

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Indians' pitching suffers from lack of run support in loss to Prince

Prince Avenue takes two in Hiawasse with 11-3 victory second game of twin bill

By Todd Forrest
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The Indians have been on the wrong-end of three-consecutive 2-1 scores after falling in another pitching duel during the first game of a doubleheader with Prince Avenue Christian Academy. Towns would out-hit the Wolverines by a 6-to-3 margin while receiving another sterling pitching performance from junior Will DeVries.

The doubleheader marked the Indians' first home game in 13 days, however, the second game was all Prince Avenue by a score of 11-3.

In game one, the Wolverines scored a run in the third and one in the fifth but the Towns rally in the sixth only manufactured one run.

DeVries went the distance for the second-straight game, racking up 11 strikeouts while allowing three hits, two walks, and one earned run. At the plate, the junior went 2-for-3 with an RBI-double.

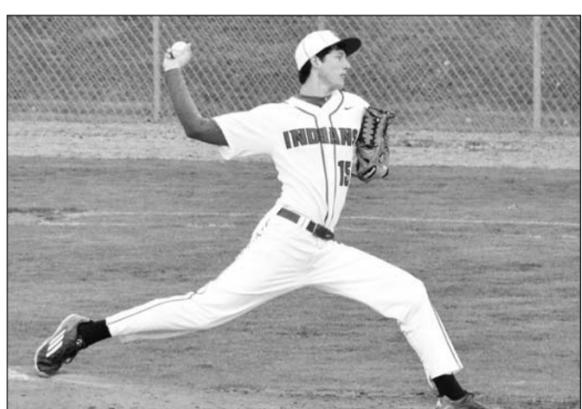
Sophomore Dalton Key also recorded two hits while junior Kobe Denton and sophomore Zach Davenport finished with one hit each. Towns' lone run was scored by junior Major Moss.

Trailing 2-0 in the bottom half of the sixth, Denton reached with a one-out single but was forced out at second on a grounder to short by Moss. With two outs, DeVries doubled to right to score Moss but was thrown out trying to stretch a double into a triple.

In the bottom of the seventh, Davenport and Key recorded back-to-back one-out singles to put the winning run on first but Prince escaped with a pair of strikeouts to end the game.

In the third, a two-out single was followed by a wild pitch and an Indian error to put Towns in a 1-0 hole.

DeVries nearly escaped the fifth inning unscathed after a leadoff double and bunt single put runners on the corners with nobody out. An intentional walk loaded the bases, allowing a sacrifice fly to make it a 2-0 game.



Will DeVries delivers a pitch vs PACHS on Friday. In his last two outings he's pitched 13 2/3 innings, allowing just one earned run, 6 hits, three walks, while striking out 16. Unfortunately, he was on the losing end of a 2-1 score in both games. Photo/Todd Forrest



Major Moss just misses a homer in game one vs PACHS when the wind catches his deep fly ball to left. Photo/Todd Forrest



Sophomore Zach Davenport singled with one out in the seventh inning of the first game of the PACHS doubleheader but was left stranded at second base- 180 feet from sending the game into extra innings. Photo/Todd Forrest



Junior catcher Jackson Taylor pursues an PACHS bunt attempt during game one of Friday's doubleheader. Photo/Todd Forrest



Sophomore Dalton Key with the first of his two base hits in game one. This one came in the fifth inning. Photo/Todd Forrest



Dillon Roberts steps up to the plate vs PACHS. Photo/Todd Forrest

The Wolverines had a leadoff double negated in the fourth after it was discovered that they batted out of order.

In the second game, Prince took a 9-0 advantage before the Indians got three in the fifth but the visitors tacked on a run in the sixth and seventh innings.

Junior Jackson Taylor drove in two during a 2-for-3 game that included a double. DeVries walked twice, scored, and stole a base. Curtis Swanson went 1-for-3 with a run, and Trent Bradshaw scored a run. Davenport finished with two stolen bases.

Junior Adam Barrett got the start on the mound and fired 4 1/3 innings - allowing three earned runs. Swanson surrendered one earned run in 2 2/3 innings.

The Indians receive an-

other week-long break before traveling to Athens Christian on Friday for a doubleheader beginning at 5 p.m.

Towns has three-of-four at home next week with Athens Academy on Apr. 19th and a twin bill with Commerce on Apr. 22nd.

The Indians lone road contest will be at Athens Academy on Apr. 21st.

The Spartans are currently in a three-way tie for fifth in Region 8-A with a record of 4-7 and 8-9 overall.

One of those teams tied with Athens Academy is Commerce, who is 4-7 in region-play and 11-8 overall.

Towns is currently 22nd

in the latest Power Ratings on the Georgia High School Association's website (www.ghsa.net).

Despite their 4-14 record, the Indians' difficult schedule has them ranked ahead of teams that have a winning record.

Towns' power rating is 5.85, while No. 21 Terrell County's ranking is 6.24.

Telfair County currently resides in 16th place with a power rating of 7.33. Region 8-A foe Commerce is 13th with a rating of 7.71 - which would allow the Indians to gain some serious ground with a sweep of the Tigers in Friday's doubleheader.

Towns could also help its cause with wins over Athens Academy, who is 22nd in the Private School Power Rankings with a rating of 7.19.

The Indians have ben-

efited from playing a brutal region schedule and not scheduling any cupcakes on their non-region slate.

The 2016 baseball schedule has included the No. 1 private school in Class A, Hebron Christian Academy, who only defeated Towns 10-7 in the teams' first meeting, despite the Indians committing six errors.

Entering the sixth inning, Towns trailed 5-4 before falling by three runs. Both teams finished with 8 hits with DeVries going 3-for-4, including 3 RBIs, 2 runs, and a double.

On the mound, DeVries worked around his team's defensive woes to scatter 6 hits over 5 1/3 innings and yielding 3 earned runs.

The Indians faced Class A's No. 5 private school, George Walton Academy. Class A Private's No. 9 team Prince

Avenue, and Class A Private's No. 15 team, Mt. Vernon.

Towns lost a pair of close games to Lumpkin County, who is currently tied for third in Region 7-AAA.

They split a doubleheader at the first place team in Region 8-AA, Union County, who is two wins away from clinching back-to-back Region titles.

The Indians also split with Bryan County, who is tied for third in Region 2-AA.

Towns also challenged Fannin County, an 8-11 team from Class AAA, who owns wins over Lumpkin County and West Hall - the two teams tied for third and directly ahead of the Rebels in the 7-AAA standings.

The Indians also weren't afraid to challenge Pickens County, the third place team from 7-AAAA.

Class A Public Baseball Power Ratings				
Rank	School	Region	Record	Ranking
1	Schley County	4-A	16-2	11.02
2	Treutlen	3-A	14-4	10.93
3	Trion	6-A	11-3	10.45
4	Charlton County	2-A	14-2	10.44
5	Irwin County	2-A	12-3	9.47
6	Baconton	1-A	12-3	9.18
7	Johnson County	3-A	14-4	8.54
8	Emanuel Co Institute	3-A	9-8	8.53
9	Lanier County	2-A	8-5	8.18
10	Taylor County	4-A	15-3	8.17
11	Clinch County	2-A	9-5	8.14
12	Glacocks County	7-A	9-8	8.00
13	Commerce	8-A	9-8	7.71
14	Claxton	3-A	7-7	7.48
15	Miller County	1-A	10-6	7.35
16	Telfair County	2-A	9-6	7.33
17	Ga Military College	7-A	9-6	7.24
18	Hawkinsville	4-A	10-7	7.10
19	Portal	3-A	6-8	6.76
20	Marion County	4-A	8-7	6.62
21	Terrell County	1-A	6-5	6.24
22	Towns County	8-A	4-14	5.85
23	Wheeler County	3-A	5-11	5.81
24	Atkinson County	2-A	5-11	5.79
25	Pataula Charter	1-A	8-7	5.62
26	Lincoln County	7-A	4-12	5.42
27	Mt. Zion, Carroll	6-A	7-12	5.28
28	Echols County	2-A	7-8	5.24
29	Jenkins County	3-A	5-12	5.16
30	Turner County	2-A	4-13	4.37
31	Webster County	1-A	1-11	4.33
32	Wilkinson County	7-A	3-9	4.26
33	Randolph-Clay	1-A	5-8	4.10
34	Dooly County	4-A	0-8	3.88
35	Greenville	4-A	3-4	3.71
36	Montgomery County	3-A	1-14	3.69
37	Stewart County	1-A	4-6	3.67
38	Fulton Leadership	5-A	1-10	3.61
39	Wilcox County	2-A	0-13	3.21
40	Mitchell County	1-A	2-7	2.96
41	Drew Charter School	5-A	0-7	2.71
42	Baker County	1-A	0-2	1.67
42	Calhoun County	1-A	0-7	1.67
44	Quitman County	1-A	0-1	1.33
45	Central, Talbotton	4-A	0-3	1.00
45	Hancock Central	7-A	0-6	1.00

Relay for Life Glow Run 5K Race/Walk



Where: Brasstown Valley Golf Course Young Harris, Georgia When: May 21st at 8:30 PM. Registration will begin at 7:30 PM. Register at active.com. T-shirt size guaranteed if you register before May 11th. \$30 per person in-

cludes a t-shirt. After the race, there will be a party at Brassties Grill. Each runner will receive a voucher for 1 free drink available only on the evening of May 21st. Parking will be available at Equani Spa and adjacent parking areas.

E-mail: townscountyrelayforlife@gmail.com for additional information and/or a registration form.

Questions: contact Martha Cunningham at 706-896-5916 or Cameron Lopez at 706-768-1357. (Apr 13, 2016)

NASCAR 2016

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

Kyle Busch and Team Are Hot

Ft. Worth, TX -- Kyle Busch became the second driver since Harry Gant in 1991 to sweep two national series races in back-to-back weekends.

Two weeks ago he won both the NASCAR Truck Series and Sprint Cup races at Martinsville. Last weekend at Texas Motor Speedway, he swept the Xfinity and Sprint Cup races.

While he might not have had the fastest car in the Texas Cup race, leading only 34 laps of the 334-lap race, he had fresher tires than the other leaders at the end. His margin of victory over the second-place finisher Dale Earnhardt Jr. was 3.90-seconds.

"You've got to have all the pieces of the puzzle put together, but I think more importantly we've got good cars, but the crew chiefs are just doing a really good job right now," said Busch. "I think, just being able to apply all the things that we've learned over the past couple of years is what makes the difference. We knew we were behind, and when we were struggling a couple years ago we were working in all areas of the race car trying to make it better, and when those guys caught up, man, it was easy. It was easy for us to gain speed because that's a huge proponent of what we do each and every weekend, which is all about the engine."

Busch started in the middle of the field and got banged into by Jimmie Johnson early in the race during a pit stop.

"With getting hit by Jimmie on pit road, that was no big deal," continued Busch. "I'm just glad it didn't cause any serious damage to either of our cars. It was just kind of a freak deal with the way Harvick came out of his pits. I just had to check up in order to not run into the back of him, and I really didn't have anywhere to go because somebody was coming on my right side, and Jimmie just hit me in the rear."

Dale Earnhardt Jr. started the race 16th, but quickly began to work his way through the field.

By Lap 101, he had moved into second. He raced in the top-three until the next pit stop, remaining in the top five and in the race for the victory despite a small fire in his stall as he was exiting pit lane.

"Well, we had a great car, said Earnhardt. "We didn't really know we had that good a car, but



Kyle Busch wins at Texas

when the race started, we were real tight. We made some good adjustments to get the car handling well, and then really controlled the balance of the car the rest of the night with the track bar. We had about a second or third-place car.

"We got lucky at the end to be able to restart on the inside. The outside was kind of difficult, and we restarted fifth and were able to get up to third and raced the 22 (Joey Logano) at the end. It was fun. I enjoyed driving the car tonight. The car was very loose and very challenging but a lot of fun for me. Obviously our car was good, so passing guys with the '16 setup was pretty cool. I'd have never got by Joey, so it was fun to have an opportunity to sort of set somebody up and get by him there at the end, and that's due to the direction we went this year with the low down-force. Pretty cool."

Joey Logano was third, while Jimmie Johnson was fourth, and rookie Chase Elliott rounded out the top-five.

Perhaps the most disappointed driver of the race was Martin Truex, who came in sixth. A strategy call turned out to be the wrong one for his team.

Truex led a race-high 141 laps. However, things went sour late in the race when crew chief Cole Pearn decided to stay out under caution while most of the leaders came to pit road for fresh tires. On what turned out to be the last restart of the night, the call proved devastating for Truex Jr. who could not fight off eventual race winner Kyle Busch who did pit for fresh rubber.

Pole-sitter Carl Edwards led 124 laps, but a loose wheel on a Lap 222 restart forced the No. 19 Joe Gibbs Racing driver to pit under green, putting him a lap down. However, Edwards was able to battle back for a seventh-place finish. The remaining top-10 were:

8. Kasey Kahne, 9. Kurt Busch, 10. Kevin Harvick.

Top-10 leaders after 7 of 36: 1. Kyle Busch-259, 2. Johnson-258, 3. Harvick-252, 4. Edwards-251, 5. Logano-234, 6. Earnhardt-211, 7. Kurt Busch-208, 8. Hamlin-201, 9. Keselowski-201, 10. A. Dillon-198.

KYLE BUSCH CRUISES TO XFINITY WIN

Joe Gibbs Racing teams finished 1-2 as Kyle Busch easily out-classed the field for his 80th career Xfinity win, while teammate Erik Jones was runner up.

Busch started on the pole, led four times for 150 laps of the 200-lap race, and finished over three-seconds ahead of Jones.

"We've had some really good runs here over the years, and we've been really fast," said Busch. "We got our money's worth out of it and (crew chief Chris) Gayle got his money's worth out of it, too, on the pit box today. We had to make some adjustments to it and fine-tune on it to make it better and better."

The remaining top-10: 3. Brad Keselowski, 4. Chase Elliott, 5. Dale Earnhardt Jr., 6. Justin Allgaier, 7. Elliott Sadler, 8. Austin Dillon, 9. Brandon Jones, 10. Ryan Sieg.

Top-10 leaders after 6 of 33: 1. Suarez-207, 2. Sadler-206, 3. Allgaier-198, 4. B. Jones-193, 5. E. Jones-192, 6. T. Dillon-187, 7. Gaughan-187, 8. Wallace Jr.-160, 9. Reed-160, 10. Poole-152.

STEWART STILL UNSURE OF RETURN

Brian Vickers start in Saturday night's Sprint Cup race at Texas was his third consecutive race for the injured Tony Stewart.

Stewart said he feels good but needs to wait for a scan on his broken back later this month to determine when he will return to the driver's seat. The three-time Sprint Cup champion, speaking Thursday, said some days it has been hard and some days it has been easy not racing this year while his back heals.

"I don't [know my return] -- not until they do the next set of scans," Stewart said. "The first

thing they did were X-rays [in early March] just to make sure the rods and screws were in place. When we do the scans at the end of the month, then they'll be able to have an idea exactly when it's going to happen."

Stewart suffered a burst fracture of his L1 vertebra in a Jan. 31 dune buggy accident. He was going 5 mph but landed hard in a drop he estimated was 20 to 25 feet in the California sand dunes.

"I feel great," Stewart continued. "I've been doing everything now over the last week that I've wanted to do. If you step off a curb wrong or step too hard, you're definitely reminded you have these rods in your back."

"Other than that, I feel really well. I'm anxious to get the scans. It's driving me crazy wanting to see what it looks like and what is the diagnosis and when they think they're going to let me go."

"Then (doctors) will be able to have an idea of when exactly it's going to happen. The hard part is just waiting until we get scanned."

Until then, Stewart will continue in his role as co-owner of Stewart-Haas Racing while Brian Vickers and Ty Dillon share the role as the replacement driver in Stewart's No. 14 Chevrolet.

Weekend Racing: The Cup and Xfinity teams are at Bristol Motor Speedway, another short track known for close exciting racing.

Sat., Apr. 16; Xfinity Series race 7 of 33; Starting time: 12:30 p.m. ET; TV: Foxsports1.

Sun., Apr. 17; Sprint Cup Series race 8 of 36; Starting time: 1 p.m. ET; TV: Foxsports1.

Racing Trivia Question: What is the maximum number of cars that NASCAR allows to start a Sprint Cup race?

Last Week's Question: Which driver has the most Cup wins at Texas? Answer: Jimmie Johnson leads all drivers with six. Carl Edwards is second with three wins.

You may contact the Racing Reporter by e-mail at: hodges@race500.com.

Towns County High School Baseball Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser
Towns County Recreation Facility, 150 Foster Park Road, Young Harris. \$10 includes salad, bread and dessert. The sauce will be homemade! Join us on Saturday, April 16, 2016 from 5 - 7 PM. Dine in or take out.