

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Baseball: Bats come to life as Indians win four of five

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The Indians (5-6) cut a warpath through the Tarheel State, taking down Robbinsville, Hayesville and Hiwassee Dam by a combined score of 41-4 last week.

Over the weekend, Towns County split a doubleheader with Burke County.

Indians 17, Robbinsville, NC 3 (five innings) - Towns County scored 8 runs in the first inning during a Monday, March 3 trip to Robbinsville, North Carolina.

The Indians added a run in the second and third innings and got two in the fourth to mount a 12-2 lead. Robbinsville got one in the bottom half before Towns tacked on five more in the fifth.

Sam Sarafin homered (grand slam), drove in five runs and scored twice during a 2-for-4 game. Morgan Walker went 2 for 3 with two runs, an RBI and a stolen base; Eli McNabb finished 2 for 3 with 4 RBIs, a double and two runs; Tyler Rawdon doubled twice, scored and knocked in one during a 2-for-3 day at the plate.

Jonas Rouse tossed 3 innings of no-hit baseball, allowing one earned run, striking out three and walking two. Baylor Rogers went 2 innings, allowing four hits, an unearned run and a walk while fanning four.

Tripp Shirley stole two bags and scored three times while getting plunked in three of his four plate appearances.



Caleb Vardo (4) is mobbed by teammates following his two-run homer vs. Hayesville, NC on Tuesday March 5. Photo/Todd Forrest

Braydon Baldwin also scored three times and drove in one during a 1-for-2 game; Caleb Vardo walked twice and plated one run while going 1 for 1 with a double; Oliver Sarafin went 1 for 4 with a walk; Mason Pierson finished 1 for 3 with an RBI, a run and a stolen base; Braydon Barrett walked and scored.

Indians 4, Hayesville, NC 1 - The Indians hosted the neighboring Yellow Jackets on

Tuesday, March 5 and came away with a 4-1 victory after building a 4-0 lead through two.

Vardo homered during a 1-for-2 day that included two walks and a pair of RBIs.

On the bump, Oliver Sarafin punched out eight and allowed one run over 5 innings of three-hit baseball. He also went 1 for 2 with an RBI to help his cause.

Baldwin fanned three

and yielded one hit in 2 innings. At the plate, he went 1 for 2 with two runs, two walks and a stolen base.

After Oliver Sarafin stranded two Yellow Jackets in the top half of the first, Baldwin singled and Vardo homered to right, spotting Towns a 2-0 lead.

Again, Hayesville left two aboard in the second and the Indians punched across two more courtesy of three walks and base hits from Shirley and Oliver Sarafin.

Hayesville finally got on the board in the fifth via a walk, a single and a wild pitch. Down 4-1, the Yellow Jackets put two aboard in both the sixth and seventh innings but failed to cut into the Towns County lead.

Shirley walked and drove in one during his 1-for-3 day; Sam Sarafin went 1 for 4 with a stolen base; Pierson finished 1 for 4; McNabb walked twice and scored; Rawdon reached on a walk.

Indians 20, Hiwassee Dam, NC 0 (three innings) - Towns County throttled the Eagles to the tune of a 14-run first and a six-run second at Larry Kimsey Field on Thursday, March 6.

Shirley doubled and drove in three during a 2-for-2 day that included a stolen base.

Alfonso Giampola struck out five Eagles during three innings of no-hit baseball.

Baldwin doubled and knocked in two while going 2 for 3; Vardo walked three times, scored and drove in one while finishing 1 for 1; Rouse scored three times, walked and knocked in a run; Oliver Sarafin went 1 for 2 with a run, an RBI and a stolen base.

Pierson finished 2 for 2 with two runs; Barrett drove in two and scored twice while going 1 for 2 with a steal; Rawdon went 1 for 3 with an RBI and one run; Rogers had an RBI, a run and a walk during his 1-for-1 game.

Bryson Blevins walked and scored; Walker scored twice and drove in a run; Tucker Wheeler went 1 for 1 with an RBI; McNabb scored once and knocked in another run; Giampola was hit by a pitch and scored.

Indians 14, Burke County 4 (six innings) - Shirley went 4 for 4 with a double and 2 RBIs and Towns County ended the game early via a six-run sixth.

The Indians scored five in the first, one in the second and two in the third for an 8-2 lead. Burke got two in the fifth but Towns put the game away with a six-spot an inning later.

Barrett went 4 innings, allowing four hits, four runs and striking out three.

Giampola struck out one and gave up a hit over 2 innings of work.

Vardo went 2 for 4 with 2 RBIs; Oliver Sarafin scored three times and knocked in one during a 1-for-3 game; Pierson went 1 for 4 with two runs and an RBI; Sam Sarafin and Baldwin each scored once and plated another runner.

McNabb and Giampola added a run.

Indians 2, Burke County 4 - Tied at 1-1, Burke got three in the fifth and then Towns settled for one in the sixth.

A leadoff walk, followed by three singles and a double during the Burke County fifth dropped Towns into a 4-1 hole.

The Indians loaded the bases in the bottom half but failed to push across a run. In the sixth, Baldwin walked and scored on Oliver Sarafin's one-out double, but a costly out on the basepaths ended the threat.

Walker went 2 for 4 with two steals and Giampola added a run. Oliver Sarafin ended his day 1 for 3 with an RBI.

Rouse added two stolen bases for the Indians.

Baldwin worked 4 innings on the bump, allowing two hits and two earned runs while fanning six.

Shirley tossed 3 innings, recording three strikeouts and allowing five hits and a run.

Towns County travels to Hayesville on Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. and then hosts Murphy, NC on Thursday at 5 p.m.



Jonas Rouse swiped two bags vs. Burke County on Saturday. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



Tripp Shirley went 4 for 4 with 2 RBIs during the win over Burke County. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



Braydon Barrett deals during Towns County's win over Burke County during game one of Saturday's doubleheader. Photo/TCHS