

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Soccer: Lady Indians' postseason ends in Class A Final Four

By Todd Forrest
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The No. 3 Lady Indians escaped No. 6 Hawkinsville during the round of 8 via a penalty kick shootout on Monday, April 29, punching their fourth-straight ticket to the Final Four on Friday at No. 1 Aquinas, where they suffered a 1-0 loss.

Lady Indians 0 (3), Hawkinsville 0 (1) - After 80 minutes of regulation and a pair of 10-minute overtimes in Hawkinsville, the Lady Indians escaped by taking the PK session by a 3-1 score.

Halie Arrowood, Elizabeth Edwards and Ansleigh Hardin each knocked in a penalty for Towns, while keeper Laura Mauldin made two key stops during the shootout.

Lady Indians 0, Aquinas 1 - In their second meeting of the season, a pair of Region 8 squads met in the Class A Division II Final Four on Friday, May 2.

Tied 0-0 at the intermission following Drew Livingston's early PK save, Aquinas finally broke through for the game-winner in the second half off a rebound.

"Laura was tremendous in the second half with their only goal coming off a rebound she had no chance on," Towns County head coach Clay Livingston said. "[Our]



Once again, the Lady Indians took No. 1 Aquinas down to the wire during last week's Final Four clash in Augusta. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

defense was tremendous as well. The girls played hard, it just wasn't meant to be.

"[I am] real proud of the

four final downs in a row," he added. "Coach Stowers said it on the way home from Augusta, 'you just don't see that

kind of success sustained for that long very often.'

"I also really appreciate all the support from our

administrators, other coaches, teachers, parents and community. We couldn't achieve this much success without it."

The Class of 2024 departs with four final four appearances, highlighted by a State Runner-up finish in 2023.

Baseball: No. 1 Schley County overpowers Indians in Class A Sweet 16

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Americus - The Towns County baseball season wrapped up on Monday, April 29 at Americus' Thomas L. Bell Memorial Ballpark, following a pair of losses at top-ranked Schley County in the Class A D-II Sweet 16.

Schley County set the tone in game one with an 11-1, six-inning victory - churning out 13 hits while limiting the Indians to four. The second game saw Towns County score 2 runs in the first, but the Wildcats answered with four in the second, one in the third and three in the fifth to build an 8-2 margin. The Indians added two in the bottom of the fifth, bringing the final tally to 8-4.

The Indians finish the year at 18-14 along with a 40-27 combined record over the last two seasons. Towns County's nine seniors depart with consecutive Sweet 16 trips, including an Elite Eight berth in 2023.

Towns County 1, No. 1 Schley County 11 (GM 1) - Connor Chastain went 1 for 3 with a first-inning RBI, bringing home Zane Floyd, who doubled to lead off his 1-for-3 game.

Schley County pushed across two in the bottom half, using a pair of singles and a sacrifice fly to race ahead to stay. The Wildcats tacked on two more in the second behind two doubles and a base hit.

Towns stranded the bases loaded in the third following a Cale Kirby hit by pitch and singles from Chastain and Stone Chauncey. During the bottom half, Schley County capitalized on a leadoff walk and a Towns County error to stretch its lead to 5-1.

Tanner Cunningham and Oliver Sarafin drew walks in the fourth, but a caught stealing and a strikeout ended the Indians' threat.



Towns County's nine seniors will graduate later this month following a decorated high school career that includes three State playoff appearances, two Sweet 16s and one Elite Eight. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

A homer to start the Schley County half made it 6-1, then a walk, hit batter and a single stretched the difference to 7-1. During the fifth, another hit batter, a wild pitch and a run-scoring groundout made it 8-1.

The Wildcats ended the contest with three in the sixth via four singles.

Kade McConnell started on the mound and lasted 3 1/3, allowing 7 hits, 7 runs (6 ER), 2 walks and 2 hit batters.

Braydon Barrett tossed the final 2 innings, surrendering 6 hits, 4 runs and a hit batter.

Chauncey and Cunningham each ended 1 for 2 with a walk; Sarafin went 0 for 1 with a walk. Kirby reached on two hit-by-pitches.

Towns County 4, No. 1 Schley County 8 (GM 2) - Cunningham tripled and knocked in 2 runs during a 1-for-3 game, and McConnell drove in another during the Indians' season-ending loss.

McConnell's bases-loaded walk put Towns on the board in the first, then Barrett stole home, making it a 2-0 game. But Schley exploited two Floyd walks courtesy of four singles, mounting a 4-2 advantage.

Towns County left two aboard in the second and the Wildcats' two-out double made it 5-2 in the third. The Indians stranded two more runners in the fourth inning before a pair of walks and two Towns County errors spotted Schley

an 8-2 lead in the fifth.

The Indians battled back with two runs when a pair of two-out walks to Chauncey and McConnell set the table for Cunningham's bases-clearing triple.

A Schley error in the seventh off the bat of Chauncey accounted for Towns' only baserunner over the final two frames.

Kirby scored during a 1-for-4 day; Chauncey swiped two bags, walked and scored a

run while going 1 for 3 at the dish; Sarafin went 1 for 2 with a base on balls. Barrett added a stolen base.

Connor Chastain and Matthew Chastain both reached via a hit-by-pitch.

Floyd went 3 2/3 innings on the mound, allowing 4 hits, 5 runs (4 ER) and 5 walks while striking out one.

Matthew Chastain fanned three over 3 1/3 innings of relief, giving up 1 hit, 3 runs (1 ER) and 4 walks.