

# Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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

## Reece propels Lady Indians past Union

Panthers score seven in second half in 8-0 victory over Indians

By Todd Forrest  
North Georgia News  
sports@nganews.com

Taylor Vardeman fed Kaila Reece for a score early in the first half, then the Lady Indian defense clamped down on the Union County Lady Panthers in a 1-0 shutout victory.

The win comes on the heels of victories over Rabun County and Lakeview Academy and avenges a 2-1 loss to the Lady Panthers last month.

"Towns County is a very good team and they jumped on us early and we couldn't recover," Union County Head Coach Tim Hunter said.

Despite getting off several shot attempts in the second half, Coach Hunter acknowledges that when facing a top-notch opponent like Towns, on the road, you must be ready to play for all 80 minutes.

"Towns County is too good of a team to not bring your A-game," he said.

Later that evening, the Indians held Union in check for a half until the Panthers exploded for 7 goals in less than 25 minutes in the second half.

Indian keeper Dallas Manus made some athletic saves to keep his team in the game, as the sophomore drew praises from the Panther coach, who realizes that both Towns

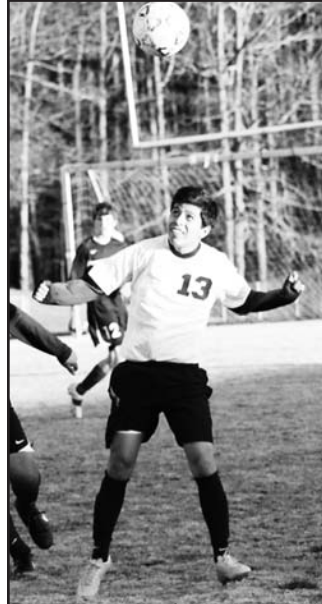


Kaila Reece's goal gave Towns the 1-0 victory over Union. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

County squads are on the rise and are not to be taken lightly.

"Their keeper played very well, especially in the first half," Hunter said.

"The thing about Towns is, they're becoming very good. As a whole, Towns is very well coached, they play a very high defensive line, they are on the verge of having two great programs. Every time you play them, they get a little bit better, and a little bit better. That is a very good sign for their program over there. I think their coaches do an excellent job with both the boys' and the girls' programs."



## Courageous Dads breakfast

Melissa Williams, Towns County School Superintendent, has made this possible for us to start a new program called "Courageous Dads" for fathers and their children.

This idea has been in the works for over two years and with the help of Superintendent Williams it will become a reality on Friday Mar. 29th at 7:15 am at the old Elementary School gym.

This is a free event and includes breakfast.

This event is designed to have fathers bring their children to school the last Friday of each month to have breakfast together while also getting to know other fathers and other children.

"I have always had a passion for helping young coaches and fathers and this event gives us an opportunity to take that passion into our school system. I am so excited for the fathers and children that will be at this first breakfast. I am looking forward to watching this event grow over time," said Rick Robinson, organizer of the Courageous Dads event.

"We, as dads, need to step up to the plate and play a bigger role in our children's overall development. Too many



Rick Robinson



Melissa Williams

times we leave this task up to our wife's and school systems." For more information contact Rick Robinson at rrob-inson36@gmail.com

## Cochran shines, Melton the winning coach in all star game

By Jerry Kendall  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

A magic year continued for the Towns County Lady Indians Varsity Basketball Team last Saturday when Lady Indian Junior Eryn Cochran and Head Coach Jim Melton placed an exclamation mark on their season when they participated in the highly regarded Georgia Athletic Coaches Association (GACA) All-Star Showcase at Armstrong Atlantic State University in Savannah.

Cochran and Melton actually didn't just participate but contributed greatly to their North Junior Girls Team's 84-79 come from behind victory over the South Team with Cochran having an overall outstanding game and Melton getting the coaching victory. A game featuring North and South players from around the state recently completing their senior seasons was also held on the same date and at the same location.

The Juniors Game included no less than five Atlanta Journal and Constitution first team All State players and four second team all starters with just three of the nine actually hitting double figures in scoring during the game. Included among this group was 6'2" Class AAAAA State Player of the Year Erykay Davenport of Tucker who, despite the high AJC honor, managed just four



Eryn Cochran

points for Melton's winning North Team. The North Junior Team trailed 40-37 at intermission and later by a 58-48 score before going on a 36-16 run for an 84-74 lead which was reduced to 84-79 by a late trey and then a deuce by the South Team as time expired.

Cochran, a first team All Region 8-A selection, scored 409 points for a 13.2 points per game average in her recently completed junior season for the Lady Indians and came as close to her average as was possible with 13 points in the all star game. Her points total was second only on her team to the 15 scored by North MVP Brianna Cummings, a second team all state player at Class AA Greater Atlanta Christian in Norcross. Yaktava Hickson of Class AAAA State Champion Columbia High School in Decatur also contributed 13



Jim Melton

points and Marquita Daniels, an honorable mention all state selection at Class A Private State Runner Up Southwest Atlanta Christian, was also in double figures with 11 points.

Carrie Cheeks, second team all state at Class AAA Sonorville in Calhoun, contributed 9 points for the North Team and Jasmine Carter, one of two superstars for Class AAA State Champion St. Pius X of Atlanta and a second team all state selection, added 7 for the North. Just three members of the South Junior Team hit double figures in the persons of Mekeba Ponder, first team all state at Class AAAAA Colquitt County in Moultrie, with 16 points; Lakyha Sims of Class AAAAA Drew High School in Riverdale with 15; and Shonterria Kitchens, a first team Class AAA All State Player at Washington County in

Sandersville, with 10.

Melton got his 300th career head coaching win late in the recently completed season, his fifteenth year at the helm for the Lady Indians, and wound up with 303 wins by season's end for a stunning average of 20.2 wins per season for his career. The win in the all star game won't be added to his career total but it had to be a most rewarding win for the veteran coach whose Lady Indians have included four region championships and this year's third overall trip to the State Final Four.

Melton's Lady Indians have accumulated seven straight seasons with twenty or more wins with no fewer than twenty three wins in each of the last six seasons. And it has required a most capable team to hand the Lady Indians their final defeat of each season during the seven years run. They have lost to the eventual state champion four of the last seven years and to a team that lost to the eventual state champion in the other three of those years.

Cochran was only the second Towns County player to ever participate in one of these prestigious all star games after Lady Indian Senior Jordan Moss scored 7 points in an overall excellent performance in 2011. And Melton was the first TCHS Coach to ever be selected for participation in one of these games.

## Indians fall to Hiwassee Dam, Providence Christian Academy

By Joe Collins  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

The Towns County High School baseball team had two tough games this week facing Providence Christian on Tuesday and losing at the end of six innings 13-2 then coming home to face Hiwassee Dam and falling 12-2 at the end of seven.

The bats are not producing and they can't seem to get the base runners across the plate. The team is showing some positive signs in the hits department, which is improvement.

Away at Providence Christian Academy, the Indians sent 23 hitters to the plate and produced 2 runs on 4 hits. Senior Dillon Diehl went 1-for-3 scoring a run in the fifth, junior Slade Davenport was 2-for-3 from the plate with 2 singles and junior Harrison Hobbs was 1-for-3 with an RBI double in the fifth scoring Diehl.

The Indians left 7 runners on the bags during the game and lost 13-2.

Hobbs took the mound early for the Indians and allowed 8 runs on 9 hits with 6 of those earned. He struck out 5 and walked 3 in 4 innings pitched. He threw 81 pitches with 31 of those crossing the



Cruz Shook

plate as he faced 25 batters.

Davenport followed Hobbs in the top of the fifth and faced 7 batters giving up 2 hits and one earned run. He struck out one and walked one while throwing 30 pitches of which 13 found the strike zone.

Sophomore Zach Sewell came in to pitch the bottom half of the sixth giving up 4 hits and 4 runs of which only 3 were earned. He tossed 17 total pitches with 9 of those for strikes while facing 7 batters.

The Indians then came home on Mar. 21 to face another tough local foe, Hiwassee Dam, N.C.

The Indians played hard but just couldn't get the bats going to produce the needed runs to win. The tribe lost this one 12-2 in the seventh.

The Indians sent 26 hitters to the plate and only collected 2 runs on 5 hits with both runs being earned. Junior Vonya Baldwin was strong at the plate going 2-for-3 with an RBI and sophomore Dale Forrester went 1-for-3 with an RBI as both the Indians runs came in the second inning. Davenport added another stolen base to his credit.

Diehl was on the mound to start the game and he pitched 5 2/3 innings giving up 7 runs on 9 hits with only one run being earned, a homerun in the top of the sixth. He threw 79 pitches with 60 of those for strikes as he faced 30 batters. He had a strikeout and a walk.

Sophomore Boone Moss finished the final 1 1/3 innings and he had a hard time as well. He faced 13 hitters with 33 pitches. He gave up 5 runs on 3 hits striking out one and walking 2. Only one of the runs was earned. He threw 17 strikes and hit one batter. In the end the Indians lost 12-2.

It was a tough week for the TCHS Indians baseball team but Head Coach Chris Vardo will have his team ready next week as they host Hebron Christian Academy on Mar. 29 at home.

First pitch is at 5:00 p.m. so make plans now to come to the ballpark at TCHS and support the Indians.

## Towns County tennis remains focused after Athens Christian matches

By Joe Collins  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Athens - The Towns County varsity tennis teams left home last Tuesday feeling good about their game with the girl's winning their last three matches and the boys showing improvement but high school athletics seem to have a way of sending us wake up calls from time to time.

The Eagles of Athens Christian were the sender of that call beating the Indians in all individual matches and doubles matches.

Senior Bradley Smith held his own fighting to a tiebreaker loss but the Indians ended up on the short end of this humbling stick.

Junior Eryn Cochran took the opening individual match to a 7-9 loss to get things going playing hard while senior Kayla Olin found the road rocky in her 1-8 loss and senior Amanda Chastain ended the trio with a loss 0-8.

The Lady Indians doubles team of junior Courtney Marshall and junior Lesleigh Irvin have been playing well lately losing only one match on the year but despite a respectful effort they also came up short to a strong Eagles pair 0-8.



Garrett Bradshaw

The boy's varsity hit the same wall as the girls when they took to the court to face solid Athens Christian Eagles team.

Junior Garrett Bradshaw felt the first Eagle claw in the opening boys match losing 0-8 followed by senior Bradley Smith who played well and took his match to the end for a tie 8-8 but falling in the end 1-7.

Junior Cody Canterbury took the final individual claw for his loss 3-8.

The varsity boy's doubles teams didn't fare much better even though the effort was there. Smith, a cross-country star and senior wrestling team anchor man Tyler Hoffman made a good game of it showing some Indian effort but just couldn't pull it

out late losing 3-8 while juniors Jaryd Gurley and Dustin Bracket feel 0-8.

"We lost all matches," is all Head Coach Heather Moss had to say about the team's efforts. "I'm always proud of them," declared Moss. "I feel like Bradley (Smith) is our player of the week. He played hard. He always brings leadership to the team both on and off the court. I am proud of the enthusiasm he brings to the team."

The teams will take the humbling and get to work this week on getting stronger with their single focus in mind. "Our goal is to make it through the Area Championships and on to State so we want to improve as the season matures," said Moss earlier in the season.

The teams will travel to Fannin on Thursday, Mar. 26 and return home on Tuesday, April 2 to try and pluck some tail feathers from these same Eagles at the tennis complex at TCHS.

Make plans now to attend and support the teams. First serve is at 4:00 p.m. for both matches.

Coach Moss would like everyone to know that the 100 game match fundraiser will now be held on Mar. 29.

Please contact the high school for more information.