

# Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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## Baseball: Indians log first win, 12-0 over Robbinsville, NC

By Shelly Knight  
Staff Writer  
Towns County Herald

On Thursday, Feb. 27th the Towns County Indians overwhelmed the Black Knights of Robbinsville, North Carolina with a 12-0 shutout.

"That was our sixth game, and I knew that we played well the two games prior," said head coach Shannon Floyd. "I could see the progress getting better. Last night we pitched very well. I only remember one error. We even had a spectacular defensive diving catch in the outfield by Brayden Barrett.

"We started out with Brayden pitching really well. He did great last week and has built on that performance. He is probably throwing about 78 mph, but the main thing is he hits his spots, which is very good. It doesn't matter how hard you throw if you throw to the wrong spot.

"We hit the ball very hard last night and went through our whole line up in the first inning. We were up 5-to-1 at the end of it. We call that a crooked number. We're always looking to score crooked numbers. We put a nice one up and Brayden held them in check for four straight innings. He just pitched really well. I would say that he had eight or nine strikeouts. Tripp Shirley came in and finished it out. I was very impressed with the boys.

After the game, the coaches got together and played each member of the team so that all the kids had a chance on the



Oliver Sarafin did enough to win at Union County last Monday, Feb. 24 but was let down by defensive and baserunning miscues. Photo/Todd Forrest

field. "Our numbers don't allow us to have a JV team this year so last night was important to play a little extra and let everybody go out on the field and let the guys get an at bat.

Earlier in the week, Towns County dropped a 7-3 contest to Union County in Blairsville.

"Oliver Sarafin pitched that game and did a fine job," Floyd said. "We actually had a lead in that game of 2-1 in the

fourth. We had a misplayed ball or two and the next thing you know you're behind 5-2.

"Union is much improved from years past. We had an opportunity to tighten the score, but they picked us off at first. Again, there is where our youth, not understanding the situation, came into play. It was a good learning opportunity. You know if you get picked off, get into a rundown, don't just go back to the base. We out-hit Union that

night. The difference was we had a few misplayed balls and left some runners on base. We will learn from that."

Sarafin worked five innings, allowing five hits, four earned runs while striking out four and walking three. He also went 2 for 4 with a run.

At the dish, Mason Pierson returned from the hardwood to go 2 for 3 with a double and 2 RBIs.

Tyler Rawdon went 1



Mason Pierson went 2 for 3 with 2 RBIs on Monday at Union County. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

for 2 with a run and a double. Braydon Barrett drove in a run.

Caleb Vardo, Alfonso Giampola, Sam Sarafin, Tripp Shirley and Morgan Walker all reached on a walk.

Down 1-0 in the second, Pierson's RBI single plated Walker, and during the fourth, doubles by Rawdon and Pierson moved the Indians in front.

Union responded with four in the bottom half but Towns County got one back

on Oliver Sarafin's sacrifice fly.

The Panthers put the game away with two in the sixth, taking advantage of a dropped third strike and an error.

"The boys have made a lot of progress. We're definitely better than we were two weeks ago. We're shooting for state again," said Floyd.

The next home game is Thursday against Hiwassee Dam, NC



Braydon Baldwin at the plate during Towns' win over Robbinsville. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



Caleb Vardo vs. Robbinsville. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

## Both Towns County Soccer teams off to hot starts in February

By Shelly Knight  
Staff Writer  
Towns County Herald

Both Towns County soccer teams enter March undefeated and ranked among the top-six teams in Class A-Division 2 following wins over Banks County and Greene County.

The Lady Indians survived a penalty kick shootout at Banks County before blanking Greene County 5-0 in the region opener.

"We played two games last week," said Towns County Lady Indians head coach Clay Livingston. "On Monday (Feb. 24) we traveled down to Banks County and won in a shootout. "The score was 1-1

at the end of regulation. We made three picks out of the first four to pick up the win. Scotlyn Fain scored in regulation as well as in the shootout. Kya Smith and Ansleigh Hardin added goals during the shootout and Drew Livingston saved Banks' last chance to secure the win.

"On Friday, we hosted Greene County for the first region game of the year," Livingston continued. "We played really well in a 5-0 win. Scotlyn Fain paced us in scoring with two goals and an assist. Abby Gardella picked up a goal along with two assists. Kya Smith and freshman Emma Wilson also chipped in with a goal a piece. We played well in every aspect of the

game. We can definitely get better, but it was a good start to region play that only gets tougher as we move along," added Livingston.

The Towns County men logged a 1-0 win at Banks County, then blasted Commerce 7-1 and Greene County 8-0 to improve to 3-0 on the year.

Both the Indians and Lady Indians currently sit at No. 6 in the latest Class A-Division 2 rankings.

Towns County returns to the pitch when they visit Washington Wilkes at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, March 7.

The next home game is Thursday, March 13 when they host a pair of top-10 squads from Lincoln County.



The Towns County Lady Indians celebrate their PK shootout victory over Banks County on Monday, Feb. 24. Photo/TCHS