

Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports



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Indians narrowly miss getting upset win over Athens Academy

By Jerry Kendall
The Towns County Indians Varsity Basketball Team overcame early problems with turnovers and battled the Athens Academy Spartans to the closing seconds last Tuesday in the Towns County Gym before losing a heartbreaker by a 46-45 score. Exceptionally effective defensive play by the Indians was overshadowed by the early turnovers which allowed the Spartans to lead by as much as ten points on two occasions in the second quarter. The Indians were actually able to exploit the Spartans' back court pressure later in the game by breaking the press for several easy baskets.

The first quarter was close all the way with a pair of 3-pointers by John Bleckley offsetting three Spartan deuces off Indian turnovers. The Indians took what would turn out to be their only lead of 3-0 on Bleckley's first try and they forced three ties before trailing 11-9 after one quarter.

The Spartans sprang out to a 19-9 lead and then a 23-13 advantage at the 3:06 mark of the second quarter with three Athens baskets following turnovers and another resulting when a Spartan lost control of the ball while falling down and it found its way into the basket. After this point, the Indians largely avoided turnovers and held the Spartans scoreless for

more than five and a half minutes until the 5:26 mark of the third quarter.

The Indians closed to within 23-18 by intermission and could have pulled closer but sank just three of seven free throw attempts during this span of time. After the Spartans took a 25-18 lead at the end of their scoring drought, the Indians rallied to within one point on three occasions behind a trey and two deuces by Bradley Swanson by the end of the third quarter and trailed by just 35-32 at quarter's end. The Indians twice closed to within one point on four for four free throw shooting by Swanson by the 6:27 mark of the fourth quarter but Athens held the lead and seemed safely ahead 42-37 on two free throws at 49.4 seconds.

The Indians weren't through, however, as they sandwiched a Brett Bradshaw basket and two more free throws by Swanson around a single Spartan free throw for just a 43-41 deficit at 9.2 seconds. Athens sank the second of two free throws at 8.6 seconds for a 44-41 score but sent Swanson to the line again at 6.1 seconds.

The sharp shooting junior sank his seventh straight free throw of the quarter for just a 43-42 deficit but purposely shot the next one short and just missed retrieving the ball for a possible tying field goal. The Spartans sank two free throws



Brett Bradshaw goes to the glass against an attacking Spartan in 46-45 squeaker

Photo by Jim & Lisa Bryant
at 4.2 seconds with the second bouncing around the rim before falling in the basket and becoming the winning point when DJ Rogers sank a trey at the buzzer for a final score of 46-45. The Rogers trey pulled the Indians to within one point for the sixth time in the last half and they had chances on several occasions to take the lead but couldn't quite connect to overcome the early ten point leads.

Despite the loss, the near upset can be considered a quite formidable home court debut as varsity Indians head coach for Ken Hamilton, who was recently elevated to that position after just over a year and a half as an Indians assistant varsity coach and head JV coach. He

is a 2001 TCHS graduate and was a standout in basketball for the Indians, leading his team in scoring during his senior year. Hamilton remained active in basketball while earning his bachelors and masters degrees at Piedmont College in Demorest, serving one year as manager for the men's basketball team and running the clock for all women's and men's games for three years.

Swanson led the Indians in scoring for the game with 18 points with other leaders being Brandon Henderson with 8 points, Bleckley with 6, and Rogers with 5. Five different Indians contributed assists with Bleckley and Devin Henderson leading with 2 each.

Lady Indians avenge earlier loss at Athens Academy...BIG TIME



Brittany Walls attacks a Spartan as she passes off the ball in lopsided 64-41 win

Photo by Jim & Lisa Bryant

By Jerry Kendall

The Towns County Lady Indians Varsity Basketball Team let an important Region 8A game at Athens Academy get away from them on January 21 but dominated the Lady Spartans in a home court 64-41 victory last Tuesday. Three Lady Indian sophomores—Gabby Arencibia, Lindsay Patton, and Ali Bleckley—combined for fifty points in the impressive win.

The victory extended the Lady Indians' overall record to 15-5 and their region record to 9-2. Of great importance, they took over second place in regular season region play from the Hebron Christian Ladies who dropped to an 8-3 region record with a 51-42 loss at Social Circle the same night. Prince Avenue continued to hold first place with a 10-1 record after a

52-23 victory at Tallulah Falls.

The Lady Indians required nearly half a quarter to get their game together, following an early 4-0 deficit with ten straight points for a 10-4 lead which became just 10-9 after a late first quarter trey and an early second quarter deuce. Patton then sank deuces before, between, and following a trey each by Arencibia and Bleckley for a 12 run and a 22-9 Towns lead by the 5:08 mark of the second quarter.

When the Lady Spartans countered with a 9-2 run for just a 24-18 deficit, the Lady Indians finished with steals by

Arencibia and Brittany Walls during the final minute for an Arencibia basket and a three point play by Melissa Conrad and a 29-18 lead at intermission. The Lady Indians broke the game open the last half, twice leading by twenty five points at 50-25 late in the third quarter and 59-34 midway through the fourth in coasting to the 64-41 victory.

Scoring leaders for the Lady Indians for the game were Arencibia with 20 points, Patton with 17, Bleckley with 13, Jordan Moss with 7, and Conrad with 5. Arencibia and Moss tied for the lead in assists with 6 each. The Lady Spartans had allowed an average of just thirty six points per game and more than forty six points just one time in a 55-20 loss to Holy Innocents, the state's ninth ranked team, back in late December. T1Feb10,Sp167ac

Patton's clutch basket gets Lady Indians past Lakeview Academy



Gabby Arencibia goes to the floor as she scrambles for the ball in win over Lakeview

Photo by Jim & Lisa Bryant

By Jerry Kendall

It wasn't easy but the Towns County lady Indians Varsity Basketball Team took an ultra important Region 8A victory over Lakeview Academy last Saturday in the Towns County Gym. After taking a 57-37 victory over the Lady Lions in Gainesville last month, the Lady Indians struggled with turnovers and uncommon free throw shooting woes in the fourth quarter for a 50-48 victory when Lindsay Patton sank the winning basket as time expired.

regular season region title but the Lady Indians would only be assured of a tie for first place. If neither team earns a sweep for the week, a variety of outcomes are possible with Prince having a bit more margin for error with the one game lead entering the week, depending on the outcomes of the Tuesday and Friday games.

Lakeview slowed the Saturday game down at the start but the Lady Indians appeared to be taking control of the game with a 9-0 lead by the 3:36 mark of the first quarter. The Lady Lions rallied to within 11-7 by quarter's end, however, and took three small and brief leads between the 5:18 and 2:21 marks of the second quarter. The Lady Indians quickly overcame all three leads on a three point play by Dadrion Blythe, a trey by Brittany Walls, and a deuce by Jordan Moss and held a 29-26 lead at intermission.

The Lady Indians used an 11-2 run between the 5:20 and 2:25 marks of the third quarter to extend a 29-28 lead to 40-30 with Gabby Arencibia ending the run by taking the ball coast to coast for a layup and then coming up with a steal near mid court and sinking a 3-point bas-

ket. The Lady Lions responded with a 9-0 run for just a 40-39 deficit by the 7:24 mark of the fourth quarter but a pair of Conrad field goals led the Lady Indians out to a 47-41 lead with 3:38 on the clock.

The Lady Indians would leave the door open, however, by sinking just one of six free throw attempts between the 1:59 and 24.6 seconds mark with Lakeview treys at the 1:44 and eleven second marks suddenly giving them a 48-48 tie. The Lady Indians called time out and exploited the Lady Lions' decision to apply full court pressure much as in a late game victory at Social Circle three weeks earlier. Moss inbounded the ball to Arencibia who in turn returned it to Moss who dribbled to mid court and found Patton open for the winning basket as time expired, giving a large Homecoming crowd a heart stopping victory.

Patton led the Lady Indians in scoring for the game with 20 points while other leaders were Arencibia, Conrad, and Moss with 8 each. Moss provided 7 assists, giving her sixteen in the two weekend games and twenty two for the week.

Lady Indian JV's drill Hebron Christian and Lakeview Academy



Kindle Moss gets the call from the official as she and a Lady Lion battle for control.

Photo by Jim & Lisa Bryant

By Jerry Kendall

The Towns County Lady Indian JV's Basketball Team extended their winning streak to seven and their overall record to 9-3 with one sided victories over Hebron Christian on the road and Lakeview Academy at home last weekend. The win at Hebron was especially satisfying as the "veteran" Lady Lions team described in an earlier article had handed the Lady Indians their only loss, by a 61-49 defeat at home, since close opening season losses to Union County and Rabun County.

After a slow start at Hebron, Kindle Moss got the Lady Indians on the right path by sinking a deuce at 3:26 of the first quarter and a trey at 2:58 in reducing 7-0 and 9-2. Hebron leads and initiating an overall 14-2 run for a 14-9 lead. The run was aided by a Hebron scoring drought between 3:12 of the first quarter and 4:41 of the second. The Lady Indians were methodical after that in holding a 26-15 lead at intermission and a 36-17 advantage after three quarters in taking a 44-25 victory.

With Meagan Ellis and now Alex Fagin lost to injury and Dadrion Blythe having been reduced to a couple of quarters a game with increased varsity playing time, the Lady Indians, like the Indian JV's, are down to just seven players with just six available for full

time action. Each of the seven contributed at least four points to the decisive win over Hebron Christian.

Scoring leaders were Moss with 11 points, Drew Kendall with 8, Emily Anderson with 7, and Blythe with 6. Leading in assists were Makayla Underwood with 4 and Anderson with 3.

In the home game against Lakeview Academy, the Lady Indians had their way from the beginning against the very young Lady Lions, leading 11-0 after one quarter and 31-0 prior to the Lakeview's first points on a field goal at the 1:23 mark of the second quarter. The score was 35-2 at intermission and 53-6 after three quarters as the Lady Indians closed out a 58-9 victory.

All seven Lady Indians seeing action put points on the scoreboard with excellent scoring balance. Leading scorers were Drew Kendall with 11 points, Dadrion Blythe and Makayla Underwood with 10 each, Crystal Bishop with 9, Davilyn Blythe with 8, and Kindle Moss with 7. Leading in assists were Underwood with 4 and Davilyn Blythe with 3. The Lady Indians had exceptional success at the foul line, sinking eighteen of twenty three attempts with highlights being five for six shooting by Bishop and four for four success by Dadrion Blythe. T1Feb10,Sp167ac

Late scoring run propels Lakeview Academy over Indians

By Jerry Kendall

The Towns County Indians Varsity Basketball Team continued a pattern of late rallies for potential victories in recent games against Lakeview Academy last Saturday in the TCHS Gym, trailing by just a 40-34 score by the two minute mark of the third quarter. Nothing much went right for the Indians the final ten minutes of what might be described as a wild and woolly game, however, as the Lions broke away for a 60-40 victory.

The Indians largely overcame early 5-0 and 10-4 deficits to trail by just a 12-10 score after one quarter but the Lions pulled out to as much as a 34-18

lead by the two and a half minute mark of the second. Four different Indians combined for six of eight free throw shooting the remainder of the quarter, however, for a 34-24 halftime score.

The Indians continued their improved fortunes with treys by Bradley Swanson and John Bleckley leading an 8-3 run at the start of the third quarter for just a 37-32 deficit at the 6:02 mark and then the aforementioned 40-34 deficit. Open shots that wouldn't find their way in the basket during that third quarter prevented their reducing the margin even further. Three Lakeview treys between the 1:51 mark of the third quar-

ter and the 6:48 mark of the fourth had the Lions ahead 53-36 and the Indians could not mount an additional challenge.

Swanson led the Indians in scoring with 13 points with

other leaders being Bleckley with 8 and DJ Rogers with 6 while Bleckley led in assists with 2 according to your reporter's tally.

YHC slams Jamaica in four, falls to Puerto Rico in eight



Rikki Powers put in seven innings on the hill for the Lady Mountain Lions against Puerto Rico

Photo by Jim & Lisa Bryant
Victoria Sink and Kelly Wright combined to throw a perfect game as Young Harris opened the 2010 season by defeating Jamaica 12-0 in the first game of the International Fastpitch Invitational in Kissimmee, Fla., Friday. The Mountain Lions fell to Puerto Rico Red 10-4 in a game that went eight innings later in the day.

Young Harris' game against Jamaica was shortened

to four innings due to the tournament's run rule. Sink pitched the first three innings for the Mountain Lions, striking out six of the nine batters she faced. Wright pitched the fourth inning, striking out one batter.

Offensively, Jennifer Watford, Emily Wilson and Brittany Allen led Young Harris with two hits apiece. Watford drove in two runs and scored once, while Wilson and Allen each drove in a run and scored once.

In the second game, the Mountain Lions led 3-0 after five innings, but defense turned into a problem after that point. Young Harris made five errors from the sixth inning on, and Puerto Rico Red forced the extra inning, and took advantage of it with a six-run eighth inning.

Mountain Lions starter Rikki Powers pitched seven innings, allowing four runs (three earned) on nine hits and two walks while striking out eight batters. Sink (1-1) pitched the eighth, allowing six runs, but only one of those runs was earned. She allowed one hit and one walk, while striking out two in the game.

Tara Mullinax, Amanda McElheney, Chelsea Davidson, Sam Woolf, Wilson and Allen each delivered a hit for Young Harris.



Bradley Swanson takes the ball to the glass as he drives over a Lakeview Lion in his path

Photo by Jim & Lisa Bryant