

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Indians looking to regroup during bye week after seventh loss of season

By Chad Stack
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Dacula - The Boys in Blue fell to 0-7 on the season after suffering a 42-20 loss against Hebron Christian Academy on Friday, Oct. 11.

Towns County won the coin toss and elected to receive the ball, and the opening kickoff went out of bounds, giving the Indians the ball at their own 35-yard line.

Facing a third-and-5, sophomore quarterback Kyle Oakes was sacked for a 4-yard loss as he dropped back to pass.

After a 35-yard punt from Oakes, the Lions took possession on the 29-yard line in their own territory, only to be flagged on their first play from scrimmage for a block in the back, putting them in a first-and-18.

Junior defensive back Garrett Oakes put the Lions in a third-and-3 situation after making a tackle and breaking up a pass in coverage, which Reace Hampton followed up by sacking the Lions quarterback for a 3-yard loss to force a fourth-and-6.

The Lions quarterback got the Indians to jump off-sides with a hard count, and the next play, the Lions ran a quarterback sneak for 2 yards and a first down.

Oakes made another great defensive play, breaking up a pass to put the Lions in a third-and-10 on the Towns County 15-yard line, but the Lions quarterback made it into the end zone on a 15-yard scamper. A good point-after gave Hebron a 7-0 lead with 4:45 left in the first quarter.

The Lions scored five more times to take a 42-0 lead heading into the half after holding the Indians scoreless.

Towns County started the second half with a tremendous defensive stance, as Hampton made a tackle for a 6-yard loss to put the Lions in a fourth-and-long situation.

Hebron Christian Academy elected to go for it on fourth-and-11, and junior Nick Houser sacked the Lions quarterback for an 8-yard loss, giving the Indians the ball in Hebron territory.

On the ensuing drive, Oakes took off for an Indians first down. After a 4-yard run from senior running back Dakota Edge, Kyle Oakes connected with his brother Garrett for a 45-yard touchdown pass to put the Indians on the board.

The Indians succeeded on a 2-point conversion to cut the lead down to 34 with just under a minute left in the third quarter.

Next, the Boys in Blue made another impressive defensive stop, forcing a turnover



Left: Coach Jason Roquemore and Reace Hampton during a break in the action last Friday night at Hebron Christian Academy. Photo/Lowell Nicholson. Right: Sophomore quarterback Kyle Oakes glides into the end zone during the second half at Hebron. Photo/Chad Stack



on downs as the Lions went for it on a fourth down.

Facing a third-and-long, Oakes rolled out from the pocket and took off down the Indians sideline, hurdling a Lions defender during the 29-yard run.

Later in that drive, Oakes connected with Hampton for a 16-yard pass to put the Indians in the red zone.

Oakes was able to find the end zone from 2 yards out to cut the Hebron lead down to 28 points with just over a minute left in the game.

The Indians made the end zone one more time after recovering an onside kick on the Hebron 45-yard line. Oakes dropped back to pass and hit Hampton for a 45-yard touchdown as the clock hit zeros.

The Lions defeated the Indians 42-20.

Kyle Oakes threw for over 100 yards and two touchdowns, and he ran for 73 yards and a score.

Garrett Oakes hauled in three catches for 51 yards and a score.

Hampton finished the night with two catches for 61 yards and a touchdown.

Oakes and Hampton led the team in tackles on the defensive side of the ball.

The Indians are off this week as they prepare for their last away game in Commerce on Friday, Oct. 25, starting at 7:30 p.m.

Following the game in Commerce, the Indians will host Lakeview Academy for Senior Night Friday, Nov. 1.

Softball: 8-A Coaches name Henson, Mauldin and Shook to All-Region Teams

By Chad Stack
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Just a few weeks past the close of the regular season, Georgia High School Association 8-A coaches have selected their All-Region Teams for the 2019 softball season.

Under first-year Head Coach Clay Livingston, three Lady Indians were named as All-Region talents.

Junior Kennedy Henson was named as First Team All-Region, while junior first baseman Abby Mauldin was selected as Second Team All-Region and senior catcher Sophia Shook earned Honorable Mention.

"We are very pleased to have three All-Region players and feel that all three deserved recognition for the seasons they had," Livingston said. "Their region stats speak for themselves."

Henson - the team's ace pitcher - played first base most of the 2018 season, as she was recovering from a basketball injury from the previous year.

This year, Henson was able to step back into the pitcher's circle as if she'd never missed a beat thanks in large part to many hours practicing with Lady Indians Pitching Coach Chris Vardo.

"I was in such shock when I got the text from Livingston saying I got First Team All-Region because I was not even to my full potential this season," Henson said. "I'm



L-R: Kennedi Henson, Sophia Shook and Abby Mauldin

completely honored for this award and want to personally thank the whole coaching staff, but importantly Coach Vardo for pushing me and working with me in the bullpen."

She added, "During the off-season, I spent most of my time in the bullpen, batting cages and on the field. I was always working on building my pitching endurance, working on my fielding techniques and fixing any corrections that needed to be made to my hitting."

At the plate, Henson finished her junior season with a .809 batting average, 11 walks, 2 RBIs and 10 runs - including a home run - and she struck out only one time. Henson also pitched in every game this season.

"I was able to come back because of all of the hard work and determination the team had," Henson said. "It was contagious. This allowed us to push each other to give our best all of the time, whether it was

practice or a game.

"I believe it is safe to say that we proved to everyone we are capable of so many great achievements with this mindset."

Mauldin earned Second Team All-Region recognition for her excellent performance at first base and ability to swing the bat.

"I was honored to be named to the Second Team All-Region, as we play in one of the toughest regions in the state with a lot of very talented athletes," Mauldin said.

Mauldin had a .250 batting average but 7 RBIs in region play, making her the most productive hitter for the 2019 season, Livingston said.

She also recorded a .988 fielding percentage at first base, which is phenomenal considering how many opportunities first basemen typically have, Livingston said.

Lady Indians senior catcher Sophia Shook earned

Honorable Mention and was recognized for her leadership and knowledge of the game.

"The other coaches in the region spoke highly of her vocal presence and how she communicated bunt coverages as well as first and third situations," Livingston said.

Shook was also a dominant force at the plate, with four key RBIs in region play, including two off a home run at Prince Avenue that put the Lady Indians back in the game.

Adding to Shook's offense was the great defense she played behind the plate, with a .923 fielding percentage.

"Honorable Mention is being recognized for my ability and sportsmanship, and I was not expecting to get this because there were so many great catchers this year," Shook said.

Sophomore Abby Barker will replace senior Shook as the Lady Indians' catcher next season, and Shook is already planning to help Barker prepare to be the team's next catcher.

All three Lady Indians spoke highly of their new coaching staff.

"They made each and every one of us better this year, and that is what we needed," Henson said.

Chatuge Dam 5K Run/Walk to benefit Haven Project of Georgia

The inaugural Chatuge Dam 5K run/walk will be held October 19th at 8:30 AM at Clay County Recreation Park in Hayesville, NC to benefit Haven Project of Georgia. The race will start and end at Pavilion #1 at the Clay County Recreation Park (47 Clay Recreation Park Road, Hayesville, NC) and will include a beautiful out-and-back across Chatuge Dam. Runners, walkers, wheelchair users, strollers, and dogs are welcome.

To register, go to www.active.com and look for The Big Dam Run 5K Run/Walk or see Haven Project's website (www.havenprojectga.org) for a paper registration form. Participants with disabilities can register for free by emailing havenprojectofga@gmail.com.

"We had two teams seeded high enough for first-round byes, with two more easily winning their first-round series."

"The new region will still be tough but will be filled with teams more like us, teams that face the same challenges we face."

Race t-shirts are guaranteed to those who register by October 4th and will be given to later registrants as long as supplies last.

Awards will be given for the overall male and female winners, overall masters male and female winners, and three deep in ten-year age groups from 10 and under to 70 and over.

This race will benefit Haven Project of Georgia, a non-profit organization that serves individuals with disabilities and their families in north Georgia and western North Carolina by offering free education, advocacy, and respite programs. Haven is neighbors helping neighbors get access to the programs and services they need to live their best lives. NT(Oct16,A1)SH

Indian Discount Cards for 2019 - 2020 now available

The 2019-2020 Indian Discount Cards are now available to purchase. The following businesses will offer discounts to customers who use their discount card:

A Head of Hair Salon, A to Z Downtown and A to Z Outlet, Always Christmas, Asiano, Barney's Tap and Grill, Bear Meadows Grill, Blimpie of Hiwassee, BodySense, Brother's Restaurant, Classy Chick, Collage Boutique, Country Cut-Away, Cristy's Salon and Spa, Dairy

Queen/Orange Julius Hiwassee, Daniel's Steakhouse, El Cancun Mexican Restaurant, Enrico's Italian Restaurant, Fieldstone Cinemas, Gibson's Drive In, Happy Hawg BBQ, Hawg Wild BBQ and Catfish House Hiwassee, Huddle House Hiwassee, Inspirations Book Store, Main Street Grill, Mary's Southern Grill, McLain's On Main, Monte Alban Mexican Restaurant, North & Main Clothing Co., Papa's Pizza to Go, Sean Thomas Tire, Spry Family Dry Clean-

ers, Struts Shoe Store, Studio 116, Sundance Grill, Taco Bell of Hiwassee, The Hen's Nest, Threadz Ink.

Discount Cards can be purchased from any FBLA member, FBLA Advisers, Towns County High School front office, and the following businesses: Studio 116, Farmers Insurance or Struts Shoes. Proceeds from the sale of the discount card benefits the programs and projects of Towns County Future Business Leaders of America. T(Oct16,F1)SH

Reelin' It In for Vets fishing tournament November 2

Register now for a chance to win part of the \$7,500 prize money to be awarded to the top 5 places and 1 Big Fish winner in the Saturday, November 2, 2019 Reelin' It In For Vets Fishing Tournament to be held on Lake Chatuge. The Towns County Chamber of Commerce is encouraging anglers to take a Veteran fishing to thank them for their years of service protecting our country and allowing us all the freedoms we have. (Veterans can be retired or active duty.)

The event will kick-off on Friday evening, November 1 with a pre-fish feast sponsored by local VFW Post 7807. On Saturday the tournament blast-off will take place

from Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds boat ramp at "safe light" and weigh-in will be conducted at 2 p.m. from this same boat ramp.

The entry fee is \$150/team of two if a veteran is included in the team and \$200/team of two if there is no veteran on the team. If you are a veteran and would like to participate but you do not have a boat or a team member we will be happy to match you up with an angler. Do not let this stop you from fishing in this tournament!

All veterans participating will be honored at the weigh-in and receive a special gift from the Towns County Chamber of Commerce. Pre-registration is now open. Reg-

istration will be conducted on-site on the morning of November 2 up until 6:30 a.m. No one will be able to register after 6:30 a.m.

Many area businesses are sponsors of this event including the main sponsor, Nelson Tractor Company, Inc. from Blairsville, GA. Other sponsors are Lake Chatuge Lodge, Northeast Georgia Board of Realtors, Mountain Realty, Towns County CVB, Hiwassee Hardware, Blue Ridge Mountain EMC and VFW/American Legion of Towns County.

Kudos to all of these businesses for stepping up to sponsor this worthwhile event. A portion of the proceeds will be given back to the local VFW GA Post 7807. T(Oct16,F3)SH