

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Soccer: No. 2 Towns Co. suffers first loss at LOA following two lopsided wins

No. 4 Lake Oconee halts Lady Indians' three-game winning streak with 3-0 shutout

By Todd Forrest
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The second-ranked Towns County men's entered last Friday's showdown at No. 7 Lake Oconee Academy riding a 10-game winning streak that began 389 days ago - dating back to the first game 2020 season.

Fresh off a 10-0 rout of Washington-Wilkes and an 8-0 thrashing of Lincoln County, the Indians entered Greensboro looking to complete the season sweep of Lake Oconee. But after easily defeating LOA 5-1 back on March 5, the Indians were stunned in a 4-2 loss the second time around.

Peyton Barrett and Brayden Brown provided the goals for Towns County, but it wasn't enough to keep pace. Despite the loss, Towns remains atop the 8-A Public standings and holds the tie-breaker over second-place LOA.

Three days earlier,



The Towns County Lady Indians honored their seniors during a recent match. The Indians' senior photograph will be featured in next week's TCH. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Towns hosted Lincoln County and made quick work of the Red Devils in an 8-0 win.

Barrett and Lane Lalletment each recorded a hat trick in the victory. Jenson Brown and Zion Calhoun chipped in one goal apiece.

Jenson Brown and Gar-

rett Oakes led the way with two helpers each. Brayden Brown, David Hendricks and Barrett recorded one assist each.

On March 19, the only thing stopping the Towns County offense vs Washington-Wilkes was the mercy rule.

Barrett scored four goals

and Jenson Brown had three in the Indians 10-0 win. Reace Hampton, Jordan Lovelace, Luis Quijada added one goal each.

Brayden Brown's three assists led the way; Grant Ingram and Jenson Brown recorded one each.

The seventh-ranked Lady Indians dropped last Friday's match to fourth-ranked Lake Oconee Academy following a 4-1 win over No. 10 Lincoln County on Tuesday.

In a region that includes five ranked squads, the Lady Indians sit just outside the top

four at 2-4. LOA currently resides in third at 4-4 while Lincoln is fourth at 4-5.

Towns County visits Hart County on Wednesday in a non-region fixture beginning with the girls' match at 5 p.m.

Baseball: Seventh-ranked Commerce overpowers Indians 10-1

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No. 7 Commerce (14-3) jumped out to an 8-0 lead after three innings and never looked back during a 10-1 win over the Indians.

The first three hitters in the Indians' lineup (Aiden Berrong, Zane Floyd and Collin Crowder) accounted for four of the team's six hits and were responsible for the only run of the game.

Floyd finished 2 for 4 with a run while starting on the hill, where he allowed 8 hits and 6 earned runs over 3 innings. Berrong worked the final four innings, giving up 2 earned, 2 hits and walking three. He also went 1 for 4 at the plate.

Crowder drove in the Indians' only run during a 1-for-4 day that included a stolen base.

Towns County's other two hits were a Connor Chastain double and a Mason Yeomans single.

The Tigers grabbed an



Tanner Cunningham awaits his next offering. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

early 2-0 lead with three straight singles and an RBI groundout to begin the game. Two singles, a hit batter, a double and an error in the second inning allowed Commerce to push ahead 6-0.

Trailing 8-0 in the third, Tanner Cunningham reached on

an error to lead off the inning, but a pair of strikeouts and a grounder kept Towns County off the board.

After a two-out RBI double made it a 9-0 game, Connor Chastain was stranded in scoring position following his



Sophomore Mason Yeomans leads off from first base during a recent game. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

one-out double to center.

The Indians eventually broke through in the sixth when Floyd singled up the middle and advanced to third on an error. An infield single by Crowder brought home Floyd and a walk to Drew Sofield put two aboard

but a groundout and a strikeout retired the side with Towns trailing 9-1.

Commerce tacked one more in the seventh with a pair of walks, a wild pitch and a run-scoring groundout.

The Indians hosted Union

County in a non-region contest on Monday before resuming Region 8-A action with a 4 p.m. visit to Washington-Wilkes on Tuesday.

Towns County will travel to Commerce on Monday, April 5 at 5:30 p.m.

Towns County Basketball: A trip down Memory Lane (Part Two)

By Jerry Kendall
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Continued from last week's Towns County Herald.

The First TCHS Region Championships – The Indians and Lady Indians got what turned out to be their only region tournament championships in the 1900's just two years apart in 1975 and 1977 with the victories being over the powerful Buford Wolves and Lady Wolves.

The Indians lost two starters and the top two substitutes from the 1974 team but had seven productive seniors on the 1975 team which entered the Sub-Region 8B North tournament in the Union County gym with a 20-2 record after winning their first thirteen games and then winning seven more after back to back sub-region losses at Union County and East Fannin. They got past Toccoa Falls in the semifinals but lost at Union County for the second time, this time in overtime, in the sub-region championship game.

Of greater concern the next morning, however, was the loss of star player Eddie Rushton with the mumps and resulting diminished chances of winning a region championship and even making it to the state tournament. But the Indians followed a pattern of rising to the occasion such as with the loss of Kabe Ellis to injury this year in following the lead of Shell Cochran, the father of Lady Indian Eryn Cochran who was a vital member of the most recent Lady Indians state final four team in 2013 and a top notch Young Harris College player for a year after transferring from Columbus State University.

The Indians took victories over Banks County, Toccoa Falls, and Buford for the long awaited region championship which became the only such event for the Indians until the great success of this year's Indians team. Cochran played a prime role in many ways with scoring 13, 18, and 22 points examples of his contributions in the three games after scoring a total of just two points in the



two sub-region victories as one of seven outstanding seniors on the team.

The state tournament was not played until two weeks following the region tournament with Eddie Rushton playing and, although having periodic rest periods, scoring eighteen points but with Montgomery County scoring the final five points of the game and taking a 58-54 victory in the first round.

This became the second time in nine years for the Indians to fall in the final sixteen to the eventual state runnerup as Montgomery fell in the state championship game by a 63-55 score to Monticello and future University of Georgia and National Football League star Ulysses Norris.

The Indians' second leading scorer on the 1975 team Charles Cunningham is the

grandfather of the aforementioned Indians freshman Tanner Cunningham and the third leading scorer and leading rebounder with an average of 13.2 per game Charles "Chip" Gribble, who was a starting forward in 1974 as well, is the grandfather of Indians senior Hayden McClure.

Both the 1975 and 2021 Indians region championship teams enjoyed high state rankings by the Atlanta Journal and Constitution with the 1975 squad ranked second in Class B at the end of regular season play and the 2021 squad ranked fourth in Class A Public by the AJC after being ranked first in very early rankings. And of course, it was no surprise to see the Indians ranked as the number one Class A Public team in this year's final AJC state rankings presented last week.

After losing three starters from a 19-7 team, the 1977 Lady Indians entered the sub-region tournament with a 17-5 record and won six straight games in winning the sub-region and region tournaments. They defeated Tallulah Falls, Union

County, and Banks County at Union County in winning the sub-region tournament.

A note of likely interest is the fact that the Lady Indians played fourth seed Banks County in the sub-region championship game as a result of a 3-2 win by Banks in the semifinals over a top flight Rabun County team which refused to come out of a zone defense against a Banks stall throughout the game. Rabun and the Lady Indians had tied for first place in regular season sub-region play with Rabun winning a coin toss for the top seed position and placing the Lady Indians in the unenviable position of facing third seed Union on the Lady Panthers' home court in the sub-region semifinals.

The Lady Indians then won the region championship by defeating Jackson County, Loganville, and Buford with the Buford win being a major upset in overtime at Johnson High School in Hall County. The Lady Indians came from fourteen points behind against

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