

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Softball: Lady Indians wrap up season with first-ever playoff win

By Daysha Pandolph
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Gibson - For only the third time in Towns County High School history, the Lady Indians advanced to State, traveling south of Atlanta to Glascock County where they spent two days fighting to advance in the Class A Super Regionals.

After a rough start vs. the Glascock County Lady Panthers, resulting in a GCHS victory of 12-0, Towns county was placed in the losing column.

However, the next round against Christian Heritage resulted in a historical 5-2 win for the girls. Unfortunately a loss of 9-0 vs. Schley County the next day halted the Lady Indians' advancement in the playoffs.

The team made their first appearance of the week at 12 p.m. on Monday Oct. 16, where they suffered a 12-0 loss to Glascock County. The loss dropped the Lady Indians into the loser's bracket of the four-team Super Regional.

Subsequently, they were matched up with Christian Heritage, who had also been placed in a lower column following a lost game vs. Schley county earlier in the day. At 4 p.m. the Lady Indians put on their best game faces to fight for a chance to advance further, and while it was close, Towns County deservingly earned the 5-2 win that kept them in the playoffs.

The following day at 1 p.m. a game vs. Schley County ended up being the girls' last after they suffered a loss of 9-0.

"We would've liked to have done even better, but considering that (the win vs. Christian Heritage) was the first playoff win in the history of the program, I'm pretty proud of it. I'm really excited for the girls," commented Coach Clay Livingston, whose



The Towns County Lady Indians are all smiles after their 5-2 playoff win over Christian Heritage last week in Glascock County. Photo/TCHS

team had exceeded his expectations from the beginning of the season.

Back in August, Livingston spoke on how the main goal for the team was to constantly seek improvement and get experience under the younger girls' belts. After making a historical victory like this, there's no denying that the Lady Indians did just that.

"Overall I think we improved tremendously," Livingston said. "We had that rough two-game stretch and had some locker room issues, but the girls - specifically the seniors - stepped up and got us back on the right path. We're finally getting to a place where everybody understands

the expectations and you don't have to have a whole lot of team meetings and a lot of fussing about how we go about doing things that they already understand. It kind of takes care of itself."

Livingston has expressed his gratitude towards this year's senior players many times throughout the season, and has often credited them with keeping the team on track through various situations.

With such an influential group of girls leaving high school softball behind them, fans are left to wonder if the upcoming seniors can fill their shoes, a question Livingston has asked himself time and time again.

"I think they will, but

you never know," he answered.

Despite the apparent uncertainty, Livingston has full confidence in the future of his softball team, commenting, "Sometimes you even have a sophomore who's willing to step up and lead. The two seniors we have next year, Drew Livingston and Hailey Gibson will do a good job, but I think we've also got a lot of underclassmen who have a lot of experience and can help them with that burden."

While on the topic of experience, Livingston shared that getting the girls exposure to the game has often been the biggest challenge this past season. With many players already in other sports, working jobs outside of school, and

enjoying other activities aside from athletics, it's hard to fully commit to travel-ball.

"(The teams we play) don't have better players per say, they just have more experienced players. And the only way you get more experience is by playing, so that's not something you can coach on the practice field," said Livingston, "but our girls are quick learners so that helps. They pick it up pretty fast and that's what gives us an opportunity to be competitive and successful even though we're not loaded with a bunch of travel ball girls."

On the upside, the substantial playoff win proves that the team has made major progress throughout the past three

months, and will hopefully continue in the years to come.

"We hope that this playoff win is a stepping stone and that it builds momentum to get to Columbus," he said. "I'm never satisfied unless I win the last game, so we'll just keep working in the off-season as much as we can and continue to try to get better."

"I feel blessed to be their coach. We've got a lot of great support from the administration, parents, and community. A lot of people stepped up to help us when we had to spend two nights down there and didn't want any recognition from it, they just wanted to make sure the girls had what they needed to have a chance."

Football: Warren County rushes for 365 yards in 44-0 win over Indians

By Daysha Pandolph
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Warrenton - Under the energized stadium lights of Albert J. Massey Field, a grand crowd gathered to watch the Towns County Indians play against the Screaming Devils in the Warren County Homecoming game on Friday, Oct. 20.

While the Indians put forth their best effort, they were unable to grasp several game-changing opportunities, resulting in a final loss of 44-0.

In total, Warren gained 383 yards from 36 carries for 365 yards and 6 touchdowns in rushing, and 2 for 5 for 18 yards in passing. Towns had a total of 28 yards by the end of the game, getting 3-13 for 15 yards in passing and 17 carries for 13 yards in rushing.

"We had some opportunities, we just struggled to make the most of them," commented head coach Jason Roquemore. "If you just look at the score, you'd think it was really lopsided and some of the stats are lopsided, but we had some opportunities - especially offensively - and we just couldn't make those plays."

Despite coming up short versus the Screaming Devils, the Indians never gave up on the game, fighting all the way to the final buzzer. Several players made outstanding contributions throughout the night, such as Dustin Barrett, who had



The Towns County defense brings down a Warren County back during Friday night's road contest. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

2 catches for 11 yards, 8 carries for 11 yards, 6 defensive tackles, and punts of both 56 and 50 yards. Colton Garrett contributed 9 tackles alongside Morgan Walker's six.

While the team is collectively on a steady path of improvement, there are still some challenges. Like Roquemore has mentioned continu-

ously throughout the season, his team is made up largely of underclassmen.

"You combine that with the athleticism of the opponent, and we've just got to find a way to make some plays," said Roquemore. "It's not really a weakness, it's just part of the process of playing young kids. A lot of those kids that are

playing haven't played under the Friday-night lights, and the game is kind of fast for them. The more we do it the better we're gonna get. Our prep has been really good, we've just got to execute."

Although there are only two more games this football season, Coach Roquemore refuses to focus on the end.

Rather, he feels that the team should take every game week by week, without worrying about the number of opportunities they have left.

"We take it one week at a time, one opponent at a time. And when it's over it's over. Each week is its own monster, its own opportunity, and its own situation. A lot of these

teams that we play have some similarities, but a lot of them are different."

The Towns County Indians will play next at Washington-Wilkes on Fri. Oct 27.

The following week will be both their final game of the season and Senior Night, and will take place at home on Nov. 3.