

# Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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## Soccer: No. 3 Holy Innocents hosts Lady Indians to open Class A State Tournament

### Towns County men's season comes to a close at Class AAA Lumpkin County



Towns County soccer celebrated its members of the Class of 2017 following last week's game with Wesleyan. The Lady Indian seniors helped turn the program around with two consecutive state playoff berths and 17 wins over the last two years. They won just 10 games during their first two years on campus. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

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With the playoffs opening this week, the Lady Indians' faced some of its toughest competition of the season last week in No. 1 Wesleyan and Class AAA's No. 5 Lumpkin County. Following a 1-1 tie at the half, Wesleyan pulled away 3-1 in the second half as Towns County hosted Senior Night. On Thursday they traveled to Lumpkin where they fell

2-0 to close out the season with an 8-5 record. As a reward, the Lady Indians will visit 3rd ranked Holy Innocents (12-4-1) on Tuesday at 5 p.m. However, Holy Innocents, like Towns, will enter winless in its last two games after dropping a 5-4 contest at Paideia - who defeated the Lady Indians in last year's state tournament - and playing Class AAA's Pace Academy to a 2-2 tie, five days later. Holy Innocents also got off to a bumpy start in 2017,

dropping two of its first three before reeling off eight wins in-a-row. The streak ended when Class AAA's Lovett edged them 1-0 on April 4. The Lady Bears would win its next four games before falling at Paideia - their only region loss of the season. Towns will be making its second straight trip to the postseason, while Holy Innocents missed out last season as a member of a loaded Region 6-AA that sent three teams to the final four.

## NASCAR 2017

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

### Jones Bumps To Bristol Xfinity Win

BRISTOL, TN - Erik Jones put a bump and run move on Ryan Blaney with 22 laps to go in Saturday's 300-lap Xfinity Series race, and held on for his second Bristol win. Blaney was leading after a restart, while Jones, who led 27 laps moved into second. As the field of cars entered turn-3, Jones gave Blaney a nudge, causing Blaney to wiggle. This allowed Jones to take over the lead, while Blaney slipped back to fourth. "We were racing hard and I was able to get by and hang on there at the end," said Jones. There were two more restarts during the last 16 laps, and Blaney was able to work his way back up to second. "He got under me and I wasn't going to back out," said Blaney. "I'm not going to say what happened, I guess we just have to let it go as one of those racing deals." Daniel Suarez was third, followed by Elliott Sadler, Daniel Hemric, Ty Dillon, Kyle Larson, Brennan Poole, Blake Koch, Michael Annett. Things became heated in the pits after Ross Chastain and Jeremy Clements confronted each other on pit road during a red flag period brought out by rain. Clements appeared to approach Chastain from behind to initiate a discussion, but when he grabbed Chastain, the driver turned and punched Clements. Clements went to the care center and emerged wearing sunglasses before he continued the race. "Somebody grabbed me by my shoulders and kind of pushed me," Chastain said. "I just turned around and saw who it was. I hope he realizes now that he can talk, we can talk, but you can't grab someone by the shoulders. That happened before and I said right then I wouldn't let it happen again." Top-10 leaders after 7 of 33: 1. Sadler-260, 2. Byron-244, 3. Allgaier-200, 4. Reed-184, 5. Hemric-180, 6. Wallace Jr.-180, 7. Koch-164, 8. Poole-163, 9. Tift-160, 10. Annett-157.



Erik Jones applies a Win Sticker to his car after winning at Bristol.

successful teams usually have more of the green stuff than the also-ran teams, it doesn't always equate to success. Out of the four Hendrick teams (Dale Earnhardt Jr., Kasey Kahne, Chase Elliott, and Jimmie Johnson), only Johnson has a win. "We feel confident we are a winning team," said Earnhardt. "Just because we haven't won doesn't mean we aren't capable. I think we have the potential to win at any track, and I think the wins will come. I don't know where or when, but they are out there." Rick Hendrick used some of his pocket change last week to buy the first 2018 Chevrolet Camaro ZL1, bearing the VIN number 001. Hendrick bid \$250,000 to claim the car at Barrett-Jackson auction in Palm Beach, Florida. Joe Gibbs is a hands-on person. He has a great relationship with all his team players, and usually knows how the game plan is going. "We're very disappointed in the start to the season," said Gibbs. "We need to get going." Before the season even started, JGR was hit by the unexpected departure of veteran driver Carl Edwards, who decided to step away from NASCAR racing as a driver. They brought up their 2016 Xfinity Series champion, Daniel Suarez to take over the No. 19 Toyota. Four races into the season, his crew chief, Dave Rogers, left the team on an indefinite personal leave of absence. Kyle Busch is the highest JGR driver in points. Busch is seventh in the series standings and he's the only JGR driver with more than one top-five finish through seven races (he has two). Matt Kenseth has one and neither Suarez nor Denny Hamlin have registered a top-five. Hamlin is 15th in points, Kenseth is 22nd and Suarez is 23rd.

"Looking at just (my team), I think we've been off," said Kenseth. "We haven't run real well. "We ran good at Atlanta but the rest of the races, we really haven't run very well. Some things are circumstances, but if we get to running better, that cures a lot of your problems." With all the engineers, someone is bound to stumble on the problem.

### Local hiking club works to protect Appalachian Trail

Thirty-one members and guests of the Georgia Appalachian Trail Club interrupted their Easter weekend celebration to help "protect" the Appalachian Trail. On Saturday, April 15, 2017 just north of Unicoi Gap, (Hwy. 175 south of Hiwassee), volunteers did much more than just talk about protection by doing the hard work required. There were 32 "jobs" planned for the portion of trail worked on that day and many of the logs needed for the repair work had already been cut and waited for placement. Volunteers were divided into 7 crews and went to work early in the morning of the 15th. Many difficult problems were encountered but the crews overcame the difficulties and transformed bad trail into good trail! By the end of the day, all 32 jobs had been completed.



Volunteers working hard on Easter weekend.

This part of the AT is now a pleasure to walk even though it continues to be steep. Thanks to all 31 people who worked on April 15, especially the "crew chiefs"!

### Lady Indians Basketball Camp

Girls entering Grades 1-8 for the 2017 - 2018 school year are invited to attend. Lady Indian Basketball Camp is divided into two sessions. Session I is for upcoming grades 1-4 and Session II is for upcoming grades 5-8. Lady Indian Basketball Camp is designed to develop basketball skills, as well as, promote enthusiasm and pride for future Lady Indian Basketball Players. Camp attendees will learn the different practice routines, skill development drills, and enthusiasm that the JV and Varsity Lady Indians will use in practices and games! May 24th, 25th, and 26, 2017: Session I (Upcoming 1st - 4th graders) 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Session II (Upcoming 5th - 8th graders) 12:30 p.m. - 3 p.m. \$60 for 3 days, \$50 each for 2 or more from same family. Camp enrollment is limited. Please register as soon as possible! Deadline is May 12.

Camp focus areas will be: Basketball Agility and Quickness Drills, Shooting Techniques and Ball Handling, Basic Offensive and Defensive Skills, TCHS Varsity Practice Drills and fundamentals, Team Game Play. Camp features: Dribbling Contest, Free Throw Contest, Hot Shot Contest, Best Camper Award. Camp Staff: Coach Hunnicutt, Head Coach Girls Basketball and JV and Varsity Girls Team. Make checks payable: Lady Indian Basketball. Mail application with payment: Coach Brian Hunnicutt, Towns County High School, PO Box 1400, Hwy 76 East, Hiwassee, GA 30546 or return application to school: Coach Brian Hunnicutt, High School Hallway, Room 231-ISS.

#### Please Read and Return

Warning: Although participation in supervised athletics and activities may be one of the least hazardous in which campers will engage, by its nature, participation in athletics includes a risk of injury from minor to catastrophic. Participants can and so have the responsibility to reduce the chance of injury by obeying all safety rules and immediately reporting to the coaches any physical problems.

By assigning this permission form, you as the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) acknowledge that you have read and understand this warning.

I (We) have read and understand this warning and hereby give consent for \_\_\_\_\_ (Participant's Name) to participate in basketball camp.

I (We) authorize camp personnel to act in emergency situations. I (We) further agree to hold harmless the Camp Staff or the Indian Basketball Booster Club or Towns County Schools for any liability of injuries incurred while participating in camp activities.

Signature of Parent(s) or Guardian(s) (Circle one)

Phone Number

Grade (2017-18 School Year)

Cell/Emergency Number

T-Shirt Size: Youth \_\_\_\_\_ Adult \_\_\_\_\_

### VFW Golf League

This weeks competition was won by the team led by Danny Barrett. Team members contributing to the victory were Chuck Woodworth, Lloyd MacBride and Wild Bill Hinnant. They scored a fantastic 5 strokes under par. Congratulations!

#### Weekend Racing: The Cup and Xfinity teams are at the .75-mile Richmond track.

The trucks do not race again until May 12.

Sat., Apr. 29, Xfinity Series race 8 of 33; Starting time: 12:30 p.m. ET; TV: FoxSports1.

Sun., Apr. 30, Cup Series race 9 of 36; Starting time: 2 p.m. ET; TV: Fox.

**Racing Trivia Question:** Which former NASCAR driving champion once owned part of the Richmond track?

**Last Week's Question:** How many Cup championships has Jack Roush won? He has two Cup championships, plus five in the Xfinity and one in the Trucks.

You may contact the Racing Reporter by e-mail at: hodges@race500.com.