

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Seniors Sophia Shook, Jessica Taylor play last home game as Lady Indians

By Chad Stack
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The Towns County High School Softball Lady Indians honored two of their own for Senior Night in the last home game of the year on Tuesday, Sept. 17.

Seniors Sophia Shook and Jessica Taylor took to Lowell Nicholson Field as Lady Indians one final time to take on Hebron Christian Academy that day.

Towns County fell to the Lady Lions 13-0, though it should be noted that Hebron is one of the top teams in Region 8-A of the Georgia High School Association.

The region that the Lady Indians compete in is probably the toughest single-A region in the state, Head Coach Clay Livingston said, with Towns County and Commerce being the only two public schools in the region.

Lady Indians junior Kennedi Henson pitched six innings, getting two strikeouts and allowing five earned runs in Tuesday's loss.

Henson held the Lady Lions to just one run through the first two innings, but Hebron was able to tack on three more runs to extend the lead to four as the Lady Lions began pulling away late in the game.

Towns County struggled to hit the ball Tuesday, and when they did get on base, they were unable to bring those runs in, with only four Lady Indians reaching base against Hebron.

Henson was perfect at the plate Tuesday, going 3-for-3, and junior first baseman Abby Mauldin finished the day 1-for-3 in the batter's box.

Sophomore right fielder Alisa Moss reached base on a walk, and in her last home game in a Lady Indians uniform, catcher Shook hit 1-for-3 to finish the day.

"It was very heartbreaking to know that I played my last game on our field," Shook said. "These four years as a Lady Indian have been an

unforgettable experience. I have made so many memories and friendships that will last a lifetime."

A season highlight for Shook was when the team pulled together to defeat the top-ranked Lady Wolverines of Prince Avenue earlier this year, highlighting the on-field chemistry the Lady Indians have been able to develop.

"I'm going to miss my teammates the most, especially Kennedy," Shook said. "We have been a pitcher/catcher duo for eight years now. I'm going to miss putting my catcher's gear on and catching for her more than anything."

As for Taylor, she said that, thanks to her time on the Lady Indians Softball Team, she will have memories and friends that will last for a lifetime.

"It has been great getting to play the game I love so much these last four years with my best friends," Taylor said. "We have a young team with lots of talent, and they are going to be really good for the next two years. I wish Sophia and I had another year to play in a Lady Indian uniform."

The team celebrated the two seniors that Tuesday with team and family photographs and the traditional last lap around the bases, and Coach Livingston talked about how much everyone is going to miss Shook and Taylor.

"Sophia is a great athlete, and Jessica is one of our best hitters," Livingston said. "We are going to miss both of them next year. I'm thankful I was able to coach them for a season, but I wish I had them back next year."

After the Hebron game, the Lady Indians traveled to Commerce on Sept. 19 but were unable to defeat the Lady Tigers, who held Towns County scoreless at 15-0.

The Lady Indians then went to Rabun County on Tuesday to take on the Lady Wildcats in a game that occurred after press time.

And for the team's last regular season game, they will



Lady Indian Seniors Jessica Taylor and Sophia Shook with their families during Senior Night on September 17. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



Junior pitcher Kennedi Henson with best friend and senior catcher Sophia Shook on Senior Night last week. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



Jessica Taylor slides home for the last time at Lowell Nicholson Field.

After falling to Bulldogs at home, Indians look ahead to Athens Academy



The Indians take the field at home against George Walton Academy on Sept. 20. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

By Chad Stack
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The Boys in Blue fell to George Walton Academy on Friday, Sept. 20, in Frank McClure Memorial Stadium.

Fresh off a much-needed bye week, the Indians hosted the Bulldogs at home for their first region matchup of the season.

Towns County won the coin toss and elected to receive the ball, and junior Garrett Oakes fielded the kickoff for a 10-yard return, allowing sophomore quarterback Kyle Oakes and the starting offense to begin their first drive from the Indians 15-yard line.

Oakes was sacked for a three-yard loss followed by a high snap, putting the Indians in a third-and-long situation from inside their own 10-yard line.

The Bulldogs then recovered a fumble for a touchdown after another high snap sailed over Oakes' head, and just like that, George Walton Academy had taken an early 6-0 lead over the Indians a minute into the game.

The Indians' struggles on offense continued into the ensuing drive, as another high snap forced Oakes to fall on the ball to prevent another turnover inside their own 10-yard line.

Oakes punted the ball away after a quick three-and-out, and the Bulldogs struck again after a 20-yard run put

George Walton on the Towns County 1-yard line.

The following play, George Walton scored from one yard out, and following the point after attempt, the Bulldogs took a 13-0 lead.

Towns County never quit and continued to show fight, however, and things improved for the Indians offense during the second quarter.

After the Bulldogs took a 40-0 lead, quarterback Oakes scrambled for 13 yards and an Indian first down. The ensuing play, Oakes was flushed from the pocket but connected with senior running back Dakota Edge for a 39-yard catch and run to put the Indians in Bulldog territory.

Facing a third-and-13, Oakes completed a 30-yard touchdown pass to Edge with Bulldogs draped all over him to give the Indians their first score of the half, bringing the tally to 40-6 after missing the extra point.

George Walton Academy would find the end zone one last time to take a 46-6 lead heading into halftime.

During the half, Bulldogs Head Coach Matt Reynolds approached the game officials to ask if Indians Head Coach Jason Roquemore wanted to receive the ball to start the second half.

Usually, the team that receives the ball in the first half kicks off in the second half, but with a 46-6 lead, Reynolds

decided to kick off to Towns County.

After the half, Indians quarterback Kyle Oakes threw a strike to his brother Garrett for a 35-yard touchdown pass, and following the point after attempt from Garrett Oakes, the score was 46-13.

The Boys in Blue held the Bulldogs scoreless in the second half and continued to improve offensively.

Oakes finished the night completing 18 of 21 passes for 188-yards and two touchdowns, and he rushed for 62 yards.

Edge carried the ball six times for seven yards but had five catches for 83 yards and a score.

Seniors Andrew Conrad and Reace Hampton each had a catch for four yards.

Oakes hauled in nine receptions from his brother for 83 yards and a touchdown.

Senior Seth Nichols had two catches for 19 yards to finish the night.

The Indians will travel to Athens on Friday, Sept. 27, to take on the Spartans of Athens Academy at 7:30 p.m. The Spartans are the No. 1-ranked Georgia High School Association single-A team in the state.

Following the game in Athens, the Indians will host Riverside Military Academy on Friday, Oct. 4, at Frank McClure Memorial Stadium for Homecoming, with a 7:30 p.m. kickoff time.

Towns County Fishing says 'thank you' to supporters at Sept. 21 Meet and Greet

By Chad Stack
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Towns County High School Bass Fishing Team duo of Adrian Hooper and Mitchell Grimsley held a celebratory meet and greet in front of C&J Outfitters on Saturday, Sept. 21.

After competing in the 2019 Mossy Oak Bassmaster High School National Championship in August, the boys are at it again, having recently finished their first tournament of the 2019-2020 season.

With one tournament in the books for the current season, Hooper, Grimsley and their families wanted to thank the community for continuing to cheer them on.

"We want to thank everyone who supported us last year," Grimsley said. "We had a good year last year, and we're just thankful to have a great community that really showed their support for us. It really meant a lot to us."

On Saturday, the Indians and their families supplied the community with a lunch, hotdogs and some cold water outside C&J Outfitters, which is one of the team's biggest sponsors and supporters.

Also joining Hooper and Grimsley that afternoon was Caz Anderson, a member of the Hayesville High School Bass Fishing Team the "Chatuge Anglers." The Chatuge Anglers also competed in the 2019 National Championship tourney.

"It's really a spectacular thing for a community the size of Towns County and Hayesville to have two teams in basically the Top 300 in the country out of 13,000 teams in the U.S.," said Nathan Noblet, owner of C&J Outfitters.

Heading into their second season fresh off a National Championship as a first-year team, Hooper and Grimsley realize they've set the bar high.

Their edge in the upcoming season will be the fact that the boys are not only teammates but are also best friends who love to fish.

The friends got the support they needed last year to start the first ever local high school fishing team with the help of their father-coaches Chad Hoop-



(L-R): Adrian Hooper, Caz Anderson, and Brandon Grimsley at their Fishing Team Celebration on September 21. Photo/Chad Stack

er and Brandon Grimsley.

Until last year, Towns County High did not have a fishing team, and during their inaugural season, Hooper and Grimsley finished as one of the Top 10 teams in the state and 109th out of 300 boats at the National Tournament in Paris, Tennessee.

The Indians started their new season in early September fishing in West Point Lake, and on Saturday, Oct. 5, Hooper and Grimsley will travel to Lake Lanier for their second

tournament. They compete in tournaments almost every month – sometimes twice a month – throughout the school year, Grimsley said, and the team is extremely thankful to have a community like Towns County that supports them.

"We are so lucky to have a sponsor like Mr. Noblet and C&J Outfitters," Grimsley said. "They help us with our equipment that we need throughout the year, and they help us with fundraisers."

Homecoming Parade

Towns County High School will be having a football homecoming parade on Thursday, October 3, 2019. This year's theme is "There's No Place Like Homecoming".



The parade will begin at 6 p.m. at the "old" Towns County Recreation building and will end at Zaxby's. Spectators may watch the parade anywhere between these two locations.

The parade will feature floats from different clubs and organizations at TCHS, Fall Sports teams, the high school and middle school football teams, the TCHS cheerleaders, the TCHS Marching Band, and of course the girls' and boys' Homecoming Courts.

After the parade ends at Zaxby's, the festivities will continue on the front lawn at

TCHS with performances by the TCHS and TCMS Cheerleaders and the TCHS Band, presentation of the 2019 Girls' and Boys' Homecoming Courts, and ending with a spirit-filled pep rally gathered around a huge bonfire.

Any business or Towns County Athletic Banner Sponsor that wishes to be in the parade is welcome to join in on the fun.

Please contact Jim Melton, TCHS Assistant Principal/Athletic Director at jmelton@townscounty-schools.org or 706-896-4131 ext 1017, or Roy Perren, TCHS Principal at rperren@townscountyschools.org or 706-896-4131 ext 1015, by Tuesday, October 1, with your intentions.