

2017-18 Tallulah Falls School Athletic Highlights

The 2017-18 athletes, coaches, and teams clearly enhanced the mission of TFS athletics in developing GREAT character, competence and competitiveness, hosting GREAT events and creating a Season of Significance. Nine TFS high school and four middle school teams were honored by respective conference coaches with sportsmanship awards. Multiple athletes received First Team All Region/Area honors and two athletes so far have signed to play collegiately. One athlete was honored as a Northeast Georgia Region Positive Athlete and one as a Blitz T&F AOY. Numerous school records and Legacy List marks were broken across multiple sports. BLITZ named the TFS girls track & field team as a T&F Team of the Year. TFS hosted numerous themed contests, continually receiving genuine compliments regarding how we host competitors and provide quality concessions. Teams raise awareness and funds for causes, mentor, and partner in labor to help our community thrive.

MS sports flourished during the year. Tennis finished 8-0 for the girls and 7-1 for the boys. Both girls and boys cross country won the Tri State Conference Championship. Volleyball finished 15-5-2 and second in the Gainesville MSVL. Boys basketball finished 11-7 while the girls finished as Tri State Runner-Up. Cheer provided plenty of opportunities to increase spirit for the teams. The girls swim team placed fourth of 12 teams and the boys fifth of 17 schools at the GISA State meet. Baseball finished 8-5, handily winning the Tri State Championship in the last game. Golf improved notably over the course of the season. Both girls and boys track & field won the Tri State Conference Championship.

JV volleyball finished 22-2 and runner-up in the Area 2 tournament. Varsity VB qualified to the state tournament for the third year in a row while finishing with a 24-12 record. A junior led the boys soccer team with 10 goals for the season. The cross country girls placed fifth place in Area, the highest finish in the last 25 years. TFS boys placed sixth of 11 Area teams while running faster total, average, and differential meet times.

The boys basketball team played in the state playoffs for the second year in a row and fourth ever. Our young Lady Indians basketball team was only two spots and miniscule ranking points away from qualifying to state. As usual, our loud, proud, and positive cheerleaders extolled the virtues of our teams with gusto and pride. Swimming qualified 14 to the state championships, the most in school history. The girls placed 12th of 46 A-AAA teams while the boys finished 13th. TFS started a new sport – Precision Air Rifle, and it was right on target. The all-freshman group finished eighth out of 15 teams in Area 6 and made it to the playoffs.

Varsity baseball finished with the most wins in school history within a region schedule at a venue now known for its distinct appeal. Girls soccer finished the season with a victory on senior night over a rival that had previously defeated us.

Girls golf won the Area Championship for the second time in four years (with 2nd and 3rd mixed in), finished the regular season (non-tournament matches) undefeated for the second year in a row, and placed third at the GHSA Golf Championships, the highest team placing of any TFS team in modern history.. Though the youthful and inexperienced boys tennis finished 3-7, the Lady Indians finished 7-2. Nine HS girls and one boy qualified for state track & field; girls placed fourth of eight Area teams and boys fifth of nine. Seven girls scored points to lead TFS to a fifth place state finish, the highest ever.. Anna Davis became the first TFS female state champ in any sport and the first to be victorious in two events. Multiple athletes were ranked very high in the state, whether by grade, classification, or overall.

The new Athletic Training program, led by Lauren Brown, has been extremely valuable. Athletes feel like they are taken care of by a competent, empathetic professional who helps them perform at their best.. We increased our social media presence, added Twitter as another outlet to promote TFS athletes and programs, and continue to provide highlights of contests for local media.

TFS is certainly enhancing facilities. The soccer stadium and field a few years ago, the Student Activity Center two years ago, the Higgins Baseball Complex last year, the Golf Performance Lab this year, the precision rifle area next year, and the future aquatics facility demonstrate the commitment to athletics as an educational tool for students to thrive. Further, TFS provides any equipment necessary to improve skill as well as apparel representative of our standard of excellence.

This summer, athletes will have more opportunities than ever to develop conditioning, skill, and team unity. Goals for 2018-19 include more research for a renovated weight room area and a possible future track & field facility. elevating the fan experience, efficient and fan friendly ticketing options, a Tribe of Honor, nominating more for available awards, a stronger connection with alum, enhanced professional development for coaches, and continued improvements in communication, proficiency, competitiveness, leadership, and GREAT.

Though we've truly seen seasons of significance this year, we long for our GREAT culture to be even stronger, to fuel itself through leadership, preparation, and focus, and to shine more brightly to our future alumnae.

Scott Neal
Tallulah Falls School Athletic Director
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