

Signing Day ...from Page 1A



Photo by Lowell Nicholson

TCHS senior Logan Cowart with his family and coaches, signing to play football with Tusculum College in Tennessee.

probably put almost a million miles on our car, just driving around. And I've gone to Italy, and they've just been there constantly to support me.

"I've made tons of friends along the way and had a lot of experiences. I'm thankful for my family for always being there and being my No. 1 fan."

When she starts college in the fall, Barrett said she is going to miss her friends and family in Towns County, but she's looking forward to going down to Statesboro to study business and marketing.

Of course, her parents are going to miss her, too, though they're glad to know their daughter will continue to pursue her ambitions.

"I'm so proud of everything she's accomplished and everything that she has done," said Amy Barrett, Brooke's mother. "We prayed about it, and we know this is where she's meant to be, but I'm going to miss her. I still look at her, and she's still my little girl."

Logan Cowart, who will play either defensive end or tight end at Tusculum College, is also a terrific student, having made All-A Honor Roll this past semester.

He has played multiple sports in high school and was named to Region 8A First Team following the 2017 football season, which saw the Indians make it to the state playoffs for the first time in school history.

"This is really exciting,

because I put in a lot of hard work," said Cowart. "I'm glad to see it pay off."

Cowart will study nursing at Tusculum and hopes to follow in his mother's shoes as a nurse practitioner in a community nearby.

All told, it was an emotional day for the Cowart crew. After all, they were witnessing Cowart embrace a significant milestone in life.

"Knowing that he could always get to this point, and having the people, coaches, extended family to believe in him to help push him along the way – it feels good," said Tracie Cowart, Logan's mom. "It feels like he's successful."

"You always want to see your child live up to his potential, and for me, he's worked hard for it, and we're extremely proud of his accomplishments."

A special guest to Cowart's signing ceremony was Sue Sakal, wife of the late John Sakal, a man who mentored Cowart and meant a lot to him and his family.

The high school hosted a reception afterward to honor the two senior athletes, and Indian Coach John Cornett, who had the pleasure of coaching both students, also attended.

"As a coach, and for somebody that's passionate about athletics just like I am academics, it's an exciting day," said Coach Cornett. "You finally get to see all the hard work pay off."

"These two love sports,

and I'm sure that it was a dream at one point in their life to be able to go to college and compete. Now, it becomes a reality, so days like this are what it's all for and what it's all about."