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**Chiefland wins 3-0;
*Lady Indians are among the Final Four***



In this team photo of the Lady Indians after the game on Tuesday night, many of them are shown holding four fingers up to show their plan to win the fourth consecutive state championship. There are two players holding one finger up, perhaps reacting a photographer's request for one shot of everyone looking at one lens. There were several people taking photos on the field at this moment. (This is that one shot.)

Story, Photos (all but two, which are marked) and Video

By Jeff M. Hardison © May 10, 2017 at 3:37 p.m., All Rights Reserved

TRENTON -- The Chiefland Middle High School Lady Indians Varsity Softball Team won in a Florida High School Athletic Association final regional playoff game 3-0 against the Trenton High Middle School Lady Tigers Varsity Softball Team at Trenton's field on Tuesday night (May 9).

VIDEO CAN BE SEEN FROM THE YOUTUBE LINK ON MAY PAGE

In this set of video clips, the first scene shows a moment when the bases became loaded by the Lady Indians. In the second clip, one example of the fast-pitch style of Lady Indians Pitcher Kensley Durrance (#20) is seen. In the third clip, a pitch by Durrance is seen being hit. In the final clip, the teams are seen congratulating each other on a game well-played.

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This is the Lady Tigers pitcher Darian Ingram (#6), an eighth grader.
Photo by Lisa Rowland, Director of Special Programs, Gilchrist County Schools



This is the Lady Tigers Softball Team on Tuesday night.
Photo by Lisa Rowland, Director of Special Programs, Gilchrist County Schools

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As a result of this win, the CMHS Lady Indians (Levy County) are scheduled to play against the Wewahitchka (Gulf County) High School Lady Gators on Wednesday (May) 17 at 1:05 p.m. at Historic Dodgertown, a multi-sport facility in Vero Beach.

This Indians-Gators softball game is one of two FHSAA semifinals for the 2017 Class 1A Softball Championship.

The Lady Indians earned the FHSAA Class 1A State Softball Champion title in 2014, 2015 and 2016 with Chiefland Head Varsity Softball Coach Wayne Weatherford.

The other semifinal, leading to two teams facing each other for the 2017 state championship title in Class 1A is the Chipley Lady Tigers (Washington County) versus the Union County Lady Fightin' Tigers at 2:20 p.m. on May 17.

The championship FHSAA Class 1A game in Dodgertown is scheduled for May 18 at 1:35 p.m. Fans might want to remember that game schedules can change, however as of this minute that is the plan.



Levy County Sheriff Bobby McCallum (left) speaks with Doyle Thomas after the game. Thomas has children and grandchildren in the Tri-County Area of Levy, Dixie and Gilchrist counties who are involved in education and in sports. One of his granddaughters Chiefland Lady Indian Macie Thomas (#15) who plays on first base and is a sophomore was a focus for the gentleman that night.

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Gilchrist County Administrator Bobby Crosby (left) and Gilchrist County Sheriff Bobby Schultz pause for a minute after agreeing to a request for a photo opportunity at about the fourth inning on Tuesday night. Here they are seen on the outskirts of the viewing area between third base and the outfield.

After 25 years of coaching, CMHS Lady Indians Head Coach Weatherford has announced he plans currently to retire after this softball post-season.

After the Tuesday night win in Trenton, both Coach Weatherford and Trenton Head Softball Coach Todd Bryant provided their perspectives.

Coach Weatherford said the game was “scrappy” but the Lady Indians showed even more maturity than in their previous match against the Lady Tigers.

“The game showed Trenton is up and coming,” Coach Weatherford said, “but our girls have overcome a lot during the season to get where we are tonight.

“The end of the game was also phenomenal,” he continued. “I don’t think anybody expected us to come out on top. But our girls did. They knew from day one this is going to be us. We came over here on their (Trenton’s) senior night and put a loss to them and we knew we could do it again.”

As for seniors, the Lady Indians have six seniors this

Head Coach Bryant, after spending some time with his team immediately after their defeat, shared his thoughts at that time on Tuesday night.

“We got beat,” Coach Bryant said. “That’s all there is. Like I said before the game, they (the Lady Indians) are a very good team and they play well under pressure.

“We made a few base-running errors,” Bryant continued. “We didn’t capitalize when they made mistakes, and I said earlier that if we hang around, they would find a way to do it. They did.”

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Bryant said he felt the Lady Tigers needed to score early in the game, and the Lady Indians' defense prevented that from happening.

The coach sees a bright future for the Trenton Lady Tigers Varsity Softball Team.

"We are a very young team," Bryant said. "We went 22 (wins) and 3 (losses). We've got an eighth grade pitcher that is going to be a year older next year."

He started three eighth graders, one seventh grader and one ninth grader on Tuesday night. The Lady Tigers Softball Team is watching as three seniors graduate though.

"We're going to be really good next year," Bryant said, "and the next year and the following year (after that)."



Here a member of the Lady Indians hits the softball.



Lady Indian Lauren Parker prepares for a pitch.

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Completing her pitch Lady Tiger Darian Ingram send the softball flying through the strike zone during the first part of the game.



Lady Indian Kensley Durrance shows follow-through with her pitch in one of the first three innings.

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Lady Tigers watch a hit softball and the batter to coordinate an excellent defense in this moment.

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Between the top and bottom half of the second inning, Tristan Drummond (#2) catches a softball thrown by Simone White (#22). This photo is shot with a short lens (18 to 55 millimeter) from the area designated for media by the FHSAA.



Shot with a short lens (18 to 55 millimeter) from the area designated for media by the FHSAA, this picture shows Lady Indian Aleaha Rhoomes

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preparing to hit. The dark object across the top of the photo is the bottom left part of the photographer's left hand as he experiments to successfully create a clearer picture. Due to the dust and direction of the sunlight in the first few innings, shooting from this location presented challenges.



Lady Indian Emily Hallman stands on third base in the top of the seventh inning. This picture was taken seconds before she ran in to score a run, followed by Takiya London to bring the final score to 3-0, Lady Indians of Chiefland over the Lady Tigers of Trenton.

THE GAME

The starting Lady Indians on Tuesday night were Sydney Parks (#11) at second base, a senior; Emily Hallman (#14) at catcher, a senior; Lauren Parker (#3) at center field, a senior; Takiya London (#4) at shortstop, a senior; Macie Thomas (#15) at first base, a sophomore; Samantha Rolfe (#9) at left field, a senior; Erika Gilliam (#33) at third base, a junior; Aleaha Rhoomes (#1), at right field, a senior; Taylor Simpson (#19) as the designated player, a junior; and pitcher Kensley Durrance (#20) a sophomore.

The substitute Lady Indians players were Tristan Drummond (#2) a sophomore; Brittany Tindall (#7) a sophomore; Karlie Meeks (#10) a junior; Raven Shepherd (#12) a freshman; Simone White (#22) a sophomore; Jocelyn McGee (#17) a freshman; and Chrystian Wetherington (#71) a freshman.

Head Softball Coach Wayne Weatherford is joined by Assistant Coach Jimmy Anderson and Assistant Coach Harland Stalvey. Lena Weatherford is the team's scorekeeper.

The starting Lady Tigers on Tuesday night were Josie NesSmith (#13) at first base, a junior; Jenny Lynn Johnson (#3) at center field, a seventh grader; Hallie Bryant (#2) at second base, a freshman; Kyndall Williams (#12) at shortstop, a senior; Lillian

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Wilkerson (#1) at catcher, an eighth grader; Bryn Thomas (#4) at third base, a sophomore; Jaycee Thomas (#11) at left field, a senior; Ashley Biddle (#9) as the designated player, a senior; Adrian Ingram (#7) at right field, an eighth grader; and pitcher Darian Ingram (#6), an eighth grader.

Substitute players for the Lady Tigers on Tuesday night were Regan Couch (#8), a sophomore; Grace Guthrie (#10), a sophomore; Zakyah Frazier (#21) a sophomore; Taniah Bowers (#32) a sophomore; and Savannah Capps (#33) an eighth grader.

The head coach for the Lady Tigers is Todd Bryant. The assistant coach for the Lady Tigers is Clint Anderson.

It wasn't until the top of the fifth inning (of seven total innings played) when the first runner crossed home plate.

The game was heavy defense by both teams from the start. For fans on both sides, there were some sad moments in the third inning when the Lady Indians left the bases loaded and that was followed by the Lady Tigers leaving runners on second and third during their time at bat.

The defensive posture dominated at front half of the game.

For instance, Lady Tigers Pitcher Darian Ingram (#6), an eighth grader, scored five strikeouts in the first three innings, and the Lady Indian outfielders were not the players to send pop fly softballs toward, because they did not miss those hits. In fact, the Lady Indians maintained a perfect defense from start to finish.

Lady Indians Pitcher Kensley Durrance (#20) had four strikeouts.

The third inning included a frightful few moments, too, when Lady Indian Erika Gilliam (#33) ran to second base and tagged it by landing on her back as the result of an airborne sliding action. She was safe, but the officials took a couple of minutes to assure she was not seriously injured.

As for scoring runs, it was Lady Indian Aleaha Rhoomes (#1) in the fifth inning crossing the plate to scoring first. That first point on the scoreboard started with Lady Indian Takiya London (#4) watching the pitches, and not seeing enough to swing at – she was walked.

Other Lady Indians hitting and running to bring Rhoomes home were Sidney Parks (#11), Emily Hallman (#14), and Lauren Parker (#3).

There are only seven innings in high school softball.

In the sixth inning, both teams held the other team at bay for another 0-0 inning, and of course the Chiefland team had the win at that point with a run.

In the seventh inning, Hallman started with a single, stole second, stole third and was followed running in by London as the two other scoring Lady Indian runners to bring the outcome to 3-0 Lady Indians' victory.

It was Lady Indian Samantha Rolfe (#9) hitting a two-run, bases-loaded single in the seventh, when there were two outs, that resulted in the 3-0 win rather than a 1-0 win.

The Lady Tigers did not score in the bottom of the seventh inning.