

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Lady Indians celebrate Senior Night with Churchill and Hyatt

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Sept. 21 home game against the Prince Avenue Lady Wolverines was a special occasion for the Lady Indians.

Not only were they playing their last home game of the season – they were also getting ready to say goodbye to two senior teammates who will graduate in May.

Shortstop Jordan Hyatt and catcher Zandra Churchill, both starting players and the team's only seniors, enjoyed a celebration in their honor following the game.

And though the Lady Indians lost to Prince Avenue 8-2, the team took home a personal win in friendships forged through years of hard work and dedication to the game.

"The one thing I hate is letting my seniors go every year, and I couldn't ask for two better leaders," said Lady Indians Head Coach Brandon Rowland.

Following the game, High School Athletic Director Jim Melton read brief biographies for the outgoing seniors, and welcomed them onto the field with their parents as they received gifts from the team.

As is customary for seniors following their last home game of the season, soon-to-be departing players run one last lap around the bases, crossing under a tunnel of upraised bats held by teammates along the third-base line before sliding home.



The TCHS softball seniors Zandra Churchill (left) and Jordan Hyatt (right) were honored alongside their families at last week's Senior Night game. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

For Churchill, that lap was a bittersweet moment with her friends, as she reflected on her feelings of sadness for the end of an era, but excitement for the beginning of a whole new chapter in her life.

"This has been my best year and my favorite year," said Churchill, who has played softball all four years of high school. "The team has come together as one. We have bonded a lot better, and we're just out here playing ball together."

Following graduation,

Churchill plans to attend a college not too far from home, and she hopes to return to Towns County one day as a teacher and a coach.

Lady Indians Assistant Coach Barry Churchill is Zandra's dad, and he's had a blast coaching his daughter in high school, and really all throughout her life.

"This is hard right here," said Coach Churchill, looking on as his daughter celebrated her last home game with friends. Churchill said he plans to continue to help

Coach Rowland with the team, even after his daughter graduates.

Like Churchill, Hyatt said she had mixed emotions running her last lap at home, though she, too, is excited for what comes next.

"I'm really proud of our season this year, and I'm going to miss my teammates a lot," said Hyatt, now in her third year on the team. "This team has definitely been like a family to me, and I've never had a feeling like it before."

Hyatt is looking to at-

tend Reinhardt University next fall as she pursues a career in law enforcement, with plans to start off as a police officer and ultimately end up working at the federal level as an agent with the Drug Enforcement Agency.

Several recent Towns County graduates returned to cheer on their friends during Senior Night, and teammates, friends and family members stuck around after the game to take pictures and eat pizza in front of the batting cage.

Looking ahead, the se-

niors and the rest of the Lady Indians still have three away games left in the regular season.

After the Sept. 21 game against Prince Avenue, the Lady Indians' record went to 9-8 on the season, following back to back wins against Athens Christian last week.

The Lady Indians are extremely close to clinching a spot in the state playoffs, and they look forward to continued community support as they work toward postseason play.

Indians pick up steam in second half against 7th ranked Athens Academy

By Shawn Jarrard
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As usual, Towns County Indians Head Coach John Cornett was pleased with the amount of heart and effort put forth by his Boys in Blue on Friday, Sept. 22.

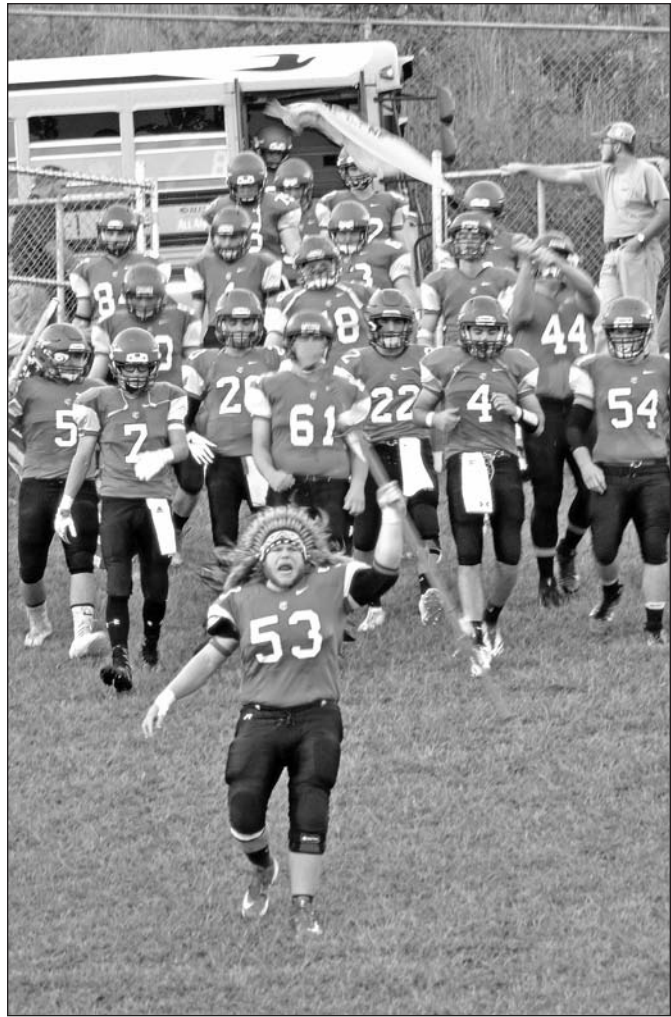
The Indians lost a home game that night, albeit to a Top 10 team in Class 1A high school football, though Coach Cornett knows they could have done better than the 53-13 final score.

"It was just one of those games where everything that can go wrong does," said Coach Cornett, alluding to the team's four turnovers and early offensive troubles. "Unfortunately, we did that against probably the best team in the region."

Towns County went into the half down 53-0, but after a fieldhouse pep talk where the Indians told the coach they just wanted to have fun for the rest of the game, everyone emerged energized, and the Indians were able to put up some points and shut down the Spartans in the second half.

Junior Alan Gillis, who is new to the team, rushed for 5 carries, 64 yards and a touchdown, while senior Zach Davenport racked up another touchdown for the season, which was followed by a point after by junior Wesly Calhoun.

Putting up 13 points against the Spartans was no small feat, as up until that game, Athens Academy



The Indians prepare to take the field vs. No. 7 Athens Academy last Friday night. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

had only allowed 7 points against defensively since the beginning of the season.

"Our boys didn't quit," said Coach Cornett. "We could have easily quit after halftime, but they didn't."

"It's just one of those games. Even if we had played our best, it would have been really tough to beat that team, they're that good."

Coach Cornett did his best to try to get the entire team in for some playtime, and kids who don't normally leave the sidelines during varsity play got some time on the field under the lights on Friday night.

The game occasioned a "blackout" by team members and fans, where everyone joined together in wearing black, which for

PASSING STATS

	Cmp	Att	Yds	Cmp%	TD	Int
#4 Trent Bradshaw	1	9	11	11.1%	0	1

RUSHING STATS

	Att	Yds	Avg	TD
#9 Allen Gillis	5	64	12.8	1
#20 Zach Davenport	15	26	1.7	1
#4 Trent Bradshaw	4	18	4.5	0
#5 Harold Cox	3	12	4	0
#1 Dakota Edge	3	12	4	0
#22 Andy Chambers	5	9	1.8	0
#14 Garrett Oakes	3	-3	-1	0

GAME SUMMARY

	ATH	TOW
Passing Yards	36	11
Rushing Yards	155	138
First Downs	15	7
Turnovers	2	4
Penalties - Yards	9 - 70	6 - 60

RECEIVING STATS

	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD
#7 Hayden Walters	1	11	11	0
#20 Zach Davenport	0	0	0	0
#6 Will Travis	0	0	0	0

DEFENSIVE STATS

	Tkl	Solo	Ass	Sac	TFL	Int
#20 Zach Davenport	4.5	4	1	1	0	0
#22 Andy Chambers	1.5	1	1	0	0	0
#5 Harold Cox	1.5	1	1	0	0	0
#9 Allen Gillis	1.5	1	1	0	0	0
#44 Logan Cowart	1.5	1	1	0	1	0
#50 Dalton Key	1	1	0	0	0	0
#1 Dakota Edge	1	1	0	0	0	0
#84 Shane Sparks	1	1	0	0	0	0
#14 Garrett Oakes	1	1	0	0	0	0
#56 Jeremiah Lindemuth	1	1	0	1	1	0
#78 Jalce Parker	0.5	0	1	0	0	0
#42 Wesely Chalhoum	0.5	0	1	0	0	0
#54 Jeremy Mayes	0.5	0	1	0	0	0

the kids meant black pants on the field.

That Sept. 22 home game featured a campaign focusing on National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month for September.

Ken Edwards has been hard at work preparing the new website for the Indians, at townsootball.com, and Coach Cornett urges everyone to check it out for all kinds of information on the Towns County Indians.

Coach Cornett looks forward to the Friday, Sept. 29, away game against Hebron Christian, which kicks off at 7:30 p.m. in Dacula.

Youth basketball registration

Registration for the 2017-2018 basketball season will begin September 1st and will run until October 8th. We will offer 12u, 10u, and 8u for both boys & girls. Be sure to create an account and register your child online to secure a spot in our program for this Winter on our website townscountyrec.com. If you have any questions about creating an account check out the "Online Registration" under "Quick Links" on the home page or give us a call at (706) 896-2600. After you finish creating an account, be sure to download the SI Play app

to your mobile device to get practice and game reminders, see rosters, schedules, standings, and also have the ability to communicate with other parents straight from the app.

Parents who are interested in coaching will need to check out the "Want to Coach" tab and follow the instructions there. These applications will need to be received by the Recreation Department by October 2nd so that we can have coaches selected and ready once registration ends. Background checks will be mandatory for all coaches selected. T(Sep27.F)ISH

Towns County Homecoming Carnival October 12



WE ARE
TOWNS COUNTY
INDIANS

Towns County High School would like to invite the public to their Annual Homecoming Carnival on Thursday, October 12th from 6 - 8 p.m. on the Football Field and Track. There will be carnival booths and games, inflatables, a cake walk, musical entertainment, and lots of activities for everyone to enjoy and all are provided by the schools, clubs, and local organizations. The Homecoming Court will be recognized and concessions will be available. If any community organization or agency would like to participate please email Christa Houser at chouser@townscountyschools.org or Sarah Vardo at svardo@townscountyschools.org. The Carnival was a big event last year and we hope the community will come out and enjoy it again this year. T(Sep27.F)ISH

Family Hiking Day Saturday, September 30th



You and your family are invited to explore the Nottely Reservoir Trails on Saturday, September 30th for a family friendly hike! The hike will be an easy to moderate 1.7 mile loop. We will meet at the Nottely Reservoir Trail Parking #2 which is located approximately 1.5 miles past Nottely Dam on the left just before Loving Road. We will meet at 8:30 a.m. and the hike will begin at 9 a.m. This will be a fun event with stories as well as the hike. Bring snacks and water and dress appropriately for the weather.

The hike leader will be George Owen, a father to two children and four grandchildren. George led hikes in Switzerland as a guide for ten years and in parts of the USA

and is involved in several hiking clubs in the Southeast, two of them as both maintenance director and constructions director and two as president.

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy, the Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce, along with the Mountain High Hikers, Georgia Appalachian Trail Club, and the Benton MacKaye Trail Association invite families of all ages and hiking abilities to experience the adventure of being active on a hiking trail!

Even if you're unable to join an official Family Hiking Day event, participants who walk on the A.T. with their family on September 30 and October 1 are invited to share their Family Hiking Day experiences for a chance to win one of five Osprey backpacks. Photos and videos uploaded to Facebook, Twitter or Instagram with the hashtag #AT-FamilyHike will be automatically entered into the contest. Entries can also be emailed to soro@appalachiantrails.org. Winners will be announced



Johnny and Stella Collins on October 1.

For more information on planning a family hike throughout the year and suggestions of family-friendly day hikes on the A.T., visit appalachiantrail.org/FamilyHike. For more information about the Blairsville Family Hiking Day, please call 706-745-5789. NT(Sep27.10)CA