

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Lady Indians shutout Lakeview Academy; improve to 6-2

By Joe Collins
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Staff Writer

The Towns County Lady Indians soccer team hosted the Lakeview Academy Lions last Tuesday at Frank McClure Memorial stadium on the campus of Towns County High School and absolutely dominated from start to finish.

The tribe shut out the Lions 5-0 with some solid defense and really good ball handling, scoring early and adding to the final score consistently throughout the entire game. It was an impressive effort from the whole team.

Junior Faithe Robinson got things going early on an assist by junior Elizabeth Turner as the Indians scored first in the 13th minute. The Indians then proceeded to handle the ball from midfield in and set up plays at will against a typically solid Lakeview team.

"Lakeview always gives us a good game and they play us hard but we played really well as a team today and gave them all they could handle with this win," said junior Makayla Underwood on how she felt the team played against the Lions.

The offense was able to set up several good shots in the first period. Underwood had a



Junior Faithe Robinson goes after the ball against Lakeview's Lady Lions. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

hard shot 21st minute that was deflected by the Lions keeper. Robinson then took an assist from Vardeman and got a shot at goal from the 35-yard mark near the center of the field which found its mark for her second goal of the game and another Indians score giving them the lead 2-0.

Underwood then sent a solid header assist to junior Kaila Reece that she handled with another solid header from the left side for the score giving the Indians a 3-0 lead at the

32nd minute which held until the end of the first half.

The Lady Indians came out strong in the second half the way they ended the first with some good set plays for shots that made the Lakeview keeper earn her "keep". Reece had a close one in the 45th minute that was a little high. Robinson hit a hard shot in the 43rd minute that was caught and junior Taylor Vardeman had a hard attempt that was deflected but was close in the 45th minute. Vardeman then



Kaila Reece moves the ball upfield against Lakeview Academy. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

sent a corner kick into the mix in front of the Indians goal and found its place in the left side corner for an unassisted score giving the Indians a 4-0 lead in the 47th minute

The tribe persisted with some really solid defense and midfield play that kept the Lions from getting close to scoring and they handled the ball well all game. Robinson commended the team of their effort saying,

"The girls were spot-on with their passes today and that

produced a lot of shots at goal. Lakeview is a good team but we played really well all game," Towns Head Coach Peter Byrne said. "I was impressed with the way Karlie (Albach) responded with her passing. It is nice to have the basketball girls back and in good form cause it makes us strong on defense."

The final goal of the game for the winning Lady Indians came in the 60th minute when junior McKenzi Moss nailed a hard header assist to

Underwood who then pounded her own header into the goal for the score giving the Indians their final score and the win 5-0.

Coach Byrne was very proud of his team's performance and praised the girls,

"We played some good defense today. Alyssa Pyle, Ally Settles and Taylor Vardeman all were excellent in the back field and Reece continued to show improvement and with any luck she would have scored 4 goals.

"Vardeman had another solid game in center to midfield particularly on the defensive side. The good play of the defense has allowed Makayla Underwood to push into a more advanced position and that is helping her control midfield better which is opening up more shots on offense especially for Robinson who moves well and is getting more accurate with her shots. More goals are coming for her and the team as a whole."

The team is now 6-2 and is playing some really good soccer. Their next game is against a tough Hebron team on March 22 at home. Kick-off is at 5 p.m. on the field of Frank McClure Memorial Stadium so make plans now to come out and support the team.

Towns runs into buzz saw vs Lakeview

By Joe Collins
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

It was a long afternoon for the varsity boys soccer team of Towns County High School as they played host to the Lakeview Lions on the field of Frank McClure Memorial Stadium last Tuesday.

The game was close early but the Lions got on a roll in the 11th minute and never let up beating the tribe 10-0 as the game ended. The team played hard but Lakeview was running on all eight and there was just no stopping their offense on this day.

Sophomore Dallas Manus had another strong showing for most of the game but the Lions offense just kept pounding and the talented Manus had his hands full, as did the rest of the team.

Head Coach Tim Rosser summed it up best when he said, "Lakeview has a very strong team this year. They have a lot of talent on the field and that allows them the ability to attack from many different



Sophomore keeper Dallas Manus with a save. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

positions. They also have a very sound defense and that made it hard for us to penetrate and produce many shots at goal. This is the best I've seen Lakeview look in a while."

Junior Cesar Bustamante suffered an injury to his right shin, which is actually an old football injury that has reared its ugly head, and the team was beaten up pretty bad in the melee.

"The good news is that we have a full week to regroup

and refocus and heal before we take on two very tough teams in Union and Hebron, Rosser said. "Both teams are ranked so we have our hands full."

The next scheduled match is on Mar. 22nd at home against Hebron who is ranked #5 in the state Class-A division.

Kick-off is at 7 p.m. so make plans now to come out and support the team and see if they can give Hebron a run for their money TCHS Indian style.

Golf splits with Union and Hayesville

By Joe Collins
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer



Towns County golf teams in action at Brasstown Valley Resort last week. Photos by Joe Collins

Young Harris - It was a very chilly afternoon last Thursday when the Towns County Golf teams hosted the Union County Panthers and the Hayesville, NC Yellow Jackets at Brasstown Valley golf course.

Both the girls and boys varsity participated and the outcome was split with the girls winning both of their matches,

that only covered seven holes, and the boys playing pretty well but falling against both the Panthers and the Yellow Jackets in a full nine hole match.

Head Coach Brett Keller had his teams ready and the experience of the Lady Indians was evident from the first tee, which was actually the par 4 number 12 of the Dennis Griffiths' design championship course.

Due to the chilly weather, the girls only played seven holes but the team won over both hosted schools to maintain

their perfect record on the year. The boys showed signs of improvement but are young and in a transitional time that should gain them some valuable playing time this season that they will be able to draw from next year.

Their next match is on March 21st against Union County at Brasstown Valley Resort.

Tee-time is at 2:30 p.m. so make plans now to come out and support the Indian golfers and visit this wonderful local commodity.

TCMS baseball crushes Lumpkin

By Joe Collins
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Staff Writer

The Towns County Middle School baseball team hosted the Lumpkin County Indians at the Towns County High School field last Friday and were on fire as they scalped the opposing tribe 12-2 in a game shortened by the runs mercy rule of leading by 10 or more runs at the close of the fifth inning.

The guys played solid from start to finish and increased the record to 5-2 on the season.

Will DeVries was on the mound to start the game and finished his start in the top of the second striking out 4, walking one and giving up no earned runs.

Major Moss took the mound in the top of the third and continued where DeVries left off striking out 2 and giving up 2 walks and no earned runs as he completed his stretch in the top of the fourth.

Brody Graper took the mound in the top of the fifth and shut out the opposing tribe giving up only one hit while striking out one and forcing three outs from the field.

The Indians bats were hot and they started hitting early taking the lead 1-0 at the end of the first inning and never looking back finding their stride in the bottom of the second when they scored 7 more runs on 6 hits and 2 stolen bases.

The tribe scored again in the third and finished off their scoring run in the bottom of the fifth for the win.

Kobe Denton had the winning hit as he approached the plated hit in the bottom of the fifth with the bases loaded and



Towns County vs Lumpkin County. Photos by Lowell Nicholson

found the gap in center field to push the winning RBI across the plate. He had a strong game at the plate going 4/4 with 3 RBI's.

Jackson Taylor had a good game going 3/4 with 2 RBI's while DeVries was strong with 2 hits in 4 attempts with 2 RBI's. Graper had another good game at the plate going 3/4 with an RBI and Zac Davenport hit well going 2/4 with an RBI.

Head Coach Kyle Langford was able to play some of next year's stars and they were also very impressive adding 4

hits and 2 runs to aid in giving the TCMS tribe the victory.

It was a great game for the local boys and the win was big for the whole team.

The team will be on the high school field again on Mar. 21st to challenge White County in what promises to be another hard fought battle for the Indians as they try to increase their seasons' winning record.

Game time is 4:30 p.m. so make plans now to come out and support the Towns County Middle School baseball team and watch some exciting home-grown baseball.

Towns County tennis splits at Gilmer

By Joe Collins
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Ellijay - The Towns County High School tennis teams traveled to Gilmer County High School last Tuesday to challenge the Bobcats varsity girls and boys teams.

It was another split decision as the Lady Indians came away with the overall victory and the guys' came up short overall in both the singles and double matches.

Junior Eryn Cochran got things started on the right path for the ladies winning her singles match 6-2 and 6-1 as she played very well.

Senior Kayla Olin took her singles match to the limit winning in three games 6-1, 2-6 and 6-2 with senior Mackenzie Mirandi following suit winning her singles match in just two games 6-1 and 6-3.

In the doubles bracket, the Indians split 1-1 with the Lady Bobcats as junior Allison Page and sophomore Carly Gilfilian lost a close struggle 4-6 and 2-6 that saw the teammates play well together but loose in the end.

On the positive side, junior Courtney Marshall and junior Lesleigh Irvin won by tie breaker. They won their first game 6-0 but ended the second game 6-6 eventually winning 7-4 in a tough second game finish for the win helping give the Lady Indians the victory 4-1.

The boys struggled again and ended up losing 3-0 overall to a good Bobcat varsity boy's team.

Junior Cody Canterbury opened the show on the singles side but lost 0-6 and 1-6 with junior Jaryd Gurley also coming up short in his singles match



Towns County High School tennis. Photos by Lowell Nicholson

0-6 and 0-6. Seniors Tyler Hoffman and Bradley Smith played the only doubles match for the boy's varsity and found themselves in a close match but lost in the end 4-6 and 4-6.

Cochran got the nod for Player of the Week.

"She exhibits overall good attitude and plays with a strong desire to win. As far as the teams are concerned, I am very pleased with how the ladies are progressing and I am excited about how things are shaping up for the Area tournament in April. I feel like we can

be very competitive the way the girls are improving.

"The boys are also continuing to improve and we will be working hard on their serves and volleys in practice this next week to prepare for next week," said Head Coach Heather Moss on how her teams are doing.

The tennis teams' next scheduled match is on Tuesday, Mar. 26 at Tallulah Falls. First serve is at 4 p.m. so make plans now to attend and support our Towns County tennis teams.