# **Towns County Sports**

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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# **Baseball: Indians rally past Union with six unanswered runs**

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

Towns County erased a 4-1 deficit on Monday, March 29 with 2 runs in the third inning and four in the fourth before holding Union at bay over the final four innings.

In the 7-5 victory, Collin Crowder struck out 8 Panthers over 4 2/3 innings before giving way to Aidan Berrong for the final 2 1/3. Berrong allowed just one hit and two walks while nailing down the win. He also drove in a run and scored twice during a 1-for-4 day at the plate.

Kyle Oakes walked twice and scored twice. Zane Floyd, Caleb Berrong and Connor Chastain each drove in a run.

Aidan Berrong helped spot the Indians an early 1-0 lead when he reached on an error to lead off the game and later scored on a two-out wild pitch.

a passed ball allowed Union to grab a 3-1 advantage in the



Towns stole two bags vs. Union County. Photo/Lowell Nicholson margin to 4-1 in the third with good in the fourth when a an RBI single but left the bases dropped third strike, an error loaded with one down.

walk into a run on a Panthers' Berrong single tied the game, A two-run double and error and Chastain scored then Floyd was plunked to take Floyd with a sacrifice fly to a 5-4 lead. Oakes made it 6-4 pull within a run in the third. when he came around on a second. They extended the Towns grabbed the lead for wild pitch and Caleb Berrong frames.

and a walk loaded the bases Oakes turned a leadoff with nobody out. An Aidan

pushed the lead to 7-4 with an RBI groundout. out sixth-inning double was the only hit Aidan Berrong

surrendered over the final two

1 with a run and an RBI; in Greensboro before closing and scored; Kyle McConnell

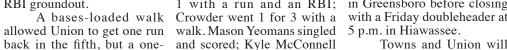
walked and scored. Oconee Academy in a threegame series this week. Game 5:30 p.m.

Floyd finished 1 for one gets underway Tuesday

Towns and Union will meet in a rematch on Mon-First pitch is scheduled for



Towns County pitching fanned 10 Panthers in Monday's 7-5 victory. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



The Indians face Lake day, April 12 in Blairsville.

### No. 2 Social Circle defends home field in 4-1 win over No. 8 Lady Indians Fifth-ranked Indians blanked in non-region match at Class AAA Hart County

#### **By Todd Forrest**

**Towns County Herald Sports Editor** 

On Friday, April 2, the eighth-ranked Towns County Lady Indians traveled to Walton County for a top-10 showdown at Social Circle.

The Lady Indians offense was provided by Jayden Taylor, who found the net off a feed from Kenzie Livingston. However, it wasn't enough to keep pace as the Redskins pulled away 4-1.

Meanwhile, 80 miles northeast, the fifth-ranked Indians were on the road at Class AAA Hart County, where they suffered a 2-0 loss.

The Indians will host No. 4 Social Circle on Tuesday, April 13 in a fixture that will likely determine the Region 8-A Champion.

The Lady Indians are battling for one of the four playoff spots from 8-A and will also host Social Circle on April 13 at 5:30 p.m.



## **Towns County Basketball: A trip down Memory Lane (Part Three)**

#### By Jerry Kendall **Towns County Herald** Staff Writer

#### Continued from last week's Towns County Herald.

**Classification changes** – As one of the smallest public schools in the state, our Lady Indians and Indians for many years qualified as being in Class C but chose to "play up" in Class B since there were few schools nearby in Class C to compete with. We actually dropped to Class C for 1971 and 1972 which turned out to be the final years of that classification with many small town schools consolidating and there being less need for that classification.

Class B was then done away with beginning with the 1979 season but with the only change being elevating Class B schools to Class A and elevating the higher classifications one notch higher by adding Class 4A but with continuing increases in sizes of schools bringing about additions up to Class 7A at present. One other change came about for the 2001 and 2002 years when our school opted



to play at the Class 2A level when several nearby schools were elevated and three schools dropped to that level with our choosing to play in a region mostly private schools in the with Apalachee, Banks, GAC, Rabun, Union, Lumpkin, White, Dawson and East Hall, instead of being in a region with several schools from metro Atlanta.

season with a total split of public and private schools in Class A with the Lady Indians and Indians not competing with Athens and Atlanta areas but all public schools within region play. While this year's Region 8A Public makeup required five long trips to locations several Of course, this is the first miles south of Athens along

with shorter trips to Commerce for region play and the region tournament, perhaps these trips helped condition the Indians for super long trips to Irwin and Chattahoochee Counties and then Macon in winning the state championship.

Some miscellaneous notes which may be of interest: Although the previ- coach of the 1966 and 1973 In-

ously mentioned Eddie Rushton did not participate in the 1975 region tournament as a player due to having the mumps, he did participate in this year's region tournament as a referee in at least two early games, including the Lady Indians' opening game against Washington-Wilkes.

Bill Kendall was the head

dians teams after having been a star player for the Indians during the first half of the 1950's and he is the grandfather of senior Lady Indian Vanessa Floyd and freshman Indian Zane Floyd.

Dwight McNabb was a dynamic point guard for the 1966 Indians team described above and he has been a regular attendee from his home south of Atlanta at state tournament games this year and in past years as well, pulling for the team as much as if he were on it or had a descendant as a member of the team.

David Hoodenpyle in his first year as a coach led the Indians to their first region championship in 1975 and he has been in touch as a Florida resident while following closely the success of this year's Indians team with literally no one pulling any more for the team this year than he has done.

Mike Shook, the father of Lady Indian sophomore and state tournament participant Sarah Shook, was the leading scorer on the Indians' 1981 team

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