

# Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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## Indians place second, girls fourth at Region; State Playoffs this week

By Jeremy Foster  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

While the Indians and Lady Indians did not win their respective Georgia High School Association Region 8A Tournaments, the boys finished Second Place and the girls came in fourth to give them plenty of momentum heading into the GHSA Class A Public State Playoffs.

Hosted at Commerce High School, the Lady Indians played their first game of the Region Tournament on Tuesday, Feb. 15, defeating Greene County 43-33 to advance to the next round of region and secure a spot in the state playoffs.

Leading scorers were junior Tabitha Barnes with 15 points, junior Sarah Shook with 12 and freshman Kaleigh Beaver with 10 points.

"We got the victory in the second round of the Region Tournament tonight, and I am so proud of these girls for punching their ticket to the state playoffs," Girls Head Coach Shea Taylor said.

Next up, the Lady Indians played in the semi-finals of the Region Tournament on Feb. 17 and lost to the No. 1 ranked team Lake Oconee Academy 38-7.

"We played great defense but struggled with scoring," Taylor said. "We have a big game tomorrow as we take on Social Circle for the Third Place game and a higher seed in the state playoffs."

Against Social Circle on Friday, Feb. 18, the Lady Indians gained first control of the ball from tipoff, and junior Tabitha Barnes scored the first 2 points of the game.

Other scorers through the game were sophomore Laura Mauldin, freshman Kaleigh Beaver, sophomore Emma Lallement and junior Sarah Shook, with the final seeing Social



Towns County sophomore Laura Mauldin attempts a layup during last week's Region 8-A Public Tournament. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Circle win 43-29. "I still think we could have beat that team tonight," Taylor said, "but we hurt ourselves because, down the stretch, we had about three starters in foul trouble, and that is something that we have been trying to emphasize on lately. But we are going to take that experience and learn from it and carry it over to the next season.

"Now, we are focused on the State Playoff games coming up next week, and I am proud of them for earning a spot in the State Tournament, and I think

the future is bright for our girls basketball team."

Due to their performance in the regular season, the boys advanced directly to the semi-final game of the Region Tournament on Feb. 17 to take on Washington-Wilkes, defeating them 57-41 to qualify for a chance at Region Championship glory.

"The teams fought tooth and nail through the first half, with Towns County holding a 4-point lead at the break," Boys Head Coach Brian Hunnicutt said. "Towns used a big third quarter to build a



The Towns County men following their second-place finish at last week's Region 8-A Public Tournament in Commerce. The Indians will open the State Tournament on Wednesday when they host the 18-8 Bowdon Red Devils from Region 6-A. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

12-point lead at the end of the period. We played great defensively and played our style of ball."

Leading scorers for the semi-final game were senior Collin Crowder with 17 points, sophomore Zane Floyd with 15 and senior Kyle Oakes with 11. Sophomores Connor Chastain and Tanner Cunningham showed a great display as well.

On Friday, Feb. 18, the Indians played Social Circle for the Region Championship, coming in Second Place with a 69-39 loss.

The scorers for the game were sophomore Connor Chastain, senior Collin Crowder, sophomore Tanner Cunningham, sophomore Zane Floyd and senior Kyle Oakes.

"Social Circle is a very good basketball team, and we did not play our best game tonight, so hats off to them for playing so well," Hunnicutt

said.

Collin Crowder was named First Team All-Region; Kyle Oakes was named Second Team All-Region; and Zane Floyd was named Honorable Mention All-Region.

"Now, we are looking ahead and keeping our focus on the State Playoff games next

week," Coach Hunnicutt said.

The complete State Playoff schedule and bracket information was unavailable at press time, though the first round for the boys was set for Wednesday, Feb. 23, at Towns County High School. For updated brackets and other info, visit GHSA.net.

## Spring sports programs still waiting to complete rosters

By Jeremy Foster  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Spring sports have arrived, with the Towns County Soccer and Baseball Teams in early development.

Lady Indians Soccer has had five games so far and boasts an impressive record of 4-0-1 after defeating Lincoln County Feb. 15 by a score of 3-2 in overtime.

"Our goal scorers were senior Miranda Spain assisted by senior Bazya Smith, and senior Gali Quijada was unassisted to tie the game up at the end of regulation and scoring with nine seconds left," Girls Head Coach Clay Livingston said.

"Junior Jayden Taylor had the game winner in overtime assisted by freshman Abby Gardella, and it was a very good road region win. We are 2-0 in the region so far. We are still waiting for basketball to end because of our transitioning sport student athletes, so we certainly have high expectations for the rest of this season. The standard has been set here with our program."

The Indians and Lady Indians soccer teams' next matchups were set to take place at home after press time on Monday, Feb. 21, against Washington-Wilkes High School.

"We are 1-1 in the season so far, after a loss to a tough opponent in Lake Oconee Academy who is currently third in

the state," Boys Head Coach Rollie Thomas said. "We got a win over Lincoln County with senior Lane Lallement scoring all four goals of the game, so our attack and our offensive strategy is working well with us to start.

"Even though we lost 10 seniors last year, we still have several that are returning who have really helped out with leading our offense. But for now, we are a little green defensively, and I feel we are off to a strong start and will continue to play to all of the potential we have and build upon the foundations we have built previously."

Both teams made it to the Final Four in the state tourna-

ment last year, and it will be exciting to watch their progress this season.

As for Indians Varsity Baseball, the team has experienced a rather unusual start to their season, as no games have happened yet due to the overlapping of the winter and spring sports programs, particularly the continuation of basketball into the state playoffs.

"We have only had nine players including some from the JV basketball team and other members from the wrestling team at practice because we are waiting for basketball to end, as I have nine more players from there to come on board," Head Coach Shannon Floyd said.

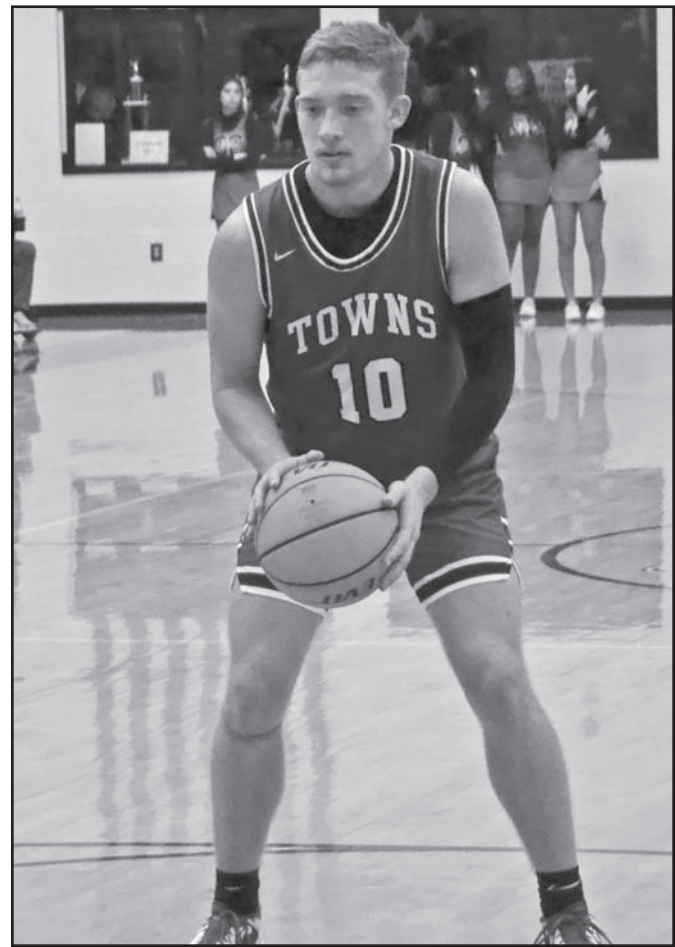
"We may be close to halfway through our season when we get our full team of varsity players, so we are all going to be working hard to catch up, and this is a great opportunity for all of our young guys to get experience playing at this level, because that is what makes us stronger.

"Even though we are still waiting on some key players, we will take however many people we have and hopefully be able to open up with a full team on Wednesday, Feb. 23, at Greene County."

Visit [www.townscountyathletics.com](http://www.townscountyathletics.com) to keep updated on all the upcoming sports schedules.



The Lady Indians celebrate their 3-2 win over Lincoln County on Feb. 15. Photo/submitted

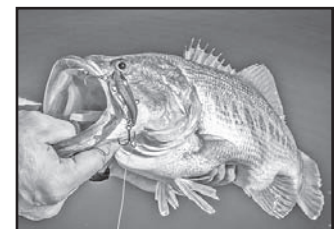


Towns County senior Collin Crowder earned a First Team All-Region nod for the 2021-22 season. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

## Bass fishing tournament March 12 will benefit conservation

A bass fishing tournament set for Saturday, March 12, 2022 at Lake Chatuge will help support conservation projects protecting clean water and crucial lands in western North Carolina. Teams are setting off at safe light, estimated to be around 7 a.m. and \$2,000 worth of prizes will be awarded to the top three teams weighing in at 3 p.m. Proceeds will go to Mainspring Conservation Trust, a regional land trust that helps conserve the waters, forests, farms and cultural heritage in the six western-most counties in North Carolina and northern Rabun County, GA.

"So many people in our service area are passionate about fishing and hunting," says Mainspring Stewardship Associate Alex Jump, also an avid fisherman. "Hunters and fishermen are the original conservationists and we wanted to engage this group in a fun



activity, so they'll learn more about what we're doing in the region that protects what's important to them."

Registration is open until noon on March 11 and is \$100 per boat entry fee. Participants can also register beginning at 5 a.m. at the Ledford Chapel Boat Ramp on Lake Chatuge to receive full instructions before blasting off on a lottery-based system. Absolute cutoff for registration ends at 6:40 a.m. the morning of the tournament.

Sign up online at [mainspringconserves.org/events](http://mainspringconserves.org/events) or by calling 828-524-2711.