

# Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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## Lady Indians take down ACE but fall to Commerce in Final Four

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Towns County Lady Indians Soccer won a nail-biter of a game in the Elite 8 last week to advance for the second year in a row to the Final Four of the Georgia High School Association Class A Public State Championship Playoffs.

Despite a rousing effort in the Final Four, the ladies lost to Commerce High School April 28 to bring an amazing season of collective discipline and triumph to a close.

In their April 25 encounter against ACE Charter High School in Soperton, the two teams maintained a stalemate for most of the game in a perpetual back-and-forth duel.

With about two minutes left in the game, however, senior Bazya Smith made a cross kick to the back post of ACE Charter's goal to assist junior Sarah Shook, who scored the only point of the game on a header to solidify the Lady Indians' win 1-0.

Charter controlled the ball slightly better in the first half, but Towns excelled at defending shots on goal thanks to sophomore Keeper Laura Mauldin, and the Lady Indians created better scoring opportunities and displayed a greater ability to close the gap as a unit.

"It is amazing to reach the Final Four in back-to-back seasons," Head Coach Clay



The Towns County Lady Indians celebrate after punching their ticket to the Class A Public Final Four. Photo/submitted

Livingston said. "It is a true testament to our kids and how hard the girls have worked and sacrificed to get to this point.

"Winning the game in the way we did is just typical of the girls – they find a way when the pressure is on. Hats off and a lot of credit does go

to ACE Charter. They are a hard team to beat, and they put us out a few years ago when they ultimately became the 2019 State Champions.

"We are so excited about the opportunity we have in front of us. We know Commerce has given us problems

in the past and will not be easy to beat, but we are going to play our game and dictate our pace and style. We are going to give it all we've got.

"I am really proud of them; their toughness and grit are unmatched, and I am grateful for this team. I also

want to say I am thankful for this community and the fans who come to home games and travel with us also.

"This program is amazing, all the way from (Superintendent Dr. Darren Berrong), to (High School Principal Roy Perren) and to (Athletic Direc-

tor Jim Melton).

"Thank you to our local law enforcement and school resource officer, Fire Department and emergency personnel that come to escort us to the county line for the playoffs as well. It means a lot to our team, and we love this community."

Next up, the Ladies sought to capitalize on their continued success as they took on the No. 2 seed Commerce High School away on Thursday, April 28, for the Final Four round of the state tournament.

The ladies fought tooth and nail the entire way through but ultimately lost 5-1, with Shook scoring Towns County's lone goal on an assist by Smith and sophomore Halie Arrowood.

Towns' Lady Indians finished the season with an excellent 14-5-1 season record, going 10-4 in Region 8 play.

"I am super proud of all these girls for playing their guts out this year," Livingston said. "I want to say thank you and congratulations to my seniors that are leaving this year: Rylie Livingston, Gali Quinjada, Bazya Smith, Miranda Spain and Macy Brinson.

"We are going to be working on filling the gaps for next year, and our ultimate goal is to just play more soccer than everybody else."

Congratulations on a stellar season by the Towns County Girls Soccer Team. Go Lady Indians!



The Towns County Lady Indians during their postseason trips to ACE Charter and Commerce. Towns County's run came to an end in the Final Four at top-ranked Commerce. Photos/Lowell Nicholson