

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Lady Indians win area championship, boys and girls headed to state Saturday

Towns County girls look to defend state title yet again with fifth straight victory

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

MILLEDGEVILLE – Congratulations to the Towns County Indians and Lady Indians Cross Country teams, both of which are heading to the GHSA Cross Country State Championships this Saturday, Nov. 5, in Carrollton.

The girls will begin at 2 p.m. with the guys to follow.

And an extra special congratulations to the Lady Indians, who finished first in the Area 4 Championship Meet at Georgia Military College on Thursday, Oct. 27.

Looking ahead to Saturday, the Lady Indians will be in the hunt for their fifth consecutive State Title, and the boys will be aiming to improve on their Runners-Up finish two years ago and third place finish in last year's competition.

This year's GHSA Class A Public Area 4 Championship contained a dramatic moment, as the Lady Indians initially tied with Commerce for the Top Spot last Thursday.

The sport is scored by combining the points earned by the Top Five finishers of each school to determine the rankings in the 3.1 mile footrace, and the Top Five from both Towns County and Commerce brought in a score of 30 for each team.

This is thanks in large part to the tight grouping the Lady Indians were able to accomplish during the race. All Top Five Lady Indians finished



Indians at 2016 Area: Both the Boys and Girls TCHS Cross Country teams are heading to the state championship in Carrollton on Saturday, Nov. 5. Here they are after qualifying for the upcoming Big Show, posing for pictures following the area championship on Thursday, Oct. 27. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

within two and a half minutes of each other, and all in the Top 10 for the race.

Hannah Whitehead placed First Runner-Up for the area competition, Taylor Cornett placed third, and Taralee Arrowood finished seventh, followed by Emma Kate Ledford at Eighth Place and Jasmine Miranda with a 10th Place finish.

But the competition couldn't end in a tie – enter Hayley Stowers.

Stowers finished in the sixth position for the Lady Indians, which is where the tiebreaker is decided in the event of a tie.

She came in as the 16th runner to finish the race, which was better by two minutes than her Commerce sixth-runner counterpart.

Combined, the six girls had done what they needed to do to clinch the area title – they did their best individually, all the while working together as

a team.

And they did it without the seventh member of their power pack, Lydia Moss, who couldn't run due to an injury.

"We actually ran a girl shy," said Indians Head Coach Jeannie Ledford. "You run with seven girls, and we just ran with six. So Hayley Stowers literally had to step up."

"(Stowers) was hurt, she turned her ankle. For her to fight like she did and for it to come down to that sixth runner

– there's just no way to describe it. It's surreal."

The Indians also fared well during the Area 4 Championship last Thursday, facing some stiff competition to come in Fourth Place for the area meet. Only the Top Four teams continue to state.

Towns County's boys kept up an extremely tight pack during the course of the race, and all of the Top Five Indian finishers that determined the

Fourth Place result crossed the finish line within 22 seconds of each other: Tyler Grimsley, Blythe Smith, Kaine Hoffman, Corbin Henderson and Marshall Ledford.

Caleb Ledford and Ryan Tyler also ran hard in the area meet, and representing the JV team, Andrew Rogers medaled in 10th Place, and he was joined in that race by teammates Xavier Hogged and Jeremy Lovell.

As always, Coach Ledford is most proud of her Indians and Lady Indians.



Hugs for Hayley at 2016 Area: Towns County's girls tied with Commerce for First Place as Area Champions, and the tiebreaker went to the Sixth Place finisher. Lady Indian Hayley Stowers outperformed the Commerce Sixth Place runner, giving the girls the edge to become 2016 Area Champions. Photo/Shawn Jarrard



Hannah Whitehead



And they're off: The Towns County Indians started strong at the 2016 GHSA Single A Area 4 Meet on Thursday, Oct. 27. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

Towns County goes the distance, faces defeat in overtime against Lakeview

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

GAINESVILLE - For the first time in Towns County football history, the Indians advanced to overtime for the second time in a single season.

The first overtime of the season was earlier this year in a home matchup against Riverside Military Academy, and that game ended in a 13-6 win against the Eagles.

Unfortunately, the game against Lakeview Academy in Gainesville on Friday, Oct. 28, ended with a different result. Towns County walked away with a hard fought 42-35 loss against the Lions.

The games scores came by way of an opening drive touchdown pass from Trent Bradshaw to Major Moss; a second quarter big stretch jumping touchdown carry by Russell Cox; a fourth quarter touchdown pass from Bradshaw to Zach Davenport; a fourth quarter touchdown pass from Bradshaw to Cox; another fourth quarter touchdown, this time from a big carry by Andy Chambers; three good Point After kicks from Moss; and a 2-point conversion pass from Bradshaw to Davenport.

Dalton Key also fielded an exciting interception against the Lions, Walker Ross put in an excellent performance as usual at center, and the Indians Defense performed solidly and with professionalism all night.

"Our boys played well, they never gave up," said Indians Head Coach John Cornett. "We were down by two touchdowns in the fourth and we came back and scored three (touchdowns) to take the lead. They fought hard. I couldn't have asked them to give me another ounce of sweat.



Towns County at Lakeview Academy football photos by Lowell Nicholson

"Any time you face a team that throws the ball a lot, you have to expect good and bad things to happen. Their quarterback got hot, he stood in the pocket well and completed the passes he needed to.

"It was a great game. Unfortunately, they edged us out. We tried to eat up a lot of the clock, and we did the first half. Our first drive ate up most

of the quarter. We had two other drives that took up a lot of time, but in the second half, being down, we had to move quick. Unfortunately, this gave them the ball back too.

"Our defense played well trying not to give up the deep ball. The problem is that when you give their quarterback three seconds to throw it, he will burn you. He's good, and a lot of

credit goes to him."

Friday's home game against Providence Christian is the last game of the regular season for the Indians.

Festivities for this last home game will include a Senior Night ceremony, honoring all of the football seniors, cheerleading seniors and band seniors.

"This Friday, the seniors

hope to go out with a win," said Coach Cornett. "It is a very winnable game, and I think you will see these guys perform. We have gotten better each week on offense, and defense has been playing well all year.

"These players will not give up and they will give it their all on Friday. I think the underclassmen want to win for the seniors. We have great

leadership out of these guys, and it will be hard to replace them."

Community members looking to show their support by attending the Senior Night ceremony should arrive by 6:15 p.m. on Friday. Game kickoff will be at 7:30 p.m.

The Storm will enter with a 1-8 overall record and an 0-8 mark in region play.