

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Indians stumble late, seasons ends in loss at Turner County

By Shelly Knight
Staff Writer
Towns County Herald

Ashburn - The Towns County Boys Basketball finished out an exciting season last Tuesday, Feb. 18th when they took on Turner County and lost, 63-52.

The Indians raced out to a 12-2 lead before Turner narrowed the gap to 15-11 after a quarter. Turner County started to heat up in the second frame, hitting four 3-pointers, pushing ahead 31-20.

Towns County closed to within single digits, 31-23, at the break, then continued chipping away in the third.

The Indians got within 31-27 in the opening minutes of the third period and trailed 41-36 entering the fourth.

Towns County quickly tied things up at 44-44 early in the final frame, then grabbed its only lead of the second half at 50-48 with under three minutes left.

But Turner County rattled off 14 straight to take a 62-50 advantage at the 43-second mark.

"We were able to come back and take a 2-point lead late in the fourth quarter and the



Freshman Tucker Engert was selected to the 8-A All-Region Team. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

game remained close until the very end," said Coach Brian Hunnicutt. "Turner County was able to make all of their free throws down the stretch to end up winning by 11.

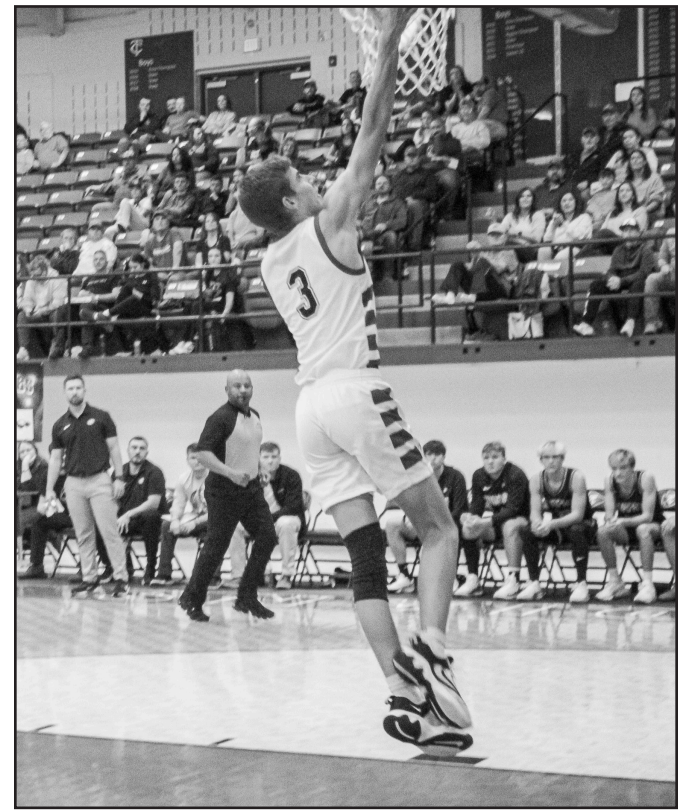
"Our boys never quit. Tucker Engert led the scoring with 15 points, Dustin Barrett

scored 11 and Cruz Kitchens scored 8. The game was so much closer than the score indicated.

"I'm so proud of the boys' efforts. We were fighting a little bit of sickness and some injuries, but the boys never used it as an excuse and

continued to fight throughout the game. They showed a lot of heart.

"We were very thankful to have had John Durham and Connor Williams, our two seniors this year. They have done a phenomenal job of carrying the torch and keeping this team



Jonas Rouse earned 8-A Offensive honors in the state playoffs. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

"We return everyone else and look forward to next season where we hope to make it back to the state tournament.

"Tucker Engert, a freshman, made first team all-re-

gion. Cruz Kitchens made the all region defensive team. And Jonas made the all region offensive team. I am so very, very proud of all of the boys and it's been an honor coaching them," said Hunnicutt.

Indians baseball season gets underway vs Union, Rabun and Lumpkin

By Shelly Knight
Staff Writer
Towns County Herald

Beloved Coach Shannon Floyd is at it again, schooling the Towns County Indians towards another playoff run.

Floyd is a Towns County alumni and has been coaching for over 20 years and he knows what it takes to build a winning team.

"So far if we just look at wins and losses and results, our scores have not been real favorable," said Floyd. "We are 0-4. We played three really good baseball teams, one of them for a double header. We faced a lot of really good pitching and we just got our basketball on Thursday. So, some of our guys - Mason Pierson, Baylor Rogers, Caleb Vardo, Jonas Rouse, Sam Sarafin - haven't even gotten out to practice with us yet.

Towns opened with an 11-0 loss to Union County, followed by a doubleheader sweep (17-7, 11-1) at the hands of Rabun County.

In their most recent outing, the Indians dropped an 10-0 contest to Lumpkin County.

"The guys just need to see and hit some ground balls, fly balls, we need to see live pitching and we basically have to treat these early season games like practices. We're trying to build for three weeks from now when we want to be playing our best baseball.

"The last multiple years we have been a state playoff team every year, but last year I graduated nine seniors. We lost seven starters last year so needless to say, we are inexperienced this year compared to what we have been in years past.

"We do have a good group of juniors but most of them have not seen any varsity experience because we were so deep last year. We have a couple of sophomores and a big group of freshmen. We're relatively young and inexperienced.

"We know that there are going to be some growing pains early. Our schedule was really tough to start the season. We're playing a lot of bigger

schools and they're putting their best aces out there. Our results haven't been great if we're looking for wins and losses, but we're seeing some progress. The young guys are just having to learn on the fly.

"But I do believe that as we keep working our expectation is to go back to state this year. We'll keep progressing forward until we start facing region teams with schools that are more like ours relative to size. We have 15 healthy bodies in the program right now, but we do still have some guys recovering from injuries from other sports. A little bit of adversity, but that helps build character. So, someone else has to step up and be prepared to contribute.

"We fully expect to go back to state again this year. We like our chances. Someone might look at our scores in the first four games - I mean we've been beaten handily but people need to see that we're playing much bigger schools. But that better prepares us to play teams more like us. We're gonna get better."



Braydon Barrett deals during a recent game. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



Towns County Baseball 2025

Day	Date	Team	Place	Time
Mon	2/10	Union County	Home	5:30
Thurs	2/13	Rabun County	Away	5:30
Mon	2/17	Rabun County	Home	5:30
Fri	2/21	Lumpkin County	Away	5:30
Mon	2/24	Union County	Away	5:30
Wed	2/26	Greene County	DH	Away 4:00- 6:00
Tue	3/4	Hayesville, NC	Home	5:30
Thurs	3/6	Hiwassee Dam, NC	Home	5:00
Sat	3/8	Burke County	DH	Home 12:00 / 2:00
Mon	3/10	Andrews, NC	Home	5:30
Wed	3/12	Hayesville, NC	Away	4:30
Thurs	3/13	Murphy, NC	Home	5:30
Tue	3/18	Washington-Wilkes *	Home	5:30
Fri	3/21	Washington-Wilkes *	DH	Away 5:00 / 7:00
Tue	3/25	Lincoln County*	Away	5:30
Fri	3/28	Lincoln County*	DH	Home 5:00 / 7:00
Tue	4/1	Lake Oconee Academy*	Home	5:30
Fri	4/4	Lake Oconee Academy*	DH	Away 5:00 / 7:00
Mon	4/7	Murphy, NC	Away	5:30
Wed	4/9	Gilmer County	Home	5:30
Mon	4/14	Hiwassee Dam, NC	Away	4:00
Thurs	4/17	Andrews, NC	Away	4:00



First baseman Tripp Shirley vs. Union County on Feb. 10. Photo/Lowell Nicholson