

# Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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## Homecoming Royalty take the field during Friday's game against the Eagles

By Chad Stack  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Congratulations to Towns County High School senior Anya Bury, who was crowned 2019 Football Homecoming Queen on Friday, Oct. 4.

Making the event extra special for Bury, 2018 Football Homecoming Queen Ella Bury returned Friday night from the University of North Georgia to crown her little sister.

This year featured a two-way tie for the title of 2019 Senior Homecoming Princess: seniors Sophia Shook and Jamison Wood.

Joining the Senior Royalty in receiving crowns were three more Homecoming Princesses: freshman Eden Hill, sophomore Macy Brinson and junior Vanessa Floyd.

During a Homecoming Pep Rally on Friday, Indians Football Player Chris Boggus was crowned 2019 Football Homecoming King.

The Boys in Blue faced off against the Eagles of Riverside Military Academy for the 2019 Homecoming Game in Frank McClure Memorial Stadium on Oct. 4.

The Indians were looking to get into the win column Friday night, as their record going into the game was 0-5 for the first time in six years.

Towns County won the coin toss and elected to receive the ball, and the Indians started from their 20-yard line after the touchback.

Sophomore quarterback Kyle Oakes completed his first pass for 10 yards to junior Reace Hampton, putting the Indians in a third and short.



All season long, the big guys up front on the offensive line have paved the way for the Indians' running game while providing pass protection for the quarterback. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Oakes was unable to get the 3 yards for a first down, forcing the Indians to punt the ball, though Oakes' punt was blocked, with the Eagles taking possession of the ball on the Towns County 16-yard line.

The Eagles scored on their first offensive play as their quarterback scampered for 16 yards into the end zone to give Riverside an early 7-point lead after a good point-after attempt.

On the ensuing drive, facing a third-and-one situation, the Indians suffered a 3-yard loss, forcing them to punt the ball away again.

After the Eagles took a 27-0 lead just over five minutes into the second quarter, the Indians defense forced Riverside to punt the ball.

Indians QB Oakes gained 10 yards on the ground, and on the next play, Oakes connected

with his brother, junior wide receiver Garrett Oakes, for a 36-yard pass, putting the Indians inside the Eagles' red zone.

Senior running back Dakota Edge scored on a toss from Oakes, finding the end zone from 8 yards out.

The Eagles still had a 27-6 lead after a failed Indians 2-point conversion, with 1:55 remaining in the first half.

Riverside scored one more time to take a 34-6 lead heading into halftime.

One of the field lights in the stadium has been regularly turning off throughout the season, and Friday night, just before the second half started, all the lights went out for about 30 minutes.

Both teams tried to stay loose on the sidelines as they waited for the lights to come back on so they could finish

the game.

After the lights came on, the Indians lined up to kick the ball off to start the second half. The Indians tried to catch the Eagles off guard with an onside kick but were unable to recover the ball.

The Eagles defense held the Indians scoreless in the second half, defeating the Boys in Blue 68-6.

Towns County rushed for 132 yards, and Oakes threw for 39 yards, making a total of 171 yards for the Indians offense.

Oakes rushed 25 times for 90 yards and was 6-for-10 with 39 yards through the air.

Edge finished the night with 20 carries for 42 yards and a score.

Hampton hauled in two catches for 24 yards, while Garrett Oakes had two receptions for 42 yards.



The Towns County High School Homecoming King and Queen Chris Boggus and Anya Bury. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Andrew Conrad also had two catches for 3 yards.

The Indians will travel to Ducla on Friday, Oct. 11,

to take on Hebron Christian Academy, with a kickoff time of 7:30 p.m.

## XC: Indians take First Place at Lumpkin, sweep Top Three spots

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Sixth at 20:18, and Peyton Barrett rounded out the Top Five at 21:00.

On Sept. 30, the Indians Cross Country Teams travelled to Dahlonega to take part in the Lumpkin County Invitational.

The race featured Towns, Lumpkin and Fannin counties, as well as Riverside Military Academy – a quality field of runners on both the girls' and boys' entries.

On a very hot day with temperatures in the low 90s, and with a very challenging 3.1-mile course, both teams fared well.

The boys ran first, and Towns County swept the podium, having runners finishing First, Second and Third, along with having a Sixth-Place finisher and a 13th-Place finisher to round out Towns County's Top Five.

There were 55 total runners, so that was quite a feat.

Jensen Brown finished First with a time of 19:02, Liam King finished Second at 19:27, and Blythe Smith finished Third at 19:39. Luis Quijada finished

Overall, Towns County secured First Place in the boys' race, winning over Second Place Riverside Military Academy by nearly 20 points – Towns 25 and Riverside 46.

The girls' race was next, and though the team wasn't as successful, Alison Markham had her best finish of the season so far, placing Third overall with a time of 24:51.

Bazy Smith was Second for the Lady Indians with a time of 28:50. Rounding out the Lady Indians' Top Five were Kayla Peacock, Macy Brinson and Gali Quijada.

The teams traveled to Riverside Military Academy in Gainesville on Tuesday, Oct. 8, to run in the RMA Fall Runaway, a race that occurred after press time.

Several solid teams were in attendance, as it is typically a very fast 3.1-mile course.

## Softball: Lady Indians finish fifth in region; will return 18 players for 2020 season

By Chad Stack  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Lady Indians Softball finished the season 5-13 under first-year Head Coach Clay Livingston after dropping two games in the 8-A Region Tournament last week.

They played hard but came up short both games, one each on Monday, Sept. 30, and Tuesday, Oct. 1, at East Jackson Park in Nicholson.

Heading into the tournament, Livingston said he felt confident about their chances, as previously, the Lady Indians defeated top-ranked Prince Avenue during a three-game win streak.

The Lady Indians lost 8-0 on Monday in their attempt to knock off the Lady Wolverines as they did earlier in the season.

Lady Indians ace pitcher and junior Kennedy Henson finished the day with six innings pitched, retiring five batters and giving up five earned runs.

Henson went 1-for-1 and was walked twice at the plate.

After dropping the first game of the region tournament, the Lady Indians were in a must-win situation to stay alive in the competition.

They traveled back to Nicholson on Tuesday to take on the Lady Lions of Hebron Christian Academy, though Hebron defeated the Lady Indians 10-2 to officially end their season.

Henson went six innings in the circle that Tuesday, retiring one batter and allowing five earned runs.

Junior Remington Parker



went 2-for-4 at the plate. Senior Sophia Shook was 1-for-3, and sophomore Rylie Livingston finished the day 2-for-3 with 2 RBIs.

The Lady Indians finished fifth in a region loaded with private schools, and the Top Four teams in the region all have 15-plus wins.

"We felt great after beating Prince, winning three in a row and getting on a roll," Livingston said. "But there are no breaks in our schedule, especially the region games. We only have one loss to a nonplayoff team. We just couldn't put together all phases of the game for seven innings consistently."

The Lady Indians will return 18 players next season.

They will miss the Lady Indians leader behind the plate Sophia Shook and the team's designated hitter Jessica Taylor, as they are seniors and will graduate

this year.

"It will be hard to walk out there for the first practice next year and not see Sophia and Jess," Livingston said. "Those are two amazing young ladies that you hate to lose. Of course, replacing your catcher is always a huge concern as well."

Added Livingston, "I think the positives from this year definitely outweigh the negatives. There should be a lot of excitement going into next year, with eight of nine starters coming back, and the new region where we will be playing more schools like us, schools that face some of the same challenges we face."

Livingston and his assistant coaches are already looking forward to the 2020 season, though the head coach said he will always look back on his first year coaching the Lady Indians with fondness.

"We as a coaching staff learned a lot about these girls this year," Livingston said. "We definitely see some options for making our defensive alignment and our batting lineup better next year. As frustrating as this year was at times, I still feel blessed to have been a part of it."

Added Livingston, "Even when we were struggling, all the girls just kept showing up and putting the work in. Coach Chris Vardo and Zeke Gribble did an amazing job this year. All three of us learned some of the subtle differences between softball and baseball that I believe will help us next year."

As the coaches all look ahead, Livingston is also excited about getting another year to coach his daughters, junior Rylie Livingston and sophomore Kenzie Livingston.



Jensen Brown, Liam King and Blythe Smith took home the Top Three spots at the Lumpkin County Invitational.

## Chatuge Dam 5K Run/Walk to benefit Haven Project of Georgia

The inaugural Chatuge Dam 5K run/walk will be held October 19th at 8:30 AM at Clay County Recreation Park in Hayesville, NC to benefit Haven Project of Georgia. The race will start and end at Pavilion #1 at the Clay County Recreation Park (47 Clay Recreation Park Road, Hayesville, NC) and will include a beautiful out-and-back across Chatuge Dam. Runners, walkers, wheelchair users, strollers, and dogs are welcome.

To register, go to www.active.com and look for The Big Dam Run 5K Run/Walk or see Haven Project's website (www.havenprojectga.org) for a paper registration form. Participants with disabilities can register for free by emailing havenprojectoga@gmail.com.

Race t-shirts are guaranteed to those who register by October 4th and will be given to later registrants as long as supplies last.

Awards will be given for the overall male and female winners, overall masters male and female winners, and three deep in ten-year age groups from 10 and under to 70 and over.

This race will benefit Haven Project of Georgia, a non-profit organization that serves individuals with disabilities and their families in north Georgia and western North Carolina by offering free education, advocacy, and respite programs. Haven is neighbors helping neighbors get access to the programs and services they need to live their best lives.