



Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Indians overwhelmed by Hayesville and Rabun, show improvement in loss to Union

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The Towns County Indians Varsity Basketball Team came out on the short end in all three games against long-time "neighborhood" rivals last week as they traveled to Hayesville on Tuesday before returning home to face two Class AA rivals, Rabun County and Union County on Friday and Saturday. The three losses leave them with a 1-5 record entering Region 8-A play this week.

INDIANS AT HAYESVILLE

The home standing Hayesville Yellow Jackets returned most of their fire power from last year and quickly took control of the game on Tuesday, building a 15-1 lead just past the mid-point of the first quarter and holding a 25-6 lead by quarter's end. They extended the lead to 43-13 by halftime despite five second quarter points and eight for the half by freshman Dallas Manus.

The Jackets continued their dominance for as much as a 62-13 lead before the Indians closed the gap the final two and a half minutes of the third quarter and throughout the fourth. A late third quarter trey by Ryan Tallent set the score at 66-18 and the junior added a second trey and a deuce early in the fourth quarter as the Indians outscored the Jackets 10-6 in the final stanza for a 72-28 final score.

Manus led the Indians in scoring for the game with 11 points with Tallent close behind with 8 while Rylan Albach led in assists with 3.

INDIANS VERSUS RABUN COUNTY

The Class AA sixth-ranked Rabun County Wildcats took a resounding victory over the Indians on opening night in Tiger last month and quickly threatened to continue their dominance over the Indians on Friday in the TCHS Gym. They sprang out to a 15-3 first quarter lead which they extended to 21-4 barely three minutes into the second before the Indians used a modest 8-5 run to within 26-12 but trailed 28-12 at intermission.

The Wildcats returned to dominance in the third quarter as they took a 53-16 lead to the fourth quarter. The Indians closed out the fourth quarter on a positive note as guards Grant Arcencibia and Dallas Manus each included a 3-point basket within five point production as they reduced the final margin to 72-28.

Scoring leaders for the game were Arcencibia with 9 points and Manus with 5 as Rylan Albach again led in assists with 2.

INDIANS VERSUS UNION COUNTY

The Union County Panthers, like the Indians, suffered heavy losses to graduation but entered the game against the Indians with a 2-2 record, including a split of two games with Class AAA White County, a win over Class AA Jackson County, and a loss to Class AAAA Forsyth Central. They did get a break with the arrival this year of junior guard Rhett McCombs, a Union County native, who had been attending private school in Fannin County.

McCombs and returning starting junior guard Zach Odom would prove to be the difference as they poured in 31 and 22 points respectively in leading the Panthers to a quite competitive 63-49 victory over the Indians on Saturday night. The Panthers sank a 3-point basket less than a minute into the game and would never trail but the Indians overcame significant first half deficits in staying in striking distance until the closing minutes of the game.

The Panthers finished the first quarter with a 17-9 lead and opened up a bulging 29-11 lead just past the five minute mark of the second quarter before the Indians made their first impressive run of the game. They embarked on a 14-3 run between the 4:35 and 1:18 marks of the second quarter, beginning with an old fashioned three point play by senior Brandon Henderson and ending with freshman Grant Arcencibia's second 3-point basket of the run with freshman Dallas Manus including four of his seven second quarter points. The run had the Indians suddenly knocking on the door in trailing by just a 32-25 margin and then 35-26 at intermission.

The Panthers then pushed out to a 48-32 lead before a 9-3 run the final three minutes of the third quarter had the Indians back to within 51-41 entering the fourth quarter.



Senior Brandon Henderson fires away against Union. Photo by James Reese.



Dallas Manus launches a three against Union. Photo by James Reese.



Dakota Barrett lays one in against Hayesville. Photo by James Reese.



Grant Arcencibia lifts a shot over Rabun. Photo by James Reese.



Rylan Albach hoists a jumper against Rabun. Photo by James Reese.

Manus started this run with an exciting coast to coast drive for a layup and ended it with two free throws at 8.6 seconds with a second three point play by Henderson included.

The Panthers scored the first four points of the fourth quarter for a 55-41 lead before the Indians made one last 6-1 run on field goals by Ryan Tallent, Dakota Barrett, and Manus for a single digits deficit of 56-47 with 4:51 still on the clock and they had several opportunities to get closer than that but couldn't connect with the basket. A three point play by two free throws by Arcencibia for a 59-49 score with 2:58 still remaining but that would turn out to be the final points for the Indians.

The Panthers responded with a field goal at 2:33 and, after the Indians missed two free throws at 2:25, successfully

played keep away for most of the remaining time on the clock and sank a field goal with three seconds left for a final margin of victory of 63-49.

Leading scorers in the game for the Indians were Manus with 13 points, Henderson with 12, Barrett with 9, Arcencibia with 8, and Tallent with 5. Seven different Indians each contributed one assist according to your reporter's unofficial tally.

After traveling to Tallulah Falls on Tuesday of this week, upcoming games for the Indians include home court contests this weekend against Lakeview Academy on Friday and Dawson County on Saturday. They then close out the 2011 portion of the regular season next week with road trips to Gainesville to take on Riverside Military Academy on Tuesday, Dec. 13, and to Union County on Friday, Dec. 16.

Indian JV's lose three games but continue to show promise for the future

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A difficult season continued last week for the Towns County Indian Junior Varsity as far as putting a victory on the scoreboard, but individual players continued to show progress, which should become evident in the win column in the future. The Indians lost three games for the week, at Hayesville on Tuesday and at home to Class AA rivals Rabun County on Friday and Union County on Saturday.

The Indians trailed by just an 8-6 score after one quarter with Brett Barrett contributing four points on Tuesday only to see the Yellow Jackets strike for seventeen second quarter points interrupted only by a Grant Arcencibia trey as Hayesville led 25-9 at intermission.

In his only quarter of the game, Dallas Manus included three for four free throw shooting in a five point third quarter as the Yellow Jackets outscored the Indians by just a 14-10 margin in that quarter. The fourth quarter saw the Jackets extend their lead for a final score of 56-28 with Boone Moss contributing four points in the quarter for the Indians.

Arcencibia and Boone Moss led the Indians in scoring for the game with 6 points each while Barrett and Manus were right behind with 5 each and Cruz Shook led in assists with 2.

It was a tough night from start to finish for the Indians on Friday against Rabun County as the Wildcats blistered the nets in leading 31-6, 52-8, and 75-16 at the quarter breaks in taking a 78-23 victory. Leading the Indians in scoring for the game were Dallas Manus and Boone Moss with 4 points each as four different Indians receive credit for one assist each.

With several Indians doing double duty and seeing either one or two quarters of action with the JV's there were a number of encouraging individual performances against Union County in a quite competitive overall contest. The Indians actually jumped out to a 7-3 lead less than three minutes into the



Trace Moss looks for an open man against the Yellow Jackets. Photo by Lowell Nicholson.



Brett Barrett lifts a three against Hayesville. Photo by Lowell Nicholson.



Coach Hamilton draws up a play for the Indians Junior Varsity. Photo by Lowell Nicholson.

game only to see the Panthers finish the quarter on a 17-2 run for a 20-9 lead.

The Indians pretty much held their own in the second quarter as Dallas Manus scored five points in his only quarter in the game with Union having a 19-14 advantage for the quarter and holding a 39-23 halftime lead. Boone Moss then took the lead in the third quarter with five points as the Panthers held a 10-7 advantage for the quarter and led 49-30. The Indians then "won" the fourth quarter 17-16 behind seven points by Grant Arcencibia

and five by Jordan Jacobs as the Panthers prevailed 65-47.

In very similar scoring results for the two teams, ten different Indians entered the scoring column with between one and eleven points while Union had twelve players to enter the scoring column with between two and eight points. Leaders in scoring for the Indians were Arcencibia with 11 points in two quarters of play, Jacobs with 7, Manus and Trace Moss with 6 each, and Boone Moss with 5. Leading in assists was Cruz Shook with 6.

NASCAR 2011

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

Earnhardt named favorite driver again

Junior Nation has spoken once again.

Fans of Dale Earnhardt Jr. voted him the Most Popular Driver for the ninth straight year. Earnhardt Jr. earned the award after receiving the most online fan votes among all eligible Cup drivers throughout the 2011 racing season.

Fans cast nearly 1.5 million total votes throughout the 2011 campaign. The nine other finalists were (in alphabetical order): Kyle Busch, Carl Edwards, Jeff Gordon, Kevin Harvick, Jimmie Johnson, Kasey Kahne, Matt Kenseth, Bobby Labonte and Tony Stewart.

Earnhardt finished seventh in the points standings, his best finish in six seasons. But, he did not surpass the numbers amassed during his first season at Hendrick Motorsports. In 2008, the No. 88 team won at Michigan, scored 10 top-fives, 16 top-10s and led 896 laps.

This year, Earnhardt earned four top-fives and 12 top-10s. But the most glaring statistic is the number of laps Earnhardt led: 52. That's the fewest number of laps he's led since he began racing the Cup full time in 2000.

"We would definitely liked to have won a race, and opportunities to do that are running low," Earnhardt said. "As far as the points go, I think we made a decent account of ourselves, but I do feel like, and I think our team understands that we're better than even where we are now in the points standings. We feel confident that we can improve."

TIRADES, TANTRUMS, AND SPORTS PSYCHOLOGISTS

Anyone involved in automobile racing needs to be able to handle defeat.

Kurt and Kyle Busch, two of the most talented racers in NASCAR still have a long way to go.

The worst thing about their behavior is that they never seem to learn from their actions.

After each incident, there is usually a public apology and a fine, followed by statements from their race teams and sponsors, stating that the drivers' actions hadn't represented corporate policy.

The latest deal involved Kurt, and it may cost him his job at Penske Racing.

He verbally lashed out and pointed his middle finger at Dr. Jerry Punch who was standing by for an interview in the garage area in the season finale at Homestead.

It's understandable Kurt was upset after having blown a transmission in his car, but don't spew anger and bitterness on someone not involved.

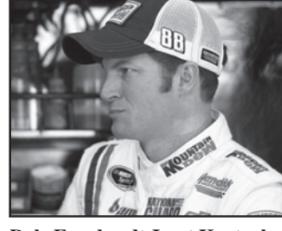
After being fined \$50,000 by NASCAR for his actions towards Punch, Busch said he is seeing a sports psychologist to address "personal issues."

Kurt's 2011 crew chief, Steve Addington resigned last week to join Tony Stewart. Busch said he doesn't believe Addington's decision to leave the team had as much to do with his behavior as it did Addington being offered a job as Stewart's crew chief.

Tell us another one Kurt.

Both car owners were willing to sign the two brothers when Jack Roush and Rick Hendrick, their previous other team owners let them go.

During races, both brothers use profane profanity in radio communications with their teams. Much of it is belittling to the crew chief and those who help prepare the car.



Dale Earnhardt Jr. at Kentucky, 2011

And lastly there are the fans, the people who have dedicated loyalties to Kurt and Kyle. Their reward for that allegiance is to constantly be put in the position of defending the indefensible. "Thanks for your support," the brothers essentially say to their fans. Then they turn right around and do something else negative within a couple weeks.

Is there a place for anger and passion in auto racing? Yes.

But I think sooner or later, even their most dedicated fans are going to say, "Enough".

On a more positive note, the final race of the Chase for the Sprint Cup featuring Tony Stewart and Carl Edwards earned the largest viewership ever for a NASCAR Sprint Cup race on ESPN.

It averaged 6,799,000 viewers and earned a 4.6 household coverage rating (4.0 U.S. rating), according to the Nielsen Company. The viewership average broke ESPN's previous record of 6,668,000 viewers for the 2008 Brickyard 400 at Indianapolis. Final figures do not include a rain delay from 4:45-6 p.m.

Ratings for the Chase increased 14.8 percent from 2010, averaging a 3.1 U.S. rating compared to 2.7 for last year.

Racing Trivia Question: Mark Martin has never won a NASCAR Sprint Cup championship. How many times has he finished as runner-up?

Last Week's Question: What is the relationship between Austin Dillon, the 2011 Camping World Truck Series Champion and Richard Childress? **Answer:** Richard Childress is the grandfather to Austin and Ty Dillon.

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