

# Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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## Towns County basketball 2015-16: Time to say goodbye

### DeVries, Moss, and Davenport honored with 8-A All Region Team Selection

By Jerry Kendall  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

It is always a difficult occasion when the final game arrives for players at any level of competition and the Providence Christian game from Monday, Feb. 8th was the final appearance in high school basketball for long time productive Lady Indian seniors Jocelyn Byers and Savannah Dyer.

Both dedicated countless hours while coming up through the ranks in representing their various recreation, middle school, and high school teams and community and they are extended sincere congratulations and appreciation for their effort and success.

Likewise, Indian seniors Jake Pyrluk and Kevin Reardon saw their season and careers come to an end at the conclusion of the game with Athens Christian on Thursday.

Both Jake and Kevin joined the Indians at the beginning of their sophomore year with Jake seeing very successful action, mostly off the bench but as an occasional starter, with an excellent shooting touch as a junior and senior while Kevin didn't see much varsity action but always impressed your reporter with his enthusiasm for the game.

Basketball accomplishments of close relatives are often



Sophomore Zach Davenport with a layup. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

recognized upon completion of players' careers when applicable and this applies to both Jocelyn and Savannah. Jocelyn was privileged as a senior to have her freshman sister, Kristen, as a teammate, frequently as a successful starter on this year's team.

Savannah, on the other hand, has been preceded by two top quality Lady Indian basketball players in her family. Her grandmother, Melba Hunter Blythe, was a very valuable four year starter for the Lady Indians during the 1970 through 1973 seasons and made especially

vital contributions to the 1973 team which was the first TCHS sports team to make it to the state tournament.

And Savannah's aunt, Candice Blythe Thompson, had a marvelous four year career for the Lady Indians from the 1997 through the 2000 seasons, scoring 1,305 points along the way and distinguishing herself by making a three point play with just 4.1 seconds left, giving the Lady Indians a 55-54 win over Landmark Christian and propelling her team into the Lady Indians' first of now three state final four appearances



Major Moss with a behind-the-back pass. Photo/Lowell Nicholson in 2000.

Candice's career was far from over after graduating from TCHS as she went on to provide outstanding play for two years at Truett McConnell College, then a junior college, and two more at Piedmont College. She then spent a year as an assistant coach at Piedmont and then served as an assistant with the Lady Indians as well.

Many thanks are extended

from the Towns County Herald and this reporter to Jocelyn, Savannah, Jake, and Kevin for their many hours of dedicated service to their school and teams as well as their families who have sacrificed much time and expense in supporting their efforts and best wishes are extended to each of them for the future.

**All-Region Team** - Towns County Indian juniors Will DeVries and Major Moss and sopho-



Will DeVries

more Zach Davenport have received the honor of being selected as members of the 2016 Region 8-A Boys All Region Basketball Team.

DeVries is included as a first team member with Moss and Davenport receiving Honorable Mention as selected by the coaches in the region.

Davenport and DeVries led the Indians in scoring for the year with averages of 15.4 and 14.8 points respectively while Moss led the team in rebounds with an average of 8.3 per game, as provided by Indian statistician Kendall Floyd, and in assists with an average of 4.7 per game, according to your reporter's tallies.

## Towns County kicker Shea Underwood chooses Yellow Jackets

The No. 9 punting prospect in the nation, Shea Underwood chose Georgia Tech over Lehigh, Alabama A&M, Cornell, and Syracuse earlier this month on National Signing Day.

On February 2nd, the following post appeared on Underwood's Twitter page: "I have decided to further my education at Georgia Tech! To God be the glory! @CoachWaggonerGT @KickingWorld." The "Coach Waggoner" mentioned in the tweet refers to Brad Waggoner, Georgia Tech Football's Assistant Director of Player Personnel.

According to KickingWorld.com, "Shea is a terrific D1 level punter/kicker. He has a big kickoff leg and gets nice pop on his field goals. His punts have really turned on and he hits big hang-time/distance punts, consistently. He has a ton of potential and I expect him to keep getting better. He had a solid junior and senior year punting. He laid some big hits on the kickoff team and shows a ton of athleticism (fake punts/tackles) and ran a 4.6, 40. He has a selfless attitude and shows a ton of hustle; great kid. He's a solid level FBS or FCS level recruit, with excellent grades and a good head on his shoulders."

In 2015, Underwood averaged 44 yards a punt with 17 downed inside the 20. He also kicked two field goals, including a 48-yarder.



Towns County kicker/punter Shea Underwood with family and coaches when he made it official decision to join Paul Johnson's Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets.

## Towns County baseball season gets underway with 4-2 loss to Lumpkin

By Todd Forrest  
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The 2016 Towns County Indians baseball campaign got underway last week with a 4-2 loss to Class AAA's Lumpkin County.

Lumpkin County got on the board with a run in the first and two in the third before Towns got one run back in the bottom half of the third and another in the fifth.

Leading 3-2 entering the seventh inning, Lumpkin added an insurance run to make it a 4-2 game.

Lumpkin County out-hit Towns 6-5 while committing four errors to Towns County's three.

Towns County's pitching struck out eight while Lumpkin's four pitchers combined for 10 strikeouts.

Towns' lineup drew five walks while their pitching staff issued three free passes.

Monday's contest with Union County was rained out but Towns will be in action on Wednesday when they travel to Lumpkin for a 5:30 rematch of last week's contest.

On Friday, Towns will visit Blairsville for a rivalry game with Union County. First pitch is scheduled for 5 p.m.

On Tuesday, the Indians JV squad will host Pickens County at 5:30 p.m.



Towns County baseball photos by Lowell Nicholson