

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Indians suffer from tough week thanks to highly ranked private schools

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Athens Christian (19-2, 12-2) currently sits at No. 4 in the Class A Private School Power Rankings. George Walton (14-7, 12-3) is No. 11 in the Class A Private School rankings.

Towns County had the misfortune of playing them both last week. The two teams are currently first and third respectively in the hunt for the Region 8-A title and brought their A-games when they took on the Indians.

On Thursday, Athens Christian took a 7-0 victory over the Indians. On Tuesday, Towns County traveled to Monroe to face George Walton and the Bulldogs prevailed over Will de Vries and the Indians 11-4.

de Vries worked four innings, allowing five hits, four walks, and striking out three. He allowed eight runs but only one was earned as the Indians suffered from five errors.

Jackson Noblet relieved Hobbs in the fifth and gave up four hits, three runs, three walks, and struck out one.

He surrendered a solo homer to lead off the sixth inning on a 3-0 offering, making it an 11-4 game.

The Bulldogs added to their lead in every inning but the third and opened things up with two runs in the first inning.

After a pair of strike outs stranded Cruz Shook and Hobbs in the top of the first, George Walton took advantage of a two-out walk.

The following hitter reached on an error, bringing in the first run. A double to left



Jackson Taylor fires to first during the third inning of last week's game with Athens Christian. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

scored the second run before a fly out to Major Moss in right field ended the inning.

Moss reached on an infield single with one out in the second but the Indians were still unable to push across any runs.

An infield single and another error with no outs set the table for the Bulldogs in the second inning.

A sacrifice fly brought in the third run of the game. They followed that with a single and

a pop out before de Vries picked off a George Walton runner at second for the third out.

Towns County got on the board in the third after de Vries drew a one-out walk on four straight pitches. Shook singled and Hobbs lined a base hit to right - bringing in de Vries. Jackson Taylor grounded to first and Shook was cut down at the plate. Vonya Baldwin lined out to shortstop for out number three.

de Vries sat down the



Harrison Hobbs delivers in the first inning of Towns contest with Athens Christian. Hobbs has been a workhorse for the Indians' pitching staff in 2014. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Bulldogs 1-2-3 in the third inning but the Indians were unable to cut into the 3-1 lead after Moss reached on an error and Gavin Langelier won the battle with an eight-pitch base-on-balls.

George Walton exploded for five runs in the fourth despite de Vries sitting the leadoff hitter down swinging.

A one-out walk was followed by an Indian error and consecutive walks before a single to right scored two. A

pop out to Hobbs at short was out number two but an infield single and an error made it an 8-1 game.

Towns posted two in the fifth when Hobbs and Noblet recorded one-out walks. Taylor was hit by a pitch and Baldwin scored Hobbs on a sacrifice fly to center. Moss came through again with an RBI single to left, cutting the deficit to 8-3.

Noblet entered in the fifth and walked the first two batters before a strike out and

Baldwin cut down a would-be base stealer. However, a double and a two-run single made it a 10-3 game.

de Vries and Shook walked in the sixth to set up an RBI single by Hobbs.

Towns is still 29th in the Class A Public School Power Rankings with a 3-14 record. The Indians have a pair of games with Lakeview Academy on Tuesday and Thursday. The Tuesday game will be at home with a 5 p.m. first pitch.

Towns' non-region slate includes Union, Mt. Vernon

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Last season Towns County had one of the toughest schedules in Class A.

Four of their first five opponents reached their respective postseason, while the only one who didn't, Fellowship Christian, finished with five wins. Oglethorpe County, who was leading Union County entering the fourth quarter, lost 38-9 to Fellowship. Whitefield Academy, who defeated Riverside Military Academy, a 5-5 team from Region 8-AA, fell 38-33 to FCA. Towns County will not see the Paladins this fall.

The Indians opened the season with Hayesville, NC, a six-win team, and a playoff team from the Smokey Mountain Conference. They will not be on the 2014 schedule but will host Towns in a preseason scrimmage.

"We don't need to play anyone from another state is because we don't get points (in the power rankings) and we need as many points as we can get," Indians Head Coach Blair Harrison said. "We get points even if we lose (to an in-state school)."

Then came Union County, a six-win State playoff team that featured the 8-AA Defensive Player of the Year, 8-AA Special Teams Player of the Year, and the 8-AA First Team All-Region quarterback. The Indians will host the Panthers in the season opener.

Rabun County won eight games and took the defending Class AA State Champion Jefferson into overtime. The Wildcats had the 8-AA Offensive Player of the Year Charlie Woerner on their roster, and will for two more years. Towns will not have to return to Tiger for at least two more years.

Rabun Gap won seven games and reached State in the North Carolina private school league that they joined a few years back. The Eagles defeated Andrews NC, and Cherokee NC on their way to a 7-5 record.

In fact the only two schools that Towns saw in 2013, that they will see in 2014 are Lakeview and Hebron.

The Indians defeated Lakeview 10-7 and Hebron 34-19. Both are private schools, which make up 80 percent of the 2014 schedule.

"They have split public and private in Class A but unfortunately, we have to play in what is essentially a private school region," Coach Harrison said. "We will play eight private schools. One that I scheduled who is not in our region is Mt. Vernon. But they are a new program and we were just looking for a competitive game."

The only public school in Region 8-A is Commerce and Coach Harrison feels that if it is team can beat Commerce, then he likes his chances of getting to State.

"I would say that if we're good enough to beat them, then we should be good enough to beat four other schools on our schedule. (To get to State) we have to beat the teams we beat last year, beat Providence and Mt. Vernon, and beat one of the Athens private schools. That would give us that fifth win and I think that puts us in."

According to Harrison, Hebron and Lakeview didn't want any part of Towns in 2014.

"The teams we beat didn't want to schedule us," he said. "But now that we're in the Region, they have to play us. Being in the Region guarantees us eight games. Union (Coach Brian Allison) and I had already agreed to play no matter what, so all I had to do was find one more game, and I did that."

Lady Indians soccer take two out of three

By Todd Forrest
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The Towns County Lady Indians improved to 7-4-1 overall and 4-3 inside of Region 8-A following a 3-2 win over Lakeview and a 6-1 victory against George Walton.

The Lady Indians suffered a 9-2 loss to 3rd ranked Hebron Christian Academy who is 11-6 overall and 8-0 in Region play.

On Tuesday Apr, 22nd, Towns will host 7th ranked Providence Christian Academy (9-6, 5-2) in a battle for second in Region 8-A.

Providence held off the Lady Indians 1-0 in Norcross last month. A win by the Lady Indians will create a tie for second. A loss and Towns is still safe in third, as they are currently two games ahead of fourth place Lakeview with one game to play. Towns also beat Lakeview 5-1 in Hiwassee last month.

The Lady Indians four Region wins tops last year's total of three when they finished 8-8 overall.

In 2011 Towns County went 4-3 in Region 8-A and 8-7 overall. In 2010 they finished 5-3 in Region 8-A and 6-4 overall.

Towns County's boys fell to 1-9 overall and 0-7 in Region play.



Faith Robinson

The Indians suffered a 10-0 loss to 2nd ranked Hebron, a 5-2 loss to Lakeview, and a 6-1 loss to George Walton.

For the past two seasons the Indians reached two wins but this year their lone win came against Union County. For the first time in school history, the Indians defeated the Panthers.

And it's not like Union doesn't have a solid team this season. The Panthers finished 4-3 in 8-AA and as of press time are in the mix for the final State playoff berth in their region. They currently sit at 5-6 overall with one game remaining.

Towns will meet Providence on Tuesday and are looking for some revenge after Providence held them off 2-0 in last month's meeting

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Fish for Food Fishing Tournament

Matthew 25 Food Ministries presents "Fish for Food Fishing Tournament". 50% of tournament money goes to feed needy families in our area. The remaining 50% will go to tournament prize money. Prize money will be awarded for 1st Place, 2nd Place and 3rd Place and biggest fish. Actual prize amount will depend on number of entries. Entry fee is \$40 per boat,

the tournaments began in March and will end in October, occurring on Saturdays and rotating between Lake Chatuge, Woods Grove Boat Ramp and Lake Nottely, Deaver Road Boat Ramp, from 7 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Tournament schedule: April 26 - Nottely; May 10 - Chatuge; June 14 - Nottely; July 12 - Chatuge; August 16 - Nottely; September 13 - Chatuge; and October 11 - Nottely. NT/APR23/2014

Joe Collins

Tips from the Range

In the first lesson we looked at what arguably could be called the "DNA" of the golf swing and that is the issue of balance. Without proper balance, a golfer has a poor chance of making a good solid golf swing. The rub of that concept is that there are many influencing factors that can affect your balance. One of the most affective ways to make sure good balance has a chance of being consistent throughout the swing is to establish a good address position that correctly sets the center of gravity in the proper position before we draw the club away. This means that the first thing you need to master is how to correctly make your stance.

When starting out as a beginner or trying to find the source of your swing flaws, one must look at the basics of the swing. Professional golfers often find that their individual problems are corrected by working on basics. This may seem trivial but basics are extremely important.

The stance is the first basic I would like to "address" as we begin our journey down the path to the correct golf swing. It sets the stage for everything that happens during the swing and allows you a proper start on the backswing.

To achieve the proper stance, one must first align the tips of your toes parallel to the designated target line. The target line is the desired path you want the ball to travel on so choose it wisely. There is no drill to correct carelessness.

Next, place your feet a little less than shoulder width apart and stand straight up from the ground with your back as straight as your spine will allow. From this position, keep your legs straight and bend from the waist so that your arms hang loose under the shoulders. Bring your hands together to a point directly under your chin and this will indicate where the grip of the club will fit in your final address position.

At this point, you should feel as though the upper body is "heavy" or leaning out over the ball and that your balance is forward toward the front of your feet. Notice that when you are in this position it would be impossible to use your lower body aggressively. This inability to use the legs affects the path of the club on the downswing. This poor distribution of weight that you feel is similar to the feeling you will have when you are "over the top" on the downswing. This heaviness in the toes is the most common problem with balance even though your legs may be positioned correctly. The action of the downswing can pull the upper body toward impact as the arms enter the impact zone so beware of letting your balance lean forward on the downswing. You must stay away from the ball at impact so your arms will find the correct

path throughout the downswing and can therefore extend through the hitting area.

Here is the difficult but crucial step for all golfers in finding the proper stance. While trying to keep the very bottom tip of the spine back over the heels and behind the back of your knees, bend said knees until you feel your center of gravity align over your ankles from the inside of the heels to the back inside area of the balls of your feet. This will place you in the athletic position that will allow you to return the club head to its original address position on the downswing. At this point, you should not feel as though you are leaning backward or forward but balanced completely on both feet. Imagine a balanced shortstop in baseball preparing to move left or right to field a ground ball and that feeling will tell you that your stance is correct.

It is very important that you maintain this center of balance as you start the downswing because the force you create from the top combined with the weight of your arms will try to pull you into the ball at impact. This ability to resist getting "heavy" over the ball is what separates a proper swing from a faulty one. It is vital that you hit the ball with the back of the forward hand and if you are heavy over the front of your feet through impact then the front wrist will break down and cause problems with contact at impact. The club will not continue on a true path past the ball at impact if the front wrist breaks down, this leaning forward balance problem promotes that breaking down of the front wrist. You will typically have to straighten your stance when this happens which causes you to pull the ball. The squaring of the front wrist keeps the arms rotating through impact and helps keep you away from the ball through the impact zone.

Practice this at home or at the range before your next outing and if you find your balanced stance, and hold it throughout the swing, you will find the fairway much more often. The stance sets the balance of the entire swing and promotes the usage of the big muscles in the body and that is very important in keeping the club moving in an uninterrupted path through impact so find a good balanced stance and stay with it.

Good luck and I will see you on the course!

VFW Golf League news

This weeks event was won by the team of Mel Halfon, Larry Jordan, Mo Rodgers and Chuck Woodworth. They shot a combined 5 under, for a score of 67. The Bart Rodgers team of Vince Cooper and Butch Patterson had an eagle on hole 17. A screaming 2nd shot by Cooper that landed on the green was capped off with a 52 foot eagle putt. This week April 24th tee off will start at 9 a.m. Hopefully we will have warmer weather. TP/APR23/14SH

Date	Time	Team
August 15 th	7:30 (Scrimmage)	Rabun-Gap
August 22 nd	7:30 (Scrimmage)	@Hayesville
August 29 th	7:30	Union Co.
September 6 th	7:30	@Mt. Vernon (Saturday)
September 12 th	7:30	Lakeview Academy
September 19 th	7:30*	Hebron Christian
September 26 th	7:30	@GWA
October 3 rd	7:30	Athens Academy
October 10 th	7:30	@Athens Christian
October 17 th	7:30#	Prince Avenue
October 24 th	8:00	@Commerce
October 31 st	7:30	@Providence

*Indicates Homecoming Night

Indicates Senior Night