

Towns County Sports

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Lady Indians race past Prince and Social; lose a tough one to Pace



Gabby Arencibia launches a long one against Pace Academy.

Photo by James Reese.

By Jerry Kendall
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The Towns County Lady Indians Varsity Basketball Team was in action three times last week, winning the first two games in convincing manner but losing a close one in the third. They took a comfortable 54-31 win at Prince Avenue on Tuesday before returning home and crushing Social Circle 63-15 on Friday and then losing a very tough battle to Pace Academy 49-47 on Saturday. They completed the week with a 16-6 overall record but a perfect 9-0 in Region 8A with the first two games having been region games but Pace Academy being in Region 5A in the Atlanta area.

After hosting Tallulah Falls on Tuesday of this week, the Lady Indians travel to Lakeview Academy in Gainesville this Friday and to Commerce next Tuesday in closing out regular season play. The Region 8A Tournament is scheduled to begin the following week on Monday, February 13, with play in and first round games being held at George Walton Academy in Monroe and the Semi Finals and Finals on Friday and Saturday at Lakeview Academy.

LADY INDIANS AT PRINCE AVENUE

The Lady Indians sprang out to 6-0 and 11-2 leads and led 14-4, 32-15, and 42-22 at the quarter breaks in taking a 54-28 win at Prince Avenue Christian School near Athens on Tuesday. First half highlights included four for four free throw shooting and a trey for seven points by Ali Bleckley and fourteen points production by freshman Stephanie Patton with three treys included. She scored the final four points of the first quarter and the first five of the second as the Lady Indians extended a 10-2 lead at 3:30 of the first quarter to 19-4 and then 21-4 on a Dadrion Blythe basket by the 6:35 mark of the second.

The Lady Indians got off to a slow start in the third quarter with the Lady Wolverines reducing a 32-15 Lady Indians advantage to 32-19 at 5:35 but Gabby Arencibia struck for six straight points in exactly two minutes between the 4:39 and 2:39 marks for a 38-19 Towns lead. Seven different Lady Indians put points on the score board the rest of the way as the Lady Indians took the aforementioned 42-22 lead

entering the fourth quarter and finished off the 54-31 victory with Lindsay Patton leading the way with five points in the fourth quarter.

Scoring leaders for the game were Stephanie Patton with 14 points, Arencibia with 11, Ali Bleckley with 9, and Lindsay Patton with 7. Eryn Cochran led in assists with 4 and was followed by Bleckley with 3 and Arencibia and Stephanie Patton with 2 each.

LADY INDIANS VERSUS SOCIAL CIRCLE

It was a total mismatch from the start on Friday as the Lady Indians exploded out to a 16-0 lead by the mid point of the first quarter and led 34-0 by quarter's end with the lead being 39-0 less than two minutes into the second quarter. All Lady Indians dressed for the game saw lots of action from the beginning as they led 48-5 by intermission and 57-11 after three quarters in taking a 63-15 victory.

Nine different Lady Indians entered the scoring column and eight collected at least one assist, according to your reporter's unofficial assists tally. Stephanie Patton led the scoring parade for the Lady Indians with 17 points with other leaders being Gabby Arencibia and Ali Bleckley with 14 each. Leading in assists were Bleckley with 4, Arencibia with 3, and Cochran and Lindsay Patton with 2 each.

LADY INDIANS VERSUS PACE ACADEMY

The Lady Indians came face to face with the defending Class A State Runner Up Pace Academy Lady Knights on Saturday in the Towns County Gym. Further, it was the Lady Knights who ended the Lady Indians' record setting season last year with a sweet sixteen victory over the Lady Indians behind red hot shooting at the start and end of the game.

The Lady Knights entered the game ranked 10th in the state in Class A with a 14-4 record but with all four losses having been to teams ranked in the top five in the state in Class A and four of their wins had come against AAA, AAAA, and AAAAA schools. The Lady Indians, on the other hand, entered the game with a 16-5 record with two losses to Class AA state ranked Rabun County, one each to Class A state-ranked Gordon Lee and Holy Innocents' and one to Class AA Union County.



Dadrion Blythe puts up a shot against Pace. Photo by Lowell Nicholson.



Stephanie Patton launches a three against Social Circle.

Photo by James Reese.

The Lady Panthers haven't been state ranked yet but certainly should be included in the upcoming rankings after including a huge win at state ranked East Hall last week in an 18-3 record. The three losses for the Lady Panthers have been to the Lady Indians and the aforementioned Gordon Lee and Rabun County.

With all this being said, an epic battle took place between the Lady Indians and Lady Knights with a rather free scoring affair turning into a tough defensive battle the final quarter. There were just two leads of more than four points with the Lady Knights leading by six early in the second quarter and the Lady Indians by six early in the third. There were seven ties and six lead changes in the first half but no ties and just three lead changes the last half although a very close battle throughout.

First quarter highlights for the Lady Indians included a game opening trey by Eryn Cochran for a 3-0 lead, a field goal by Ali Bleckley for an 8-7 lead, a Cochran basket for an 11-9 lead, and a Gabby Arencibia trey for a 14-14 tie which became a 16-14 Pace lead after one quarter.

A trey by Cochran gave the Lady Indians their first lead of the second quarter of 22-20 at the 4:54 mark with three additional game leading Lady Indian baskets to follow in the quarter. Lindsay Patton got a 24-22 advantage and Dadrion Blythe pulled the trick twice as her second and third field goals of the quarter gave her team leads of 28-26 and 30-28 by the 1:09 mark. A late Kelsie Cowart basket extended the Towns lead to

32-28 by intermission.

A Bleckley drive for two half a minute into the third quarter gave the Lady Indians their biggest lead of 34-28 but the Lady Knights responded with a 9-0 run in just over two minutes of playing time for a 37-34 lead with 6:03 on the clock. A Blythe basket got the Lady Indians within 37-36 with the two teams following with twelve straight points on 3-point baskets.

A trey by the Lady Knights extended their lead to 40-36 but treys by Arencibia and Stephanie Patton by the minute and a half mark had the Lady Indians ahead 42-40. Still another trey by Pace got the Lady Knights ahead 43-42 with 1:03 on the clock and they added a field goal for a 45-42 lead entering the fourth quarter.

As previously mentioned, the fourth quarter became an actually quite physical defensive battle. After a Cowart basket half a minute into the quarter got the Lady Indians within 45-44, the scoring pace abruptly came to a near standstill. A drive for two at 4:12 and a free throw at 2:20 had the Lady Knights ahead 48-44 but a trey by Bleckley at 1:48 had the Lady Indians within a point at 48-47.

The remainder of the game brought about a couple of turning points which left Lady Indians followers thinking of what might have been. With the score 49-47 following a Pace free throw at 1:37, the first mentioned turning point of the game came at 1:06 when a drive for two and an apparent tie with a potential free throw attempt for a possible lead were nullified by



Ali Bleckley looks to pass to Eryn Cochran against Social Circle.

Photo by James Reese.



Eryn Cochran finishes a layup against Pace Academy.

Photo by James Reese.



TCHS Cheerleaders cheer on the Lady Indians against Social Circle.

Photo by James Reese.

a disputable charging call on Cochran.

The Lady Knights left the door open for the Lady Indians by missing two late one and one free throw attempts. A Lady Knights miss at 11.3 seconds was followed by a second turning point on a quite clear but uncalled over the back foul, at least in the view of Lady Indian supporters, allowing a Pace player to tip the ball to a teammate with a second trip to the foul line resulting. The Lady Knights missed again at the 7.1 mark and the Lady Indians got the rebound but turned it over to aggressive defensive pressure and the Lady Knights were able to escape with a 49-47 victory.

After the teams combined for sixty points the first half and then twenty seven in the third quarter, the Lady Indians wound up outscoring the Lady Knights

five to four in the fourth, just short of a tie or possible victory.

The Lady Indians featured a balanced scoring attack in the game with leaders being Cochran with 11 points, Arencibia and Blythe with 8 each, Bleckley with 7, Stephanie Patton with 6, and Cowart with 5. Cochran also led in assists with 6 with Stephanie Patton taking second honors with 2.

While the Lady Indians featured the balanced scoring attack, the Lady Knights depended largely upon the powerful presence of 5'11" senior Morgan Batey who included four treys in a 25 point performance. Batey, who has signed to play basketball at Vanderbilt University next year, significantly elevates the effectiveness of her teammates in addition to her dominant scoring, rebounding and defensive presence.

Indian Junior Varsity survives late run for third win at Prince Avenue

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The Towns County Indian JV's were in action just one time last week but withstood a late run by Prince Avenue and came away with a 33-31 victory over the Wolverines. The victory was the Indians' third of the season as they built leads such as 21-10 in the second quarter and 30-22 early in the fourth but had to withstand a late run by the Wolverines for a tense win.

With several Indians continuing to see double duty with the JV's and varsity teams and seeing just one or two quarters of action to be available for three or four quarters of varsity play, all twelve players dressed for the game saw action in this game with ten entering the scoring column.

Trace Moss took a defensive rebound coast to coast for a 2-0 lead for the Indians barely half a minute into the game and Jordan Jacobs gave them the lead for good at 4-2, as it turned out, with a put back basket at the 5:21 mark. They led by as much as 7-2 and 10-4 but just 10-8 at quarter's end.

Brett Barrett struck for a trey and deuce for a 15-8 Indian lead by the 4:45 mark of the

second quarter and two baskets by Stetson Hedden gave them a 19-10 lead at 1:39 which became 21-12 at intermission. The Wolverines reduced the Indians' lead to 28-22 by the end of the third quarter but more serious misfortune occurred in the quarter when Barrett went down with an ankle injury. It was thought to be broken but it turned out that he had torn ligaments with a quite lengthy recovery required.

An Austin Wood put back basket less than a minute into the fourth quarter gave the Indians a 30-22 lead but the Wolverines sank four of six free throws by the 3:46 mark to edge to within 30-26. A jump shot by Trace Moss at 3:13 gave the Indians a bit of breathing room at 32-26 but they would not score again until a free throw by Adam Plott with 13.8 seconds extended a razor thin 32-31 lead to 33-31. With the Wolverines having possession on a held ball at 3.1 seconds, Trace Moss stole the inbound Prince Avenue pass and ran out the clock for the 33-31 Indians victory.

Leading the scoring for the Indians were Trace Moss and Barrett with 7 points each and Hedden with 4 while Moss and Wood tied for the lead in assists with 3 each.

Lady Indian Junior Varsity crushes Pace for 10th win of season



Misty Lindemuth draws the foul against Pace Academy.

Photo by Lowell Nicholson.

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In their only action last week, the Towns County Lady Indian JV's Basketball Team literally destroyed the visiting Pace Academy Lady Knights of Atlanta, winning by a 42-8 score. All twelve Lady Indians dressed for the game saw extensive action as they won their eighth straight game and improved their record to 10-2 on the season.

McKenzi Moss got the Lady Indians off and running

with a trey just twenty two seconds into the game with Madison Johnson adding a deuce and Bailey Sutton a trey for an 8-0 lead which became 8-3 by the end of the first quarter. The Lady Indians really turned it on in the second quarter, outscoring the Lady Knights 19-3 for a 27-6 lead at intermission. Karlie Albach included a trey among seven points and Alyssa Pyle a traditional three point play in a matching seven point quarter.

Five different Lady Indians put points on the score



McKenzi Moss launches a three against Pace Academy.

Photo by James Reese.

board in the third quarter with Elizabeth Turner leading the way with six points on a pair of 3-point baskets as the Lady Indians led 42-6. A modified mercy rule was used in the fourth quarter with just five minutes allowed and the clock running as the Lady Knights got the best of the quarter with the only

two points as the Lady Indians closed out a 42-8 victory.

Ten Lady Indians entered the scoring column for the game with leaders being Albach and Pyle with 7 points each, Sutton and Turner with 6 each, and Emily Ledford with 5 while leaders in assists were Sutton with 5, Pyle with 4, and Turner with 3.



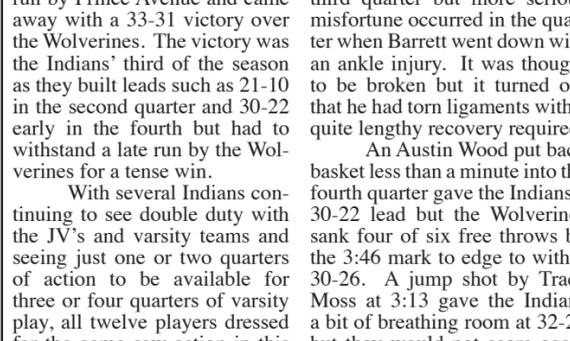
Coach Duncan Weekley talks it over with the Lady Indians during a timeout.

Photo by James Reese.

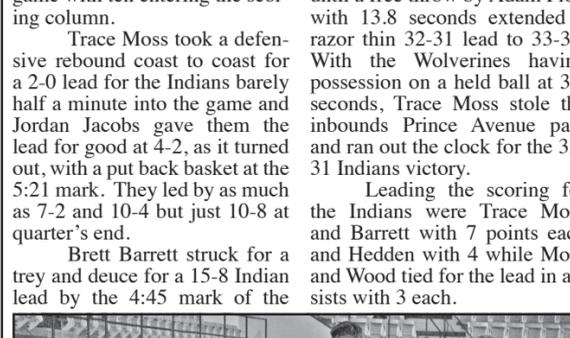


Karlie Albach fires away against Pace Academy.

Photo by Lowell Nicholson.



The Indians talk it over during a timeout. Photo by James Reese.



Coach Mike Anderson watches the action from the sidelines.

Photo by James Reese.