

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Baseball: Towns County places 11 players on 8-A's All-Region squad

By Todd Forrest
Sports Editor
Towns County Herald

On the heels of its 22-13 campaign, culminating with a berth in the GHSA Class A Elite Eight, Towns County baseball cleaned up during the 8-A All-Region team voting with 11 players earning a nod from among the region's six head coaches.

Taking home first-team recognition were junior backstop Connor Chastain, junior pitchers Matthew Chastain and Kade McConnell, junior infielder Zane Floyd, senior infielder Seth Gillis, senior DH Caleb Berrong and senior outfielder Layne Rouse.

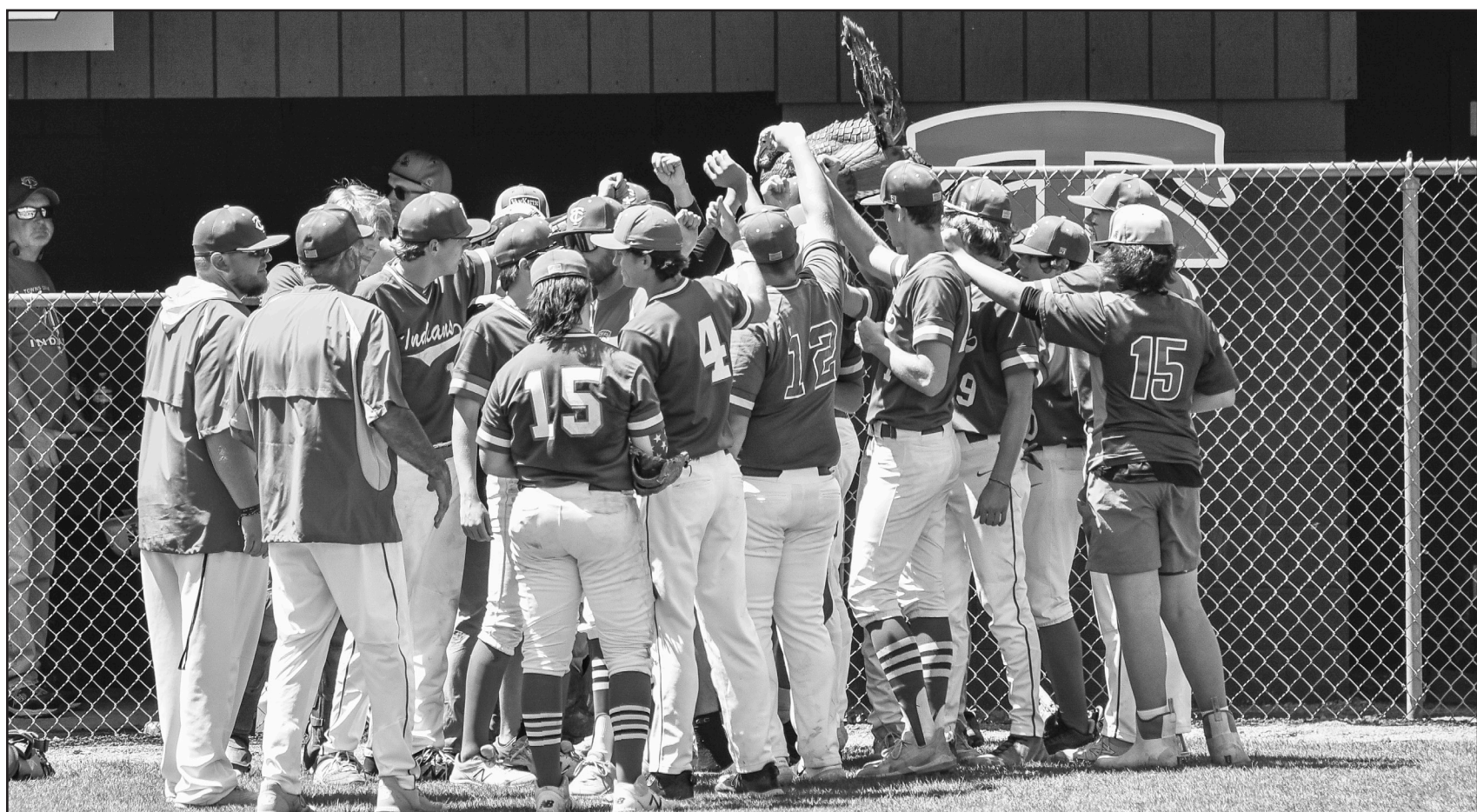
Junior outfielders Tanner Cunningham, Cale Kirby and junior infielder Stone Chauncey each picked up second-team honors. Lastly, freshman pitcher Braydon Barrett received an honorable mention recognition.

"We had great representation and I think that was indicative of our season as a whole," TCHS head baseball coach Shannon Floyd said. "I felt like we and Washington-Wilkes were the two top teams (in Region 8-A) and it showed with the all-region selections. Overall, we have nine juniors coming back (in 2024) so we'll be a senior-heavy team this coming year."

With an experienced squad returning next spring, Coach Floyd's goal is crystal clear: Surpass this year's elite-eight run with, at minimum, a final-four appearance.

"That's our plan," he said. "We'll start back up after Labor Day weekend for the guys that don't play football. We'll start getting our arms ready, and of course, we have all our pitchers back except for Gillis, who pitched a big game for us in the playoffs. But other than him, all the pitching staff is returning."

At the postseason banquet, hardware recipients were as follows: Indian Award - Ber-



Towns County celebrates its 10th straight win of 2023 win following a region victory over Aquinas in the first game of an April 15 doubleheader. Photo/Todd Forrest

rong, Gillis, Rouse and Ian Wood. MVP - Connor Chastain; Pitcher of the Year - McConnell; Offensive MVP - Zane Floyd; Defensive MVP - Cunningham; Rookie of the Year - Barrett.

JV award winners were: Ace - Tripp Shirley; Silver Slugger - Eli McNabb; Gold Glove - Morgan Walker; Most Improved - Braydon Baldwin.

After an extended postseason lasting well into May, Towns County baseball has taken it easy this summer. In years past, the Indians have worked with neighboring schools during June, but Union County underwent a coaching shakeup, and Rabun County is currently installing a new artificial playing surface.

"I had a few dates open, but not many of them worked for us, so we just elected not to do

anything during June," Coach Floyd said.

During the spring, Towns County peaked at No. 7 in the Atlanta-Journal Constitution's Class A baseball rankings in early March before suffering a three-game sweep at the hands of eventual region champ Washington-Wilkes. The Indians went on to drop two-of-three to Lincoln County but rattled off 11-straight wins between March 24 - April 15 to finish second in Region 8-A with a 10-5 mark.

Towns County stormed into the State playoffs with consecutive home sweeps of Mt. Zion-Carroll and Chattahoochee County. The Indians' season finally came to a close with two losses at Emmanuel County Institute (ECI) in the state quarterfinals. ECI advanced to the Class A State Championship but

dropped games one and three to Charlton County.

Overall, the Indians' 23 wins this spring matched the program's combined win total from the previous two seasons. The elite-eight appearance was their first since the 1990s.

Speaking of the old days,

Towns County baseball honored longtime head coach Larry Kimsey on April 15 by naming the field in his honor. Kimsey's recognition came during a doubleheader sweep of region-foe Aquinas -- Towns County's 10th and 11th consecutive wins of the year.

Coach Floyd offered thank yous to Brown Haven Homes, Heath Colvin, Alvin Gibson, Jacky Jones, Jack Kelley, Mike and Wanda Kelley and Riverbend Campground for their support during the 2023 season.

Chatuge Shores Ladies Golf Association Weekly Play

The Chatuge Shores Ladies Golf Association (CSLGA) held their weekly play on Tuesday, July 11. It was a beautiful summer day for golf with fun ladies!

Our game was "Against All Odds" in which only the odd holes count for the game. Our first flight winners were 1st place gross to Geni Preece and 1st place net to Martha Zimmer.

Our second flight winners were 1st place gross to Vicky Healy and 1st place net to Katie Farris. Our third flight winners were 1st place gross to Sandra Snyder and 1st place net to Linda Robinson. Lowest putts went to

Geni Preece with 34 putts and Vicky Healy and Martha Zimmer tied for second place with 35 putts each. Congratulations to all of our ladies!

We will be holding our annual Par 3 tournament on July 18, this is open to all ladies who maintain a current GHIN, come on out and enjoy the fun followed by a lunch of gourmet hot dogs and all of the xings!

CSLGA plays every Tuesday at Chatuge Shores Golf Course, 260 Golf Course Road, Hayesville, NC. Our tee me is 9:30 AM every Tuesday through the end of September and includes golfers from the tri-county area and includes



Geni Preece golfers of all skill levels.

If you are not a member but would like to join us please contact Vicky Healy at vhealy55@gmail.com.

Chatuge Shores Men's Golf Association



Richard Woodruff, Doug Stuart, Steve Christie and Lee Durham

The Chatuge Shores Men's Golf Association celebrated a landmark 90th birthday for Doug Stuart. Doug has been a long-time member of the Association and was the past Secretary/Treasurer for 10 years. Happy Birthday, Doug.

Celebrating with Doug are the first team winners for the July 12th round, Richard "Woody" Woodruff, Steve Christie and Lee Durham. Playing two man best ball with

handicap, the trio came in at 17 under par. Wow! Great round, guys. Individual honors that day went to Clayton Keller and Steve Christie, both had a 4 under par round with handicap. A great day for golf and a fun day was had by all.

The Chatuge Men's Golf Association plays Monday and Wednesday mornings at 8:30 AM through September. They welcome any level of golfer to join the group, which enjoys a

lot of fun and friendship along with handicapped golf competition. Current members are from the local surrounding area -- Clay, Cherokee, Towns and Union counties.

If you have an interest in our group, please contact President Jerry Couse at 706-994-6900 or Secretary/Treasurer Richard Purdy at 303-909-1090 for more information.

The summer fun has started, come join us.

Georgia Hoops for Youth Basketball Camp

Towns County Park & Rec Center

July 24 - July 27, 2023

9 am to 4 pm

Boys & Girls: \$100 for 4 Days

Ages: 8-17 / Pack Lunch

Ray Porredon, Coach & Director

About the Director:

50 Years High School Basketball Coach (Boys & Girls)

Has Worked and Coached:

Kandler Coaker - North Carolina; Kenny Anderson - GA Tech, NBA

Kenny Hall - Tennessee; Frank Martin - South Carolina & U of Mass.

Kobe Ash - Hayesville H.S. & NVP State Player

Jeremey Lamb - U-Conn & NBA; Gill Hodges - Indiana State

Skill Training - Dribble Shooting

Passing - Defense & Much More

Further Information Call 706-969-1494

Not responsible for injuries due to Playing.

Thank you for your sponsorship for our scholarship program!