

Towns County Sports

Indians qualify six for Sectionals



Aaron Collier (middle right) placed second in the 126-pound weight division at Area last weekend.



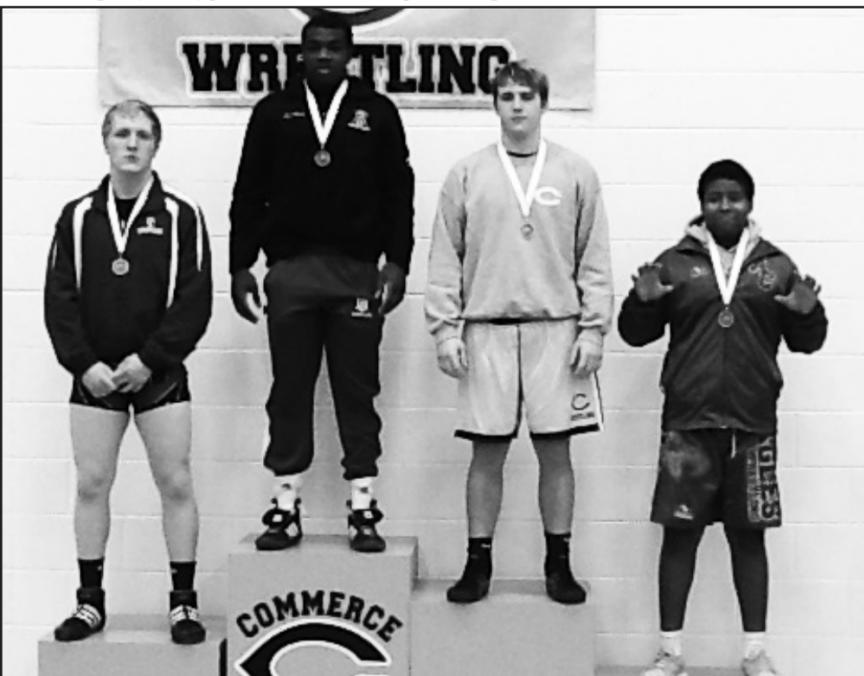
Vonya Bladwin (middle right) placed second in the 138-pound weight division at Area last weekend.



Nick Shook (far right) placed fourth in the 152-pound weight division at Area last weekend.



Daulton Rogers (far left) placed third in the 170-pound weight division at Area last weekend.



Kyle Davis (far left) placed third in the 195-pound weight division at Area last weekend. Not pictured is Thomas Mitchell who placed fourth at 106 pounds.

Cochran...from Page 1



Lady Indians Head Coach Jim Melton poses with Eryn Cochran moments after she entered the Lady Indians' record books against Pinecrest in Cumming. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Indians known to have reached 1,000 career points, it would be easy to assume this to be a common occurrence in high school basketball, but conversations through the years with officials and fans from other schools have revealed that this is a very rare occurrence at many schools.

A few factors required for reaching the total include a player being good enough to receive significant playing time as a freshman and sophomore, avoiding injuries limiting playing time during the career, and often the factor of playing on a team extending the number of games played by excellence in post season play.

Despite the injury this year, all of these factors have been present during Cochran's career.

And despite the prolific scoring totals for Cochran, she has usually received greater accolades from knowledgeable observers for her ball handling, passing, defensive, and rebounding skills from her point guard position.

These attributes were never more noteworthy than during her appearance in the junior class statewide Georgia Athletic Coaches Association (GACA) All-Star Showcase Game held at Armstrong Atlantic University in Savannah last March.

While representing the Class A Lady Indians and playing with and against the top junior class high school players from all six classifications throughout the state, Cochran played a vital role, some might say THE vital role, in her North team coming from behind for an 83-79 victory over the South.

The North team played under the direction of Lady Indians Head Coach Jim Melton

and his two assistants for the game. Pace Academy Head Coach Regina Tate and Gordon Lee Assistant Coach Lee Bohannon.

Unofficial stats compiled by viewing video of the game reveal multiple contributions in various categories of play for Cochran.

She matched her junior scoring average of 13.2 points per game for the Lady Indians with 13 points in the All Star game by sinking 4 of 7 field goal attempts and 5 of 8 free throw attempts.

Other vital contributions included 6 rebounds, 3 assists, 3 steals, and an incredible 4 blocked shots from her point guard position while sharing

time with other top players on her team from around the state.

The above commentary and the earlier article about her signing with Columbus State have addressed primarily Cochran's accomplishments as related to basketball, but she has enjoyed an outstanding academic career at TCHS as well and was rewarded recently for her standing among fellow students by being chosen as the basketball homecoming queen.

Congratulations are extended to Eryn Cochran from the *Towns County Herald* and this reporter for a job well done and with best wishes during her remaining games at TCHS and during her career at Columbus State both on and off the court.

Webb...from Page 1

and has gained the respect of the residents and local officials in Towns County.

Along with his normal duties as a Conservation Ranger, he also carries the collateral duty of a Region Investigator.

Webb is one of 15 Regional Investigators in the state.

Additionally, Webb is a POST Instructor and teaches in the Basic Ranger Academy as well as conducting in-service training for veteran officers.

As a Critical Action Team member, he has responded to three lost or missing person calls during the past year.

He received a resolution from the Board of Natural Resources for his work with Law Enforcement Division's Investigative Unit.

With these collateral duties, he has received more

than 200 hours of specialized training.

Webb also found out in January that he was Department of Natural Resources Investigator of the Year for 2013, and was chosen by the Safari Club as International State Ranger of the Year.

Webb also serves as a part-time deputy sheriff with the Towns County Sheriff's Office, and Sheriff Chris Clinton congratulates Webb and is thankful he is part of the Towns County team.

"David is an outstanding representative for the DNR in our area, and we are thankful he is in Towns County," Sheriff Clinton said.

David Webb is the son of Sonny and Nancy Webb of Thomaston, and the grandson of the late Eddie and Emma Webb also of Thomaston.

Storm...from Page 1

send the trucks to get the salt, but, we did so we'll be ready for the next round of weather."

Hopefully, there won't be another round of frigid weather, Commissioner Kendall said.

"It's been 20 years or more since we've had this kind of weather," he said. "It's been a long time since we've had to deal with anything like this. It's been awfully cold."

Kendall worries that when the roads really thaw out, there will be deteriorating conditions that will cause the need for extensive repairs to secondary roads.

"When you have to put salt down on these secondary roads, it really eats them up," he said. "We do our best not to put too much salt on the tar and gravel roads."

"As long as it has been below freezing, I'm afraid when the roads thaw out, we'll have problems in the spring."

In the event of continued cold weather, Commissioner Kendall asked that residents let the county know when they need assistance.

"Please get the word out that we're ready to do what in takes in this kind of weather," Commissioner Kendall said. "If anybody needs medicine, or food, or to get to the doctor, all they have to do is call us, we'll get to them and get them what they need even if we have to go on foot."

Kendall sang the praises of the public safety crews.

"The people that get out and work on these roads, especially the steep, mountain roads, they're out there with 16,000 pounds of salt and gravel, they are truly dedicated," he said. "They just do their job. They've been doing this a long time and they do a good job."

"All the public safety folks, sheriff's deputies, EMTs, the ambulance folks, the fire department, the Road Department, the school bus drivers, and Hiwassee Police Department gave their all during the storm," Kendall said. "We appreciate all of them."



An Arctic Blast turned Towns County into a winter wonderland last week. Schools closed early Tuesday and remained closed all week. Photos/Lowell Nicholson

