

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Lady Indians on their way to a record-breaking softball season

By Shawn Jarrard
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Brandon Rowland's first year coaching Lady Indians Softball at Towns County High was his winningest season – his players aim to beat that record this year.

The record back then, four seasons ago, was a nine-win season, and his Lady Indians feel strongly that they can do better. After all, with half the season left to play, they're only five games away from meeting that goal.

Their team record is currently 5 wins and 7 losses overall, and they're right at 3-3 in region play, which puts Towns County fourth in Region 8-A as of press time Monday.

"Probably the Top Five in our region now, it's so tight that it's not even funny," said Coach Rowland. "We lost in extra innings to Commerce earlier this season, and they're the No. 1 team right now."

"Then, the No. 2 team, we just lost 7-6 to, and that was Prince Avenue. It's really, really close this year."

The team's games have gone as follows:

Dawson County, Aug. 5, 5-4 loss; Rabun County, Aug. 5, 3-2 win; Fannin, Aug. 8, rescheduled for Sept. 25; Banks County, Aug. 9, 9-0 loss; George Walton Academy doubleheader, Aug. 12, 9-1 loss and 11-10 win; White County, Aug. 14, rescheduled for Sept. 27 doubleheader; Providence, Aug. 16, 17-2 win; Commerce, Aug. 17, 6-4 loss in extra innings; Fannin, Aug. 19, 7-5 loss; Hebron, Aug. 22, 13-0 win; Banks, Aug. 23, 8-0 loss; Athens Christian, Aug. 24,



The Lady Indians lineup has pounded out 30 runs in its last two wins. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

rescheduled for Sept. 11; Rabun, Aug. 28, 7-0 win; Prince Avenue, Aug. 29, 7-6 loss.

The Sept. 4 game against Rabun had been rescheduled to Sept. 5 as of press time Monday.

Towns County has beaten Rabun in both of their matchups earlier this year, though prior to this season, they hadn't won a game against them since 2015.

"There's a big softball rivalry there, and they've been looking forward to these games more than many of them, especially since the first time we beat them, we actually had to go into extra innings," said Coach Rowland. "They were ready

for them, 7-0, winning at home, so we're looking at going over there and doing about the same thing."

Looking ahead, the Lady Indians still have some good games coming up, and there's a good chance that they'll even make the playoffs this year.

Four years in, Coach Rowland realizes that, year to year, every team is different, with varying strengths and weaknesses on the field.

Coach Rowland believes that one of his main jobs as a coach is to adapt to the strengths and weaknesses of different players and team makeups from year

to year.

"For the most part, that's what I look to do, change with the team and know how to coach each individual player," said Coach Rowland. "Last year, I pulled in my shortstop to be my pitcher because I didn't have a pitcher."

"This year, I've got a phenomenal pitcher in Kennedy Henson, a freshman that moved in to the team, and it's been a lot easier to have somebody who has pitched all their life as opposed to trying to get somebody in there and work with them, even though she did a good job."

As far as standout perfor-



Towns Co. recorded a shutout vs Hebron. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

mances, Coach Rowland said the entire team comes to mind.

"The difference between last season and this season is, we all get along and we all play well together, that's the big thing," said Coach Rowland. "We're a young group. I've got two seniors and four juniors, and the rest of them are freshmen and sophomores."

"But the one thing I can say is that they play well together. Sometimes we mess up and put our heads down, but they're a lot quicker to get it picked back up."

"We saw that at the last game against Prince Avenue, being down 7-1 – we made about three or

four errors there in that one inning to give them 7 runs, but then we battled back to 7-6. So, really, the team as a whole stands out."

Coach Rowland would like to thank his senior leaders, shortstop Jordan Hyatt, who has hit 2 homeruns this season for the Lady Indians, and Zandra Churchill, a stalwart catcher the coach describes as a "brick wall" behind the plate.

The next Lady Indians next home game will be on Thursday, Sept. 7, against Providence at 5 p.m. on Lowell Nicholson Field at the Towns County Schools.

Late game offense not enough as Indians fall 17-7 to Bulldogs

By Shawn Jarrard
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MONROE – The Towns County Indians had a good run on Friday, Sept. 1, despite a 17-7 loss against George Walton Academy.

Every Indian played their heart out in search of glory Friday night in Monroe, and while the Towns County defense stood out with repeat stellar performances, the Indians would have loved to be downright offensive in Walton County.

However, when the Indians did hit the scoreboard, they ended up doing it with the most exciting play of the game.

The Bulldogs had just scored what would be their final points of the evening with half of the fourth quarter remaining, and the Indians were still scoreless; it was 17-0 Bulldogs.

Seniors Cole Ledford and Zach Davenport had been faithfully fulfilling their duties as kick returners throughout the evening, and they once more prepared for the kickoff.

George Walton's kick went left, straight to Davenport, and all the Bulldogs broke this way down the field.

As they suspected he would, Davenport caught the ball, but instead of dashing up the gridiron, he turned to his fellow senior and passed the ball back across the field.

When Ledford got his hands on the ball at the 10-yard line, he took off like a rocket – the Bulldogs never knew what hit them with that play.

The agile senior dodged



Towns Co.'s captains vs George Walton. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Bulldogs all the way up the sideline, with some key blocking from his fellow Indians, and ended up in the end zone with a 90-yard kickoff return for a touchdown.

Junior Wesly Calhoun converted the extra point, bringing the score to 17-7 with only 6 minutes left on the game clock, and that would be the final tally as the clock ran expired.

The Boys in Blue held George Walton to two, third-down conversions in the first quarter, though the Bulldogs scored 10 points in the second quarter and were up 10-0 at the half.

The Indians allowed only three first downs in the third quarter, and junior Trent Bradshaw picked off the Bulldogs' Gabe McCullers.

George Walton's Bulldogs scored their final touchdown and extra point in the fourth quarter, and the rest is in the record books.

"I think they're a better team, but I think we played hard," said Indians Head Coach John Cornett. "Not a single player quit in this game. They believed every minute that they were still in it and that they were going to win. So, I'll take that."

Coach Cornett said he was particularly proud of his defense on Friday night, and looking ahead to this week's game against Prince Avenue Christian, Coach Cornett said his team will continue to work on the fundamentals.

The Indians' team record is 1-1 on the season, following its blistering season opening



The Indians defense kept GWA in check. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

win against Hayesville, and their next game is Friday, Sept. 8, against Prince Avenue Christian in Athens at 7:30 p.m.

Towns County parents and community members did a good job representing for their team last Friday, despite the two-and-a-half-hour commute to Keith Henderson Football Field.

Captains for Friday's

game were Zach Davenport, Andy Chambers, Logan Cowart and Jake Parker.

The Towns County High School Indian Raider Band and Cheerleaders enthusiastically performed all game to keep everyone's spirits up, and the band, Color Guard and Cheerleaders took to the field at high school to perform during their halftime show.

The name of the band and color guard's halftime show is "On Air," and features the songs "Rock and Roll" by Led Zeppelin, "Papa Was a Rolling Stone" by The Temptations, "Open Arms" by Journey, and "25 or 6 to 4" by Chicago.

The Towns County Middle School and Junior Varsity football teams each have a home game this week, on Thursday, Sept. 7, against Riverside Military Academy at 5 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. respectively.

Come on out and watch the Indians of the future.

VFW Golf League

The VFW Golf League plays each Thursday at the Chatuge Shores Golf Course. It is open to all members of the VFW and American Legion regardless of post affiliation.

It was a very wet day at Chatuge Shores but the team of Gary Nicholson, Lloyd MacBride and Steve Sutherland prevailed to win the day, an impressive round under very adverse conditions. Congratulations! T(Sep6,F)SH

Chatuge Shores Ladies Golfers winding down season

Golfers this past Tuesday were able to do what all players would like to do every round! The game was "throw out your worst hole" on both the front and back nine.

Taking advantage of being able to forget two bad holes, the winners for lowest gross were Loretta Hughes, 1st place and Judy Schmitt, 2nd place. The net winners were first place Susan Anderson, 2nd place Linda Davenport, and 3rd place Lee Cromwell. The low putts honors went to Judy Schmitt.

The Ladies Golf Association Championship begins on Tuesday, September 5. It is a three week event which continues on the 12th and 19th. The two best scores of the three weeks of play will determine the winners. The event will be flighted giving everyone an opportunity to some \$\$\$. The end of season luncheon and awards will be held on September 26 - an opportunity to socialize and reflect on a great season. T(Sep6,G)SH



Judy Schmitt shows great form as she drives her ball down the fairway.

Georgia archery deer season opens September 9

Hunters utilizing archery equipment will get the first opportunity at bringing home a deer beginning Saturday, Sept. 9, according to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Division.

Last year, 139,043 archery hunters harvested just over 50,000 deer. Statewide, hunters can use archery equipment throughout the entire 2017-2018 deer season.

"Archery season is an excellent time to get an early start on putting some venison in the freezer," said state deer biologist Charlie Killmaster. "Although it's still warm this time of year, it's the easiest part of the season to pattern deer. Just don't forget to report your kill to Georgia Game Check!"

Georgia hunters can check out an interactive map that allows them to see the best opportunities available for the counties they hunt at georgiawildlife.com/rut-map.

All hunters must report their deer harvest through Georgia Game Check, including hunters under 16 years of age, landowners, honorary, lifetime, and sportsman license holders. Hunters will need to obtain a free deer harvest record each season. Before moving a harvested deer, hunters are required to immediately enter the date and county on the harvest record, and within 72 hours, must complete the reporting process through Georgia Game Check (gooutdoorsgeorgia.com). OR hunters can go "paperless" and report through the free Go Outdoors GA app (you can report through the app even with no connection. Once your phone gets a signal, it

will automatically sync your information).

State-managed public hunting lands are funded through a combination of state license fees and matching federal funds from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Wildlife Restoration Program. Hunters account for \$977 million in retail sales in Georgia each year with a \$1.6 billion ripple effect and almost 24,000 jobs.

Many public lands offer specialty deer hunts, including primitive weapons hunts, adult/child hunts and ladies-only hunts. Dates and locations for these hunts are listed in the 2017-2018 Georgia Hunting Seasons and Regulations guide. Georgia offers more than 100 state-operated wildlife management areas (WMAs) for the public's use.

Hunters are allowed a season bag limit of 10 antlerless deer and two antlered deer (one of the two antlered deer must have

a minimum of four points, one inch or longer, on one side of the antlers). Special regulations apply to archery-only counties and extended archery season areas. Counties in the Metro Atlanta area (Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, and Rockdale counties) offer either-sex archery deer hunting through Jan. 31. Additionally, deer of either sex may be taken with archery equipment at any time during the deer season on private land.

To pursue deer in Georgia, hunters must have a valid hunting license and a big game license. Licenses can be purchased online at georgiawildlife.com/licenses-permits-passes, by phone at 1-800-366-2661 or at a license agent (list of agents available online).

For more information on deer hunting seasons, regulations, licenses and WMA maps, visit georgiawildlife.com/hunting/regulations.

Youth basketball registration

Registration for the 2017-2018 basketball season will begin September 1st and will run until October 8th. We will offer 12u, 10u, and 8u for both boys & girls. Be sure to create an account and register your child online to secure a spot in our program for this Winter on our website townscountyrec.com. If you have any questions about creating an account check out the "Online Registration" under "Quick Links" on the home page or give us a call at (706) 896-2600. After you finish creating an account, be sure to download the SI Play app to your mobile

device to get practice and game reminders, see rosters, schedules, standings, and also have the ability to communicate with other parents straight from the app.

Parents who are interested in coaching will need to check out the "Want to Coach" tab and follow the instructions there. These applications will need to be received by the Recreation Department by October 2nd so that we can have our coaches selected and ready once registration ends. Background checks will be mandatory for all coaches selected.