

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Baseball: Indians march into April winners of 11 of last 14

By Shelly Knight
Staff Writer
Towns County Herald

The Towns County Indians took on Lincoln County last Friday, March 28 and picked up two wins in an outstanding double header.

Earlier in the week, the Indians kicked off the three-game sweep of Lincoln County with a 7-4 victory on Tuesday, March 25.

Some of the most exciting plays in game one occurred in the final innings of the series' second game. In the top of the sixth inning with the visitors batting and bases loaded, the Indians ended the threat with a 9-2 double play courtesy of a massive throw from Mason Pierson to Caleb Vardo and it was something to see.

With a final score of 10-3, the Indians looked unbeatable.

"Brayden Baldwin pitched fantastic to start game one and we had some great hits," said head coach Shannon Floyd. Mason Pierson, Sam Sarafin, Oliver Sarafin – it was a combined team win and we felt pretty comfortable," said Coach Shannon Floyd.

In the final game Towns did not take the lead until the bottom of the 4th inning by a score of 7-6. But the Red Devils answered several times.

"Then in the second game we just got behind some, but our kids battled back," said Oliver Sarafin. "But the game was back and forth, and I tip my hat to Lincoln. They fought hard. Then in the last inning – what can I say about Morgan Walker?"

"Pitching the last two innings in a situation he inherited and he did his job well. Then



Tripp Shirley homered during Tuesday's win at Lincoln County. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

we get a couple of runners on, and Oliver Sarafin delivers a two out double to score two runs and then Caleb Vardo scored from first off of the hit – it was a storybook ending," said Floyd.

On Tuesday, Towns County scored the first six runs before holding on in a 7-4 victory in Lincoln.

Oliver Sarafin struck out 10 over six innings, allowing four hits and two unearned runs.

Sam Sarafin worked an inning, allowing three hits, two runs and striking out two.

Tripp Shirley homered during a 2-for-4, 2-RBI game. Braydon Barrett went 2 for

3; Baldwin scored twice and walked during a 1-for-2 day; Sam Sarafin finished 1 for 3 with a walk, a run and one RBI.

Pierson, Oliver Sarafin, and Vardo added one single each. Sam Sarafin swiped two bags.

When discussing his coaching strategies and techniques, Floyd told his players, "In baseball you're going to fail more than you succeed. Even the greatest hitters in major league baseball fail more than they succeed.

"I teach these guys that as a human being, failure is not going to define you. Failure is not final. That's something we take from the scriptures.

When Peter gets out of the boat and begins to sink, he failed but then Jesus restored him. Baseball is about more than the game. It's about leadership

YH Baseball Stuns #7 NGU in Statement Series; Tennis & Women's Lacrosse Add to Win Column

Some big team wins across the board in YH Athletics this week! Young Harris Baseball stepped up to the plate March 21-22 with a huge series victory over the formerly ranked #7 North Greenville University. Young Harris's 12-run Game One set the tone for the series.

In Saturday's double-header, they fell short in Game Two but went off in the rubber match. In electrifying 11-inning fashion, Drew Bray's bloop to the left side dropped for the winning run. This series win is a big resume builder for the Mountain Lions, who are looking to climb in the regional rankings. Overall, YH Baseball continues their hot streak after sweeping SWU in two midweek matchups, winning five of their last six.

Another NGU defeat came on the Tennis courts, where both the Men's (4-3) and Women's (6-1) teams soundly defeated the Trailblazers on March 2. Simone Mercier, Maud Scholten, Viviana Gomez Lopez, Futaba Saito, Andreia Semeano, and Callie Stanfield swept the singles side with six straight victories for the Lady Mountain Lions. On the men's side, YH swept out the doubles matches, in addition to Mason Harmon taking his single's victory in exciting fashion with a final slate of 6(8)-7(10), 6-4, 6-4.

A Game Two offensive outburst led YH Softball into a double-header split against Lee University on Tuesday, March 25. After giving up a 4-run lead in Game One, the Mountain Lions came back with vengeance in Game Two scoring a total of 14 runs. Gracie Hughes finished with an impressive 3-5 stat line at the plate with 4 RBIs in Game Two.

Women's Lacrosse pulled out a huge midweek Conference Carolinas victory over Southern Wesleyan with a final score of 19-2 on March 26. The Mountain Lions had five different goal scorers that evening; Addison Heiser scored five goals and Ashlyn Fraley had four.

Quick reminder: YHC Athletics will have the Mountain Lion Club Inaugural



Morgan Walker slides into home during Towns County's double-header vs. Lincoln County. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

and teamwork and helping to turn these boys into fine young men.

"Next week is for the region championship. We are

guaranteed a home playoff series. We are at 12-8 and in the region we are 5-1. We're playing the juggernaut next week – that's Lake Oconee."

Indians knock off Hart, Prince Avenue

By Shelly Knight
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Towns County Herald

The Indians are at it again with a win against Class AA's No. 5 Hart County last Tuesday, March 25 with a 2-1 victory. They followed up a win against Prince Avenue Christian on March 19 with a 3-1 by defeating Hart in a nail-biting contest.

The 9th-ranked boys pushed their season record to 9-1 with their fifth home victory. Over the past five match-ups the boys have scored a combined total of 22 goals.

Dustin Barrett received the Towns County Player of the Match Award for the fifth time this season. Basically, this means his play impact on the match is excellent. Statistically he saves about 8 goals per match.

Other score leaders include Caden Coggins with an average of 1.3 goals per match, and Cruz Kitchens with 45 steals on the season. So far in the season Caden Coggins has 48 shots, Connor Williams has 37 and Tucker Engert has 33.

The Indians face off against Banks County at home on April 3 at 7:30 p.m..

Lady Indians - The top-ranked Lady Indians picked up a nice win the week of March 18 when they battled against Crescent, SC.

The girls won with a score of 4-1 after what Coach Clay Livingston called a "slow and sloppy start. I challenged the girls at halftime, and they responded nicely, controlling play and scoring three goals.

"Abby Gardella picked up all four goals for us. Our midfield, players like Chloe Sutton, Scotlyn Fain and Kya

Smith really did a great job of setting Abby up with some great scoring opportunities."

Then the team dropped one on March 21 at No. 5 Lake Oconee.

"They are a very good team, and we lost a tough game with a score of 3-0. Lake Oconee played for the state championship last year and lost without their best player. But she was back and was a handful.

"That just challenges us

to get better and learn from the loss. We have some health issues right now that we will have to work through. That is typical this time of the season as kids get banged up.

I think our depth will be put to the test for the next couple of weeks. But I feel good about some of our younger players stepping up," said Livingston.

The girls play on April 3 at home when they take on Banks County at 5:30 p.m.



The No. 1 Lady Indians ahead of last Tuesday's 3-0 win over Hart County. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Chatuge Shores Ladies Golf League Season Opens on May 6

Our official season opens Tuesday, May 6 with play beginning at 9:30, and league play dates continue through September 30. To get acquainted with new members and reconnect with former members, we will have an opening day lunch at El Charro Restaurant in Young Harris after playing our round.

We have the pleasure of playing golf with vistas of Lake Chatuge and the surrounding mountains. We have a different game each week, and members of our league

are from all over the tri-county area. We like to have fun while honing our golf skills!

Membership dues are \$30 per year, and the weekly course fee is \$35, which includes a cart. An official handicap is required. If you have no handicap established, the league can easily help you with that.

Come join us for the fresh air, beautiful scenery, and a good round of golf. For more information, call or text Debbie Estes at 352-284-8854. T(Apr2,MI)JH



Dawson Hensley & Kade Smallwood Celebrating Homerun

Spring Auction to raise funds for student-athlete scholarships this April! The auction will consist of a 14-day online bidding period from April 10th at 8 a.m. to April 24 at 7 p.m. and a live event with free food and drinks on April 24th from 6-8 p.m.

As the Young Harris Athletics calendar heads into April, the regular seasons begin to wrap up. Make sure to catch the Mountain Lions in their final regular season push the next few weeks!

Kicking things off at Zell B. Miller Field, YH Baseball takes on Tusculum University in a midweek duel with the Pioneers at 4 p.m. on April 1.

In a night game with the Trailblazers, Men's Lacrosse will face-off at 7 p.m. April 2.

Mountain Lion Softball returns home to take on the Shorter Hawks in a Friday double-header at 2/4:30 p.m. April 4.

Men's and Women's Tennis will also be in action on Friday as they take on Belmont Abbey at 3 p.m.



Mason Harmon Lines Up Powerful Forehand

Saturday, April 5, is filled with Softball and Women's Lacrosse action. YH Softball will take the diamond at 1/3:30 p.m. against the Converse Valkyries. Just across the way at the YHC Soccer and Lacrosse field, WLAX matches up with Belmont Abbey at 1 p.m. Make sure to come out and support your Mountain Lions! NT(Apr2,21)CA