

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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State first round: Lady Indians visit Paideia on Friday

Towns edges Providence Christian, regular season concludes with four-game winning streak

By Todd Forrest
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First year head coach John Cornett has the Lady Indians soccer team in the State playoffs.

Towns County closed the regular season with four straight wins to help earn them the third and final playoff spot from Area 8.

Two weeks ago, the Lady Indians (9-3, 5-3) handed the Area 8 No. 1 Lakeview Lady Lions their first Region 8-A loss of the season and last week, they avenged an early season loss at Providence Christian with a 2-1 victory at Frank McClure Stadium.

Trailing 1-0 at the half, sophomore Brooke Barrett found the back of the net to knot the score.

With 15 minutes remaining, Barrett found freshman Taylor Cornett on a corner kick and the freshman used a header to score the game-winning goal and send her team to the State Tournament.

On Friday, Towns will travel to metro-Atlanta to face the Paideia Lady Pythons, the No. 2 seed from Area 5, who sports an 11-7 record.

After opening the season with one win in its first five games, Paideia won 10-of-its-next 11 games before falling 2-0 to Lakeside, a powerhouse Class AAAAAA school in a non-region contest.

The Lady Indians and Lady Pythons don't share a common opponent but George Walton Academy did play Mt. Vernon, who faced off with Paideia.

George Walton lost twice to Towns by a score of 7-1 in both games. Mt. Vernon defeated George Walton by a score of 8-0 and Mt. Vernon lost to Paideia 3-0.

"It's hard to find anyone who can link us to them (Paideia) but just know they are going to be a very good team," Coach Cornett said. "They have one particular player who



is a standout and we're really going to have to focus on shutting her down."

As for his Lady Indians squad, they are playing as well as anyone in the State right now, coming off wins over Lakeview and Providence.

"The girls weren't happy with just having a good record," Coach Cornett said. "They really wanted to make the playoffs, and I don't think they're going to be happy by going down there and just showing up on Friday. They want to come back with a W."

"They realize how good we can be and the potential that we have to be as good as anyone in the State."

The Lady Indians are making their first State appearance since 2014 when they lost in the opening round to eventual-State Champion Pace Academy.

The year before, Towns lost in the opening round to Fellowship Christian, who lost in the State title game.

GHSAA Girls State Soccer Tournament 2015-2016 - Class A Girls

Location Various Cities, GA



Towns County honored its senior soccer players last week. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



Towns County soccer photos by Lowell Nicholson

Indians split with Athens Academy; bad luck rears its ugly head on Friday

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Last week was the final week of the Indians baseball season with four games slated and Towns County got off on the right foot with a 3-2 victory over Athens Academy before dropping three-straight to put the wraps on 2016.

On Friday, the Indians were scheduled to host Commerce for Senior Night but heavy rains all day long left the TCHS baseball field unusable.

With Young Harris College unavailable and Commerce contending for a spot in this week's State Tournament, the games couldn't be postponed, so Towns was forced to play its final home games of the season on the road.

At Commerce, the Indians would drop the first contest 5-1 and lost the second one 8-3.

In the win over Athens Academy, sophomore Zach Davenport and junior Will DeVries combined for seven innings on the mound, striking out six, allowing two runs, one earned, and five hits.

Davenport got the start and recorded the win in three innings. DeVries pitched the final four innings for the save.

Despite just two hits by the Towns County lineup, the Indians scored one in the first and two in the second.

The two hits belonged to junior Major Moss and DeVries, while junior Kobe Denton, senior Curtis Swanson, and DeVries scored one run each.

DeVries tripled to right field with one-out in the bottom of the first and later scored on a passed ball.

In the second, Swanson drew a one-out walk and advanced to second on a passed ball. He scored on an error off the bat of Denton.

Moss followed with a bunt that forced an errant throw, allowing Denton to score and spot Towns County a 3-0 advantage.

The Spartans got a run back in the fourth and another in the sixth to trim the Indians' lead to 3-2, however, DeVries sat Athens Academy down 1-2-3 in the seventh inning to preserve the win.

In the rematch at Athens Academy, the Spartans pushed across a run in the eighth inning to steal the extra inning affair after Towns scored two in the sixth to knot the score at 5-5.

Moss and DeVries each posted a two-hit game for the Indians while junior Adam Barrett got the start on the mound and went 4 innings before handing the ball to sophomore Dalton Key for the final 3 1/3 innings.

The Indians took an early 2-0 lead after hits by Moss and DeVries to open the game. The two would later score on RBI ground outs by Barrett and Dil-

lon Roberts.

After the Spartans tied things up 2-2, Denton singled and scored on a DeVries sacrifice fly to give Towns a 3-2 advantage in the second inning.

Athens Academy followed with one run in the third and two in the fourth for a 5-3 lead but the Indians answered in the sixth.

Barrett and Davenport walked and a base hit by Isaiah Shook scored Barrett. On the first pitch to the ensuing batter Denton, Towns used a double steal to tie the game when Davenport successfully stole home on Shook's steal of second.

A bases loaded walk allowed Athens Academy to score the game-winner in the eighth.

During the 5-1 loss at Commerce, Moss went 1-for-3 with an RBI, junior Jackson Taylor finished 1-for-4, and Roberts was 1-of-3. Andy Chambers scored the lone Indians' run.

Swanson pitched seven innings of five-hit ball while allowing four earned runs.

In the 8-3 loss, the pitching of Shook, Trent Bradshaw, and Seth Fullerton scattered nine hits over six innings.

Roberts was 2-for-3 with a run, Davenport went 1-for-2 with a run, DeVries doubled, Brody Graper drove in a run, Shook scored, and Taylor singled and walked.

Up 4-3, Commerce scored one in the fourth and three in the fifth to pull away.



Don't let the Indians win-loss record fool you, Coach Shannon Floyd and his young Towns County baseball program are on the rise. The Indians suffered from playing a brutal region schedule and a tough non-region schedule that included wins over two Class AA State Tournament teams, one being a back-to-back Region Champ. Difficult region or not, the Indians were competitive with everyone in 8-A and next year, with nearly the entire team returning, Towns could make its own run at a region title and a trip to the State Tourney, where anything can happen. Photo/Lowell Nicholson