

# Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports



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Hiawassee, Georgia

## Lady Indians breeze past Athens Christian, Prince Avenue game postponed

By Jerry Kendall  
For the second time this season, the Towns County Lady Indians Varsity Basketball Team took an easy victory over Athens Christian, this time on the Lady Eagles' home court in Athens. The victory set the stage for what would have been a showdown for first place in Region 8A with Prince Avenue on Friday in the Towns County Gym. That event would not materialize, however, as the Prince Avenue game was postponed until Saturday, February 13, due to snow and ice here in the mountains.

The Lady Indians' victory in Athens extended their overall record to 14-5 and their region record to 8-2. Prince Avenue would have entered the Friday game with a region record of 8-1 with the loss having been at the hands of the Lady Indians back in December in Bogart. The Lady Indians had no game scheduled for Saturday night but Prince Avenue continued a string of close victories with a 41-39 win at Athens Academy for a sparkling overall record of 18-1 and 9-1 in the region. Hebron Christian at this writing holds a slight edge over the Lady Indians for second place

in the region with a 14-4 overall record and 9-2 in the region.

The postponed game leaves the Lady Indians with three games for this week and three for next week, the final week of the regular season. If the Lady Indians and Prince Avenue win their remaining games prior to that final confrontation on February 13, the Lady Indians would need a win for a tie for first place for the regular season Region 8A Championship. A Lady Indian victory, however, would give them the top seed for the Region 8A Tournament as that would give them the tie breaker with two wins over Prince.

As for the Athens Christian game, the Lady Indians entered that contest with the unfortunate knowledge that Senior Kerri Ahernathy has been lost for the season due to a knee injury sustained in the game at Hayesville three nights earlier. It is especially difficult for Ahernathy, her family, teammates, and fans as she has endured hardship in each of her three years as a regular on the Lady Indian Varsity. She was slowed during her sophomore year while recovering from knee surgery and had an excellent

season as a junior interrupted by a lengthy bout with mono-nucleosis. Fortunately, she is not expected to need surgery for the injury this year to the other knee.

It required Lindsay Patton just forty one seconds to give the Lady Indians a lead they would never relinquish on a three point play and the sophomore added five more points for a 7-2 Towns lead by the 5:58 mark of the first quarter. Four other Lady Indians then put points on the scoreboard for a 19-7 Lady Indians lead after one quarter and a rousing 21-9 run the final 6:20 of the second quarter would give them a 40-19 lead at intermission.

Patton's fellow sophomore Ali Bleckley poured in eleven points in that second quarter for fifteen at the half while Patton not only wound up with eleven points for the half but also handed out three assists in the second quarter. Patton added six points in the third quarter as the Lady Indians extended their lead to 54-29, ending on a drive and pull-up jumper by Bleckley.

That Bleckley basket would be the start of her having a hand in fifteen of the

Lady Indians' final seventeen points as well as triggering an 11-0 run. A trey by Bleckley just nineteen seconds into the fourth quarter continued the run which gave them a 63-29 lead by the 6:26 mark with the Lady Eagles closing the final margin to 69-47 during the final 6:19 of the game. Freshman Dadrrian Blythe put ten points on the board the final quarter with Bleckley assisting on all five of those baskets.

Providing the scoring for the Lady Indians were Bleckley with 22 points, Patton with 17, Blythe with 12, Melissa Conrad with 8, and Gabby Arencibia and Jordan Moss with 5 each. Leading in assists were Bleckley with 6, Patton with 4, and Arencibia with 3. Remarkably, the Athens Christian Ladies recovered from the pounding by the Lady Indians by continuing a pattern of giving other region leaders all they can handle in taking Hebron Christian to overtime before falling 60-54 on Saturday in Athens. They had lost at Hebron by just a 48-47 score and at home by just a 45-41 score to Prince Avenue in games played earlier this month.



Ali Bleckley brings the ball down the court in 69-47 win over the Birds. Photo/Jim and Lisa Bryant

## A tough night for the Indians at Athens Christian



Rylan Albach drives over an Athens Christian Eagle on his way to the glass. The Indians lost 76-29. Photo/Jim and Lisa Bryant

By Jerry Kendall  
When a sports team faces a difficult match up such as was the case for the Towns County Indians Varsity Basketball Team against an ultra quick opponent at Athens Christian last

Tuesday, the last thing the team wants to have happen is ice cold shooting. Unfortunately, that was the case for the Indians in that game, however, as their goal seemingly had a lid on it with the Eagles scoring the first

nineteen points of the game and holding a 19-3 lead after one quarter. A trey by DJ Rogers got the Indians on the scoreboard in the closing seconds of the quarter.

Bradley Swanson came alive for the Indians in the second quarter, putting nine points on the scoreboard but that would be all of the points the Indians could manage with Athens Christian holding a commanding 42-12 lead at intermission. Swanson added four of six Indian points in the third quarter as the Eagles led 58-19 at quarter's end and six Indians then put points on the scoreboard in the fourth as Athens Christian closed out a 76-29 victory.

Basketball can be a puzzling and humbling game as a result of varying match ups as in the Lady Indians' dominance of an often quite competitive Athens Christian team as described in a separate article. As in that case, how else other than match ups can one explain Athens Academy defeating Athens Christian 52-49 on the Athens Academy court five days prior to defeating the Indians by just a 54-45 margin on the same floor?

Against Athens Christian, the Indians were led in scoring by Swanson with 14 points and Rogers with 5 while Devin Henderson led in assists with 2.

Lady Indian JV's survive cold shooting for victory over Athens Christian

By Jerry Kendall  
Any sports team always wants to be at it's very best

when facing an opponent but that is quite a difficult accomplishment to achieve at every appearance. It's quite rewarding, however, when a basketball team can struggle through an ice cold shooting performance and come away with a comfortable win. That was the case last Tuesday for the Towns County Lady Indian JV's basketball team as they traveled to Athens Christian and brought home a 36-20 victory for a 7-3 record.

Athens Christian overcame early 1-0 and 4-2 Lady Indian leads to take an 8-4 advantage by the 1:14 mark of the first quarter but followed up on the six straight points by having shooting problems of their own and going scoreless until sinking a 3-pointer at the 4:14 mark of the third quarter. By that time, the Lady Indians had scored the final three points of the first quarter, all seven points scored in the second, and the first six of the third for a 16-0 run and a 20-8 lead just prior to the aforementioned trey. Another Lady Eagle trey at 2:52 of the third quarter got them within 22-14 but the Lady Indians finished the game on a 14-6 run for a 36-20 victory.

Seven of eight Lady Indians seeing action in the game put points on the scoreboard with leaders being Makayla Underwood with 9, Dadrrian Blythe and Kindie Moss with 7 each, and Davilyn Blythe with 6. Leading in assists were Davilyn Blythe, Drew Kendall, and Underwood with 2 each. Meagan Ellis has still not returned to action after injuring a knee at Athens Academy.

## United Community Bank supports Mountain United Soccer Association



Mountain United Soccer Association (MUSA) helps field more than 250 young athletes for soccer in the spring and again in the fall. United Community Bank recently donated funds to MUSA in support of this effort. Pictured here is United Community Bank's Kathy Hodgkins presenting the donation to Richard Smith, President of the Mountain United Soccer Association. The donation will help maintain the condition of the playing field as well as the maintenance of MUSA's quality program. N0Feb3.C25SH

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Makayla Underwood blows past an Eagle in a vertical route as the JV Ladies defeated Athens Christian 36-20. Photo/Jim and Lisa Bryant

### BASKETBALL INDIVIDUAL SCORING

#### ATHENS CHRISTIAN

Lady Indians (Grade)	
Ali Bleckley (10)	22
Lindsay Patton (10)	17
Dadrrian Blythe (9)12	
Melissa Conrad (12)	8
Gabby Arencibia (10)	5
Jordan Moss (11)	5
Indians (Grade)	
Bradley Swanson (11)	14
DJ Rogers (11)	5
Rylan Albach (10)	3
Devin Henderson (11)	3
Donald Lindemuth (9)	2
Brett Bradshaw (11)	1
Brandon Henderson (10)	1
Lady Indian JV's (Grade)	
Makayla Underwood (8)	9
Dadrrian Blythe (9)	7
Kindie Moss (10)	7
Davilyn Blythe (9)	6
Drew Kendall (8)	3
Crystal Bishop (11)	2
Alex Fagin (9)	2

by Jim Bryant

Collegiate Baseball YHC 6 YHC 11 Collegiate Softball YHC 2 YHC 1 Girls Prep Basketball JV Towns County 36 Towns County 69 Lakeview Academy 45 Lakeview Academy 33 Pickens County 41 Pickens County 44 Fannin County 56 Lumpkin County 35 Flowery Branch 66 Flowery Branch 59 Buford 66 Buford 53 Buford 51 South Forsyth 44 South Forsyth 51 East Hall 52 West Hall 40 Chestatee 55 Apalachee 59 Gainesville 50 Andrews, NC 46 Hayesville, NC 52 Smoky Mountain, NC 28 Nantahala, NC 39 Boys Prep Basketball Towns County 29 Lakeview Academy 59 Lakeview Academy 63 Pickens County 59 White County 53 Fannin County 44 Lumpkin County 55 Chestatee 59 Jefferson 50 Jefferson 87 West Hall 60 Flowery Branch 71 Flowery Branch 51 Flowery Branch 43 Buford 65 Buford 44 Buford 54 Murphy, NC 82 Andrews, NC 47 Smoky Mountain, NC 73 Hayesville, NC 63 Nantahala, NC 79 Prep Wrestling Chestatee 49 North Hall 53 North Hall 54	Chipola 5 Central Alabama 8 Broward 1 Broward 4 Athens Christian 20 Athens Christian 47 Athens Christian 30 Hebron Academy 43 Chestatee 38 Gilmer County 35 Dawson County 48 North Hall 46 Lambert 41 Johns Creek 37 Cross Keys 16 Wesleyan 32 Wesleyan 49 (OT) Northview 35 North Gwinnett 61 West Forsyth 44 West Forsyth 43 Johnson 25 Winder-Barrow 56 West Hall 19 Swain, NC 60 Murphy, NC 66 Franklin, NC 81 Hiwassee Dam, NC 70 Athens Christian 76 Athens Academy 36 Hebron Academy 65 Chestatee 47 Creekview 62 Dawson County 52 North Hall 56 Johnson 89 North Oconee 33 Commerce 55 West Forsyth 39 Lambert 38 Johns Creek 44 North Hall 67 Cross Keys 44 Wesleyan 49 Wesleyan 57 Rosman, NC 47 Swain, NC 58 Franklin, NC 52 Murphy, NC 79 Hiwassee Dam, NC 70 Forsyth Central 23 Winder-Barrow 26 Tucjer 25
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