

Towns County Sports

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Baseball: Indians wrap up South Georgia trip with an 11-1 victory

By Todd Forrest
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Millen - Towns County baseball picked up its second win of 2017 with an 11-1 rout of New Hampstead on Saturday at Jenkins County.

During a trip to South Georgia last week, the Indians finished 1-3 with a back-and-forth loss to West Laurens and a pair of one-sided defeats to Jenkins County and Brantley County.

The week-long road trip came on the heels of a 6-5 extra-inning victory over Lumpkin County on Saturday, March 4.

After Seth Fullerton pitched a scoreless top half of the eighth, Kobe Denton opened the bottom half with a walk and Zach Davenport reached on a bunt single.

A Will DeVries sacrifice fly moved Denton 90-feet from home, and following a Jackson Taylor walk, Andrew Griffin delivered a walk-off base hit to center for the win over the Indians of Lumpkin County.

DeVries finished 2-for-6 with 3 RBIs and a double while recent college-signee Jackson Taylor went 2-for-5.

Fullerton recorded the win after working the final four innings without allowing a run and striking out one.

DeVries started and lasted 5 innings – giving up one earned, three hits, while fanning six.

In their 11-1 win over New Hampstead, the Indians exploded for seven in the sixth to take the victory in six innings.

DeVries and Taylor drove in two runs each for the Indians while Adam Barrett went the distance on the mound – striking out four and driving in one run at the plate to help his own cause during Towns' seven-run sixth.



Towns County seniors Jackson Taylor (left) and Adam Barrett (right) during the Indians game with Bryan County. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



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With the Indians already leading 4-1, the sixth inning opened with Fullerton reaching on an error, then Moss beat out a bunt single and Griffin drew a one-out walk before an error off the bat of Brady Graper brought home the first run.

Moss made it 6-1 when he scored on a passed ball, Davenport was plunked with a 1-1 count, DeVries drove in one with a bases loaded walk, Taylor was hit by a pitch to make it 8-1 and Barrett singled to center for a 9-1 advantage.

DeVries scored on a passed ball and Moss brought home Taylor with a fly ball to centerfield to give Towns an 11-1 lead.

In the fifth, Davenport scored on a passed ball to make it a 4-1 game.

The Indians took the lead with three in the third after New Hampstead got on the board in the bottom of the first.

All three Towns County runs came with two down when Davenport drew a two-out walk and DeVries doubled to bring him home and tie the game.

An infield single by Taylor scored DeVries and an error off the bat of Barrett scored Taylor for a 3-1 advantage.

A single, a sacrifice ground out, and an error allowed New Hampstead to put one on the board in the first inning.

Earlier in the week, Towns County fell 8-5 to West Laurens despite 2 RBIs each from Barrett and Taylor.

The Indians scored one in the first when Denton doubled and DeVries singled, but West Laurens responded with three in the second, two in the third and three in the fourth.

Towns County answered with two in the third and fifth innings to pull within three runs but it wasn't enough.

Denton would be the final runs of the game for the Indians.

Towns went down 1-2-3 in the sixth, then a two-out single by Griffin was all the offense they could muster in the seventh.

Brantley County took care of the Indians 13-5 after scoring five-unanswered in the first three innings. Towns got two runs back in the fourth but four Brantley runs in the bottom half of the inning opened up an 8-2 advantage.

After trimming the deficit to 8-5 with three in the fifth, Brantley finished off the Indians with one in their half of the fifth and three in the sixth.

Barrett's two-run single in the fifth – scoring Taylor and

DeVries finished 2-for-4

permanences at the plate while Taylor scored twice – one coming off a two-run homer in the top of the third to tie the score at 3-3.

The Indians used five pitchers in the contest with Barrett getting the start and going 1 2/3 innings – giving up 3 unearned runs.

Trent Bradshaw and Deven Burrell combined to allow five runs before Fullerton stopped the bleeding with 1 2/3 innings of scoreless baseball. DeVries worked a perfect sixth to keep his team within three.

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with an RBI double and Graper went 2-for-3 with a run for Towns' only multi-hit performances on the day.

DeVries and Lane Denton also drove in a run for the Indians.

Davenport, Burrell, Graper, and Jacob Kensey combined to pitch six innings, allowing 10 hits, nine earned runs while striking out four and walking three.

A Barrett single then a Brantley error led to two runs in the fourth.

RBIs by Lane, DeVries, and Taylor made it an 8-5 game in the fifth.

An early 1-0 Towns County advantage wasn't enough to hold up as Jenkins County blew open a 4-2 game with four in the fourth and four more in the fifth – ending the game with a 10-run lead in the fifth inning.

Davenport scored both Indian runs while DeVries doubled and Griffin singled to drive in one run each.

DeVries tossed four innings while allowing 7 earned runs. Bradshaw lasted 2/3 of an inning while allowing one earned run.

A DeVries double scored Davenport to put Towns up 1-0 in the early going.

Davenport scored again in the third when Griffin knocked him in with a base hit to left.

The Indians will travel to Tallulah Falls on Wednesday for a 4:30 p.m. first pitch. On Thursday, Towns will visit George Walton Academy – first pitch is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Over the weekend, the Indians will be at Commerce for a 1 p.m. start.

Towns County baseball 2017 season stats (Offense)

#	Roster	GP	PA	AB	H	1B	2B	3B	HR	RBI	R	HBP	ROE	FC	CI	BB	K	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS
15	Will DeVries	9	33	29	11	7	3	1	0	9	8	1	0	1	0	3	4	.379	.455	.552	1.006
34	Jackson Taylor	9	32	28	10	7	1	0	2	10	6	1	0	0	0	3	6	.357	.438	.607	1.045
23	Zach Davenport	9	32	28	10	10	0	0	0	2	8	1	2	1	0	3	4	.357	.438	.357	.795
2	Kobe Denton	9	31	24	3	1	2	0	0	0	5	1	0	0	0	5	12	.125	.300	.208	.508
11	Major Moss	9	30	22	2	1	1	0	0	1	2	2	1	0	0	5	9	.091	.310	.136	.447
17	Adam Barrett	9	29	25	4	4	0	0	0	4	1	0	1	2	0	4	14	.160	.276	.160	.436
6	Andrew Griffin	9	28	17	6	6	0	0	0	2	0	1	2	0	0	10	3	.353	.607	.353	.960
29	Brody Graper	8	23	20	3	2	1	0	0	1	3	0	2	0	0	3	9	.150	.261	.200	.461
4	Seth Fullerton	8	21	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	6	7	.000	.286	.000	.286
5	Brett Denton	9	5	4	2	2	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	1	1	.500	.600	.500	1.100
7	Trent Bradshaw	2	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	.000	.250	.000	.250
	Denton Lane	4	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	.500	.500	.500	1.000
	McClure Kayden	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	.000	.000	.000	.000
19	Trey Chastain	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	.000	.000	.000	.000
	Walters Hayden	3	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	.000	.000	.000	.000
	Floyd Kendall	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	.000	.000	.000	.000
	Kensey Jacob	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	.000	.000	.000	.000
	Burrell Deven	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000	.000	.000
	Totals	9	278	225	52	41	8	1	2	30	38	8	10	5	0	43	78	.231	.373	.302	.675

Towns County baseball 2017 season stats (Pitching)

#	Roster	IP	GP	GS	W	L	SV	SVO	BS	SV%	H	R	ER	BB	K	HBP	ERA	WHIP
15	Will DeVries	14.2	6	3	0	0	0	0	0	.000	19	13	9	5	16	1	4.295	1.636
17	Adam Barrett	14.1	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	.000	19	26	13	7	13	4	6.349	1.814
4	Seth Fullerton	8.0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	6	5	1	6	4	3	.875	1.500
	Burrell Deven	6.2	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	8	14	12	10	4	2	12.600	2.700
23	Zach Davenport	4.2	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	.000	6	10	4	3	5	1	6.000	1.929
7	Trent Bradshaw	3.1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	7	11	6	6	0	3	12.600	3.900
29	Brody Graper	2.0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	4	4	3	0	0	0	10.500	2.000
	Kensey Jacob	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	1	1	1	1	0	1	7.000	2.000
2	Kobe Denton	0.0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000
	Totals	54.2	9	9	0	0	0	0	0	.000	70	84	49	38	42	15	6.274	1.976

Taylor signs with Cleveland State



Jackson Taylor (seated - center) with family and coaches at last week's signing. Photo/Todd Forrest

By Todd Forrest
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Towns County baseball's All Region catcher Jackson Taylor has made a decision on where he will play in the future.

Cleveland State in Tennessee.

According to Taylor, Cleveland State has been the leader for his services since he first visited the campus in the summer of 2015.

"I just liked the school," he said. "I went up there to visit a couple of times and I liked the coaching staff, I liked the field, I liked the school, it's close to home and I just thought it

would be a great fit for me."

When he returned a year later for a camp, it was Taylor that caught the school's attention and a scholarship offer soon followed.

"I have to thank God for allowing me to play this great game," Taylor said when asked who he would like to thank. "My family and my friends for always supporting me and sacrificing their time to help me chase my dream.

"I also want to thank Richard Mashburn, he was one of my travel ball coaches. He was a major component in pushing me on to the next level and making sure that colleges were looking at me. "Also, I want to thank Mark Vaughan and Matt Pritch-

ett. They've always believed in me and have helped me with my hitting and catching."

While at Cleveland State, Taylor plans on obtaining a 2-year degree with a focus on education. Then when he transfers to a four-year university he wants to major in English Education and become an English teacher.

Through nine games this season, Taylor is second on the team with a .357 batting average and a .438 on base percentage.

He is first on the team with 2 homers and 10 RBIs. His .607 slugging percentage and 1.045 OPS are also tops on the team. His six runs scored are third best on the team.

9th Annual STRA Trials Bike Competition at Trackrock Campground & Cabins March 18 and 19

The 9th Annual Trackrock Trials will be held on March 18th and 19th from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. This free family friendly event is a must see with no other like it in this area. Participants from 6 to 75 years of age must possess extraordinary balance and agility skills to weave their way over 8-10 difficult courses in rough terrain that are different each day of the event. The course is easy walking for spectators and a great day outdoors.

At 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, there will be a Youth Trials Division competition

for the "up and coming" riders. Ages 6-10. There are over a dozen different levels of competition, including Champs, Intermediate, Novice, Women and Vintage. See www.stratrials.com for more info.

A delicious lunch will be available for purchase.

The Southeastern Trials Riders Association (STRA) is a group of members located in 7 southeastern U.S. states. They are dedicated to the ex-

periment and family friendly sport of Observed Motorcycle Trials. They cater to both the serious competitor and the casual or fun rider. The competition schedule consists of 12 or more STRA championship events with classes for modern and vintage bikes.

Information about the Campground and directions can be found at www.trackrock.com or on Facebook at Trackrock Campground & Stables. N(Mar15,F4)CA



Annual Trackrock Trials