

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports



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Lady Indians Region Champions from page 12

The large lead certainly didn't prevent the Lady Wolverines from mounting several challenges the remainder of the game but as stated by their coach as shown above, the Lady Indians would answer every time. It seems a certainty that the Lady Indians would have had losing a big lead the final quarter at home to the Lady Wolverines in last year's region championship game in the back of their minds but they did what they had to do to get the victory this time.

In building the first half lead, the Lady Indians initially had to overcome 2-0 and 5-3 Prince Avenue leads on baskets by Lindsay Patton and Makayla Underwood by the mid point of the first quarter. A free throw and field goal by Jordan Moss got them ahead 8-5 by the 3:24 mark of the first quarter and Gabby Arencibia doubled the lead with the first trey in the aforementioned run of treys for an 11-5 Towns lead at 2:15 which became 13-7 after one quarter.

The Lady Wolverines actually got a head start on the 3-pointer show at the outset of the second quarter sinking a trey before and after one by Ali Bleckley by the 6:02 mark for just a 16-13 Towns lead but here came the Lady Indians. Arencibia struck again just nine seconds later at 5:53, Bleckley again a minute later at 4:53, and Arencibia still again at 4:23 for a suddenly prominent 25-12 Lady Indian lead with the first eighteen points of the quarter having come via 3-pointers and the Lady Indians gaining a 12-6 edge in the process.

Following two free throws by the Lady Wolverines and one by Dadrian Blythe for the Lady Indians, Eryn Cochran got in on the act with a trey of her own with twenty one of the first twenty four points now coming by way of 3-pointers and the score now 29-14. Blythe then continued her good

work with a pair of field goals wrapped around a Prince free throw for the aforementioned 33-15 Towns County lead at exactly the two minute mark. The Lady Wolverines gave a preview of what was to come after that however, as they used a putback basket and a trey during the final thirty two seconds of the quarter in reducing the lead to 33-20 at intermission.

Moss opened the third quarter with her toe on the 3-point line for a long deuce and a 35-20 Lady Indian lead but the Lady Wolverines were about to issue their first serious challenge to what had been a somewhat comfortable Towns cushion. Prince used three treys in an 11-1 run between the 7:11 and 5:13 marks for just a 36-31 Lady Indian lead. Moss responded with a field goal at 4:50 for a 38-31 score and the Lady Indians responded to a Prince basket at 3:35 with an 8-0 run the final 2:50 of the third quarter with the Lady Indians seemingly back in charge by a 46-33 score. That closing run was accomplished by a drive and left handed layup for two by Bleckley and the return of the trey ball with Arencibia sinking two at 2:27 and at thirty six seconds.

Moss opened the fourth quarter with a field goal for a 48-33 score but the Lady Wolverines struck for ten straight points, partially due to some heavy handed but uncalled defensive action, beginning with a trey and ending in a three point play with Prince again knocking on the door. Once again the Lady Indians turned to the trey ball as the freshman Cochran squared up and nailed her second of the game from the right wing and the Lady Indians led 51-43 at 2:52.

The Lady Wolverines would sink two additional two point baskets after that but again the Lady Indians would have an answer each time. Moss drove



The championship medals go to the Lady Indians Photo by Lowell Nicholson.

the lane for a left handed layup following the first at 1:13 and the Lady Indians beat Prince's full court pressure with Arencibia assisting Patton at twenty nine seconds for what turned out to be the final points of the game and a 55-47 Lady Indian championship victory.

Scoring leaders for the game were Arencibia with 15 points, Moss with 12, Bleckley with 11, Cochran with 6, and Blythe with 5. Arencibia also led in assists with 5 and was followed by Bleckley and Cochran with 3 each and Underwood with 2.



Gabby Arencibia goes long from the top of the key against Athens Academy Photo by James Reese.

TCHS Sports Spotlight

Wilson named to Region 8A First Team All Region



Claire Wilson

shortstop and catcher for the Lady Indians also received Honorable Mention for the Gainesville Times 2010 All Area Softball Team.

Wilson is dedicated to the sport of fast pitch softball, playing year round with the '95 Lightning, a 16-Under ASA "A" level travel team based out of Cumming. While playing with the '95 Lightning, Wilson catches and plays third base.

She also has played around the Southeast including Georgia, Tennessee, South Carolina, North Carolina, Florida, and Mississippi. Last August, she was invited to and

played in the ASA Southern Regionals in Ridgeland, Miss. She has received awards at college camps including an offensive award and Coach's awards from the University of Georgia.

In addition to being quite an athlete, Wilson also is gifted in the classroom.

Entering the 2010-11 school year, Wilson has the third highest Grade Point Average in a class of 84 students.

She continues to excel academically having been on the All A's Honor Roll every semester she has attended Towns County High School.

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Towns County High School Sophomore Claire Wilson has been named Region 8-A First Team All Region in softball for the second consecutive year.

Wilson's batting average for the 2010 high school season was .456. During the 2010 season, she struck out only twice.

Wilson, who played

2011 baseball & softball registration

The Towns County Recreation Department will be holding registration for softball and baseball for ages 8 thru 14 beginning on February 12 thru February 26. The cost for registration will be \$45. Sign ups will be held at

the Towns County Recreation Department. Hours of operation are Monday thru Friday 9 AM until 9 PM and Saturday from 9 AM until 7 PM. If you have any questions please call the Recreation Department at 706-896-2600.

TFeb23,F1JSH

The Towns County Indians baseball team is out to prove the experts wrong in 2011

Given a slim chance to make it out of their region in a recent Gainesville Times high school baseball preview, the Indians will rely on senior leadership to get the job done in 2011.

The Indians finished the 2010 season at 9-14 overall with a Region 8-A record of 4-11. Head Coach Shannon Moss stepped away from the diamond to spend more time with his family. His assistant of four years, Chris Vardo steps up to take the reins of the storied Indians' baseball program.

The 2011 edition of the Towns County Indians is blessed with eight seniors to lead the way back to respectability, said Vardo, as he prepared for his first year as head baseball coach.

"We're looking forward to it," Coach Vardo said about the upcoming season. "We have eight seniors that are returning from last year. We expect good leadership and good direction from them. They're a tough group of kids, ones that we'll have to count on throughout the season."

"We have three senior pitchers that we're going to be really counting on Alan Turpin, Brett Bradshaw and Taylor Denton," Coach Vardo said. "They're going to carry us and do a pretty good job."

Senior Billy Meier, who maintained nearly a .400 bat-

ting average last season, will hit lead-off for the Indians.

"Hopefully, Billy picks up where he left off from last year," Coach Vardo said. "He's solid on the base paths; as far as base runners go, he's our best. He's ready to go. He's cleared to play."

Meier, who suffered a ruptured spleen during football season, is more than ready to go, Coach Vardo said.

"He actually went to the doctor last Friday and they said everything is progressing normally. He's 100 percent," Coach Vardo said.

Admittedly, the Indians have an abundance of youth to overcome in 2011.

"We're going to be young in some spots," Coach Vardo said. "We have a couple of new faces. They've progressed, we're going to have a sopho-

more at second base in Peyton Shook. He will also serve as our utility guy in and out of certain spots as far as effort-wise. He's hardnosed, he's going to do what you ask him to do and give you 100 percent."

"Turpin at short is as solid as they come," Coach Vardo said. "I have all the confidence in the world in him. Devin Henderson will be on patrol in the outfield. He has good speed and can cover some ground in the outfield."

Coach Vardo hopes for good health for his team in 2011.

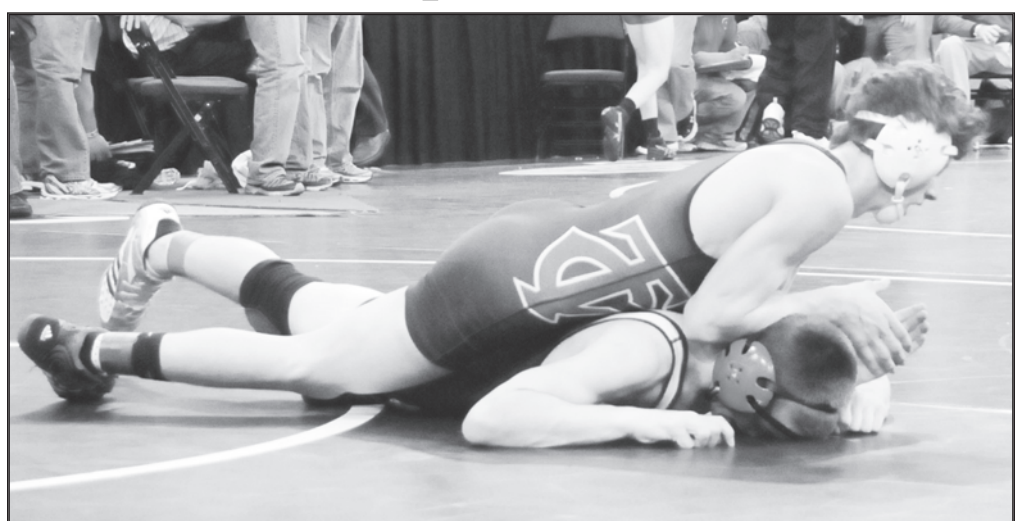
"We're going to play all 21 outs, all seven innings from first pitch to last pitch," he said.

"We have 17 players listed on the roster but only 15 are healthy. All 17 are working as hard as they can. That's all you can ask for as a coach."



Eight seniors lead the Towns County Indians baseball attack as they prepare for the upcoming season Photo by James Reese.

Collier takes 5th place at Gwinnett Arena



Tim Collier gains the early advantage over Cole Wheeler at the State Wrestling Championships at Gwinnett Arena Photo James Reese

Towns County's Tim Collier finished his weekend at the Gwinnett Arena as the fifth best wrestler in the 135-pound weight class of the Class A State Wrestling Championships.

Collier battled back from an opening round loss by an 11-5 decision to eventual state runner up Cole Wheeler from First Presbyterian to earn Class A fifth place recognition at 135 pounds.

Collier came back to defeat Greyson Cochran of Commerce in a 7-4 decision, before losing to Michael Harrison of Irwin County in an ultra tight 3-2 decision.

"Tim placing fifth is a great accomplishment for him," Indians Head Wrestling Coach Jeff Stowers said.

"I'm really proud of our kids they worked real hard. Tyler Hoffman (152) and Tim Collier (135) worked hard all year," Coach Stowers said. "I know that they didn't finish how they wanted it to but they wrestled hard all year long. We're very proud of their accomplishments."

Coach Stowers said that the State Tournament gets tougher and tougher every year.

"I really believe that five years ago both of these kids could've won their weight class in the State Tournament," Coach Stowers said. "Wrestling in Georgia has come so far in the last four or five years. It's just really unbelievable to watch."

Towns County's 152-pound entry Tyler Hoffman lost to eventual State Champion James Ballard of Athens Christian School in a 6-0 decision and the third



Tyler Hoffman has the early edge in his 152-pound match at Gwinnett Arena Photo by James Reese



Head Coach Jeff Stowers consoles Tim Collier after he lost a tough 11-5 decision to Cole Wheeler Photo by James Reese

place finisher, Voltaire Driver of Bremen.

"Tyler had a great tournament as well," Coach Stowers said. "You really just can't say enough about those two kids and how much they work and how much they mean to our program."

As for next year's wrestling team, work has already begun, Coach Stowers said.

"The departure of senior Jake Cole leaves a hole at the 140-pound weight class," Coach Stowers said. "But we've got some great kids coming up from the eighth grade to

help us. We're really excited about next year. It's going to be a year long process. We're going to start lifting weights next week and those kids are going to be in weight training."

"We've got some kids that are going to be traveling and doing some summer wrestling and those kinds of preparation events," Coach Stowers said. "So we're just trying to fill out the prospects for next year and we're glad to get to stay at home and do some training for a little while and then get back at it." TFeb23,Spts,jac