

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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TCHS recognizes outstanding student athletes in annual awards ceremony

By Chad Stack
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Towns County High School held its annual athletic recognition ceremony to award outstanding play and leadership by students throughout the year on Thursday, May 2, in the Anne Oliver Mitchell Auditorium.

Athletic Director Jim Melton opened the ceremony by thanking all the coaches and their wives, the players and their parents, and the local media for providing coverage for the kids.

Baseball Coach Shannon Floyd said a prayer before handing out awards to his players.

Sophomore Aidan Berrong was awarded the Offensive Baseball Player of the Year after finishing the season with a .406 batting average.

Senior catcher Andrew Griffin was awarded the Defensive Player of the Year Award, and Senior Seth Fullerton was awarded Pitcher of the Year for his outstanding performance on the mound.

The Indian Award was given to senior Lane Denton, who was asked to do a lot this year and played several positions during the season.

Golf Coach Brian Hunnicutt presented the golf awards, and sophomores Vanessa Floyd and Nick Sisco received Most Improved Golfers for the year.

Seniors Summer Swanson and Will Travis were awarded the Low Medalist Award for maintaining the lowest scores on the team this season.

Boys Soccer Coach Rollie Thomas gave a speech about the many milestones that his team had achieved this year, having finished First Place and going undefeated in the area and making it to the playoffs for the first time in school history.

Sophomore Peyton Barrett was awarded Offensive Player of the Year. Barrett finished third in the area for goals scored. Sophomore Reace Hampton received the Most Versatile Player of the Year award.

Senior Nick Bradley, who finished as the Defensive Player of the Year for the area, was also awarded the Heart of the Tribe Award for his outstanding leadership on the team.

With tears in his eyes, Lady Indians Soccer Head Coach John Cornett stepped to the podium just



Towns County Athletes of the Year: (L-R) Taylor Cornett and Trent Bradshaw with Athletic Director Jim Melton. Photos/Lowell Nicholson

one night after an emotional loss, and he shared a note that was left on his desk from a player.

“At the beginning of the season, I think we were all a little worried because it was basically a whole new team,” read Cornett. “You have all helped us become closer and become like a family, and today, our team walks with our heads high because we are proud to be Lady Indians, and the connection we have as a team is worth more than a ring.”

Freshman Miranda Spain won Offensive Player of the Year award, and the Defensive Player of the Year award went to junior Kaitlyn Davis. Senior Taylor Cornett, who won the Area Player of the Year, was awarded the Coach’s Award.

Six players from the Lady Indians soccer team made the First Team All-Area: Lea Neumyer, Taylor Cornett, Miranda Spain, Anya Bury, Kaitlyn Davis and Rylie Livingston, with Shelby Morris snagging an honorable mention.

Head Coach Rob Benson and Assistant Coach Alan Rogers presented the boys basketball awards, and sophomore Peyton Barrett received the Junior Varsity Indian Award.

Senior Will Travis and sophomore Kolby Moss each received Offensive Player of the Year awards, and senior Brett Denton was awarded Defensive Player of the Year.

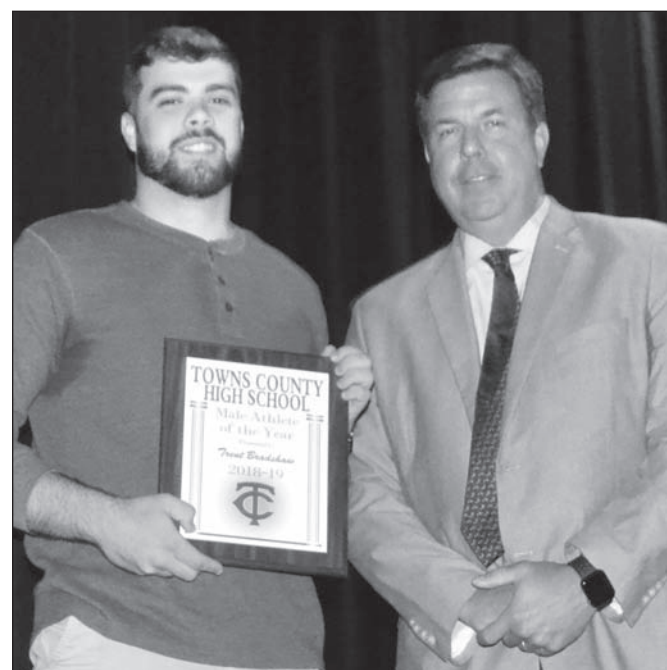
Freshman Colin Crowder won the Indian Award, and the

Sixth Man of the Year Award went to senior Nick Bradley.

This team defeated Lakeview, handing the Lions their first region loss ever, and Kolby Moss was also voted to the Second Team All-Region.

Head Coach Brian Hunnicutt and Assistant Coach Rollie Thomas presented the awards for the Lady Indians basketball team.

Sophomore Kennedy Henson received the Offensive Player



of the Year Award, and senior Taylor Cornett was awarded the Defensive Player of the Year Award.

Venessa Floyd, a sophomore, won the Game Changer Award, and senior Kenzlee Denton was awarded the True Grit Award.

Coach Hunnicutt was voted as the 8-A Region Coach of the Year.

Head Coach Jeff Stowers and Assistant Coach Brandon

Rowland presented the wrestling awards, and the most Outstanding Wrestling Award went to senior Wesly Calhoun.

Seniors Blaine Rogers and Tyler Swanger each received the Coach’s Award.

Cross Country Coach Tim Rosser awarded freshman Alison Markham and sophomore Liam King Most Valuable Runners awards, and the Indian Award went to Bazya Smith and Kayla

Peacock. 2018 Softball Head Coach Brandon Rowland awarded Most Improved to Natalie Smith. Offensive Player of the Year went to Ella Bury, and Defensive Player of the Year was awarded to Sophia Shook.

The Lady Indians Most Valuable Player Award went to Lea Neumyer.

Cheerleading Coach Dr. Rachel Pietz and Assistant Coach Lisa Woodard presented Cheer Awards to senior cheerleaders Carly Woodard and Emily Williams.

2018 Head Football Coach John Cornett and his assistant coaches handed awards out for the football team.

Assistant Coach Clay Livingston awarded seniors Will Travis and Alan Gillis Offensive Player of the Year awards, and senior Jake Parker received the Offensive Linemen Award.

Assistant Coach Chris Vardo handed out the Defensive Player of the Year Award to senior Tyler Swanger.

Cornett presented the Indian Spirit Award to senior Chase Rogers, and the Indian Warrior Award went to senior Trent Bradshaw.

The Towns County Athletes of the Year awards went to seniors Taylor Cornett and Trent Bradshaw for their stellar play on the field and their hard work in the classroom.



Towns County High School honored its student athletes at last week's awards ceremony. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Coach Cornett: Lady Indians 'left it all out on the field' in Elite 8 playoff game

By Chad Stack
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The Lady Indians lost in the Elite 8 round of the Georgia High School Association Class A Public Playoffs on Wednesday, May 1, against the Academy for Classical Education Charter School.

This makes the second year in a row that the Lady Indians have made it to the second round of the state playoffs, which is a terrific accomplishment, but they have been unable to advance.

Freshman Miranda Spain gave the Indians an early lead three minutes into the first half with a beautiful goal. The Lady Indians continued to keep the pressure on ACE with several of them taking shots on goal.

Senior Taylor Cornett took a fantastic shot from 20 yards out, but it was just a little too high and bounced off the crossbar of the goal.

ACE then started to answer back, putting pressure on the Indians and scoring a goal to tie the game 1-1 in the first.

“After watching them warm up, I knew they were going to be an excellent team,” said Head Coach John Cornett. “At the end of the first half, I was glad it was tied. They had a few more opportunities than us to score, so



The Towns County Lady Indians prepare to take the field prior to their second round playoff vs ACE. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

to be tied up was a plus for us.”

Cornett added, “I think their first goal came because it was crowded in front of the goal and Shelby couldn’t see the shot, no fault on her. It was a good shot to place it in the corner.”

Towns County regrouped in the locker room at halftime,

talking over what changes to make on the field.

“The one adjustment at the half, thanks to Pete Byrn and Rollie Thomas, was to mark their best player, #9, with (junior Jedi Arraz),” said Cornett. “She was a great player, controlled the field, and we needed to get the ball away

from her feet. So, Jedi’s rule was to stay in her face the entire second half. Jedi did a great job.”

The Lady Indians started the second half being aggressive, and 10 minutes in, Taylor Cornett was able to put the Indians back on top 2-1. Midway through the second half, a slight rain started

to fall.

Cornett was called for a foul 16 minutes into the second half, and ACE was able to make a goal from 20-plus yards out for the tie, putting the ball in the top right corner of the net just over the head of goalkeeper Shelby Morris.

The match would have to

go into overtime after ACE’s goal that tied the game in regulation, and after 15 minutes of overtime, the game was still tied 2-2. The match would come down to a shootout.

The penalty-kick shootout consists of 5 penalty kicks to be taken by each of the two teams from the penalty spot, and the referee decides by the flip of a coin which team begins.

The Lady Indians scored first in the shootout, but ACE answered back, and the Indians were unable to get another goal as several shots went over the target and to the left of the goal.

ACE made their next three shots to win the match and advance to the state semifinals.

“That was the first time Shelby had gone through a shootout, and for her first year and first time experiencing that, she is an unbelievable player,” said Cornett. “I think the girls left it all out on the field, and I couldn’t have asked for another drop of sweat from them. Their effort was maxed.”

Cornett went on to say, “Making it to the Elite 8 was a great accomplishment, and I love knowing that these girls weren’t satisfied with that, they wanted more. They have no regrets and can hold their heads high.”