

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports



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Losing streak continues for Diamond Indians



Dillon Diehl takes a swing against Riverside Military.

Photo by James Reese.
By James Reese
Towns County Herald
tcherald@windstream.net

The long enduring 2012 season continued with despair for the Towns County Baseball team. Back from spring break, the Indians appeared ready for battle against the Riverside Military Academy Eagles but a third-inning high rising fastball changed their fate.

Starting Pitcher Dillon Diehl was cruising along no hitting the Eagles through the first two frames. In the top of the third, John Henry Hobbs took a free pass; Vonya Baldwin followed with a solid shot up the middle that forced Hobbs out at second.

The next batter would be Diehl, the team's leading hitter. On a 0-1 count Diehl turned on a rising, inside fastball just enough to get a piece of it. The ball tipped foul from his bat to his forehead just missing a direct shot to his eye and knocking off his helmet in the process.

The impact was immediate with a welt over his right eye. Diehl was carted off and unable to continue. Cody Canterbury inherited the tough spot with a 0-2 count and struck out.

Jake Mullins also inherited a tough spot taking the mound in the bottom of the third. Mullins recorded a quick out to the first batter he faced. A couple of infield errors led to the game's first run for the Eagles. By the time the dust settled the Eagles had taken a 3-0 lead going into the top of the fourth inning.

Mullins gathered himself and was able to fend off the Eagle attack in the bottom of the fourth.

In the top of the fifth, Tyler Davis led off the inning with an infield hit. Hobbs followed



Boone Moss makes the stretch at first for the Indians.

Photo by James Reese.



Harrison Hobbs legs it out at first against Riverside.

Photo by James Reese.



Dillon Diehl applies the ice after a foul tip gone awry.

Photo by James Reese.

with a fielder's choice. A couple of Indian strikeouts closed the threat in the top of the fifth.

The Eagles bats came to life scoring seven in the bottom of the fifth to claim the 10-0 home victory for the Eagles via mercy rule.

"No doubt the game changed on one swing of the bat,

"said first base coach Thomas Boyd.

On Friday, the Indians dropped a home decision 7-2 to the Athens Christian Eagles.

The Indians looked to capitalize on a previous victory against the Tallulah Falls Indians at home at 5 p.m. on Tuesday. Game results were not available at press time.

Gabby Arencibia is a Saint; signs with North Georgia

By Jerry Kendall
Towns County Herald
tcherald@windstream.net

The stellar basketball career of Gabby Arencibia will continue at the college level.

Arencibia, the state record holder for three-pointers in a career and another mark for three-pointers in a single game, signed Wednesday with the North Georgia College and State University Lady Saints.

Arencibia completed a stellar career after earning a starting position early in her freshman season, setting two statewide records for 3-point shooting along the way. She sank thirteen treys in just three quarters against Commerce late in the 2011 season for the single game record and finished her career with 312 treys which was also good for the statewide record, surpassing the 293 set by Ashley Watts of Butler High School in Augusta through the 2011 season.

Arencibia totaled 481 points in thirty games for a 16.0 average during the 2012 season, highlighted by ninety two 3-pointers and 91-128 at the foul line for 71.1% accuracy. She also contributed 5.4 rebounds, 3.3 assists, 0.9 blocked shots, and 2.8 steals per game. Perhaps more impressive than any of all her statistics was her free throw shooting in close games in the fourth quarter during her senior year. When Arencibia went to the foul line in nine such games, she sank twenty five of thirty two attempts for 78.1% accuracy, unusual in that the accuracy of free throw shooting often drops for players under the pressure of the game being on the line.

For her career, Arencibia wound up with 1,420 points, good for fifth place among Lady Indians on the verifiable scoring list. She trails only the 1,870 points of former teammate Nikki Winn of the TCHS Class of 2009, Amy Allen's 1,753 points from 1986, Blair Barrett's 1,699 from 2005, and Keisha Taylor's 1,569 from the Class of 1997.

Upon beginning her career at North Georgia, Arencibia will become at least the fifth member of her family to participate in college athletics. Her maternal uncle, Mike Ray, got it all started when he played basketball at Young Harris College under legendary YHC head coach Luke Rushton back in the late 1960's. Her father, Joey, then played tennis at Young Harris under likewise legendary Head Coach Bob Nichols during the 1979 and 1980 seasons with Joey's brother, Raul, joining the parade for the 1980 and 1981 tennis seasons at YHC. Finally, Mike Ray's son, Vince, then preceded Gabby as a basketball player at North Georgia prior to graduating in 2000.

Further, at least four former Towns County High School players have played basketball at North Georgia. They include former Lady Indians Carol Ina Peebles, Angelia Adams, Cathy Nichols, and former Indian Eddie Rushton, the son of Luke Rushton, with all having played at North Georgia during the last half of the 1970's.

Arencibia will become a teammate of the 2012 women's Division II National Player of the Year, Jaymee Carnes, at North Georgia. Carnes, a Gainesville native, earned the acclaim for her all around outstanding play as a sophomore in the recently completed season after transferring to North Georgia from Wake Forest University.

The Lady Saints have a rich tradition in women's basketball, including narrowly missing a national championship when they finished second in the nation in NAIA after just



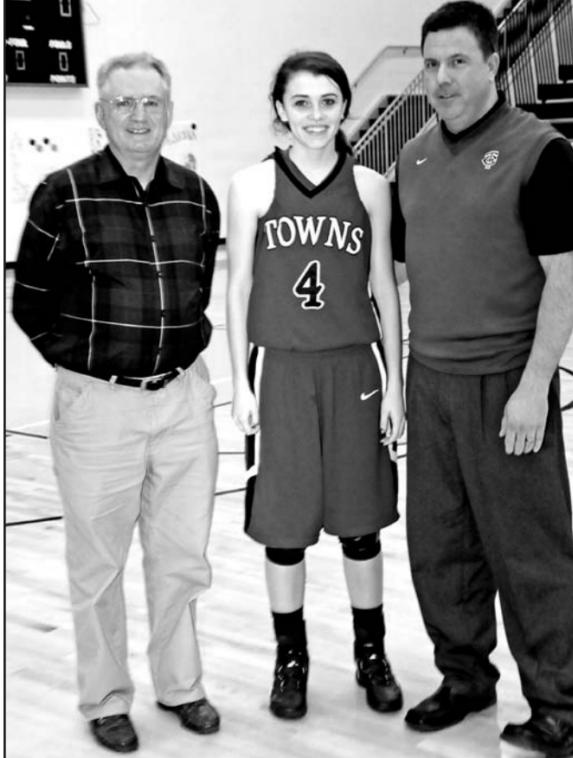
Gabby Arencibia and her teammates celebrate her signing with North Georgia.

Photo by James Reese.



Commerce Head Coach Rex Gregg presents Gabby with the ball that broke the state three-pointers career record.

Photo by James Reese.



Dion Eller, Gabby Arencibia and Head Coach Jim Melton celebrate a big night in Commerce during the season finale.

Photo by James Reese.

a 60-58 loss to Southwestern Oklahoma during a 27-4 season in 1987. They then had an incredible ten year run from 1997 through 2006 under current Lady Saints Head Coach Buffie Burson when they won 267 games for an average during the span of 26.7 wins per season.

Arencibia becomes the second 2012 Lady Indian senior to sign to play basketball at the collegiate level, following the lead of Lindsay Patton, one of several Lady Indians in attendance at the signing ceremony last Wednesday in the TCHS Gym. Patton signed prior to the season to play at Point Univer-

sity in West Point, Georgia, beginning next year.

It was interesting that Arencibia, who was known so well for her spectacular 3-point shooting, was also supported at the signing by two freshmen 3-point shooters of note, her younger brother Grant and her teammate Stephanie Patton who is the sister of Lindsay Patton. Grant and Stephanie each sank fifty treys right on the nose during their 2012 varsity seasons with promise for the future for both the Lady Indians and Indians to continue the excitement of Gabby's unprecedented 3-point shooting success.

Lady Indians' soccer team vies for second playoff berth



Makayla Underwood clears the ball out against Hebron.

Photo by Lowell Nicholson.
By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
cduncan.tch@windstream.net

The Towns County Lady Indians' soccer team finds themselves with their backs against the wall if they want to make the Class A state soccer playoffs for the second consecutive.

They're in must win situations. On Monday, they faced Lakeview Academy at home at Frank McClure Stadium. Game results were not available at press time.

On Saturday, they face Georgia Military School, with a potential state berth on the line.

The Lady Indians, 6-6 overall, and 2-3 in Conference, have the potential to shutdown their opponents. However, they've lost 2 out of their last 3 contests.

Last week, they defeated Highlands, NC 3-0 in a non-conference match up. Kaila Reece, Ali Bleckley and Vanessa Eller provided the offense.

On Friday, they were shut-out by one of the best soccer teams in the state, Hebron Christian Academy, 9-0.

If they win Monday and win Saturday, the Lady Indians have a shot at the state playoffs by virtue of the No. 4 seed out of Area 5.

If they play like they can play, they've got a shot. But teams are focusing on the Lady Indians' primary offensive weapon, Faith Robinson.

Highlands got nasty in their attempt to shut Robinson out of the goal department on April 10. Earlier in the season, the Lady Indians defeated Highlands 9-0, with Robinson scoring six goals in the effort.

They put the crunch on



Kindle Moss moves the ball against Hebron Christian.

Photo by Lowell Nicholson.



Ali Bleckley moves the ball into Towns County territory against Hebron.

Photo by Lowell Nicholson.



Alex Fagin clears the ball out of Towns County territory against Hebron.

Photo by Lowell Nicholson.

her during last week's contest. Expect Lakeview and Georgia Military to do the same.

Come out and support the

Lady Indians in their attempt at a second state playoff berth.

Saturday's contest is at 1 p.m. at Frank McClure Stadium.

4-H BB Gun Team lays down gauntlet again



Seven cops against seven kids.



Four firefighters against four kids.

After training and competing among themselves for 15 weeks, the Towns County 4-H BB Gun kids once again, laid down the gauntlet and challenged the Towns County Fire Department and the Sheriff Department to a 4-position rifle match for the cherished 2012

Braggin' Rites.

The first shoulder-to-shoulder contest began after school, Wednesday, March 14, at the Georgia Extension Office. Eight firefighters and four (one of their best shooters was out with the flu) 4-H markspersons began the contest. Forty shots

for record were fired by each competitor, ten from each position; prone, standing, sitting and kneeling. Ahh, the advantages of youth!

When all shots were away, scored and compared; using the four highest scores from each team, it was a tie.

The following day the Sheriffs dropped by to take on the Thursday gang. It was seven cops against seven kids. Same game as Wednesday. Fast-forward to the end and using the five highest scores, the Kids edged out the Gendarmes by a mere eight shots. Ahh, the advantages of youth!

This is about the 4th or 5th time the Towns County 4-H BB teams have engaged the Sheriff Department and only the first trip for the Firefighters. It would be hard to determine who had the best time, the "Big Guys" or the "Kids". All involved demonstrated exceptional sportsmanship and were all shakin' hands and congratulating each other at the end.

Submitted by Ed Jones