

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Soccer: Indians and Lady Indians Soccer off to a great start in region play

By Chad Stack
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The Indians Soccer Team has made some huge improvements this year under first-year Head Coach Rollie Thomas.

For several years, the Towns County Varsity Soccer Team has struggled to play in the 8-A region, which is made up of mostly private schools. Last year, the Indians were unable to win a single match.

This is the first year that the Georgia High School Association made a region that allows the Indians to play only single A public schools, with the other teams in the region being Washington-Wilkes, Commerce and Lincoln County.

Towns County will play each region team twice and play other teams in the area to round out the 13-game schedule.

The Indians got their first win in at least two years, beating the Commerce Tigers 3-2. They also got another region win on March 8, defeating Washington-Wilkes 3-0. The Indians have a 2-3 overall record, but importantly, they are 2-0 in the region.

The team had a match after press time on Tuesday,



Towns County Indians and Lady Indians soccer photos by Chad Stack

March 19, having traveled to Commerce to take on East Jackson at 6 p.m., and the Indians have a home match on Thursday, March 21, against region-rival Commerce at 7 p.m.

Of course, the Lady Indians have high expectations after a historic season in 2018, in which they made it to the Sweet 16 and had an overall record of 10-5.

Their ultimate goal will

be to win the state championship, and with the split between private and public this year, they believe they have a shot.

Making it to the state championship will be no easy task, especially without Brooke Barrett, the all-time leading scorer at Towns County High School, who graduated last year and is now playing soccer for Georgia Southern.

The Lady Indians have

several returning key players from last year who will surely have a huge impact, including Taylor Cornett, Lea Neumyer, Anya Bury and Kaitlyn Davi, plus freshman Miranda Spain.

Currently, the Lady Indians are 1-2 on the season and 1-0 in their region, with a win over Commerce 6-0 on March 5.

The girls lost a tough match on Wednesday, March



13, at Pickens High School, falling 3-2 against the AAAA Dragons. Cornett made a goal and an assist to Spain, and she had another shot on the goal that was picked up by the Dragons' goalie.

"The goalie was outside the box, and when she picked the ball up, she knew she made a mistake, but the official didn't make the call, which would have allowed Taylor to have a free kick to

possibly tie the game," said John Cornett, who is the Lady Indians head coach and also Taylor's father.

The Lady Indians also traveled to Commerce on Tuesday, March 19, having taken on East Jackson at 5 p.m., and they will play a home match as well this week against Commerce on Thursday, March 21, at 5 p.m.

Baseball: Towns County falls to 4-6 as Indians look to regroup this week

By Chad Stack
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Towns County Baseball has dropped three games in a row after starting the season 4-3, with March 7 at Hiwassee Dam being their last winning game with an Eagles shutout.

The Indians started off last week hosting Hebron Christian Academy from Dacula, and senior Trent Bradshaw worked the mound against the Lions.

Bradshaw had a tough first inning, as the Lions scored five runs to start the game, and the Indians were unable to generate any runs in the first.

Head Coach Shannon Floyd made a pitching change going into the second inning, sending in senior Devyn Burrell, but the Lions were hitting the ball very well against the Indians.

Burrell pitched three innings, allowing five hits and three runs. The Indians have had great success hitting the ball and generating runs, but they struggled to get anything going offensively against Hebron.

The Lions held the Indians scoreless through three innings, maintaining a seven-run lead heading into the fourth.

Towns County tried to make a late run in the fourth, as senior Seth Fullerton hit a double to put him in scoring position. Bradshaw was able to get a base hit single to get Indian runners on first and third.

Senior Kayden McClure stepped to the plate and hit an RBI single, bringing in Fullerton for the first run of the game for the Indians. Burrell was next up to bat, and he was able to get an RBI single, as Bradshaw scored the second run for the Indians.

Floyd made another pitching change, sending Junior Jacob Kinsey to close the



Towns County baseball photo by Lowell Nicholson

game. The Indians went into the fifth inning trailing Hebron 8-2. The Lions never let up, however, scoring four more runs to beat the Indians 12-2 and giving them a region loss in the process.

The Indians traveled to Gainesville to take on Riverside Military Academy on Wednesday, March 13, with hopes to even the series at one apiece. Towns County lost a tough one against Riverside a few weeks ago, when they were tied 6-6 and gave up a two-run homerun.

They got things started offensively, scoring one run in the first inning, and Fullerton, who started on the mound against the Eagles, held them scoreless in the first. Fullerton pitched four innings, only giving up one hit but walking five batters.

The Indians allowed the Eagles to take a three-run lead in the second inning, and Towns County went the next five innings without a score, while Riverside was able to add two more runs, one in the fourth and one in the sixth. Burrell Pitched just over one inning, only giving up one hit and a run.

After Burrell gave up the one run in the sixth, Floyd put

freshman Collin Crowder on the mound to close the game.

The Indians tried to make a late run in the top of the seventh, scoring three runs to bring the score within two, but they were just not able to stay alive in the inning, and the game ended in a 4-6 loss.

Going into their third game in four days, the Indians hosted Athens Academy on Friday, March 15.

The Spartans are the No. 1 team in the region and came into Friday's game with an overall record of 4-1. And they put on a display showing everyone they are the team to beat in the region, defeating Towns County 16-0 and only allowing one hit in the entire game from Crowder.

With last week's losses, the Indians fell to 4-6 on the season, with 0-3 in the region.

They were looking to pick things up, however, on Tuesday, March 19, at Tallulah Falls at 4:30 p.m., a game that occurred after press time.

The Indians also have two home games this week, one on Thursday, March 21, against Prince Avenue at 5:30 p.m., and another on Saturday, March 23, against Providence Christian at 2 p.m.

Towns County Golf already swinging big in 2019 season

By Chad Stack
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The Indians Golf Team is coming off a Third-Place finish in the Georgia High School Association State Playoffs last year, having finished with a 671 score, which was only 59 strokes away from first place and 25 strokes back from Second.

This year, the Golf Team lost low medalist Chase Williams to graduation, but every other golfer from the 2018 squad has returned.

The team also added Caleb Ledford and George Henry to the current group, and the boys will be aiming to exceed the program's best finish from 2018.

Kyler Garrett, Danny Reagan and Will Travis are three seniors who are looking for the opportunity to have three low-medalist type golfers on one team.

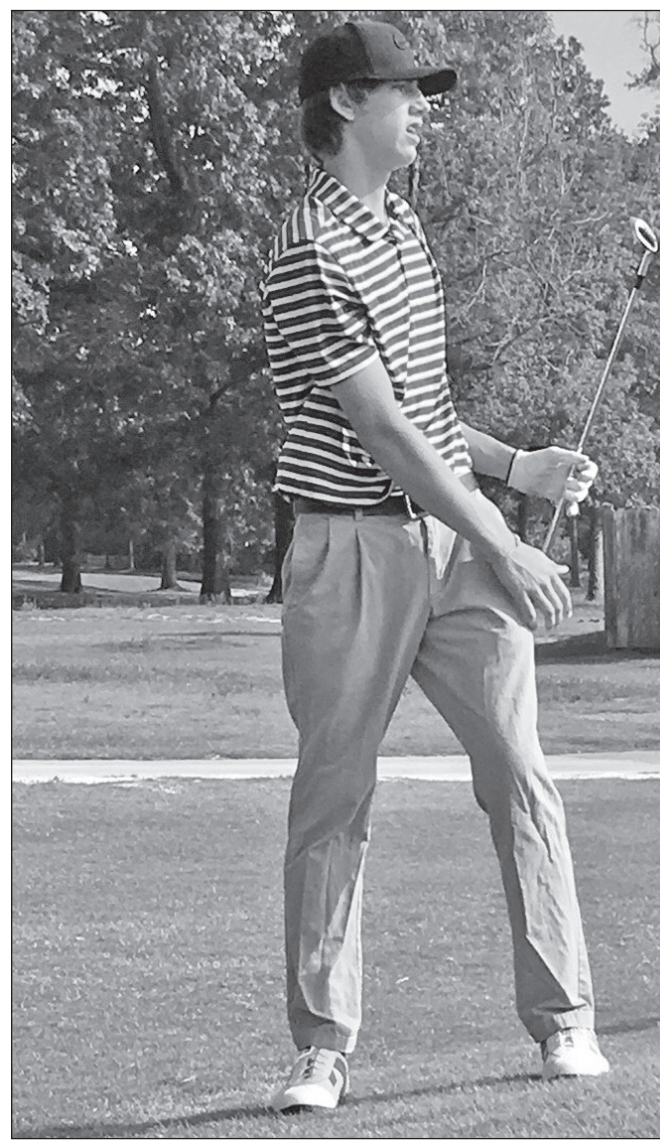
Sophomore Nick Sisco will be hoping to further cement the program as one of the top teams in Public A after a stellar freshman campaign last year.

"Ledford and Henry are both experienced golfers who will immediately contribute and have an impact," said Head Coach Brian Hunnicutt.

The Indians played their first round of golf on Wednesday, March 13, in Rabun County at the Kingwood Country Club.

They finished with a team score of 202, with Nick Sisco and Will Travis serving as the two lowest scores, while Vanessa Floyd had the lowest score for the girls.

The Lady Indians Golf Team will benefit greatly from the experience gained in 2018, as five of the six girls played golf for the first time ever during the 2018 season. The



team welcomes the return of low medalist senior Summer Swanson, who carried the team last season, always competing against the best golfers.

"Swanson is expected to make huge strides in her game and in the leadership role for the Lady Indians," said Hunnicutt. "The freshmen girls steadily improved as the year progressed and are looking to build upon the late-season momentum."

Sophomores Allie Dills, Vanessa Floyd, Laura Kate Gleaton and Ellee King return to the Golf Team, and sopho-

more Natalie Smith will be joining the Lady Indians for the 2019 season.

"These girls took their first swings as freshmen but made vast improvements through the year," said Hunnicutt.

The Indians and Lady Indians played two matches this week that occurred after press time, one on Monday, March 18, in Fannin County, and another on Tuesday, March 19, against archrival Union County at Butternut Creek Golf Course at 3:30 p.m.