

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Cross Country: Boys place fourth, girls place fifth at Saturday's State Championship

By Todd Forrest
Towns County Herald
Sports Editor

CARROLLTON—Towns County Cross Country brought 2019 to a close with a pair of Top Fives at the Class A Public State Championships on Saturday, Nov. 2, at Carrollton High School.

With 94 points, the Towns County boys finished in Fourth Place, just two points behind third and three points out of second.

Junior Liam King paced the Indians with an Eighth-Place finish, clocking in at 18:31. Junior Jensen Brown just missed a Top 10, placing 11th with a time of 18:56.

Commerce ran away with First Place, placing three runners in the Top Five to finish with 38 points.

"I hate coming in fourth when I know we could have finished second," Towns County Head Coach Tim Rosser said. "Only three points separated second and fourth, and we got the short end of the stick. We just needed to pass a few more guys and we weren't able to."

"Nobody was going to beat Commerce today, they were far-and-away better than everyone here. We thought coming in that we might have something for them, but not today."

The Towns County girls just missed a spot on the podium, placing fifth with 146 points – 27 points back of Telfair County's finish at third.

Leading the way for Towns was sophomore Alison Markham, who turned in a time of 24:06 to finish 18 seconds out of ninth and 11 seconds better than 11th.

With two young squads, last weekend's performances provide solid foundations for Coach Rosser as the program builds toward a return to State Championship contention.

"We weren't able to get it done today, and that's the way life goes, but we'll get back to work and hopefully get it done next year," Rosser said at the



The Towns County Cross Country boys on the podium with their Fourth Place trophy. Photo/Todd Forrest

conclusion of Saturday's races. "The boys only lose two seniors, and the girls aren't losing anyone. It was a great atmosphere today and a learning experience for next year."

The Towns County girls team, which features six sophomores and one freshman, finished eight points ahead of Sixth-Place Atkinson County.

Behind Markham's 10th-Place performance was freshman Jayden Taylor in 19th with a time of 24:51.

Sophomore Bazya Smith was 29th, crossing the finish line in 26:08; sophomore Gali Quijada was 57th at 28:43; and sophomore Alexis Osborn finished as one of Towns' Top Five runners with a 60th-Place finish at 29:08.

Rounding out Towns County's afternoon were sophomore Kayla Peacock in 63rd with a time of 29:10 and sophomore Macy Brinson, who clocked in at 30:53 to place 79th.

In the boys race, junior Peyton Barrett came in 23rd with a time of 19:53. Luis Quijada was 25th at 19:56. And senior Blythe Smith rounded out the Top Five with a time of 20:09.

Additional Indian runners included Jordan Lovelace, who finished 66th at 21:41, and Lane



Alison Markham with her 10th Place medal. Photo/Todd Forrest

Rouse, who placed 73rd after crossing the finish line at 22:06.

"We were extremely confident coming in," Coach Rosser said. "We had a good week of practice. The kids were excited, I was excited. We had great weather, a great crowd, and we were ready to go."

"I just want to say thank

you to the parents and everyone that came out to support these kids. I've had teachers and lots of people texting me all day to offer support and to see how we were doing. Everyone has been really great, and I can't thank them enough."

Indians and Lady Indians ready to take the court Nov. 12

By Chad Stack
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Towns County High School Varsity Basketball is getting underway, as both the Indians and Lady Indians started practice on Monday, Oct. 28, to prepare for the upcoming 2019-2020 season.

The Indians are playing under the direction of Rob Benson, who is entering his fifth season as Indians head coach.

Throughout his years at Towns County, Benson has had the pleasure of coaching great teams with talented players. That trend looks to continue, as three of last year's starting five return: juniors Kolby Moss and Aidan Berrong, and sophomore Colin Crowder.

Joining Moss, Berrong and Crowder from last year's team is senior Jacob Kinsey.

Lady Indians Head Coach Brian Hunnicutt is entering his third season helming the program.

Last year, he led the girls to the second round of the

Georgia High School Association Public Single-A playoffs, finishing with a 14-13 record while going 7-2 in the 8-A Region.

Three of the five starters returning from last year's playoff team are senior Sophia Shook and juniors Kennedy Henson and Venessa Floyd, along with a host of other talented Lady Indians.

Both teams will travel to Topton, North Carolina, for preseason matchups against Nantahala on Tuesday, Nov. 12, with the Lady Indians tipping off at 6 p.m., followed by the boys at 7:30 p.m.

Continuing next week, both varsity basketball teams will hit the road again to take on the Eagles of Hiwassee Dam in Murphy, North Carolina, on Friday, Nov. 15.

After that, the Indians will host in-state rivals the Union County Panthers on Tuesday, Nov. 19, for their home opener. The Lady Indians are scheduled to start at 6 p.m., followed by the Indians at 7:30 p.m.



Vanessa Floyd scores two during a summer camp. Photo/Todd Forrest

Indians look ahead to Athens Christian after falling to Lakeview on Senior Night

By Chad Stack
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Towns County hosted the Lakeview Academy Tigers on Friday, Nov. 1, at Frank McClure Memorial Stadium.

The evening doubled as Senior Night, meaning high school football for six senior Indians will come to an end after Friday's game against Athens Christian: Dakota Edge, Clyde Ledford, Zach Mullins, Andrew Conrad, Shane Sparks and Chris Boggus.

Before the game on Friday night, seniors from the football team, cheerleading squad and marching band were honored.

Senior cheerleaders Madison Griggs and Kenlee Shook, and senior color guard members Julia Chinkhan and Reagan McClure joined senior band members Mackenzie Wallace, Andrew Neal, Stephanie Marshall and Daniel Hoffman, along with the senior football players, for recognition before kickoff.

And rest assured that these seniors will all be missed next season.

The Boys in Blue took the field Friday night to face the 1-7 Lakeview Academy in hopes of getting their first win of the season under first-year Head Coach Jason Roquemore.

Heading into the game, the Indians were 0-8 for the first time in over a decade. But Towns



TCHS recognized its senior band, cheer and football players before Friday's game. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

County has a favorable recent record against Lakeview, so many believed the Indians could match up with the Tigers for a win.

Over the years, Towns County has had great success playing Lakeview, with the Indians holding a five-game win-streak over the Tigers until last year, when Lakeview overcame a 20-0 deficit to beat Towns County 21-20.

Friday, Lakeview won the coin toss and elected to receive the ball to start the game. Following a good return, the Tigers started their first drive from midfield but were unable to get first-down yardage against the Indians defense, so they punted it away.

On the ensuing drive, the Indians offense started on its own

17-yard line, with quarterback Kyle Oakes handing the ball off to junior Reace Hampton for a 2-yard gain.

After losing a yard on a toss, junior Garrett Oakes caught a screen pass near the Towns County sideline. Facing a host of Tiger defenders, Oakes cut back across the field, breaking several tackles for a 17-yard gain and a first down.

The Indians kept the drive alive, with quarterback Oakes scrambling for a first down and throwing an 11-yard screen pass to his brother Garrett for another first down.

Next play from scrimmage, the Indians were flagged for holding, putting them at first-and-20 after the penalty.

Oakes handed the ball off

to his brother, who took off for 23 yards and a first down, though another penalty for holding erased the 23-yard gain.

Unable to gain the 23 yards needed against the Tiger defense, the Indians were forced to punt the ball, giving the Tigers possession back on the 33-yard line.

Lakeview's quarterback rushed for a 10-yard gain, but the Tigers earned a flag for holding. Indians linebacker senior Dakota Edge then sacked the Tiger quarterback to put Lakeview in a second and long situation, forcing yet another Tiger punt.

Both teams were scoreless through the first quarter as they looked to be in a defensive slugfest.

Midway through the second quarter, however, the Tigers

drove the ball inside the Towns County 5-yard line, and the Lakeview quarterback found the end zone from 2 yards out.

After the good point after attempt, Lakeview took a 7-0 lead with just over seven minutes left in the first half.

Lakeview put the ball in the end zone one more time to take a 14-0 lead heading into halftime, and the Indians' offensive struggles continued in the second

half, as they only got inside the Lakeview red zone one time.

The Tigers defeated the Indians 41-0 on Friday night, putting Towns County's season record at 0-9.

The Indians will host Athens Christian for their last regular season game on Friday, Nov. 8, at 7:30 p.m. under the lights at Frank McClure Memorial Stadium.

All Proceeds go towards the Soccer Teams of Towns County as well as the lights fund for the Georgia Mountain Fair

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