

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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No. 9 Indians defeat HD, swept by No. 5 Washington-Wilkes

By Daysha Pandolph
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Last week, the Towns County Indians baseball team had trouble competing with Washington Wilkes, although they were able to earn a 5-1 win vs. Hiwassee Dam early in the week.

On Monday, March 11, the boys welcomed Hiwassee Dam to the Towns County baseball field, where sophomore Braden Barrett led the Indians from the pitcher's mound and senior Kade McConnell led with his bat.

McConnell finished 2 for 2 with 2 RBIs, a triple and two stolen bases. Barrett fanned 10 and allowed one hit over 5 2/3 innings of shutout baseball.

Stone Chauncey doubled and swiped two bags in the win. Zane Floyd and Eli McNabb stole three bases and scored twice.

The next evening, Tuesday, March 12, the team traveled south to face the team that has won their region multiple years in a row – Washington Wilkes.

"(It) felt like early (in the game) we were competing with them," shared coach Shannon Floyd.

As the game progressed, however, the Indians weren't able to keep up and ended up losing 13-4.

Chauncey went 3 for 4 with a double; McConnell doubled and drove in two; Connor Chastain doubled during a 2-for-3 day.

Matthew Chastain went 3 1/3 allowing 10 runs; Cale Kirby worked 1 2/3, giving up one earned; Morgan Walker



Senior pitcher Kade McConnell deals during the second game of the Washington-Wilkes series. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

gave up one earned over an inning.

Finally, on Friday, March 15, Washington Wilkes headed to Towns County for two more games. Unfortunately, the Indians lost the first match 12-2, then went on to lose the second 7-4.

"They just hit every pitch, and we couldn't keep up with swinging the bats, even though Connor Chastain did hit a home run and so did Tanner Cunningham in the first game of the double-header," said coach Floyd.

"Game two was a little different from the other two previous games. The score was 2-1 going into the sixth inning and Zane Floyd was pitching.

"He really had a good game pitching. I believe he had nine strikeouts recorded going into the sixth. He really had Washington Wilkes off balance."

Towns County struggled to push runs ahead, however, and lost their grip on the game when a Washington Wilkes player took a 14-pitch at bat in the sixth inning.

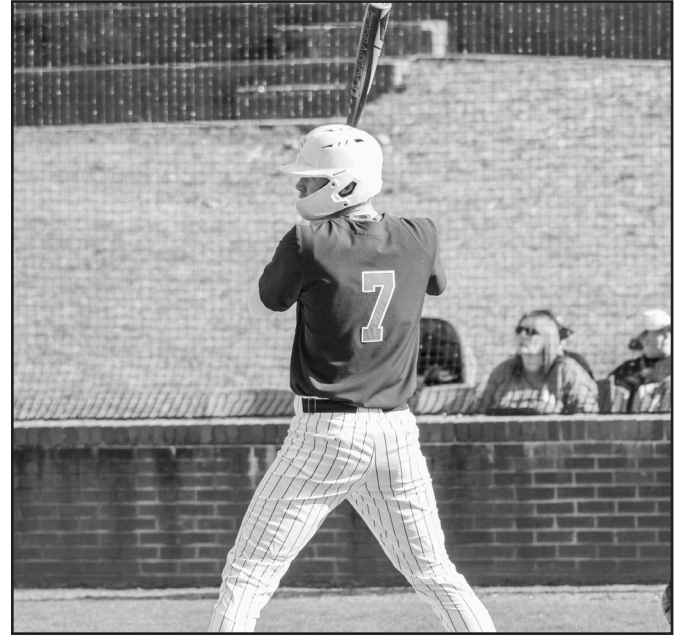
"He just kept fouling off pitches," commented coach Floyd. "It was really fun to watch the pitcher and the batter compete against one another. Finally, Zane got him to pop up, and unfortunately, didn't make the play."

Other key players throughout Friday's final game included Chauncey and Connor Chastain.

"We've just got to regroup and get it back together this coming week as we play Lincoln County."



Connor Chastain homered during the second game of the Washington-Wilkes series. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



Zane Floyd leads off the bottom of the first vs. Hiwassee Dam, NC on Monday, March 11. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Soccer: No. 3 LOA blanks Lady Indians; guys split with CCHS, LOA

By Daysha Pandolph
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The Towns County Lady Indians soccer team hit a bit of a slump last week, losing games to both Gilmer County (JV) and Lake Oconee Academy.

The losses followed several weeks of victories and high scoring, so the team hopes to get back on track this week in time for Senior Night.

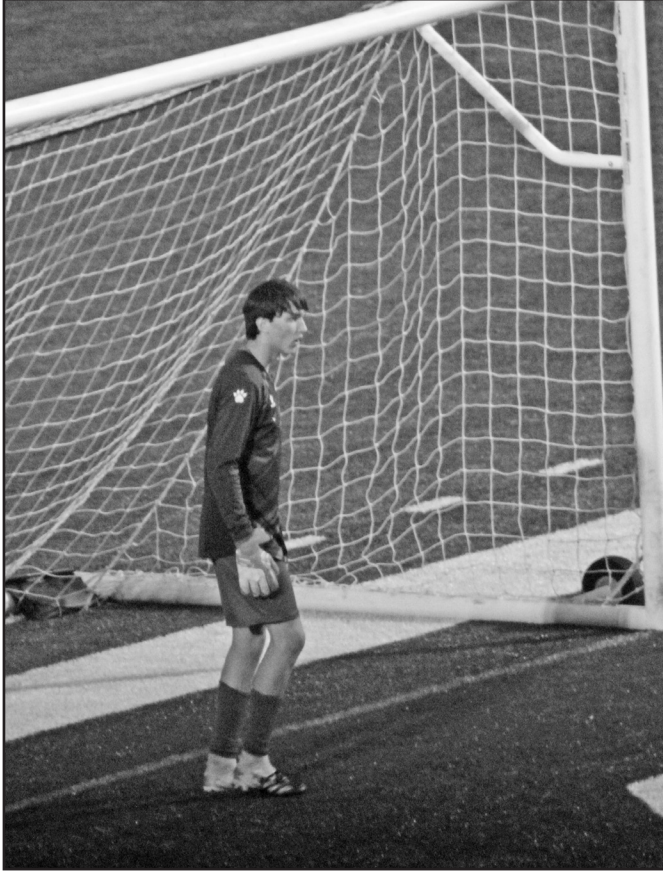
On Wednesday, March 13, the junior varsity team traveled to Gilmer where they were defeated 2-0. While the results were a bit disheartening, the game did give the team an opportunity to experiment around.

"We used it to rest some varsity girls and look at some different scenarios," said coach Clay Livingston, "like if we have injuries in key spots how we're going to move everybody around. Then of course we got the young girls lots of playing time, so that was good."

On Friday, March 15, the Lady Indians lost to Lake Oconee Academy 3-0 in a home match.

"(LOA) and Aquinas are probably the two best teams in the state," shared Livingston, who remains optimistic about the team's future.

"Last year we lost to both of those teams at the same point in the schedule, and I think it helped us. It taught us a lot about ourselves and things we need to get better at, and that's going to be the approach this time (too). Hopefully we will see one or both of them again in the playoffs."



Dustin Barrett had 25 saves vs. LOA. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

The Lady Indians will play next on senior night, Tuesday, March 19, in a home match against Washington Wilkes.

The Towns County Indians Soccer team defeated Chattanooga Central High School early last week, then went on to suffer an unfortunate loss to LOA.

On Monday, March 11, the team pulled off a 6-1 victory over Chattanooga Central on a natural grass field.

Cruz Kitchens scored three goals and had two assists. Caden Coggins, Connor Williams and Emory Hardin also contributed to the win

with one goal each. Dustin Barrett had nine saves from the goalpost.

"We played a very good game once we got used to the natural grass field," commented coach Art Cartee.

On Friday, March 15, the boys faced LOA and unfortunately lost 4-0.

By the end of the first half, both teams had yet to score. LOA picked up the pace during the second, however, and secured the victory over Towns.

Dustin Barrett had an amazing performance Friday night, preventing LOA from scoring 25 times.



Lady Indians in action vs. LOA on Friday, March 15. Photos by Lowell Nicholson