

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Lady Indians strike early and often in shutout of Union

Towns swept at Lakeview, split with Fannin County, will host two Region games this week

By Todd Forrest
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The Towns County Lady Indians soccer team would be in the driver's seat for its second consecutive Region Championship if they were in Class AA. After Towns (5-2 overall, 2-2 in Region 8-A) edged the Region 8-AA Champion Union County last season, the Lady Panthers went on to finish No. 5 in the final Class AA State Poll of the year.

This year, the Lady Indians throttled Region 8-AA's first place Union County by a 4-0 score, and were never threatened for the entire 80 minutes.

Towns posted two quick goals that left the Lady Panthers stunned. When Union finally seemed to settle down, the Lady Indians tightened their grip even more with another goal in the 19th minute.

They officially put Union in a stranglehold when sophomore Brook Barrett hooked a corner kick past the keeper just two minutes before halftime for a 4-0 advantage.

The Lady Panthers tried to make a push early in the second half but were denied by the Towns defense - led by keeper Jordan Hyatt's nine saves.

Barrett finished with two goals, while Taylor Cornett and Erika Spano added one goal each.

Barrett also just missed two more goals when she sailed a kick high that barely cleared the top of the goal in the 58th minute.

Two minutes later she was denied by a nice save by



Brook Barrett splits a pair of Union defenders. Photo/Todd Forrest

the Union keeper. In the final 15 minutes, the Lady Panthers were awarded three free kicks but Hyatt, Taylor Underwood, Callie Hogsted, Alli Settles, Madison Stroud and the rest of the Lady Indians' defense kept the shutout intact.

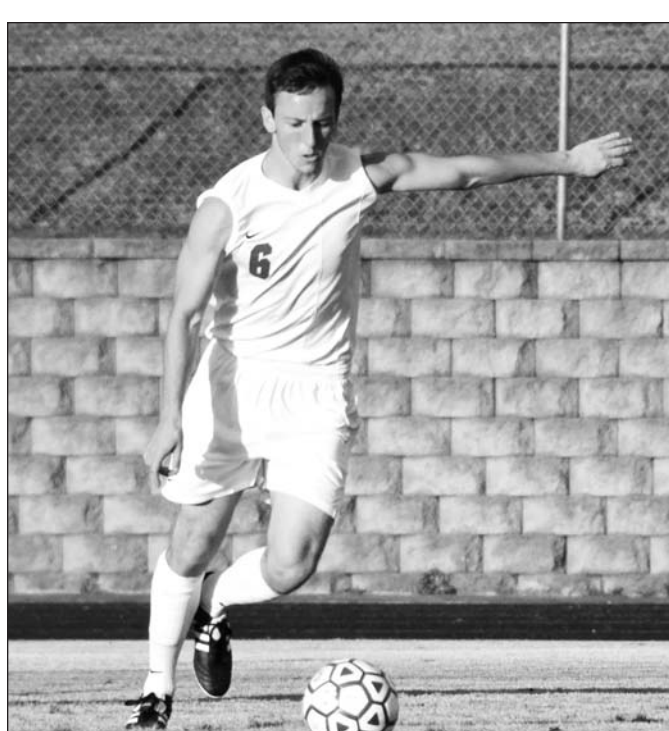
The win was Towns' fifth of the year and puts them only two games back of equaling the 2014 team's win total of seven overall victories and four Region 8-A victories.

Earlier in the week, the Lady Indians shutout Fannin 2-0 before falling 3-1 to Region-foe Lakeview Academy in Gainesville. The two teams will meet again on Apr. 15th at Hiwassee's Frank McClure Stadium.

As for a pair of Region 8-A rematches that are right around the corner, both Hebron Christian and Providence Christian must visit the mountains to face the Lady Indians, who are unbeaten and haven't surrendered a goal in three games at home this year.

On Tuesday, Hebron gets its shot at revenge when they visit Towns for a 5 p.m. start. In the contest in Dacula, Towns escaped with a 2-1 victory that proved to be quite the confidence builder, according to Towns County Head Girls Soccer Coach John Cornett.

"The girls were hesitant to believe how good they could be, but gained a lot of confidence after beating Hebron," Cornett said. "I think this team



Senior Shea Underwood vs Union County. Photo/Todd Forrest

has something special. They can do something special. It will be determined by how far they want to go. We have a huge week this week in that we play Hebron on Tuesday. If we can beat them, then we are in the playoffs for sure."

On Thursday, the Lady Indians will look to avenge their first loss of 2016 when they host Providence at 5 p.m.

Towns County Head Girls Coach John Cornett is confident in the rematch.

"I think they (Providence) are a good team, but I feel like when (our) girls play, we are better," Cornett said. "We can solidify a spot this week in the playoffs. We will be ready for both games."

In the 2-0 win over Fan-

in, Barrett scored both goals for the Lady Indians. She also scored her team's only goal during the 3-1 loss at Lakeview.

"Our worst loss came against Lakeview," Cornett said. "They are a good team as well, but, I feel like we can play with them as well. I can't say that any of these teams are better than us. We are all pretty equal, it just comes down to which team can put a strike together and score."

"The great thing is that we are young. We are led by two seniors that have done a great job, Taylor Underwood and Alli Settles. Both of these ladies before the season told me they wanted to win. I don't think they truly knew how good we could be, but they were

hopeful. These were the two that encouraged the girls to participate in our 6 a.m. workouts, and to push hard every day in practice. I think it took the Hebron game to believe that we can compete with any team we play."

The Towns County guys have yet to find their groove like the Towns ladies, but just missed out on pulling the upset over Union County.

The Panthers struck 28 seconds into the game before both keepers took over and the score remained 1-0 at the intermission.

Twelve minutes into the second half Kevin Reardon pounced on a loose ball inside the box and tied the game at 1-1. The Indians nearly took the lead less than a minute later but a nice save by the Union keeper preserved the tie.

The Panthers were able to add another goal in the 61st minute but Towns was awarded a free kick two minutes later, unfortunately, the shot went high.

Both keepers exchanged saves before the Indians were unable to convert on three throw ins during the final 40 seconds, deep in Union territory.

The guys also fell at Fannin and Lakeview last week but have a shot at improving their record to 3-3 in region play with games on Tuesday and Thursday.

On Tuesday they will follow the girls, who begin at 5 p.m. vs Hebron. Thursday, they will take on Providence following the girls game, also at 5 p.m.

Barrett goes the distance as Indians rally past Lakeview 5-4

Towns County bats go silent in losses to Mt. Vernon, force split at Providence Christian

By Todd Forrest
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Junior Adam Barrett worked 7 innings and picked up the W in Towns' 5-4 win over Lakeview on Friday.

Barrett allowed three unearned runs in the second before the Indians got a run back in the bottom of the third. The Lions stretched their lead back to three runs with a run in the fourth but Towns (4-13 overall, 2-5 in Region 8-A) exploded with four runs in their half of the inning.

The Indians' junior right-hander proved almost unhittable with 5 strikeouts while yielding only two hits and one walk, despite being the victim of four Towns County errors in the field.

Offensively, the Indians were led by junior Jackson Taylor's 2-for-3, one RBI performance. Junior Major Moss scored twice during a 1-for-3 day at the plate.

Towns punished the Lions on the basepaths with eight stolen bases in nine tries.

Trailing 4-1 in the bottom of the fourth, the Indians did the majority of their damage with two outs.

Barrett drew a one-out walk and freshman Trent Bradshaw entered as a courtesy runner. Following a strikeout for the second out, senior Isaiah Shook singled to center and junior Kobe Denton walked to load the bases.

Moss slapped a hard grounder to short that was



Adam Barrett brought his A-game vs Lakeview. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

misplayed - allowing Bradshaw and Shook to score. The Indians continued to pick on the Lakeview shortstop as junior Will DeVries reached on another error that scored Denton and tied the game at 4-4.

A wild pitch allowed Moss to score and give Towns a 5-4 lead that Barrett would never relinquish.

He sat the Lions down 1-2-3 in the fifth, worked around a leadoff single in the sixth, and induced three ground ball outs in the seventh.

The Indians committed two errors and Barrett issued one walk in the second inning that fronted the visitors a 3-0 advantage.

In the third, Moss beat

out an infield single, then stole second, allowing Taylor to bring him in with an RBI single.

A base hit, an error, a sacrifice, and a passed ball led to a Lakeview run in the top half of the fourth.

DeVries and senior Dillon Roberts also recorded hits for the Indians, while Denton and Bradshaw scored one run each. Sophomore Dalton Key, Barrett, and Denton each drew a walk.

Chambers and DeVries each stole two bases with Shook, Moss, Key, and Bradshaw also swiping a base.

On Tuesday, Towns County visited Providence for an 8-A doubleheader and forced the split with a drubbing in game two.



Towns County following their come-from-behind victory over Lakeview on Friday. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

After dropping the first game 10-0, the Indians clubbed Providence 12-2 in the second game led by a pair of doubles by DeVries and four RBIs and a double from Taylor.

Moss, DeVries and Taylor each finished with a 2-for-4 game.

DeVries also recorded 7 strikeouts on the mound in the 5th inning, mercy-rule shortened contest.

Junior Zach Davenport scored twice and drove in a run during a 1-for-3 game. Key singled and scored a run, Barrett scored and drove in one during a 1-for-3 day.

Chambers drove in 2 runs and scored once while Denton knocked in a pair and scored twice, while going 1-for-2 at

the plate.

The game would remain scoreless until the third when Towns dropped 5 runs on Providence.

The Indians added 7 more in the fifth until the game was called after building a 10-run lead.

On Saturday, Towns would drop a pair to Mt. Vernon. The first game saw Mt. Vernon blow open a scoreless tie with four in the fifth and sixth, then one in the seventh.

Davenport allowed 3 runs in four innings, Key surrendered 5 unearned runs in 1 2/3 innings, Bradshaw worked 1/3 of an inning, and senior Curtis Swanson gave up a run in the seventh.

Moss, DeVries, Daven-

port, and Barrett all recorded singles in the contest.

In the second game, the Indians tied things up at 1-1 with a run in the fifth but Mt. Vernon scored the game-winner in the seventh.

Moss went 3-for-4 at the plate and scored his team's only run of the day. DeVries was 2-for-3 with a walk, Davenport stole two bases, and freshman Seth Fullerton singled in one at bat.

The Indians' pitcher-by-committee strategy worked as DeVries, Fullerton, Bradshaw, and Swanson held Mt. Vernon to just two hits and one earned run over 7 innings.

This week, Towns visits Lakeview on Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.

T-ball and Coaches Pitch registration

The Towns County Recreation Dept. is having registration for T-ball and coaches pitch for boys and girls ages 4 thru 8. Late registration will be held the week of March 28, 2016 through April 2, 2016. The fee for registration is \$45. Sign-ups are held at the new

Towns County Recreation Center. Our hours of operation are Monday thru Friday 9 a.m. till 8 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. till 4 p.m.

If you have any questions please call the Recreation Department at 706-896-2600.

TMAR30.F1)SH

Trout stocking sites week of March 21-25, 2016

Fannin: Big Creek, Hemptown Creek, Hothouse Creek, Little Fightingtown Creek, Noontootla Creek, Sugar Creek, Rock Creek, Rock Creek Lake, Toccoa River, Toccoa River Tailwaters of Lake Blue Ridge, and Wilscot Creek
Gilmer: Boardtown Creek and Rock Creek
Lumpkin: Cane Creek, Clay Creek, Dockery Lake, Etowah River, Nimblewill Creek, and Ward Creek
Union: Canada Creek, Cooper Creek, Suches Creek, Toccoa River, Wildhog Creek, and Winfield Scott Lake
Note: Information is subject to change. Please call the hatchery at 706-838-4723 for questions. The hatchery also provides trout for the state. Please contact Georgia DNR for information on sites stocked by the state.

NMARCH30.A9)CA

Pro wrestling coming to Blairsville to benefit S.A.F.E.

On Friday, April 15, 2016 at the Old Rubber Gymnasium, Georgia Premier Wrestling will hold a family fun event to raise money for S.A.F.E. GPW is a family oriented independent wrestling company that holds events in Georgia, North Carolina, and Tennessee. GPW has clean, family events that are good for all ages and brings in top stars from all over the south. GPW is locally owned and operated by Darrell Morris and Greg "Woody" Hullender.

Don't miss this event if you are in the area! GPW has a great card on April 15th and S.A.F.E. is working hard to build a crowd. The main event will definitely be a great match with Cyrus the Destroyer defending his Southern States Title. Jessica Powerhouse Leigh is certain to be at the top of her game as she takes on Ohno. Also on the card are the DSCW tag team champions: "The Movement" Chip Hazard and Talon. The

Good Old Boys, Cletus and Shaggy, could end up stealing the show though with their shenanigans.

Tickets will be available at the door starting at 7 p.m. \$10 a person and \$5 for 11 years old and younger. Bell time for the first match is 8 p.m. and supporters are encouraged to come early to get a good seat. Food will be available for purchase at the event for \$1 an item. All proceeds from the event will support S.A.F.E.

S.A.F.E. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that provides services to victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Child Abuse in Towns and Union counties. For information on available workshops or to volunteer for S.A.F.E. please contact 706-379-1901. If you are a victim of domestic violence or sexual assault or know someone who is, call S.A.F.E. for confidential assistance 24 hours a day. 706-379-3000.

New Liberty Baptist Church 3rd Annual Heavenbound Bass Tournament

In Memory of Jimmy Lynn Abercrombie

Saturday April 9, 2016 • 7:30 AM-3:30 PM
Lake Chatuge
Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds Boat Ramp

Entry Fee \$50 Per Boat • 60% Payback
\$5 from each boat goes toward the BIG fish payout
Raffle tickets will be sold for a pair of Costa Sunglasses the day of the tournament.
There will be door prizes!

All proceeds go to HEAVEN BOUND SPORTSMAN MINISTRY

For any questions:
Call Stevie Abercrombie @ 706-781-4914
Trennis Elliott @ 706-781-8883