Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Soccer: Lady Indians finish as 2023 State runner-up

Top-ranked Aquinas pulls away from Towns in OT of championship game

By Todd Forrest **Sports Editor** sports@nganews.com

Powder Springs - The Lady Indians fell 5-2 in overtime to the top-ranked team in Class A, Aquinas, during last week's Class A (Div. II) State Championship game hosted by McEachern High School.

"I'm proud as can be of what we've done, it's amazing," head coach Clay Livingston said. "In my 27 years of coaching, I've never seen anything like what these girls have done. I hate they didn't get to host a playoff game despite being one of the two best teams in the state. I understand it is what it is, but it's just frustrating for these girls.

Towns County fell into a 1-0 deficit in the 17th minute of last Tuesday's State Championship contest when Caroline Jackson put undefeated Aquinas on the board. The edge would hold until the second half when Towns called upon a pair of late equalizers from Sarah Shook and Alana Stowers to force the extra session.

The Lady Indians' first



The Lady Indians accept their second-place trophy after the game. Photo/Penny Ledford

assist from Abby Gardella.

With only two combined goals through 75 minutes, put Aquinas out front during Towns and Aquinas matched that total over the final fourplus minutes of regulation, Morris' score mounted a 4-2 beginning with a score from edge during the 92nd minute.

Aquinas' Landry Washington Aquinas tacked on one in the 76th.

Stowers responded in the

ting the score at 1-1 - via an extra 20 minutes to determine a state champion.

Jackson's second goal the first 10-minute overtime session. In the final OT, Elle

Aquinas tacked on one more in the 99th.

"To be honest, in overgoal came courtesy of Shook 78th with an unassisted long- time, I think we just ran out with Coach Livingston.

during the 63rd minute - knot- distance goal, resulting in an of gas," head coach Clay Livingston said. "We played three games in eight days, two of them going to OT, and traveled 944 miles and spent 20 1/2 hours on a bus in those eight days. I don't want to sound like I'm making excuses, but the

body can only handle so much." Pick up a copy of next week's Towns County Herald for a season wrap-up interview



Senior Sarah Shook scored the equalizer with 17 minutes remaining. Photo/Penny Ledford

Baseball: Indians rally into Elite Eight; visit No. 5 ECI on Wednesday **By Todd Forrest**

Sports Editor sports@nganews.com

The Indians (22-11) advance to this week's Elite-Eight round after surviving a three-game series vs. Chattahoochee County, storming back from a 7-1 deficit in the third-and-final game on Friday at Larry Kimsey Field. Indians 8, Chatta-

hoochee Co. 7 (GM 3) - Trailing 7-1, Towns County got four in the second and three in the third before senior Seth Gillis kept the Panthers off the board over the final five innings. During the seventh inning, Chattahoochee County

moved the tying run into scoring position with two away when senior right fielder Layne Rouse charged in to make a backhanded stab on a sinking line drive that sent the Indians into the Class A quarterfinals. Down 5-1 in the second,

Gillis entered with two aboard and allowed two runs to come around on a two-run error. The senior started off clean in the third and immediately stopped the bleeding, silencing the Panther bats the rest of the way.

At the plate, Gillis fin-2 for 3; Cunningham, Floyd and Cale Kirby each ended the

Indians 13, Chattahoochee Co. 3 (GM 1) - A seven-run sixth inning allowed one to an early end on Thursday afternoon at Larry Kimsey

Clinging to a 6-3 edge in the middle of the sixth, the Indians got to Chattahoochee reliever Carter Trim in the bottom of the inning follow-Junior Kade McConnell

and striking out nine on 88

eventually walking it off on Walker scored two runs apiece. Gillis' RBI single.



own and Gillis loaded the bags with a base hit up the middle. ished 2 for 4; McConnell went Connor Chastain dropped a single into right field that scored two, Berrong reached Chauncey made it 9-3 via a sacrifice fly.

An error off the bat of Towns County to bring game McConnell brought home another run and Rouse extended the margin to 12-3 on a tworun error. Cunningham singled and Floyd wore a 2-2 pitch to load the bases for Gillis.

Gillis ended 2 for 4 with two runs; Cunningham went 3 for 3 with a walk, two doubles, ing five solid frames from two RBIs and two runs. Mcsouthpaw starter Alex Prevost. Connell plated a pair during a 2-for-4 day. Floyd finished went the distance for Towns, 1 for 3 with a walk and a run; allowing three hits, one earned Connor Chastain drove in two during a 1-for-2 game; Rouse doubled, scored and plated Tanner Cunningham another run while finishing 1 opened the game-ending sixth for 4. Caleb Berrong added a with a walk before the Indians run; Chauncey drove in one; sent 12 batters to the dish, Braydon Barrett and Morgan

Chattahoochee took ad-

ningham with a free pass of his an early 1-0 lead in the second, Rouse opened up a 6-2 advanbut Towns County answered with two in the bottom half courtesy of Rouse's double Chattahoochee sliced the defiand one of five Panther errors.

Towns' third error made on a hit-by-pitch and Stone it 2-2 in the third but two-

tage through three.

A two-out single by cit in half at 6-3 in the sixth, but Towns County put up a 7-spot in the bottom of the in-

Indians 0, Chattahoochee Co. 2 (GM 2) - Floyd and Chattahoochee's Zachary Parkes delivered a 2-0 pitcher's duel in game two that evened the series and forced

Friday's rubber match. Floyd surrendered six hits over six innings, striking out five without issuing a free pass. Parkes fired a two-hit shutout with seven Ks and a pair of walks.

Chattahoochee got on the board in the third following a leadoff double and a one-out single. A triple to open the fourth bumped the margin to 2-0 when an RBI groundout brought home the runner from

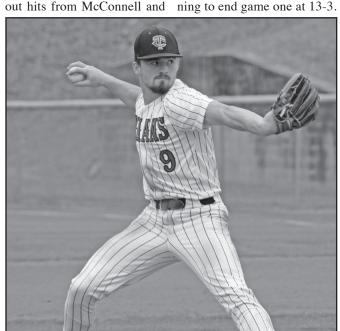
Floyd opened the sixth with a base hit and stole second before he was stranded in scoring position. Chauncey walked to begin the seventh, but two strikeouts and a groundout ended the game. Rouse delivered Towns'

only other hit of the night. Floyd also reached on an error and swiped two bags. Gillis earned a free pass and Cunningham hit into a fielder's **Up next:** Towns County visits No. 5 Emmanuel County

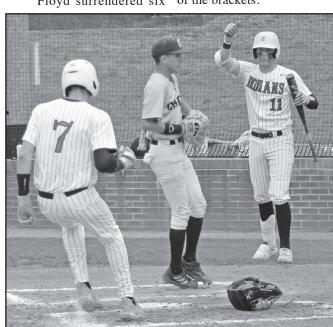
Institute (ECI) for a twin bill on Wednesday, May 10 at 3 p.m. If necessary, game three will be Thursday at 3 p.m.
The Towns-ECI winner

will face either No. 3 Schley County or fourth-ranked Wilcox County on May 16-17. Meanwhile, Region

8-A's top-seeded and ninthranked Washington-Wilkes travels to No. 2 Charlton County on the opposite side of the brackets.



Floyd followed Cun- vantage of two errors to grab Seth Gillis earned the win in game three. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



Connor Chastain greets Zane Floyd at home. Photo/Lowell Nicholson