

# Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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## Baseball: Towns County wins two of three, improves to 7-7

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The Indians took two of three last week, blowing out Andrews, NC and Murphy, NC, sandwiched around a 15-6 loss at Hayesville, NC.

Towns County opens region play this week, hosting Washington-Wilkes on Tuesday, March 18, followed by a Friday doubleheader at Wilkes. The action gets underway at 5 p.m. both days.

**Indians 17, Andrews, NC 3 (five innings)** - The Wildcats got one in the top of the first but Towns County answered with three in the bottom half before Andrews tied it up in the second on Monday, March 10. However, the Indians quickly turned the tables, scoring five in the second inning, three in the third and six in the fourth.

Tripp Shirley went 1 for 3 with three RBIs and a pair of runs; Mason Pierson finished 2 for 2 with a double, two RBIs, two stolen bases and two runs.

Alfonso Giampola recorded the win on the mound, allowing two hits and two unearned runs while striking out seven.

Jonas Rouse issued four walks in the first, allowing Andrews to grab an early lead. But Giampola limited the damage and Towns pushed ahead in the bottom half via Oliver Sarafin's sacrifice fly, an error off the bat of Shirley and Pierson's single.

A costly error let Andrews even the score in the



Alfonso Giampola picked up the win vs. Andrews, NC on Monday, March 10. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

second, but a Wildcats' error and Pierson's two-run double had Towns back in front 6-3. The Indians added two more in the bottom half courtesy of a passed ball and a balk.

Braydon Baldwin and Shirley extended the Indians' lead to 11-3 in the third, and then, in the fourth, RBIs by Sam Sarafin, Baldwin, Caleb Vardo, Oliver Sarafin and Baylor Rogers blew things open at 17-3.

Baldwin finished 1 for 2 with a double, three runs, two RBIs, two walks and two steals. Vardo doubled and walked twice during a 1-for-1 day that included two RBIs and a pair of stolen bases.

Sam Sarafin finished 2 for 3 with two runs and an RBI; Oliver Sarafin went 1 for 3 with a run, three steals and two RBIs; Morgan Walker was 1 for 3 with a run; Giampola scored a run during his 1 for 4

day; Eli McNabb walked and scored; Tyler Rawdon scored four times and stole three bags.

Sam Sarafin struck out two in one inning on the mound. Rouse allowed one run and four walks.

**Indians 11, Murphy, NC 0 (five innings)** - The Indians got 11 runs in the first three innings and limited the Bulldogs to one hit over five.

Baldwin fanned six and allowed just three base runners over a mercy-rule-shortened five-inning outing on Thursday, March 13. He also doubled and scored during a 1-for-4 day.

Sam Sarafin went 2 for 4 with three runs, two steals and an RBI as Towns County got five in the first, four in the second and two in the third.

McNabb walked twice and drove in two during his 1-for-1 performance; Braydon



Braydon Baldwin's bat and arm led Towns County to victory vs. Murphy, NC on Thursday, March 13. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Barrett went 1 for 2 with a walk and two RBIs; Vardo recorded two walks and finished 1 for 1.

Shirley stole two bags, drew a pair of walks, drove in one and scored a run. Walker went 1 for 3 with a run and an RBI; Pierson walked and scored; Rawdon added two runs; Rouse stole two bags.

With Towns leading 3-0 in the first, McNabb's two-out, two-run double put Murphy in a 5-0 hole after an inning. The Indians added four more in the second when Vardo singled and scored to lead off the second, Walker scored on a passed ball and Braydon Barrett laced a two-run single to center.

Towns County took advantage of a Bulldogs error in the third, growing the lead to 11-0.

**Indians 6, Hayesville 15, NC** - Towns County

couldn't overcome the Yellow Jackets' seven-run first inning during the Wednesday, March 12 road trip.

The Indians answered with four in the second, but Hayesville scored in every inning to keep the visitors at bay.

Four different pitchers saw work for Towns County with Rogers, Rawdon, Walker and Pierson combining to give up eight hits, 10 earned runs and 11 walks.

Vardo went 2 for 4 with an RBI; Shirley finished 1 for 3 with a walk and two RBIs; Baldwin scored twice and knocked in one during a 1-for-3 game.

Sam Sarafin went 1 for 3; Pierson scored once during a 1-for-4 day; McNabb walked and finished 1 for 2; Barrett walked and scored; Giampola added a run.



Caleb Vardo was a tough out last week, going 5 for 8, including four walks, three RBIs, a double and two stolen bases. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

## Soccer: Indians, Lady Indians continue to roll



Cruz Kitchens during Towns County's 2-0 region win over Lincoln County. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Both Towns County squads completed a perfect week, highlighted by a Region 8-A sweep of Lincoln County in Hiwassee.

On Thursday, March 13, the Indians blanked Lincoln County 2-0 behind goals from senior Connor Williams and sophomore Caden Coggins.

Freshman Tucker Engert added an assist in the victory. Junior goalkeeper Dustin Barrett turned away 11 Red Devil shot attempts during his third clean slate of the season.

The Indians, who scored one goal in each half, finished the match with six corner kicks to Lincoln County's two.

Earlier in the week, on Monday, March 10, Towns County blasted King's Ridge Christian Academy 5-1, pulling away from a 2-0 halftime advantage.

Williams recorded a hat trick while Coggins and senior Justin Cantrell added one goal apiece.

Kitchens led the way with two assists; Engert added

another helper. Barrett stopped seven shots.

Meanwhile, the Lady Indians remained unbeaten with a 3-0 win over Lincoln County.

Both the Indians and Lady Indians hit the road for the next three outings, traveling to Crescent (Iva, SC) on Tuesday, March 18.

The teams visit Lake Oconee Academy on Friday, March 21 then wrap up the road stint on March 24 at Hayesville, NC. Towns County hosts Hart County on March 25.