

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Baseball: Indians rally past Union with six unanswered runs

By Todd Forrest
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Towns County erased a 4-1 deficit on Monday, March 29 with 2 runs in the third inning and four in the fourth before holding Union at bay over the final four innings.

In the 7-5 victory, Collin Crowder struck out 8 Panthers over 4 2/3 innings before giving way to Aidan Berrong for the final 2 1/3. Berrong allowed just one hit and two walks while nailing down the win. He also drove in a run and scored twice during a 1-for-4 day at the plate.

Kyle Oakes walked twice and scored twice. Zane Floyd, Caleb Berrong and Connor Chastain each drove in a run.

Aidan Berrong helped spot the Indians an early 1-0 lead when he reached on an error to lead off the game and later scored on a two-out wild pitch.

A two-run double and a passed ball allowed Union to grab a 3-1 advantage in the second. They extended the



Towns stole two bags vs. Union County. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

margin to 4-1 in the third with an RBI single but left the bases loaded with one down.

Oakes turned a leadoff walk into a run on a Panthers' error and Chastain scored Floyd with a sacrifice fly to pull within a run in the third. Towns grabbed the lead for

good in the fourth when a dropped third strike, an error and a walk loaded the bases with nobody out. An Aidan Berrong single tied the game, then Floyd was plunked to take a 5-4 lead. Oakes made it 6-4 when he came around on a wild pitch and Caleb Berrong



Towns County pitching fanned 10 Panthers in Monday's 7-5 victory. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

pushed the lead to 7-4 with an RBI groundout.

A bases-loaded walk allowed Union to get one run back in the fifth, but a one-out sixth-inning double was the only hit Aidan Berrong surrendered over the final two frames.

Floyd finished 1 for 1 with a run and an RBI; Crowder went 1 for 3 with a walk. Mason Yeomans singled and scored; Kyle McConnell walked and scored.

The Indians face Lake Oconee Academy in a three-game series this week. Game

one gets underway Tuesday in Greensboro before closing with a Friday doubleheader at 5 p.m. in Hiawassee.

Towns and Union will meet in a rematch on Monday, April 12 in Blairsville. First pitch is scheduled for 5:30 p.m.

No. 2 Social Circle defends home field in 4-1 win over No. 8 Lady Indians

Fifth-ranked Indians blanked in non-region match at Class AAA Hart County

By Todd Forrest
Towns County Herald
Sports Editor

On Friday, April 2, the eighth-ranked Towns County Lady Indians traveled to Walton County for a top-10 showdown at Social Circle.

The Lady Indians offense was provided by Jayden Taylor, who found the net off a feed from Kenzie Livingston. However, it wasn't enough to keep pace as the Redskins pulled away 4-1.

Meanwhile, 80 miles northeast, the fifth-ranked Indians were on the road at Class AAA Hart County, where they suffered a 2-0 loss.

The Indians will host No. 2 Social Circle on Tuesday, April 13 in a fixture that will likely determine the Region 8-A Champion.

The Lady Indians are battling for one of the four playoff spots from 8-A and will also host Social Circle on April 13 at 5:30 p.m.



The Towns County men's soccer team recognized its seniors on a rainy Friday night in Hiawassee last month. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

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

By Jerry Kendall
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Continued from last week's Towns County Herald.

Classification changes – As one of the smallest public schools in the state, our Lady Indians and Indians for many years qualified as being in Class C but chose to "play up" in Class B since there were few schools nearby in Class C to compete with. We actually dropped to Class C for 1971 and 1972 which turned out to be the final years of that classification with many small town schools consolidating and there being less need for that classification.

Class B was then done away with beginning with the 1979 season but with the only change being elevating Class B schools to Class A and elevating the higher classifications one notch higher by adding Class 4A but with continuing increases in sizes of schools bringing about additions up to Class 7A at present. One other change came about for the 2001 and 2002 years when our school opted



to play at the Class 2A level when several nearby schools were elevated and three schools dropped to that level with our choosing to play in a region with Apalachee, Banks, GAC, Rabun, Union, Lumpkin, White, Dawson and East Hall, instead of being in a region with several schools from metro Atlanta.

Of course, this is the first

season with a total split of public and private schools in Class A with the Lady Indians and Indians not competing with mostly private schools in the Athens and Atlanta areas but all public schools within region play. While this year's Region 8A Public makeup required five long trips to locations several miles south of Athens along

with shorter trips to Commerce for region play and the region tournament, perhaps these trips helped condition the Indians for super long trips to Irwin and Chattahoochee Counties and then Macon in winning the state championship.

Some miscellaneous notes which may be of interest: Although the previ-

ously mentioned Eddie Rushton did not participate in the 1975 region tournament as a player due to having the mumps, he did participate in this year's region tournament as a referee in at least two early games, including the Lady Indians' opening game against Washington-Wilkes.

Bill Kendall was the head coach of the 1966 and 1973 In-

dians teams after having been a star player for the Indians during the first half of the 1950's and he is the grandfather of senior Lady Indian Vanessa Floyd and freshman Indian Zane Floyd.

Dwight McNabb was a dynamic point guard for the 1966 Indians team described above and he has been a regular attendee from his home south of Atlanta at state tournament games this year and in past years as well, pulling for the team as much as if he were on it or had a descendant as a member of the team.

David Hoodenpyle in his first year as a coach led the Indians to their first region championship in 1975 and he has been in touch as a Florida resident while following closely the success of this year's Indians team with literally no one pulling any more for the team this year than he has done.

Mike Shook, the father of Lady Indian sophomore and state tournament participant Sarah Shook, was the leading scorer on the Indians' 1981 team.

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