

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

www.townscountyherald.net • E-mail: tcherald@windstream.net

Towns County blasts Tallulah Falls 15-0 in three innings

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Towns County Indians shut down Tallulah Falls on Monday, March 9, defeating their rival Indians 15-0 in just three innings.

Dylan Roberts and Tyler Davis connected for the game-ending defensive play of the game, as Davis threw the long ball from deep right field and Roberts, manning the plate, caught the ball on a hop and applied the tag, keeping Tallulah Falls scoreless.

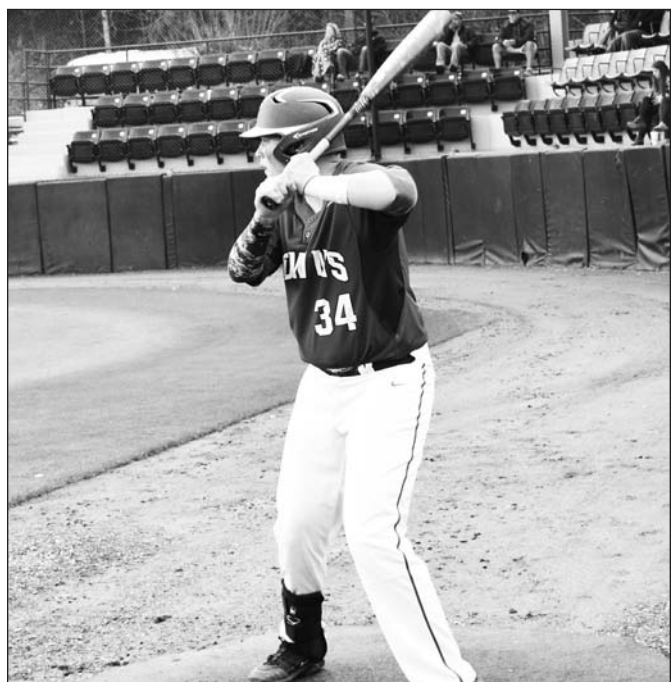
"Tyler hasn't played baseball the last couple of years, decided his senior year to come back out, was excited and made a best defensive play of the day, throwing a guy out at the plate," said Head Coach Shannon Floyd. "Dylan Roberts put a great tag on it. That's what they're supposed to do when they come in, is make the most of their opportunities. That's what we train them for."

Following the game, the Indians commenced with what have become two post-home game rituals: praying on the field, then prepping the field for the next game.

Tallulah Falls joined Towns County in prayer, uniting all of the Indians in a common cause.

"Our spiritual leader on our team is Will De Vries, he's a sophomore," said Coach Floyd. "There's more to this life than just baseball. We're looking at being good men. And these are good young men. We're going to be good students. That will translate to being good baseball players. And spiritually, you have to be spiritually fed, too, and Will does a fantastic job as our spiritual leader of leading that. I'm proud of him, I support him 100 percent."

"We just invite the other team, and Fannin and Tallulah on our home field, they've both joined us and appreciated it. Both teams thanked us, many of the players did. No one is forced to do it, we're not going to force



it down. Even our players, they are told that if they would like to join, fantastic, but no one is going to say otherwise. We don't want to push somebody's rights. Our kids, they feel like it's important, and that makes me real proud. Anyone is welcome, and especially our managers and players and the opposing team," Coach Floyd said.

The other ritual? After each home game, the team takes to the field to take care of it.

"We're going to treat every game the same, win or lose," said Coach Floyd. "We're going to work on base running, we get our conditioning in. Our pitchers are going to run poles when they pitch. You've got to stay in shape, and then, at the same time that we stay in shape, you've got to keep your field in shape. And if you just left holes out there, it's going to rain a lot, and you're going to have more problems to have to deal with whenever we get a chance to play again."

"If you take care of the little things, then it will improve the looks of your field, longevity, and we won't have near as much work to do to get the field ready for the next game. So, we're doing it before it happens."

This game was special, as the Towns County Indians took

the field wearing jerseys from the past.

"When I took this position, somebody told me there was some baseball equipment and stuff in the top of the field house," said Coach Floyd. "So, when I got up there and started digging around, I found eight to 10 old sets of uniforms, all the way back to when I graduated in '88. I found the state championship jerseys, and I think I found every jersey since then."

Coach Floyd was part of the team that won the State Championship game in 1988, and there weren't many of those jerseys available for the game, so most players wore the 1989-1992 season jersey, which looks remarkably similar.

"We practice in our old uniforms from years past," said Coach Floyd. "Each kid has a designated uniform for practice, a color, based on how we do stuff. They were looking at the old red, white and blue ones, which were almost the exact design, they're very close, to the state championship jerseys. And so some of the kids said, coach, it would be cool if we could wear those for a retro game. And I'm like, you want to wear them? And they're like, yeah."



After helping the Indians win the state title in 1988, Coach Floyd went on to play four years at Piedmont College as a Lion.

His first 10 years teaching at Towns County, he was the assistant and JV baseball coach. Coach Floyd took a break from baseball for the next 10 years, but last year, he returned as assistant coach of the team. When the position came open this year, he accepted the head coach's job for the Towns County Indians baseball team.

"It's been a dream of mine for years to coach baseball at my home school," said Coach Floyd, who credits his wife, Pam, with helping him make the decision, and is thankful for her support with their four children at home while he spends much of his time coaching.



Towns County vs Tallulah baseball photos by Lowell Nicholson

TCMS baseball takes a pair of lopsided victories over Tallulah Falls, Lakeview

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Middle School Indians won a couple of games last week, defeating Lakeview Academy 10-1 and Tallulah Falls 15-2.

"Another great performance in pitching from Trent Bradshaw," said Head Coach Shea Taylor. "I had two more kids pitch the Lakeview game, Walker Winn and Seth Fullerton, in which they all did an excellent job. The run that scored was scored on an error, so no earned runs were given up. We hit the ball well."

Brett Denton continued his good hitting fortune, scoring two runs from the leadoff positions.

"Walker Winn was able to get a hit and two RBIs on the day," said Coach Taylor. "Cooper Moss is killing the ball right now. He ended up with two hits and two RBIs for us. Hunter Moss also had a couple of hits and an RBI."

It would appear that baseball runs in the Moss family bloodline, as Cooper is the son of Assistant Coach Shannon Moss, and Hunter is Cooper's cousin.

"Corbin Townsend came in later in the game to hit, and he got an RBI double, which was big for us at the time, because our offense was kind of in a lull," said Coach Taylor. "He got a big hit for us, and that really gave us some momentum to get a few extra runs. It was down the left field line and it was barely fair by about a foot, but it brought us some runs in and got our offense kind of woken back up."

Andrew Griffin also scored a run, and all in all, the Indians played a great game of



Towns Middle School in action last month. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

baseball against Lakeview that Tuesday, March 10.

Against Tallulah Falls on Thursday, March 12, the Indians performed just as well.

Nathan Edwards gave a notable performance, hitting in the extra hitter spot.

"He's been red hot lately, batting over .400 in the last couple of games since he's been able to get to hit, so he's showing them," said Coach Taylor. "He's on a hot streak right now."

Even the team manager, James Norton, got in on the action against Tallulah Falls.

"He actually got a single, which was a good confidence booster for him," said Coach Taylor. "He's the manager, but since he's there, I've been letting him dress out with us, so I've let him become part of the team. He's mainly our manager, but I'm letting him play a little bit."

The Indians have a make-up game on Wednesday, March

18, at home against Lakeview, which will start at 4:30 p.m.

"Everything's working pretty well right now," said Coach Taylor. "My pitchers have confidence, and offensively we have some confidence, and that's what makes the difference, I think. The community should come and support them while they can. The boys have been working hard, and we still have a lot of baseball to go in the next couple of weeks."

Justin Gonyea All American Honorable Mention

Justin Gonyea finished his junior season in Union Town, PA, on Thursday the 5th of March, at Penn State Fayette College, this year's site for the USCAA National Championships. The Warren-Wilson Owls of Asheville, NC, played as an 8th seed in the tournament and lost their first game to Penn State Mont-Alto, to a score of 66-64. The second consolation game on Thursday, the owls played The University of Maine at Machias, a 7 seed in the tournament. The Owls jumped out right from the start and cruised to 76-65 win. The Owls finished their season with a 17-14 record and a third trip to the National Championships. On Tuesday March 3rd the United States Collegiate Athletic Association held its yearend Basketball banquet at Nemaocolin Woodlands

Towns County golf teams off to a late start due to weather

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The High School Golf Team has had a wet season so far, with snow, ice and rain, and its first four matches of the year were canceled due to the bad weather.

"We've just got to get this spring on in here and let it dry out, and get some more matches," said Head Coach Brett Keller, who teaches physical education at the elementary school. "We've only had the opportunity to play two."

Towns County, both the girls and the boys teams, have lost their two recent matches against Union County, but only by a few strokes. And in the last matchup against Union, key golfers from both teams missed the matches due to conflicting school functions.

Making up the teams are,

for the boys: junior Sterling Hedden, sophomore Nick McConnell, sophomore Johnathan Watson, freshman Chase Williams and freshman Ben Edwards; and for the girls: senior Mia Manto, senior Danielle Diehl and sophomore Kenzie Jenkins.

The JV golf team consists of three 8th-graders: Connor Kelley, Caleb Ledford and Will Travis.

"In Georgia, in high school boys, you have a team of six, and any top four low scores out of six can score," said Coach Keller. "You take the lowest four, do the math, and who has the lowest team score between the two wins. Now, the girls, 1A and 2A, you have a team of four girls. The low two scores win - you take those two scores and do the math."

Coach Keller has extensive coaching experience between when he arrived in Towns County in 2005 and his previous

position in Mississippi.

"I've always been very fortunate to have great kids at the schools I've been, smart kids, and that's always very important," said Coach Keller. "They're self-motivated, they work, and they do things on their own to get better."

Whenever the teams need to work on a certain skill, like their swings, Coach Keller knows several golf pros who will take the time out of their busy schedules to come to help the students as a team, for free.

"I'm not the swing pro, but I'm the guy that makes them putt certain drills, chip and pitch certain drills, and then, hit spots on the course," said Coach Keller. "I make sure I get the schedule done and get them where they need to go, and when it comes to that, try to get out of the way and let them golf."



Statewide Turkey Hunting Season opens March 21st

Cluck. Purr. Gobble. Have you been practicing your turkey calling skills? Hunters eager for the opening of turkey hunting season in Georgia certainly have. The highly anticipated day is Saturday, March 21 and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Division expects that the 2015 season should be a fair one.

"The coastal plain continues to have a stable to increasing population of turkeys, and we expect a good season from this area," says Kevin Lowrey, Wildlife Resources Division wild turkey project coordinator. "However, due to low reproduction numbers over the past three years, 2015 might be a challenging year for hunters, especially in the Piedmont Blue Ridge and Ridge and Valley Systems in Georgia."

With a bag limit of three



gobblers per season, hunters have from Mar. 21 through May 15, 2015 to harvest their bird(s). With many pursuing wild turkeys on private land, hunters are reminded to always obtain landowner permission before hunting.

T-Ball and Farm League registration

The Towns County Recreation Department will be holding registration for T-Ball and Farm League the weeks of March 9th thru March 20th.

Co-Ed T-Ball is for boys and girls ages 4 and 5. Co-Ed Farm League is for boys & girls ages 6, 7 and 8. The age control date will be prior to May 1st for boys and girls. Boys and girls ages 6 may play in either the T-Ball or the Farm