

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports



www.townscountyherald.net • E-mail: tcherald@windstream.net

Towns County Lady Indians' soccer team achieve a first in school history

They've made it to the state soccer playoffs and on Thursday at 5:30 p.m. in Towns County, the Lady Indians host Our Lady of Mercy Bobcats.

"We are excited to be hosting the first round of the state soccer tournament this coming Thursday," Towns County High School Principal Roy Perren said. "This is our first appearance ever in the state soccer tournament. This will also be the first playoff game of any kind to be held on our field. As our normal admission is \$3, please be sure to let folks know that the cost of admission to the state playoff game is \$7 as set by the Georgia High School Association."

The Lady Indians finished the 2011 regular season with an overall record of 6 wins, 3 losses and 2 ties. The Lady Indians finished with a 5-2 record in Area 5 and claimed the Third Seed out of Area 5.

The Lady Bobcats of Our Lady of Mercy finished the season with 8 wins and 9 losses. More importantly, the Lady Bobcats won their last two games. They finished the season with a 5-4 mark in Area 2.

They finished in a three-way tie for Fourth Seed with Pacelli High School and Whitefield Academy. The Lady Bobcats won those tie breakers with wins against both in head-to-head play to claim the Fourth Seed out of Area 2.

Lady Indians Coach Peter Byrne was excited for his team to be competing in their first state playoff game.

"I'm very happy, the goal of the season was to make state and we've achieved that goal," Coach Byrne said. "I'd like to make it a bit further. Anything beyond this is just icing on the cake. I really would like to make it to the next round. If we make it that far I'd be ecstatic to

go one level further."

Byrne said the secret to the Lady Indians' 2011 success was simple: hard work.

"We worked hard; we had to beat some pretty good private schools," he said. "I'm very happy the way we finished up. We finished 5 and 2 in our region. The two teams that beat us were ranked in the Top 10. They're strong teams but you're going to play the best teams sooner or later so it's good to play them in the regular season."

As for the Lady Indians' opponent, Coach Byrne is in the dark about the Lady Bobcats.

"I know very little about them," he said. "We've never played them before. We don't have any opponents in common. I think looking at their record and maybe some of the other teams that they've played against, I think we'll match up favorably with them."

"It should be a pretty good game. We have a good chance to win," Coach Byrne said. "I think we have a very good chance to make it to the next round overall."

Coach Byrne and the Lady Indians did get some good news this week as they prepare for their first playoff appearance. Goal Keeper Alex Fagin (concussion symptoms) has been cleared to play against the Lady Bobcats.

"She's going to have to wear protective headgear during the game," Coach Byrne said. "She's good to go. She'll be getting that (Tuesday). She's not too thrilled about having to wear (protective head gear)."

"I've seen other players wear it who have had concussion problems," Coach Byrne said. "It's a precaution that you've got to take and do what you've got to do to play."



Jordan Moss will play a vital role in the Lady Indians state playoff pursuits. Photo by James Reese.



Makayla Underwood will contribute some fancy footwork to the Lady Indians' soccer game. Photo by James Reese.



Freshman Taylor Vardeman brings an abundance of energy to the Lady Indians soccer attack. Photo by James Reese.



Ali Bleckley is another important cog in the Lady Indians pursuit of a state soccer title. Photo by James Reese.

Towns County Indians break out the bats as the 2011 baseball season comes to a close

The Indians scored 49 runs in their last three games, all wins, for Towns County.

On Wednesday, the Indians traveled to Tallulah Falls and came back a 12-1 winner over the Region 8-A rivals.

"Senior Alan Turpin had a terrific game against Tallulah Falls on the mound and at the plate," Head Coach Chris Vardo said. "He went 2 for 4 with a sacrifice fly and six runs batted in."

The hit parade for the Indians was impressive. Senior Billy Meier went 1 for 2, senior Taylor Denton went 1 for 2, senior Kyle McConnell went 1 for 3, senior Brett Bradshaw went 2 for 4, senior Devin Henderson went 1 for 2 and scored three runs, sophomore Wesley Bloodworth went 1 for 3, and freshman Vonya Baldwin went 1 for 2.

On the hill, Turpin gave up three hits, while striking out 10 Tallulah Falls' batters.

"He pitched real well, he hit his spots doing what we've come to expect," Coach Vardo said. "Basically he comes out and brings his 'A' game."

"Both sides he really helped out (offensively and on the mound)," Coach Vardo said. Coach Vardo attributes the Indians' recent success to solid defense and offense.

"The last three or four games we've swung the bats well and put up some runs," he said. "Our pitching is getting more consistent; we're throwing strikes and getting outs, which

is what you want to see."

As the season comes to a close, Coach Vardo wishes the season could start all over.

"To the seniors, I wish we could've had a little better season than last year," he said. "I expected a little more, a little better season, but we're starting to figure it out here at the end by stringing together some wins and picking up confidence."

During the recent offensive surge, it's been the seniors who have stepped up, especially during the second half of the season.

"They really played well doing what we wanted, playing solid baseball," Coach Vardo said. "We've been getting good pitching performances out of Bradshaw, Turpin and Taylor Denton as well."

"Meier picked up where he let off last year," he said. "Basically every game he swings the bat well. If he doesn't get on he normally runs counts deep. He's what you expect out of a lead off man. He's been solid for us at that position."

Coach Vardo had high praise for senior Devin Henderson.

"I wish he would've played all four years of high school," Coach Vardo said. "He's been solid for us; I think he would've been even better had he played all four years."

Coach Vardo also had high praise for senior Brett Bradshaw.

"He's been swinging a good bat the last four games,"

he said. "I think he's put together three or four multi-hit games. That's what we've been looking for all season. Now he's actually seeing the fruits of his labors."

Coach Vardo had special recognition for senior Taylor Denton.

"After the fifth game of the season, he has led our team in home runs with four," Coach Vardo said. "He found his confidence and hit his stride. He's swung the bat real well for us. He mainly played DH for us and fit in there really well. He's comfortable in that position."

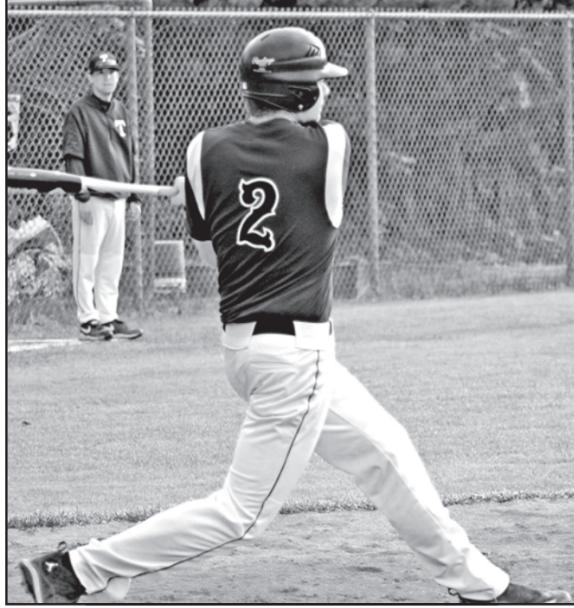
Coach Vardo said senior Kyle McConnell will be hard to replace.

"We've gotten some great innings out of him as far

as pitching goes," Coach Vardo said. "He's also played great first base for us. It's going to be hard to replace him at first base. It's going to be hard to replace all six of these guys."

The Indians were scheduled to play the Lakeview Academy Lions at Kimsey Field as the community celebrated Senior Day at the ballpark. The game was a must because of the Region 8-A playoff's final spot. The Lions were locked up with Athens Christian for the final playoff spot out of Region 8-A.

The Indians also have two other games this week: they travel to Hebron Christian on Wednesday and to Hiwassee Dam on Thursday to close out the 2011 baseball season.



Brett Bradshaw lines a hit last week against Tallulah Falls. Photo by James Reese.



Vonya Baldwin squares to bunt against Tallulah Falls last week. Photo by James Reese.



Kyle McConnell looks at ball four against Tallulah Falls last week. Photo by James Reese.



Taylor Denton smacks another homerun last week for the Indians, this time against Tallulah Falls. Photo by James Reese.



Alan Turpin fires away during his masterpiece game last week against Tallulah Falls. Photo by James Reese.



The Towns County Indians have begun to jell as a team scoring 49 runs in their last three games. Photo by James Reese.

Auditions for Summer Performing Arts Camp

Hiwassee's 4th Summer Performing Arts Camp is sure to be another smashing success. The camp, run by performing artist Robbie Dernehl, is unlike any other camp around. Robbie actually writes the story to be performed around the children who attend the camp and tailor makes parts for them. Because of this, children from as far away as Atlanta, Asheville, NC, and Florida come to attend. The staff is made up of professionals with over 65 years of combined experience in the arts. Boys and

girls ages 5 thru 14 will have the opportunity to be kings, queens, palace guards, court jesters, talking cats and mice, and many other characters.

The camp will end with 3 full musical shows and include full costumes, lighting and special song and dance numbers chosen especially for this production.

Private auditions will be held on Wednesday afternoons during the month of April at the Towns County Recreation Center. For an appointment call 706-897-1041. T(A)P27.F1)SH