

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Soccer: Indians, Lady Indians advance to State Sweet 16

By Todd Forrest
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Both Towns County soccer teams are moving on to this week's Class A D-II Sweet 16 following the men's first-round bye and the Lady Indians 2-0 win over Treutlen County on Tuesday, April 16.

The No. 7 Indians visit 10th-ranked Wheeler County on Wednesday, April 24, while the No. 3 Lady Indians travel to Christian Heritage (Dalton) on April 23.

Lady Indians 2, Treutlen County 0 - Despite the low-scoring effort, Towns County wasn't threatened during its first-round win over Treutlen on April 16 in Hiwassee.

A smothering Lady Indians defense held the Vikings without a corner kick and only three shots on goal over 80 minutes. Meanwhile, Abby Gardella and Chloe Sutton chipped in one goal each with Halie Arrowood dishing out a pair of assists.

"We just didn't finish as well as we would like," Lady Indians head coach Clay Livingston said. "We did an above-average job on possession, but we know we will have to finish better to go deep [in the playoffs]. That will definitely continue to be a high priority at practice."

The Lady Indians at-



Abby Gardella scored during the early minutes of the second half vs. Treutlen County. Photo/Todd Forrest

Gardella found the net early in the second half, converting Arrowood's feed into a 2-0 lead during the 43rd. Sutton was turned away in the 54th by an impressive save. Later, Towns couldn't convert a free kick in the 67th and a corner



Chloe Sutton knocks in Towns County's first goal of the postseason during the Lady Indians' 2-0 victory over Treutlen County on Tuesday, April 16. Photo/Todd Forrest

Gardella was denied in the 77th and Sailor Fain missed wide in the 78th.

Treutlen swatted away Arrowood's shot in the 78th, resulting in an unsuccessful corner kick. Emma Lallement's kick sailed wide left in the 79th.

The Lady Indians turn their attention to Christian Heritage, who is coming off a 5-0 first-round win over Fugees Academy. The No. 2 seed from Region 4, the Lions enter the Round of 16 with a 4-6 overall record and a 3-1 mark in region play.

On Wednesday, Towns County visits 8-1 Wheeler County (Alamo) - the Region 2 champion. Like the Indians, Wheeler received a first-round bye following an undefeated run in region play. Wheeler has won eight straight since losing its first game of 2024 to Swainsboro.

Baseball: Indians win three of four, walk-off Union Co. on Senior Night

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Towns County baseball won three of four to close out the regular season, highlighted by a walk-off Senior Night victory over Union County on Thursday, April 18.

The Indians travel to Glascock County in the opening round of the Class A D-II playoffs for a best-of-three series beginning Tuesday, April 23. The winner will visit No. 1-ranked Schley County on April 29.

Indians 3, Union County 2 - Senior Connor Chastain's sacrifice fly scored Zane Floyd in the bottom of the seventh to cap the Towns County comeback.

Tied at 2-2 entering the Indians' seventh, Floyd worked a seven-pitch walk, then advanced to second on a ground-out. The senior immediately swiped third and Chastain lined out to center, allowing Floyd to score.

Chastain's game-winner completed Towns' three-run rally after Stone Chauncey's leadoff early 2-0 lead off Floyd.

The Panthers took advantage of four first-inning singles and a hit-by-pitch to mount the lead. But Floyd settled down during his 109-pitch complete game, limiting Union to only 4 hits over the final 6 innings while striking out eight.

Matthew Chastain tied the game during the fourth via a two-out, two-run single after Stone Chauncey's leadoff double, followed by Kade McConnell's single and a Tanner Cunningham walk.

Union County sophomore Gunnar Akins nearly escaped the bases-loaded, no-out jam with consecutive strikeouts before Matthew Chastain made him pay via a base hit to left-center.

Matthew Chastain finished 1 for 3 with 2 RBIs; McConnell went 2 for 3 with a run; Connor Chastain drove in the game-winner during a 1-for-3 day; Chauncey went 1 for 3 with a run; Floyd ended



Towns County seniors: (L-R) Kade McConnell, Matthew Chastain, Zane Floyd, Cale Kirby, Tanner Cunningham, Gus Vazquez, Stone Chauncey, Connor Chastain and Mason Barrett. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

his day 1 for 2 with a run and 2 walks; Cunningham walked and went 1 for 1.

Indians 8, Rabun County 7 (GM 2) - The Wildcats hosted Towns County in a doubleheader during the Friday, April 19 regular-season finale, where the Indians pushed across 4 runs in the seventh and Cale Kirby slammed the door with a 1-2-3 bottom half.

Connor Chastain reached on a fielder's choice in the Towns County seventh, Chauncey drew a one-out walk and McConnell singled to left, loading the bases for Cunningham, whose two-run double moved the Indians within a run. Oliver Sarafin followed with another two-run double, putting Towns on top by plating McConnell and Cunningham.

Cunningham finished 2 for 2 with a pair of runs, 2 RBIs and 3 stolen bases. Sarafin ended his day 1 for 3 with 2 RBIs; Matthew Chastain went 2 for 4 with a stolen base; Braydon Barrett stole 4 bases and scored a run; Braydon Baldwin went 1 for 4 with a run, an RBI and a steal; Floyd stole a bag during a 1-for-4 day; McNabb

ended his day 1 for 3, walking, scoring once and swiping a base; Chauncey walked twice and plated another run during a 1-for-2 game; McConnell scored and went 1 for 4; Connor Chastain added a run.

The Indians took a 1-0 lead in the first on Chauncey's RBI single, and Baldwin made it 2-0 in the second via a bunt single. Towns added another run in the frame when Floyd reached on an error that scored Baldwin.

Rabun took advantage of an error to make it 3-1 in the bottom half, but Barrett swiped home in the third to bump the margin to 4-1.

An error, a balk and a single -- all with two away - helped Rabun push across one in the bottom of the third before the Wildcats tied it up with two in the fifth.

Two Towns County errors and a two-out triple headlined Rabun's 3-run sixth inning, putting the Indians in a 7-4 hole.

Sarafin tossed 4 1/3 on the bump, giving up 5 hits and 4 unearned runs while punching out four. Barrett allowed a hit and an unearned run over 1

2/3. Kirby fanned two during a perfect seventh to nail down the save.

Indians 9, Rabun County 3 (GM 1) - Tied at 2-2 in the sixth, Towns County put up a 7-spot to blow things open in the first of two games on Friday in Tiger.

The Indians sent 12 batters to the plate in the sixth, beginning with a McConnell walk, followed by Cunningham's go-ahead double. Baldwin reached on a bunt single and Sarafin walked to load the bags for Matthew Chastain, who plated Cunningham via an infield single.

Floyd was plunked to make it 5-2, and an error off the bat of Kirby built a 7-2 margin. Another Rabun County error awarded the Indians a run and McConnell capped the scoring with a one-out single.

Matthew Chastain worked the final two innings, allowing 2 hits and an earned run while striking out two. McConnell started and fanned 8 over 5 innings, giving up 2 hits and 2 earned runs.

Matthew Chastain went 2 for 4 with a run and an RBI; Floyd and Kirby each drove

in two during a 1-for-4 game; Connor Chastain went 1 for 3 with an RBI; Chauncey finished 1 for 4; Cunningham drove in one during a 1-for-3 outing; Baldwin finished 1 for 4 with a run; Sarafin walked four times and scored twice;

in two during a 1-for-4 game; Connor Chastain went 1 for 3 with an RBI; Chauncey finished 1 for 4; Cunningham drove in one during a 1-for-3 outing; Baldwin finished 1 for 4 with a run; Sarafin walked four times and scored twice;

McConnell tossed 5 1/3, allowing 7 runs (4 earned), 5 hits and 5 walks. Kirby allowed 2 hits and 2 earned in 1/3 of an inning; Rawdon allowed a hit over 1/3. McNabb faced a batter, surrendering an 8-pitch walk.



The Indians rush on the field to celebrate Connor Chastain's walk-off sacrifice fly on Senior Night. Photo/Lowell Nicholson