



# Towns County Herald's Sporting News



## Indians

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It was especially heartwarming for Kerri Abernathy, a junior sharpshooter who had been out of action for several weeks due to illness, to enter the game in the third quarter and trigger a 27-4 run in putting the game out of reach. The two teams had battled to a 29-29 standoff at intermission with seven lead changes and seven ties included during first half play. Each team rebounded from five point deficits for ties the first half with the Lady Indians erasing a 12-7 first quarter deficit and the Lady Chargers a late second quarter 29-24 Towns lead.

The Lady Chargers got a friendly bounce on three occasions in the first four and a half minutes of the game when an off target shot bounced in the air and fell in the basket each time, giving them half of their points in gaining that 12-7 lead. Nikki Winn had a hot first half hand for the Lady Indians, scoring ten of their thirteen first quarter points and then striking for seven straight points between the 2:13 and 1:27 marks of the second quarter for the aforementioned 29-24 lead. The Lady Chargers rallied for the 29-29 halftime tie but were in for a rude awakening in the third quarter.

Shortly after entering the game with the score still deadlocked at 29-29, Abernathy had a hand in fourteen of the Lady

Indians' next sixteen points. She assisted Winn on a trey at the 7:20 mark and Melissa Conrad on an inside basket just twenty one seconds later for a 34-29 lead the Lady Indians would never relinquish but she was far from through.

Abernathy then followed a Winn runner and two free throws by the Lady Chargers with nine straight points, all on 3-pointers and the Lady Indians led 45-31 by the 4:01 mark with a 16-2 run achieved in just three minutes and nineteen seconds. The Lady Indians continued the run the remainder of the quarter for a 56-33 lead entering the fourth quarter. A trey by Ellie Parton and a steal in the backcourt by Ali Bleckley who ran a fast break to Conrad for a last second field goal put an exclamation point on the quarter.

Six different Lady Indians put points on the scoreboard in the final quarter as they closed out a resounding 69-49 victory over the Lady Chargers who finished their season with a 14-15 record but with a number of the games coming

against much larger schools. Eight of their losses were by single digits and they lost just three games by more than thirteen points—two to top ranked Wesleyan, one to Class AAAAA Luella, and on this evening to the Lady Indians.

Winn led the Lady Indians in scoring with 25 points but eight of her teammates also put points on the scoreboard with leaders being Abernathy and Conrad with 9 each, Gabby Arencibia with 8, and Parton with 6. The Lady Chargers actually outscored the Lady Indians by twelve points on 2-point field goals and by one point at the foul line but it was from behind the 3-point arc where the Lady Indians punished the Lady Chargers.

The Lady Indians sank twelve compared to just one for Eagle's Landing for a whopping

thirty three point advantage from that range. Winn sank four treys, Abernathy three, Arencibia and Parton two each, and Brittany Walls one. Assists were plentiful for the Lady Indians with leaders being Winn with 7; Arencibia with 5; and Abernathy, Bleckley, and Parton with 2 each.

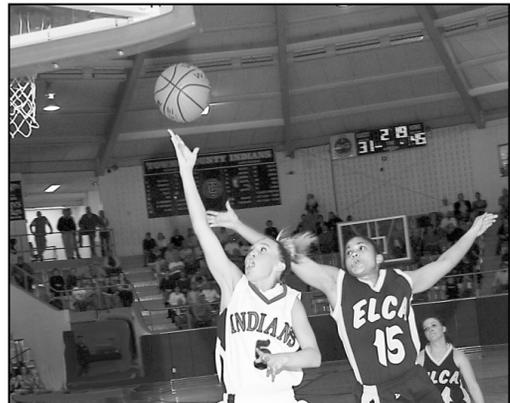
The victory sent the Lady Indians on to the sweet sixteen with that game scheduled for Tuesday of this week against Bremen in the Towns County Gym. A victory in that game would qualify the Lady Indians for a state elite eight appearance this Friday at Marietta High School against the winner of a Tuesday game between top ranked Wesleyan of Norcross and Darlington of Rome. Marietta High School is located at 1171 Whitlock Avenue, which is also known as Georgia Highway 120.



Jordan Moss battles for the ball against a Lady Charger.



Kerri Abernathy and Heather Hamilton fight for the ball.



Nikki Winn drives to the glass in state 1st round basketball action.

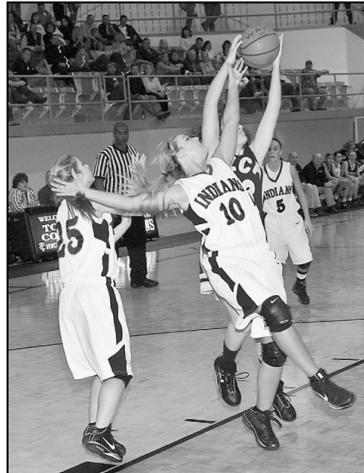
## Herald's sports quote of the week

"You can sum up this sport in two words: You never know."

- Lou Duva, boxing trainer



Missy Conrad drives over the top of an Eagles Landing player. Photos by Jim & Lisa Bryant



Amber Allen gets outreached on a rebound as Brittany Walls rushes to help.

## Individual scores

Eagle's Landing Christian	
Nikki Winn (12)	25
Kerri Abernathy (11)	9
Melissa Conrad (11)	9
Gabby Arencibia (9)	8
Ellie Parton (12)	6
Amber Allen (12)	4
Lindsay Patton (9)	3
Brittany Walls (10)	3
Ali Bleckley (9)	2

## TCHS honors record setting team at football banquet

JIM BRYANT

Sports Writer

It has been several years since the TCHS Indians have held a football banquet to honor their players but after the record setting season, it was almost mandatory. Head Coach, Kyle Langford opened the affair with the blessing and thanks to those who worked to bring the banquet to fruition. Local business, Crossroads, Smoke Rings and Ingles helped supply the food and an individual picked up the entire cost as cheerleaders, football players and parents dined on a BBQ dinner in the school cafeteria.

The attendees moved to the auditorium where they watch a video of games highlights from the season. Coach Langford and his assistant coaches then presented plaques to each of the players. Langford stated that there were no individual accolades, that there was one team and there was no "I" in their team effort. After the plaques were awarded, the thirteen seniors were given their jerseys and told that they would always be welcome on the sidelines of any future game, the stadium was their home.

Receiving plaques at the awards banquet were Freshmen: Noah Calhoun, Zach Stroud, Dwight Wagner, Dylan Taylor, Tyler Cobb; Sophomores Billy Meier, Landon Harris, Tyler Wise, Taylor Denton, Josh Goodwin, Dylan Nelson, Josh Barnes; Juniors Matt Hogsed, John Swilley, John Bleckley, Matt Beni, Cody Partin, Zack Johnson; Seniors Andy Page, Randy Smith, Chase Ellis, Charles Corn, Nathan Hughes, Ian

Calhoun, Josh Ledford, Mitchell Henderson, Blake Taylor, Jake Ledford, Trystan Drummond and Josh Stroud.

After a presentation of a large stone arrowhead carved with the record breaking win from Mr. Swilley, an autographed was presented to Coach Langford by Trystan Drummond and Chase Ellis and the players gathered for photos for the Towns County Herald Newspaper and numerous parents.



Coach Kyle Langford gets an autographed photo of the season presented by Trystan Drummond and Chase Ellis.



Thirteen seniors will be leaving the 2008 football squad: (L-R) Ian Calhoun, Charles Corn, Nathan Hughes, Trystan Drummond, Chase Ellis, Josh Stroud, Mitchell Henderson, Jake Ledford, Blake Taylor, Randy Smith, Andy Page (not pictured were Josh Ledford and Ben Hogsed).



The record setting TCHS Indians football 2008 gathers for their final photo together. Photos by Jim and Lisa Bryant



Towns County Herald local sports covered by Lowell Nicholson, Jim & Lisa Bryant, Jerry Kendall, Charles Duncan and Carl Vanzura

## Indians open home baseball season with a loss

JIM BRYANT

Sports Writer

### Panthers claw from behind to take 6-4 see-saw win.

With starting pitcher Charles Corn on the hill, the Indians looked sharp to start the game against the Panthers from Union County. Neither team could plate a run during the first inning but the Tribe jumped off to a 2-0 lead in the second. Corn opened with a single to center and after Matt Beni got on, he scored the first official run of the season on a wild slide at home to give the Indians a 1-0 lead. Paydon Shook set up the slide with a single to right field. Devin Henderson kept the dirt flying moments later when he too made a flying slide after the Panthers made a pick attempt at first and the ball got by him. The purple Cats stranded one Indian on the diamond to get out of the inning, trailing 2-0.

The Indians added a security run in the third, 3-0 after putting down the Panthers with good defensive gloves. Zeke Gribble started the drive with a

walk and rocketed from first to home off an RBI double to left by Charles Corn. In the fourth inning the Indians made a pitching change to Zeke Gribble. The stadium lights came on and the Indian lights started going out. The Panther batter stroked an RBI "T" to center field and it was 3-2. Another RBI made it a 3-3 tie game as the Cats clawed their way back. With two outs in the bottom of the inning, the Tribe regained the lead when Randy Smith hit a seeing-eye ball down the right field chalk and Devin Henderson raced home, 4-3.

In the fifth, Kyle McConnell drifted over and capped a foul ball against the Panther dugout and Billy Meier scooped and tossed out a Cat runner but the tying run was left

on third. The Panthers tried a sucker play but catcher, Cody Harkins made the short throw to second then back to home where he flattened the Cat runner and the score remained 4-4. In the sixth the Tribe badly misplayed a bunt that went wild into right field and the Panthers took a 5-4 lead. In the sixth, the Indians made a rundown between third and home then Andy Page capped a long fly out but the Panther runner on third tagged and raced home for the eventual game winning 6-4 score. In the final stanza Andy Page took the hill to try for the save but despite a Texas looper by Billy Meier and a line drive to right by Page, the Tribe could not plate any runs and the Union County Panthers took the 6-4 see-saw win.



Matt Beni goes for the plate in first official score of the season against the Panthers.



Devin Henderson dives in at home for a 2-0 lead but fell 6-4 late to Union County. Photos by Jim and Lisa Bryant