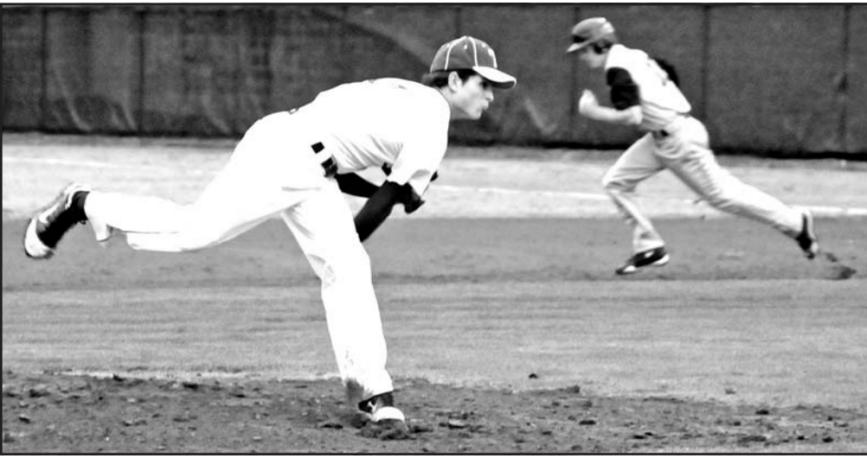


# Towns County Sports 2011 Year In Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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

## Seniors excel in 2011 for Diamond Indians



Alan Turpin completes a 13-strikeout performance against Prince Avenue with a 3-1 win. Photo James Reese

The most moving highlight of the Towns County Indians 2011 baseball season came on March 4th when senior right-hander Alan Turpin tossed a 13-strikeout, two-hitter in the Indians 3-1 win over Prince Avenue Christian.

The only dent in Turpin's armor on this day was a gopher ball to the Wolverines' Ryan Finch, who ac-

counted for Prince Avenue's only run.

Indians' Head Coach Chris Vardo almost didn't send Turpin out for the final frame. However, after giving it some thought, he patted the right-hander on the back and told him to go back out and finish it off.

Turpin rewarded his coach's trust by striking out

the side and sealing the deal on the victory.

Another highlight, senior first baseman Kyle McConnell became the third Indian in school history with three home runs in a single game. The feat came against the Blue Ridge Bobcats of Cashiers, NC.

## Cross Country Lady Indians make to state again



Anasley Vardeman finishes first for Towns County and 61st overall. Photo by James Reese

The Towns County Lady Indians competed in the state Cross Country Championships for the sixth year in a row under Coach Jeanne Ledford on Nov. 5th.

The Lady Indians battled illnesses and injury to finish 18th overall out of a field

of 30 competing schools in the Class A State Cross Country Championships at Carrollton High School on Saturday.

Anasley Vardeman, definitely under the weather, finished 61st among 200 Class A Lady runners. The Lady Indians' No. 2 runner, Caitlin

Sheffield, was unable to compete on this day due to a pulled hamstring.

Despite the setbacks, the Lady Indians managed to do what they do best - compete, no matter what, and finished the day as the third public school to complete the course.

Before the day started, Coach Ledford knew her team faced an uphill battle.

The Lady Indians made it to state again, after finishing third in Region 8 during the Region Meet in Athens.

"I thought we competed to the best of our abilities given the circumstances," Towns County High School Principal Roy Perren said. "They definitely gave it their all."

Anasley finished the course 61st overall, recording a time of 22:43.0. Meanwhile, her twin sister Taylor Vardeman finished 86th overall with a time of 23:31.88; Sierra Nichols finished 94th overall with a time of 23:52.69; Cassie Buck finished 126th overall with a time of 25:23.69; Karlie Albach finished 128th overall with a time of 25:25.01; and Courtney Stephens finished 143rd overall with a time of 26:16.46.

The Lady Indians competed at the state championships for the eighth time in nine years.

## Lady Indians' soccer team reaches lofty goal



Makayla Underwood gains control of the ball in the 2011 State Playoffs. Photo by James Reese



Ali Bleckley is focused on ball control during the State Playoffs. Photo by James Reese

The Towns County Lady Indians' soccer team achieved a first in school history.

They've made it to the state soccer playoffs against Our Lady of Mercy Bobcats.

They also hosted the playoff game, another first.

Unfortunately, the Lady Indians are 0-1 in state playoff games.

They lost to the Lady Bobcats in April.

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.

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."

## Arencibia and Lady Indians dominate Region 8 in 2011



Gabby Arencibia set a state record for most three pointers in a single game. Photo James Reese



Jordan Moss puts up a deuce in the Region championship game against Prince Avenue. Photo James Reese

The record for most 3-point baskets in a single game for girls' high school basketball in Georgia now stands at 13 and the name beside it is Gabby Arencibia, Towns County High School.

The most amazing part of Arencibia's feat was that her achievement was completed in only three quarters

of basketball.

In addition to Arencibia's personal feats, the Lady Indians won another Region 8 Championship, advanced to the Sweet 16 State Tournament before falling to a red-hot Pace Academy team.

According to the Georgia Prep Country Web site, Arencibia's 3-pointer per-

formance breaks the record of 11 treys in one game held by Nancy Williams of Dade County. That mark has stood since Feb. 5, 1999. It ties the boys' state record of 13 set by Vincent Banks of South Atlanta during the 2003 season.

A look at the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Web site further reveals that Arencibia tied the known girls Southeastern USA record of 13 treys established by Heather Mayes of Fyffe, Alabama, on Feb. 7, 1995. Mayes established the record setting total against Pisgah High School of Alabama, a Lady Indians' opponent in last season's Tip Off Classic.

The known National girls record for 3-pointers in a game is 15, established in 1998 in Michigan and later tied by four other players. Three additional players have also made 14 treys in one game, beginning in 1992 in California.

Arencibia's performance came on a hot shooting night, 50 percent from the field or 15 for 30 from the field, including 13 of 26 from 3-point range. She wasn't just shooting on this night; she added four rebounds, three assists, three blocked shots, and three steals to compliment her sharpshooting effort.

The 13 treys are not only a statewide record, but Arencibia also established a new single-game school scoring record under what might be considered the modern era of full court play in girls' basketball.

Her 43 points eclipse the 37 scored by her former Lady Indian teammate and current Young Harris College standout Nikki Winn, who scored 37 points on Jan. 4, 2008. Winn's record-setting effort actually came in the same game that she reached the 1,000 point total for her career.

## Gridiron Indians close out 2011 with a big win



The Indians celebrate their upset over Hebron Christian Academy. Photo by James Reese

The Towns County Indians closed out the 2011 football season like it was just the beginning.

They upset Hebron Christian Academy 29-27 and headed into the 2012 football season believing their fortunes would be better in 2012.

"It was just a real nice win for us; we wish we

could've taken care of the ball better and put the game away when we had the opportunities," Coach Kyle Langford said. "To the credit of our defense, Hebron came upon our territory; we make four plays and that was the ballgame."

"We're just glad that our seniors go out winners," he said. "This is the first time

that seniors have gone out with a win. It's really cool. They can say that - it'll be cool for them and we hope that we'll repeat it again next year. That's what we're shooting for."

Seniors Zach Stroud, Noah Calhoun and Cody Smedley finished their final season as the winningest senior football class in school history.

## Lady Indians' tennis team loses at state



Ginny Rhoades led the Lady Indians Tennis team into the state playoffs. Photo by James Reese

A 3-2 loss in mid-April to Athens Christian in the Region 8-A playoffs put the Towns County Lady Indians in a precarious position.

The Towns County Lady Indians' tennis team made it to the Class A State Playoff Preliminaries where they faced the No. 4 seed from Region 5-A, Providence Christian Academy.

In what must now seem like a whirlwind affair, the Lady Indians (13-3) exited the state tournament very early. Providence Christian

prevailed 5-0.

The Providence girls' tennis team defeated the visiting Lady Indians in a play-in match to advance in the Class A state tennis tournament.

## Feel Good Friday

If you're tired of all the bad news and want to be around positive people and ideas, come to the Wellness Center at 144 Blue Ridge Street, Blairsville, at 7 PM the first Friday of each month. Chat about the good things going on, learn, share, and feel good. Positive support for the changing times. Complementary, call for more information 706-781-4048.

"I'm real proud of what the girls did. We lost 5-0 to Providence but, we had a really good season overall and I'm proud of their accomplishments. We just didn't have the horses to plow the garden in that game," Coach Floyd said. "They were just a lot better but, that doesn't take anything away from what these kids did this year. They had a great year and it's just a little different league."

"Their coach (Bill Hannigan) told me that they couldn't compete against the other three Region 5 teams Wesleyan, Mount Pisgah and Pace Academy. Unfortunately we got matched up with that Region," Coach Floyd said.

## Ride with the Mountain Miatas

Do you have a Mazda Miata? The Mountain Miatas have formed a group right here in the North Georgia Mountains. We ride on the first Saturday of every month and a few rides in between. Come join us. Call Jon or Pegg at 706-897-3784.