

# Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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## Towns County athletics recognizes the best-of-the-best from 2016-17

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Towns County High School hosted its annual Athletic Banquet last week where they honored the brightest and best from a historic 2016-17 school year that saw the Indians achieve milestones in boys basketball and baseball while continuing its dominance in cross country and girls soccer.

The girls cross country squad was the epitome of consistency throughout the season as they battled injury and overcame adversity to extend their state title streak to five years at the Class A Public State Championships in Carrollton back in November.

Despite not placing a single runner inside the top 5, Towns County proved that cross country remains a team sport after placing five girls in the top 24 and holding off a talented field, including region rival Commerce, to secure its fifth consecutive title.

Meanwhile, the Towns County boys basketball team

reached the State Tournament for the first time in over a decade. While most teams would settle for just making the postseason after a 10-year hiatus, that wasn't the case with the Indians, who were victorious in their opening round game while playing without the services of 6-foot-6 center Adam Barrett for the entire season.

Despite being eliminated in the Sweet 16 on the hardwood, the Indians regrouped and swatted another monkey of their backs with a springtime postseason run on the diamond.

Towns overcame a slow start to play its way into the Class A Public State Tournament where they went extra innings with a talented Bowdon squad that was coming off a Class AA Final Four appearance the previous season.

The Red Devils were competing in Class A after reaching the State Tournament four straight years as members of Class AA.

Meanwhile, back in the fall, the boys cross country squad once again reached the State Championships following a top four performance at region.

Also making headlines in the fall were the Indians football team, who ended its losing streak to Hayesville with a convincing road victory to open the season.

Prior to this season, the last Towns County victory over Hayesville came in 2009.

As for the Lady Indians soccer team, coach John Cornett guided his squad to the Class A State Tournament for the second straight season. Unfortunately, the public/private split doesn't apply to soccer and Towns was forced to deal with the likes of top ranked Wesleyan in region play.

As a result of playing in a region that's dominated by private schools, the Lady Indians were unable to secure home field advantage and a favorable seeding in the state tournament and were bumped in the opening round.

In the winter, Towns wrestling continued its tradition of reaching state when sophomore Blaine Rogers placed fifth at State.

Senior Nick Shook and junior Kaine Hoffman also qualified for state.

Athletic Banquet photos by Lowell Nicholson

