

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Softball: Despite struggles, Lady Indians remain persistent

By Jeremy Foster
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Last Thursday, Sept. 22, the Towns County Lady Indians Softball Team traveled to Lake Oconee Academy to play and heartbreakingly lost 15-0.

"We are in a tough spot right now with our starting pitcher, (freshman) Jaycie Cross, who is out with a shoulder injury," Head Coach Clay Livingston said. "Pitching depth has been a struggle since I took over the program.

"(Freshman) Scotlyn Fain has started pitching recently and got some valuable experience in a live game, and (junior) Hope Chastain pitched for us some last year and did a great job Thursday throwing a lot of strikes. They both competed and got better.

"As a team, I am amazed by our girls' persistence. They continue to show up and work and compete every day. (Freshman) Alexa Keys and (freshman) Delaney Moses each had a base hit.

"We had other good at-bats; we just have to keep putting the ball in play and good things will happen. There is no quit in this bunch."



Junior Zoe Phillips vs. Washington-Wilkes. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

The Indians were supposed to play a doubleheader this past Saturday, Sept. 24, against Lake Oconee Academy on Lowell Nicholson Field, but the home games were rescheduled to Wednesday, Oct. 12, with the time to be determined time.

Next up, the Ladies are set to play Lincoln County

twice this week starting at home on Wednesday, Sept. 28, beginning at 5 p.m., and again in an away game at Lincoln on Saturday, Oct. 1, in a doubleheader at 12 p.m. and 2 p.m.

Visit www.townscountyathletics.com for more sports information. Go Indians!



Towns County's Jaycie Cross in the pitcher's circle during an early-season contest against Cedar Shoals. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



The 2022 Towns County Lady Indians

PBIS Program successfully enters third year at TCHS



Spring 2022 PBIS Powderpuff White Team members: Kya Smith, Ansleigh Hardin, Callie Drew Livingston, Rylile Livingston and Brittany Martinez

By Ken Camp,
TCHS PBIS School Coach

Towns County High School has adopted a national student behavior platform into its culture called Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS). Originally designed by educational researchers at the University of Oregon in the 1990s, over the last few decades, the philosophies and strategies of the PBIS program have been implemented in more than 21,000 schools across the United States.

While some parents in the community may be familiar with components of the program if they have had children at Towns County Elementary School, many community members may be unaware of how this program affects day-to-day activities and operations at TCHS.

While most elementary schools in Georgia have adopted PBIS, most high schools are still in a developmental phase. TCHS is one of a few dozen in Georgia that have implemented the program.

PBIS looks differently in a high school than in an elementary setting, but the underlying philosophies and desired outcomes are the same. Ultimately, TCHS hopes that it will contribute another five points to the Georgia Department of Education College and Career Readiness Index (CCRPI) score assigned to schools at the end of each year.

Towns County High School currently needs to close a razor-thin CCRPI margin to elevate from a four-star school climate rating to an elite five-star school. This is a distinction afforded very few rural high schools, and one that would set TCHS apart from the crowd.

Principal Roy Perren notes, "PBIS has been a great thing for our school, and you can see the small positive impacts that the program makes on our students on a daily basis."

In summary, PBIS is a program that seeks to develop and emphasize values that are central to good school culture, reward these positive behaviors, and make students self-aware of strategies and habits that will carry over into future success.

Starting in 2019, a team of TCHS educators began planning a course of

action to implement PBIS at TCHS. That team identified five important core values that spell out the acronym 'TRIBE': teamwork, respect, integrity, bravery and excellence. Each of these values is tied to standards and expectations for all areas of school life. Whether a student is in the classroom, the hallways, the cafeteria, the parking lot, or participating in school events, a certain standard of positive behavior is expected. For instance, bravery in the classroom entails asking questions, seeking help when needed, and challenging oneself to take Dual Enrollment or advanced courses or challenging pathway courses, rather than taking an easier road. Integrity at school events requires student athletes to show class to their opponents, officials, and coaches and continue giving 100% effort until the end of the game or competition. These are just two examples of school values and philosophies that appear on display in large printed hallway matrices and classrooms at TCHS.

Robyn Donaldson, who manages PBIS records and archives for TCHS, notes that "by teaching specific strategies and giving students time to practice behaviors routinely when they are calm, you set up everyone to remind each other what to do when their feelings escalate and they find themselves in high-pressure moments."

At its essence, PBIS seeks to replace the natu-

ral tendency to tell students 'Don't do that' with 'Follow this good example' and to emphasize the positive results achieved by many students every day that often go unrecognized.

PBIS school coach Ken Camp notes, "PBIS isn't at all about doing away with discipline. Discipline is very much a part of the philosophical standard we seek to maintain. Instead, rather than inadvertently focusing too much attention on events we don't want, we want to flip the script and make sure that students who are excelling academically or who are positively serving the school in some way get their due recognition."

Camp, along with Principal Roy Perren, Assistant Principal Bryan Thomason, and team members Rachel Surles, Sarah Vardo, Dionne Berrong and Robyn Donaldson, have implemented a number of new culture pieces and student rewards to TCHS over the last two years. Landon Sprinkles, a junior member of student council, remarks, "I really like the ticket system they've put in, because it reminds you to keep doing the little things every day to be successful. Eventually, you have a reward of some sort as an incentive."

Check back with next week's edition of the Towns County Herald for the conclusion of this article, to include examples of some of the many things that PBIS has brought to Towns County High School. (Part 1 of 2)

Chatuge Shores Ladies Golf Association Wrapping up the Season

The Chatuge Shores Ladies Golf Association (CSLGA) held their weekly league play on Tuesday, September 20, which was the last regular league play for the 2022 season.

It has been a wonderful season in Hayesville with a group of ladies that just loves to play golf. This week was the final week of a season-long Ace of Aces tournament.

Results for the first flight, low gross were first place Glenda Geddings and second place Mary Mott. Results for the first flight, low net were first place Vicky Healy and second place Alison Taylor.

Results for the second flight, low gross were first place Sandy Snyder and sec-

ond place Holly Cox. Results for the second flight, low net were first place Gail Cole and second place Linda Miles.

Lowest putts went to Alison Taylor and Martha Zimmer with 34 putts. Sandy Snyder had a chip on hole 15. Birdie ladies were Martha Zimmer on hole 2 and Holly Cox on hole 7.

CSLGA plays every Tuesday at Chatuge Shores Golf Course 260 Golf Course Rd, Hayesville, NC 28904.

During October the league will play at 10 a.m. with general tee times and no games. The league has 30 members from throughout the tri-county area and includes golfers of all skill levels.