

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Softball: Lady Indians to face Lake Oconee three times this week

By Jeremy Foster
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Last week, the Towns County Lady Indians Softball Team played a series of games starting at home on Wednesday, Sept. 14, against Cedar Shoals High School on Lowell Nicholson Field.

The Indians maintained strong control at the plate and on the field through the start when, by the top of the third inning, freshman Delaney Moses scored the first run of the game for a 1-0 lead. The ladies extended their lead to 2-1 in the top of the fourth on a run by junior Zoe Phillips.

Unfortunately, Cedar Shoals hit one deep with bases loaded in the bottom of the fourth to bring home two players, and after another score, the match ultimately went to the Athens-based team 4-2.

"It was tough," Head Coach Clay Livingston said. "We did not have a great day, but there is never any question about how great the girls' efforts always are."

"When you have a young team, one of the hardest things to teach them is how to prepare every day and be ready to play. I think it is more of a mental thing for us right now."

"The biggest thing is that



Towns County freshman Delaney Moses scored a run against Cedar Shoals last week. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

we learn from the mistakes we made, which we did not make a ton of errors and we did not give up a bunch of base on balls. We were just not crisp and on top of our game."

"We have to learn how to overcome that and win some of those tough games, and we will just get back to practice and get back to work."

The last games of the

week took place in an away doubleheader against Washington-Wilkes on Saturday, Sept. 17, which was a makeup rescheduled from Saturday, Sept. 10, due to a complete washout from the rain.

Towns lost both games, 12-0 and 14-0 respectively.

"We had some kids miss some time due to sickness and injury, but the girls kept

competing," Livingston said. "Zoe Phillips fought through sickness and played flawless in the field. We limited (freshman pitcher) Jaycie Cross' innings due to some shoulder discomfort."

"Hope Chastain and Scotlyn Fain filled in and gave us everything they had. We didn't have our A-game Saturday, and when we have to move kids around it gets really tough for us. But again, the main thing was, the girls stuck together and kept competing for each other."

Added Livingston, "We have another tough one this Thursday vs Lake Oconee Academy. I am looking forward to hopefully having everybody back healthy."

"Good things are coming for these girls. (Junior) Izzy Edwards, (junior) Laura Mauldin and (sophomore) Drew Livingston led us at the plate Saturday with some solid hits and quality at-bats."

The ladies will face Lake Oconee Academy in an away game Sept. 22 beginning at 5 p.m., and they will host LOA on Saturday, Sept. 24, at home in a doubleheader with games at 12 p.m. and 2 p.m.

A Lincoln County home matchup comes next on Wednesday, Sept. 28, starting at 5 p.m.

Football: Indians to prepare for region schedule in bye week

By Jeremy Foster
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Towns County Indians played Coosa High School away on Friday, Sept. 16, and though it was a hard-fought battle with a rally in the second half, Coosa won the game 31-14.

Junior defensive back and wide receiver Colton Garrett scored a 19-yard touchdown on a reception from junior linebacker and quarterback Connor Chastain, while senior linebacker and tight end Seth Gillis achieved an 87-yard kickoff return.

The Indians went for the 2-point conversion in both extra point scenarios, and sophomore defensive back and quarterback Eli Newberry was successful in one attempt.

"We didn't play as well as I had hoped in the first half," Head Coach Jason Roquemore said. "We had a Pick 6 (interception returned for a touchdown) early in the first quarter, which put us behind the eight ball."

"We were down 17-0 at halftime, but I was really proud of how we came out and fought in the second half. Our kids are very resilient, and this gives us something to look forward to and build on."

Added Roquemore, "I think the biggest thing is that we continue to love, and when you love, you continue to fight. We have the region schedule that will kick off (next week), and we have done some good things in non-region play."

"We have made some mistakes also; we have to eliminate that and play cleaner football, because that is when everything matters the most."

This week will see a region bye for the team, in which there will be no game this Friday, Sept. 23, but that does not mean the Indians will be taking it easy.

"Bye weeks are important to manage well because



Towns County senior tight end Seth Gillis carries the ball at Coosa last Friday. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



Junior linebacker Ian Arrowood brings down a Coosa ball carrier. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

it gives you a chance to make sure the kids can rest and heal up, but also to really take some time to get back to some of the fundamental stuff that we went over in the summer, and the things that we have to correct,"

Roquemore said.

Following this Friday's bye, the Indians will host Greene County on Friday, Sept. 30, for Towns County Homecoming, with the game beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Towns County High School Principal Roy Perren new XC coach

By Jeremy Foster
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

For the first time in recent memory, an actively serving head principal has stepped up to helm a sport at Towns County High School, with Principal Roy Perren taking up the mantle as the new coach for the Boys and Girls Cross Country Teams.

"The thing is that it's all about the kids," Perren said of his decision to assume the responsibility. "We did not have anyone who was ready or not doing something else to take that position at this time, so I wanted to be sure these kids had the opportunity to participate in cross country."

And though Perren does not have a coaching background, he has always enjoyed an active lifestyle with hobbies such as running, hiking and horseback riding.

Perren is also well known for his singing exploits, notably his gospel performances and Elvis Presley impersonation, but he has promised not to make his young athletes run in "Blue Suede Shoes."

"We are working on getting a permanent coach for next year, so this is just a transition period," Perren said. "And we are working on developing a track course as we speak on the new property that we have bought adjacent to the campus, so that will be a first time for us."

"We appreciate this community and the great support they give all our programs, athletic and academic, and we would love to see everyone come out to the next meet. I am very thankful to be here for my 19 years to experience Towns County."

Lady Indian runners are sophomores Kya Smith and Ansleigh Hardin, and Indian runners are sophomore Connor Williams, junior Landon Sprinkles, and seniors Curtis Markham, Zion Calhoun, Ivan Chavero and Dren Green.

The boys and girls teams



Towns County in action last month during an early-season race at Blairsville's Meeks Park. Photos/Todd Forrest

have seen action recently against Rabun County, Union County, Tallulah Falls and others, and Towns County runners will hold their next meet on Thursday, Sept. 22, at Westminster Christian Academy.

On Thursday, Sept. 29, beginning at 4:30 p.m., the Indians will host a meet on Towns County High School grounds, which Perren thinks is a first, as home meets have historically been held at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds.

On Tuesday, Sept. 13, Towns County participated in Gilmer's North Georgia XC

Championship, collecting an eighth-place individual finish courtesy of senior Curtis Markham's time of 20 minutes, 23 seconds.

In the girls' race, sophomore Kya Smith placed 13th with a time of 26:34. Sophomore Ansleigh Harden came in 35th with a time of 30:38.

Other men's results included sophomore Connor Williams in 39th, senior Ivan Chavero in 40th and Zion Calhoun in 43rd.

In 44th was senior Dren Green; junior Landon Sprinkles took home 47th.