

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Soccer: Lady Indians secure 3-seed with 5-1 Senior Night victory



The Towns County Lady Indians took care of Lincoln County 5-1 last Tuesday, March 28 to clinch a No. 3 seed in next week's State Tournament. Abby Gardella and Jayden Taylor paced Towns County's Senior Night victory with two goals apiece. Gardella chipped in one assist. Emma Lallement scored one goal; Brittany Cabrera dished out two assists; Halie Arrowood and senior Sarah Shook added one helper each. Later in the week, the Lady Indians avenged an early-season loss to Banks County with an 8-0 rout. Gardella recorded a hat trick and Taylor scored twice with three assists. Shook also collected a brace to go with her one assist. Arrowood provided one goal and three helpers in the win. The Towns County men ended the regular season with a 1-1 tie vs. Banks County. The region schedule wrapped with a 1-0 loss to Lincoln County. The Lady Indians seniors are (L-R): Jayden Taylor, Alana Stowers, Brooke Murrell and Sarah Shook. The Indians seniors are (L-R): Tyler Blackwell, Ivan Chavero, Dren Green, Grant Ingram and Curtis Markham. Zion Calhoun is not pictured. Photos/Lowell Nicholson



The Towns County men ended the regular season with a 1-1 tie vs. Banks County. The region schedule wrapped with a 1-0 loss to Lincoln County. The Indians seniors are (L-R): Tyler Blackwell, Ivan Chavero, Dren Green, Grant Ingram and Curtis Markham. Zion Calhoun is not pictured. Photos/Lowell Nicholson

Baseball: Indians return to form, extend win-streak to five games

By Todd Forrest
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Don't look now, but the Towns County Indians (11-8, 7-5) are riding a five-game winning streak and are on the verge of locking down a State playoff spot ahead of this Tuesday's non-region doubleheader at Union County (1-20, 1-8).

Towns County swept a three-game set from Lake Oconee Academy last week, limiting the Titans to only two runs in the series. In other action, the Indians went on the road to thump Hiwassee Dam, North Carolina, 9-0 on Wednesday, March 29, behind Connor Chastain's big fly and a combined three-hitter from Braydon Barrett, Cale Kirby and Matthew Chastain.

Indians 10, LOA 1 - Connor Chastain drove in four runs and Kade McConnell went the distance on the mound as Towns County dismantled LOA during Tuesday's series opener in Hiwassee.

The Indians grabbed a 7-0 lead behind two in the first, one in the third and a four-run fourth -- which was more than enough for McConnell, who scattered five hits and fanned four in the win.

An error, an RBI groundout and a dropped third strike got Towns on the board in the first, then McConnell pitched this way out of trouble after the first two runners reached to start the second.

A two-out double by Stone Chauncey made it 3-0 in the third, and the Indians blew things open with a four-spot in the fourth.

Matthew Chastain and Lane Rouse reached to begin the frame, then Zane Floyd brought home a run with a grounder to first. Gillis wore a 1-0 pitch, and Connor Chastain retaliated with a two-run double before his courtesy runner, Barrett, scored via a balk.

Two singles and an error in the fifth led to LOA's lone run, but McConnell kept them at bay - facing the minimum over the final two innings.

After a Gillis base hit, back-to-back doubles from Connor Chastain and Caleb Berrong spotted Towns a 9-1 advantage. The final run came around courtesy of an error off the bat of Chauncey.

Connor Chastain finished 3 for 4 with two doubles and 4 RBIs. Gillis ended his day 2 for 4 with a double and three runs.



Kade McConnell fired a complete game in Tuesday's win over Lake Oconee Academy. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

McConnell helped his own cause during a 2-for-4 day. Chauncey walked, doubled and drove in one during a 1-for-3 performance. Berrong doubled during a 1-for-4 day that included one run and a ribby. Matthew Chastain walked twice and scored; Rouse added a run and Barrett scored twice.

Floyd finished with a run and an RBI. Tanner Cunningham reached on a fielder's choice.

Barrett, Matthew Chastain, Gillis and Rouse added one steal apiece.

Indians 4, LOA 1 - Gillis and Berrong logged a pair of two-hit games as Towns got two in the first and two in the seventh during game two of the region series in Greensboro.

Floyd tossed a 75-pitch complete game, allowing four hits, one walk and striking out two.

Four of the first five Indians reached in the top of the first with a two-out single from Chauncey providing the visitors an early lead.

Floyd surrendered two singles in the third but escaped with a 2-1 lead when he induced a pop fly and a punch out to limit the damage. He pitched around a lead-off single in the fifth and got out of another two-on situation in the sixth.

Towns County added two insurance runs in the seventh when Rouse doubled to open the inning, and Gillis brought him home with a base hit to left. Later in the inning, Berrong's two-out double made it a 4-1 game and Floyd worked a

1-2-3 bottom half to secure the series win.

Gillis finished 2 for 3 with two runs and an RBI. Berrong also drove in one during his 2-for-3 performance. Chauncey plated two and stole a bag during a 1-for-4 day. Connor Chastain and Floyd each finished 1 for 4. Rouse ended his day 1 for 3 with a run and a ribby. Cunningham went 1 for 3; Barrett scored a run.

Indians 3, LOA 1 - Towns County capped off the three-game sweep behind its third complete game of the week - this one a seven-strikeout, 86-pitch gem from Matthew Chastain.

The Indians faced their only deficit of the week when the Titans inched ahead 1-0 via a run-scoring fielder's choice in the fourth. But Towns County erased the deficit when Connor Chastain kick-started the sixth with a double, and Chauncey tied things up with a one-out infield single.

Matthew Chastain escaped a two-on, two-out jam in the bottom half thanks to a double-play that erased a leadoff single. But a double and a single put two in scoring position before he induced an inning-ending ground ball.

Rouse's one-out base hit ignited the Towns County seventh, and Berrong's bases-loaded single brought home two for a 3-1 score.

Matthew Chastain tossed a drama-free bottom half, retiring the side in order to cap off the sweep.

Connor Chastain finished



Caleb Berrong had two hits in Towns County's game-two victory at LOA on Friday. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

3 for 3 with a double. Berrong ended 2 for 4 with 2 RBIs; Rouse went 2 for 3. Cunningham and Kirby each finished 1 for 3; Gillis walked and scored.

Chauncey knocked in a run while going 1 for 4; Barrett and Wood each scored once.

Indians 9, Hiwassee Dam, NC 0 - The first three spots in the Indians' lineup combined to go 6 for 13 with six runs and 4 RBIs as Towns grabbed an early 7-0 lead and never looked back.

Floyd doubled, scored and drove in one during a 3-for-5

game. Gillis scored three times and swiped two bags while finishing 2 for 4 with an RBI. Connor Chastain homered, scored twice and plated two runs during a 1-for-4 afternoon.

Chauncey went 2 for 3 with a steal; Cunningham swiped two bags, walked and scored.

Meanwhile, Barrett went three innings in the start, allowing two hits, a walk and striking out two. Kirby fanned four and allowed one hit over two frames. Chastain punched out five of the six batters he faced in two

innings on the bump.

Chastain's two-run blast put Towns out front in the first before Ian Wood came around on an error for a 3-0 margin. Gillis' two-run single plated Kirby and Floyd with one out in the second, then Berrong's sacrifice fly made it 5-0.

But the Indians weren't done in the second inning as an error off the bat of Chauncey allowed two more runners to come around for a 7-0 score. A Grayson Youngblood single made it 8-0 in the sixth, and Floyd's seventh-inning base knock scored Cunningham for a 9-0 final.

The Eagles' best scoring opportunity came in the second following an error and two singles, but a costly second out at third base denied the home team a bases-loaded, one-out situation.

Youngblood went 1 for 1 with an RBI and a stolen base. McConnell finished 1 for 4. Berrong drove in one; Kirby scored a run. Wood scored once and Rouse walked.

Up next: Towns County travels to Blairsville on Tuesday for a non-region doubleheader against Union County, beginning at 3 p.m.

The Indians return to the Tarheel State on Monday, April 10 when they visit Robbinsville, North Carolina at 4:30 p.m. Region play resumes Friday, April 14 with the first of three vs. Aquinas. The first pitch is slated for 5:30 p.m. in Hiwassee.

'Superman' soars into Bristol for Cup Series debut

By Todd Forrest
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Bristol, TN - Is Superman still faster than a speeding bullet?

This weekend he only needs to beat a speeding "Busch" when he challenges defending race champion Kyle Busch and the rest of the field in Bristol, Tennessee.

Blairsville native Jonathan "Superman" Davenport will attempt to make his long-awaited NASCAR Cup Series debut during Sunday's Food City Dirt Race at the Bristol Motor Speedway.

Behind the wheel of Kaulig Racing's No. 13 Nutrien Ag Solutions Chevrolet, the 39-year-old will make his first qualifying bid at a NASCAR Cup Series event during the Bush's Beans Qualifying races on Saturday night. Should all go as planned, Davenport will be back under the lights for Sunday night's main event.

In a career that spans four decades, Davenport shined at an early age in local legends and late model racing, winning back-to-back Legends Car Semi-Pro National Championships in 1999 and 2000.

In 2004, Davenport began competing in Late Model dirt races, as well as part-time in the World of Outlaws Late Model Series. As a full-time dirt racer, Davenport won Rookie of the year honors in the Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series, eventually claiming three championships (2015, 2018, 2019), 69 wins, 191 top-fives, and 282 top-10 finishes in the series.

Additionally, Davenport has claimed five World 100 championships in 2015, 2017, 2019, 2021 and 2022. The race is widely considered one of the most prestigious late-model dirt track races in the country.

Davenport took home the checkered flag 24 times in 2022 in Super Dirt Late Model action,

including a record-breaking \$1,002,022 purse at June's Eldora Million race in Rossburg, Ohio.

In 2013, attempted to make his NASCAR Camping World Truck Series debut at Martinsville, Virginia, driving the No. 1 Chevy for Make Motorsports but failed to qualify.

Practice for Sunday's Food City Dirt Race begins Friday evening, followed by four qualifying races starting at 6 p.m. Saturday. The Food City Dirt Race is Sunday at 7 p.m. and will be carried live on FOX, and on the radio by MRN and Sirius XM. Local MRN affiliates include Gainesville's WDUN (550 AM and 102.9 FM).

Previous winners of the 250-lap, 133.25-mile race are Kyle Logano (2021) and Busch (2022).

For more details on Davenport and this weekend's race, visit his official website at jonathandavenport.net.