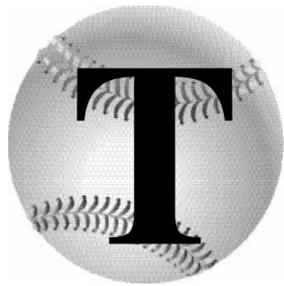


# Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports



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Hiawassee, Georgia

## Indians JV drop two to Tigers Indians have a rough week

By Jessica Keaton  
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The Towns County Indians Junior Varsity team played their hearts out, but wound up on the losing end of a doubleheader with the Commerce Tigers Junior Varsity on Saturday.

The Towns County community came out in full support to cheer on the home team as the Indians were geared up for a beautiful day of baseball. Playing under cloudless, blue skies the team didn't quit in either game, but unfortunately, lost a pair.

The Indians dropped the first game 17-6; they lost the nightcap 14-4.

"We saw some positive things," said JV Head Coach Chris Vardo. "That's what we're looking for. We saw some things to work on...we'd like to see a victory, but with this age group, we're just looking for progress. After all, these guys are our future. Commerce is a good team...it was a good experience for us."

The Indians jumped out on the scoreboard first with, taking a 1-0 lead. However, it didn't take Commerce long to bounce back, plating six runs in the second inning. The Tigers continued to score runs in the third inning. The Indians were down 13-1 when they came to



Indians Junior Varsity Head Coach Chris Vardo talks it over with Jake Mullins during Saturday's doubleheader with Commerce in Hiawassee. The Indians dropped a pair to the Tigers in Junior Varsity action.

Photo/Lowell Nicholson

bat in the bottom of the third inning.

Coach Vardo's Indians rallied in the bottom of the fourth with four runs before the Tigers decided a pitching change was warranted. Before the inning was over, the Indians had narrowed the gap to 13-6 before the top of the fifth inning.

The Tigers added a three-spot in the top of the fifth to round out the scoring for the game at 17-6.

In the nightcap, Commerce took an early 3-0 lead in the first inning. However, the Indians retaliated by scoring three runs of their own,

evening the score at the end of the first at 3-3.

The Indians' comeback was short lived. During the course of the rest of the game, Towns only managed to score one more run. By the end of the game, Towns was on the losing end of a 14-4 decision.

With only a couple of games left in the JV season, Coach Vardo is looking forward to the future.

"Hopefully, we'll gain some momentum and keep getting better and finish out strong to lead us into something positive for the summer months and next year," Coach Vardo said.

By Charles Duncan  
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The Towns County Indians are a tired baseball team.

Having played eight games in 10 days, the Indians limped into two home games last week on Thursday and Friday, playing top notch competition in Lakeview Academy and Athens Academy.

The two private schools dominated the Indians in the field and at the plate.

On Thursday, heralded senior Lakeview right-hander Ralston Cash dominated the Indians for six innings before giving way to closer Taylor Simpson. Given enough time, the Indians found Simpson's pitching much more to their liking.

Towns scored four runs in the bottom of the seventh to spoil Cash's shutout and make the matchup a bit more respectable at 9-4. Regardless, it was still a Region 8-A loss.

The following day, Athens Academy's Patrick Jansen made hitting look simple with a pair of three-run homers. Henry Terrell did some damage of his own, smacking a grand slam as the Spartans went on to a 17-1 Region 8-A win over the Indians. The Spartans registered only nine hits in the win.

The Indians main trouble over the past two weeks has been its pitching, or lack thereof. On Thursday, Lakeview had their way with Towns County starter Taylor Denton en route to the region win.

On Friday, Indians Head Coach Shannon Moss couldn't find a stopper until late in the game when Billy Meier shifted from third base to the mound to quiet the Spartans' bats.

All in all, it was a tough week with the Indians going 1-3 in Region 8-A competition. The three region losses dropped the Indians into fifth place in the region standings, behind Commerce and Athens Academy.

"These guys don't ever quit, but they're tired," Coach Moss said. "I told them it was too little, too late against Lakeview. The Athens Academy game, wow, what can you say about that. We threw everything we had at them and they still kept hitting."

Coach Moss cited a less than stellar effort in the field in both the Lakeview and Athens Academy losses.

"We didn't make plays that we should have made," he said.

On Wednesday, the Indians pounded out 16 hits against Tallulah Falls en route to a 14-1 Region 8-A win.

"We came to play," he said. "We came out and hit the ball, registering 16 hits. We got some guys back on track hitting the ball. We just haven't been consistent and haven't been able to get the big hits when we need them in close ball games."

The Indians were scheduled to play Rabun Gap in a road game on Wednesday, weather permitting. They don't play again until April 9, at home against Athens Christian.

"To be honest, we need the rest to let some sore arms and legs heal up," Coach Moss said. "This is a part of the schedule that we look forward to given what we've been up against lately."

The Indians play Rabun Gap on Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. in Rabun Gap. They don't play again until 4:30 p.m. on April 9th at home against Athens Christian.



The Towns County Indians get a well deserved rest over the next 10 days. Above, Kyle McConnell waits to pounce on a pitch. Next, Billy Meier is anxious to glove one at third. James Mullins and John Bleckley saw plenty of action from the mound last week. Photos/Lowell Nicholson

## Lady Indians perfect in Region

By Charles Duncan  
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The Towns County Lady Indians are learning to handle defeat, albeit at the hands of Region 8-AA tennis teams.

The Lady Indians sit atop the Region 8-A standings with a 6-0 record.

Towns' tennis ladies' record dropped to 9-3 on Monday with a 3-2 defeat in Tiger at the hands of the Rabun County Lady Wildcats. Towns County defeated Rabun County earlier this season by the same score.

Coach Shannon Floyd hates to lose, but he'd rather lose to Class AA schools than region opponents.

The Lady Indians defeated Commerce last week 5-0 before losing to undefeated Class AA Banks County 4-1.

Prior to Monday's loss to Rabun County, the Lady Leopards were the only team to defeat the Lady Indians' tennis team.

The Lady Indians have two make up dates, one against Athens Christian and one against Lakeview Academy, both of which were rescheduled last week due to inclement weather.

Towns was scheduled to make up the Lakeview Acad-



The Lady Indians' Kerri Abernathy is returning to tennis form after recovering from a knee injury suffered during basketball season.

Photo/Lowell Nicholson

emy tennis match on Tuesday, weather permitting. The Lady Indians also have a scheduled match in Commerce on Thursday against the Lady Tigers.

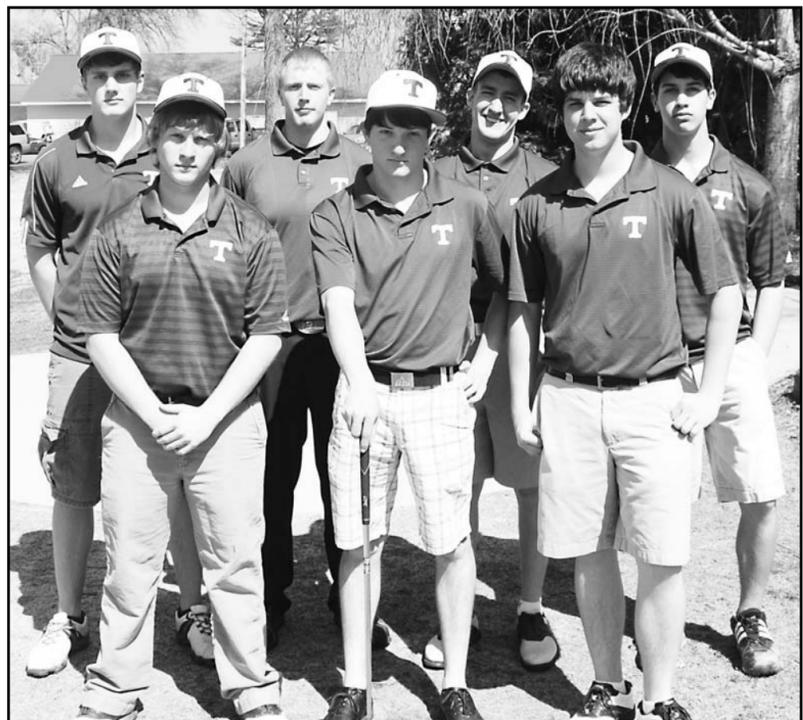
The Lady Indians seek their second win of the season against Commerce. The match is scheduled to begin at 4 p.m.

The Lady Indians play White County on April 12 at

4 p.m. in Cleveland, a tune up for the Region 8-A tournament which is scheduled for April 14-15 at Lakeview Academy.

As most Towns County sports fans do, please turn out in support of the Lady Indians as they continue their quest of region tennis perfection in 2010.

## Indians' golf team tops Union



The Towns County Indians golf team topped Union County last week by a stroke at Butternut Creek Golf Course in Blairsville and lost by a stroke to Hayesville at Chatuge Shores in Clay County, NC.

Photo/Lowell Nicholson

## YHC drops one to Agnes Scott

**DECATUR** Young Harris College's Sarah Deese and Michelle Allen each won singles matches, but Agnes Scott College defeated the Mountain Lions 7-2 in a non-conference women's tennis match in Decatur, on Saturday.

Deese and her singles opponent in the No.3 position Hannah Kraus battled in their first set, with Deese finally coming out on top after a long set by a 7-5 score. Deese then dominated the second set with a 6-0 win.

Allen, meanwhile, dropped a very tough first set in the fifth position, falling

4-6. The second set wasn't any easier, even after she jumped out to a 3-0 lead.

Her opponent, Amanda Chaffin, came back and pulled even at three games apiece. Allen and Chaffin then traded the next four games, making the score 5-5, before Allen won the next two to claim a 7-5 victory and send the match into a match-deciding tiebreaker. Neither player could get a hold of the tiebreaker, with a one-point difference the largest lead for either player until Allen finally won 12-10.

That was the second grueling match Allen played Satur-

day. She and doubles partner Mary Beth Maxwell fought back from a 7-4 deficit to pull to within 7-6 in their No. 3 doubles match against Chaffin and Nikitris Deloach, but weren't able to finish off the comeback. Chaffin and Deloach ended up with an 8-6 victory.

The match was one of the longest of the season, lasting approximately four hours, despite the teams playing super tiebreakers in the third sets of the singles matches.

The Mountain Lions are

See YHC drops one pg. 5B