

# Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports



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## TCHS Boys and Girls Tennis make strong showing in Fannin



Eli Barrett slams a serve against Fannin County last week in Blue Ridge. Photo by James Reese.

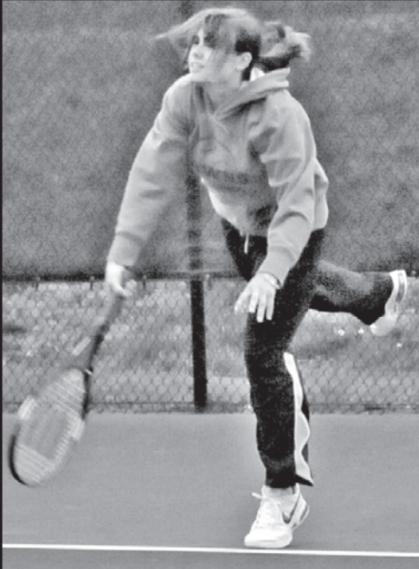


Corbin Gilfilian delivers a hard serve against Fannin County last week in Blue Ridge Photo by James Reese.

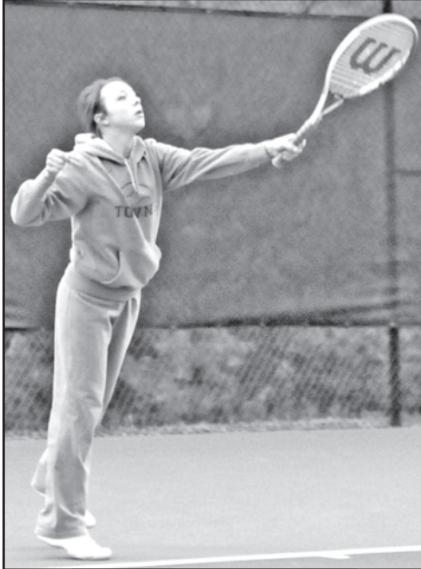
By James Reese  
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Blue Ridge – Towns County's tennis teams are making a strong showing as the season nears the region tournament portion of the team's schedule. On Thursday, the boys defeated Riverside Military Academy in Region 8-A competition in Gainesville led by Cody Presnell's 6-0, 6-0 straight sets victory. On Friday, both teams prevailed against Fannin County in Blue Ridge. The boys' team was led by senior Doug

Haigler, while the Lady Indians were led to victory by senior Alexa Arencibia. The boys team improved to 9-5 overall while the girls improved their season record to 13-1. Last season the Lady Indians defeated Prince Avenue Christian 3-0 in the Region 8-A tournament to advance to the state playoffs. Their second match against Athens Academy didn't go as well. The Lady Indians lost 3-0. That pitted the Lady Indians against Athens Christian, a team they had beaten in the

regular season. The Lady Indians lost that match up and the end result was a first round match up with Pace Academy, which defeated the Lady Indians and eliminated any hopes of a state tennis championship. The boys' team, which is much improved over a year ago, lost their opening round Region 8-A match up to miss the 2010 state playoffs. The 2011 version is showing great promise and the prospects of advancing from the region playoffs to the state playoffs appear more hopeful than in recent years.



The Lady Indians dominated in singles and doubles action last week Photo by James Reese.



The Lady Indians are slamming their way back to a potential region appearance Photo by James Reese.

## Honors Continue for Moss and Arencibia

By Jerry Kendall  
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Two Towns County High School Lady Indians Varsity Basketball Players continued to be the recipients of impressive postseason honors last week as a follow up to their team's recently completed record setting 27-2 season which included top ten honors for their team in two final statewide polls. Senior Jordan Moss had already earned participation in the Georgia Athletic Coaches Association (GACA) Statewide All Star Game covered in a separate article in this week's newspaper while Junior Gabby Arencibia had been named the Windstream Channel 4 Blitz Girls Basketball Player of the Year. On Thursday, Arencibia was one of ten players who received honorable mention status on the Atlanta Journal and Constitution Class A All-State Basketball Team right behind the first and second teams consisting of just five players each. Two Lady Indian opponents during the 2011 season were named first team all state, Morgan Batey of Pace Academy and Holli Brooks of Gordon Lee, with Batey receiving the additional honor of being the State's Class A Player of the Year. Of course, these two players were members of the only two teams to defeat the Lady Indians during the season with Gordon Lee winning the championship game of the Battle of the States Tournament and Pace Academy winning in the Sweet Sixteen Round of the Class A State Tournament. On Saturday, both Moss and Arencibia were placed on the six-member Gainesville Times All-Area Girls Second Team. There were additional Towns County connections on the Times all area teams per-



Add honorable mention All-Stars to Junior Gabby Arencibia's list of accomplishments in 2010-2011 Photo by James Reese.

haps not known by most readers. First of all, the twin daughters of former Indians superstar Eddie Rushton were honored, McKenna on the second team along with Arencibia and Moss and Mary Kate in the honorable mention category for their fine play as juniors at North Hall High School. Also, Chestatee's 6'2" Senior Peyton Robertson, a Young Harris College signee for next year, was named to the six member first team. And three Union County Lady Panthers received honorable mention—Holli Abernathy, Angie Hughes, and Rebecka Merritt. Finally, both Moss and Arencibia were selected among twenty three members of the Georgia Athletic Coaches Association (GACA) Class A All State Team with no breakdown but all rather being considered first team selectees. This time, two members on each of the two teams defeating the Lady Indians during the 2011 season received all state status. Post player Morgan Batey and point guard Haley Zwecker of Class A State Runner Up Pace Academy made the squad as did point guard Cassidy Blevins and shooting guard Holli Brooks of Elite Eight participant Gordon Lee. Blevins was named Most Valuable Player in the Battle of the States Tournament while Brooks was named to the Battle of the States All Tournament Team. Congratulations to Jordan and Gabby for their continuing well earned recognition for their contributions to a season to be remembered for the 2011 Towns County Lady Indians Varsity Basketball Team.

## Diamond Indians continue unfortunate region slide

By James Reese  
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The Towns County Indians are on a losing streak. The tough luck continued to follow Coach Chris Vardo's Indians last week as they lost three games in a row. First, the Indians (2-8) lost a heartbreaking Region 8-A game to Riverside Military Academy by the score of 15-14. The Eagles jumped the Indians and starting pitcher Alan Turpin for three runs in the top of the first inning. By the bottom of the second inning, the Indians were staring at a 4-run deficit at 5-1, when senior Paydon Shook doubled home a pair of runs to knot the game at five runs each. Later in the second, senior Taylor Denton drove in two more runs with a double to give the Indians a 7-5 advantage. The scoring barrage continued through the bottom of the fifth inning as the Indians managed to maintain an 11-10 advantage when Denton hit a seemingly decisive three-run home run to put the Indians up 14-10. In the top of the sixth the Eagles displayed a sense of pride as they closed in on the Indians' lead 14-13. After an Indian pitching change, the Eagles took the lead for good with a decisive two-run blast that gave Riverside a 15-14 road victory. Following the disappointing loss to Riverside, the Indians drew the misfortune of hosting the (9-4) George Walton Academy Bulldogs. On a cold, windy and otherwise dreary day the Indians' woes continued as they dropped a doubleheader to the Bulldogs 14-2 and 13-1. In the opener, senior Brett Bradshaw took the hill facing a potent Bulldogs lineup. Bradshaw found himself in early trouble offering a couple of walks to the Bulldogs first two batters. Next up, junior catcher Jacoby Patterson sent the ball out of the park for a three-run blast. Things didn't get much easier as the Bulldogs jumped out to a 7-0 lead in the top of the first. In the bottom half of the inning, speedy senior Billy Meier singled to start the inning and scored on a Bulldog fielding error, to narrow the gap to 7-1 Bulldogs. Patterson led off the second inning stepped up and blasted a solo shot onto the batting cages in leftfield giving the



Taylor Denton was on the mound against George Walton Academy Photo by James Reese.



Vonya Baldwin lines a base hit against George Walton Academy Photo by James Reese.



Alan Turpin gets the glad hand after homering against George Walton Academy Photo by James Reese.

Bulldogs an 8-1 advantage. The rest of the game and day was mostly Bulldogs as they handed the Indians a 14-2 defeat. With the thermostat nearing freezing temperature, the Bulldogs put the Indians on ice early in the nightcap, taking the second game by a 13-1 score. The Indians traveled to Gainesville on Tuesday to take on Lakeview Academy in a 4:30 p.m. Region 8-A match up.

Game results were not available at press time. Thursday's 5 p.m. game at Kimsey Field against Hebron Christian Academy was looking doubtful according to the National Weather Service. The weatherman is calling for rain Thursday and Friday. Prince Avenue is the scheduled opponent on Friday in an away game scheduled for 5:30 p.m.

## Moss Impressive in Statewide All Star Game

By Jerry Kendall  
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It's quite a daunting task for an athlete at any level to face an extremely high competition level at an all star event with top flight players participating from a wide geographical area but this is especially true when the area is known as a hotbed for the particular sport as is the case for the state of Georgia. It was just such a task faced by Senior Jordan Moss of the Towns County Lady Indians Varsity Basketball Team last week in the Georgia Athletic Coaches Association (GACA) Senior All Star Game played at Armstrong Atlantic University in Savannah. Being one of just two players from Class A schools selected for the game with both being on the same squad and competing against opponents from Classes AA through AAAAA added to what could have been an overwhelming situation. And the task was compounded further by the facts that Moss is just barely old enough to be a high school senior and she has been restricted for roughly the last half of the season by a stretched tendon in her knee. With all this being stated, Moss' head coach in the game was Jim Hughes of Union County and he made the suggestion that she just go out and play like she did against Union County, a team against whom she and her teammates had great success the last four years. Word from Savannah is that she did just that, playing her game without being intimidated by her surroundings and the level of competition. Moss sank two field goals on a screen and roll field goal and a put back basket and hit three of four free throw attempts for a total of seven points in the game. Official stats for the game are not available but, according to the recollection of family members who attended the game, she collected about five rebounds and had at least two steals while playing no more than a third of the game. Instead of four quarters of eight



Jordan Moss scored seven points and pulled down five rebounds in the GACA All-Star game on Saturday Photo by James Reese.

minutes each as in high school play, two halves of twenty minutes each were played as is done at the college level but without a shot clock as used at the college level. As for the results of the game, the players were divided into North and South groupings with the South All Stars taking an 85-75 victory over Moss' North squad. After holding a 38-37 lead at intermission, the South team used a 23-6 second-half run in overcoming a 60-53 North lead for a 76-66 advantage and the eventual margin of victory. Each team featured a very tall player with Fayette County's Elem Ibiem, a 6-4 center headed to the University of South Carolina and playing for the South squad holding an advantage in the game over Whitefield Academy's 6'2" Briana Jones who got in foul trouble and was less effective for her North team. According to a Savannah Morning News article covering the contest, a dozen players participating in the game have committed to play at Division I schools, including at least one each at the University of Georgia and Georgia Tech. Congratulations, Jordan, for not only being selected for the all star game but especially for taking advantage of the opportunity for a standout performance against top flight competition.