a good chance to make a run in the state playoffs, but due to the coronavirus, they are no longer able to play a game that means so much to them.

After the Indians defeated

Stephens County, they moved up to No. 3 in the GHSA Public 1-A Standings.

After the Lady Indians got their first win of the season on Tuesday, they faced off against a 2-1 Stephens County team with a high-powered offense.

The Lady Indians played well and continued to fight no matter what the score was, Livingston said, adding that it's tough for a young group of girls to go up against a team that has several juniors and seniors.

Towns County's Lady Indians fell to 1-2 on the season after losing 5-0 on Thursday against the Stephens County Lady Indians.

"This is a great group of girls," Livingston said, adding that he really enjoys coaching them and hopes they will be able to continue their season.

Due to the worldwide effects from the coronavirus, all high school spring sports have been postponed until further notice.

Annual Duncan Dash 5K Run/Walk to benefit Haven Project of Georgia

The 4th Annual Duncan Dash 5K run/walk and fun run will be held March 21st at 8:30 AM at Meeks Park in Blairsville.

This year, it will benefit a local non-profit, Haven Project of Georgia.

The race will start and end at Pavilion #3 and the gazebo near the softball fields and playground and will include a beautiful route through Meeks Park and the dog park.

To register in advance, go to www.active.com and look for 4th Annual Duncan Dash or email duncan-dash5k@gmail.com for a paper registration form.

Participants with disabilities can register for free by emailing havenprojectofga@gmail.com.

Race t-shirts are guaranteed to those who register by March 7th and will be given first-come, first-serve to later registrants,

including those who sign up the day of the race, as long as supplies last.

Awards will be given for the overall male and female winners, overall masters male and female winners, and three deep in ten-year age groups from 10 and under to 70 and over. The team or group showing the most spirit will also be recognized.

All proceeds from the race will benefit Haven Project of Georgia, a non-profit organization that serves individuals with disabilities and their families in north Georgia and western North Carolina by offering free education, advocacy, and respite programs.

Haven is neighbors helping neighbors get access to the programs and services they need to live their best lives.