



# Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports



E-mail: tcherald@brmemc.net

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Hiawassee, Georgia

## Swanson's scoring outburst propels Indians past Tallulah Falls

By Jerry Kendall

Towns County High School Junior Bradley Swanson challenged what is believed to be the school record for points in a half last Tuesday night in leading his Indians basketball team past the visiting Tallulah Falls Indians. Swanson struck for twenty eight first half points as the home standing Indians led 35-19 at intermission in a quite competitive game to that point with Tallulah holding an early 7-7 tie and trailing just 17-11 after one quarter.

When the Indians quickly took total control of the game in the third quarter, Swanson played only briefly and didn't take a shot the remainder of the game as his teammates surged out to a 52-21 lead after three quarters and finished off a 61-26 triumph over their Region 8A opponents. This game and the record setting game of forty five years ago are strikingly similar as TCHS Senior John Nations poured in thirty points the first half in December, 1964, against Union County in the old Towns County Gym.

Nations did not play at all the last half due to the Indians' huge lead of 51-18 at intermission in an eventual 69-47 Towns victory with that scoring feat turning out to be Nations' high point game of his career. Towns County fans of today will be surprised to learn that this game occurred during a period when the Indians defeated the Panthers at least thirteen straight times, accord-



Brandon Henderson drives the glass over a TF Indian in 61-26 win.

ing to a Towns County Herald article from late 1965.

At any rate, Swanson wound up scoring more points the first half than Tallulah Falls managed for the entire game by sinking five treys, four deuces, and five free throws in five trips to the foul line. Nations, on the other hand, sank fourteen deuces, with most coming from long range many years before the 3-point shot

came into existence, and went two for two at the foul line as your reporter recalls.

Swanson's 28 points, of course, led the Indians in scoring for the game with other leaders being John Bleckley and Brandon Henderson with 9 points each and DJ Rogers with 7. Assists leaders were Bleckley with 6 and Devin Henderson with 3.

Photo by Jim/Lisa Bryant

## Red hot shooting by Union too much for Indians

By Jerry Kendall

In their game at Union County on Saturday, Bradley Swanson gave the Towns County Indians Varsity Basketball Team early 3-0 and 6-3 leads on 3-pointers and Ethan Burch got them a 9-8 advantage with a trey near the mid point of the first quarter. Union rallied out to a 21-11 lead by quarter's end, however, and the two teams played on virtually even terms in the second quarter as Union held a 31-19 advantage at intermission.

As in the first quarter, the Panthers held the upper hand in the third quarter in extending their lead to 51-31. The fourth quarter, like the second, was a virtual standoff as Union closed out a 59-38 victory. The Panthers sank ten treys in the game with few misses compared to five by the Indians and Union also held a

more modest eleven to eight lead in two point shots while each team sank seven free throws for the game.

Swanson led the Indians in scoring with 21 points with

Brandon Henderson taking second honors with 6 points while Devin Henderson and Swanson took the lead in assists with 2 each.

Photo by Jim/Lisa Bryant



Bradley Swanson drives into the teeth of a Union County Panther.

## Too much firepower for Indians at Rabun County

By Jerry Kendall

The Rabun County Wildcats used the potent scoring punch of just three members of their team to accumulate sixty four points in an 85-50 victory over the Towns County High School Indians last Friday at Rabun County. The Wildcats' sophomore superstar Tanner Plemmons scored thirty eight of those points as his team improved to an 8-1 record on the season with the only loss being by a 68-67 score to Walhalla, South Carolina, on a shot at the buzzer. Some who saw the Towns Tip-Off Classic will recall that Plemmons scored thirty four and thirty eight points in competitive victories over Nantahala, North Carolina, and Pisgah, Alabama.

The Indians actually held early leads of 8-5, 11-8, and 14-11, largely as a result of scoring three points at a time on a three point play by Brandon Henderson, two treys by Bradley Swanson, and a trey by DJ Rogers with Henderson adding a second deuce. The Wildcats closed the first quarter on a 13-0 run, however, for a 24-14 lead.

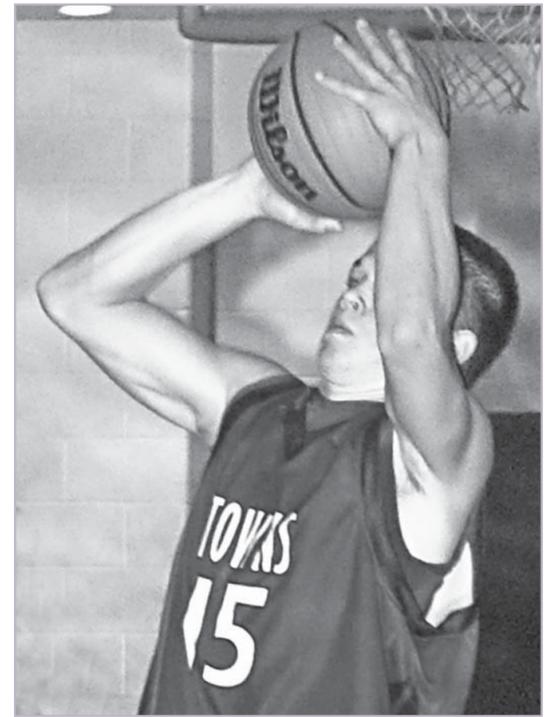
The Indians rallied to within six points on three occasions in the second quarter with the last being by a 31-25 score but Rabun again rallied for a 42-30 lead at intermission. The Wildcats again extended their lead in the third

quarter to 62-42 and took an 85-50 victory.

Swanson put points on the scoreboard in every quarter and led the Indians in scoring with 17 points. Henderson followed with 13 points and led in assists with 3 while Rylan Albach scored 6 points and Ryan

Tallent added 5 on a trey and a deuce. Tallent played just over four minutes in the game after having played in all four quarters and scoring 19 points in the Indian JV's big come from behind win over Rabun a few hours earlier.

Photo by Jim/Lisa Bryant



Devin Henderson stops and pops during heated basketball action.

## Lady Indians cruise past Tallulah Falls

By Jerry Kendall

It has been quite a struggle for the Tallulah Falls Lady Indians High School Basketball Team to provide strong competition in recent years but they had raised some eyebrows perhaps by building a 4-1 early season record this year. Included were a 56-26 win over long time state power Landmark Christian and a 52-24 thumping of Region 8A foe Commerce.

Indeed, the visiting Indians from Tallulah displayed a far greater level of competitiveness in the early going of their game last Tuesday with the Lady Indians of Towns County, taking brief 2-0 and 3-2 leads and trailing just 7-5 near the mid point of the first quarter. The walls came tumbling down on Tallulah after that, however, as six different Towns Lady Indians put points on the scoreboard in the first quarter in pushing

their team out to 21-10 lead which became 35-15 by intermission and 58-23 after three quarters in a 72-26 TCHS victory.

Nine Lady Indians saw action in the game with all nine entering the scoring column and eight collecting at least

one assist. Scoring leaders were Kerri Abernathy with 16 points, Jordan Moss with 14, Gabby Arencibia and Ali Bleckley with 9 each, Melissa Conrad with 8, and Lindsay Patton and Brittany Walls with 5 each. Leading in assists was Heather Hamilton with 4.



Lindsay Patton gets in the paint and eyes the glass in win over Tallulah Falls.

## Two scoring runs send Union past Lady Indians

By Jerry Kendall

The Towns County High School Lady Indians Varsity Basketball Team saw a strong start fade quickly late in the first quarter and well into the second last Saturday at Class AA Union County as the Lady Panthers spurted out to a double digit lead. The Lady Panthers then used a second more modest run early in the fourth quarter when the Lady Indians seemed poised to make a run at them in taking a 64-48 victory.

With the exception of four ties, the Lady Indians held leads of as much as 8-2 until the final seventeen seconds of the first quarter. At that point, a Lady Panther trey triggered a 15-2 run extending to the 2:47 mark of the second quarter which turned a 14-12 Lady Indian lead into a 27-16 deficit. From that point until the end of the third quarter, the two teams played on even terms with the eleven point Union lead still present by a 46-35 score.

The Lady Indians had scored the last seven points of the third quarter and appeared poised to continue a strong run but lady luck smiled on Union the first three and a half minutes of the fourth quarter. The Lady Panthers sank two field goals with significant falling and bouncing before falling in the basket, another on an

inadvertent long two point bank shot, and still another when the player appeared to walk but undetected by the officials. While these type shots are not at all uncommon and part of the game, they turn out to be a killer when accounting for eight points in a 10-4 run, extending a reachable eleven point deficit to 56-39 and effectively putting the game out of reach.

After that second run, the Lady Indians gained a point on the Lady Panthers the remainder of the way but the two runs provided more than enough for a 64-48 final margin of victory for Union County. Lindsay Patton provided a bright spot for the Lady Indians with eight points in the fourth quarter and twelve the last half.

Scoring leaders for the game were Patton with the 12

second half points, Kerri Abernathy and Jordan Moss with 9 points each, Ali Bleckley with 8, and Melissa Conrad with 5. Leading in assists were Bleckley and Conrad with 3 each.



Alex Fagin takes the basketball to the glass against Union County.

## Indian JVs charge past Rabun County

By Jerry Kendall

The Towns County High School Indians JV Basketball team gave fans a taste of explosive scoring capability with a 21-7 finish in their opening game against Union County. They came five points short of a victory in that game but pulled off a stunning come-from-behind triumph at Rabun County last Friday.

The Indians led by as much as 12-4 late in the first quarter and 12-8 at quarter's end but Rabun rallied to lead 24-23 at the half and seemingly took control of the game with a 41-26 lead by late in the third quarter. The Indians rallied, however, with a key being the first of what might be called six and five point plays by the Indians, aided by some loss of control by the Wildcats.

The first of the two plays came at the 59.8 mark of the third quarter when Ryan Tallent was fouled on a shot and the Rabun player committing the foul got a technical as well, fouling out of the game. Tallent sank three of four free throws and then converted a three point play as the Indians maintained possession of the ball as a result of the technical. This got the Indians within 41-36 with the Wildcats leading 43-36 at quarter's end.

With the Indians trailing 52-45, the Wildcats repeated the event of the third quarter, fouling Rylan Albach on a field goal attempt at the 2:08 mark of the fourth and the Rabun player again getting a technical with as before it being his fourth and fifth of the game. Albach sank the first of two charity tosses with Tallent sinking two on the technical and again sinking a field goal

on the possession resulting from the technical with the Indians now within 52-50.

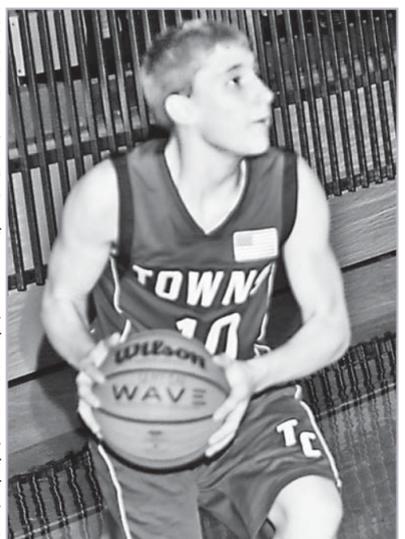
Albach nailed a trey at 1:43 and the Indians had a 53-52 lead with a Wildcat free throw tying the score at 1:19. The Wildcats missed two free throws at 1:01 and Donald Lindemuth took the ball coast to coast for a 56-53 Indian lead but of greater importance the Indians maintaining possession of the ball.

The Indians misfired on two free throws at 7.6 seconds but again maintained possession of the ball on a second intentional foul and Albach took the ball to the basket for a layup at the buzzer to set the final Indian margin of victory at 58-53. The Indians outscored the Wildcats 13-3 over the final 2:08 of the game with this run actually being part of an 18-3 overall finish back to near the four and a half minute mark of the fourth quarter when Rabun led 50-40. Victories at any level just

to pass the ball.

don't get much better than this one for the Indians with all seven members of the team contributing significantly to the victory. Tallent led the scoring parade with 19 points with seventeen of them coming the last half. Albach and Corbin Gilfilian added 9 points each with Albach scoring all of his points in the decisive fourth quarter, his only quarter played in the game to be available for four quarters of duty in the varsity game. Rounding out the scoring were Lindemuth with 7 points, Barrett and Jeb Edge with 5 each, and Austin Wood with 4. Leading in assists were Barrett with 5 and Edge with 2.

Photo by Jim/Lisa Bryant



Donald Lindemuth looks for an open teammate to pass the ball.

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## Rabun County slips past Lady Indian JVs

**By Jerry Kendall**  
As in a late loss to Union County a week earlier, the Towns County Lady Indians JV Basketball Team led for much of the game but were turned away at the end at Class AA Rabun County last Friday. The Lady Cats took the lead for good with only 2:36 remaining in the game and took a 34-27 victory.

The Lady Indians led 6-2 after one quarter and by as much as 8-2 and 12-6 in the second quarter on the way to a 13-10 halftime advantage. The Lady Indians also led for most of the third quarter but trailed 21-19 at quarter's end. Makayla Underwood gave them a 23-22 lead near the five and a half minute mark and a 25-24 advantage about a minute later. That second advantage came as a result of an Underwood steal as did a Davilyn Blythe goal which gave the Indians a bit of breathing room by a 27-24 score a short time later.

The Lady Indians would not score again, however, with turnovers being costly and Rabun closing with a 10-0 run for a 34-27 victory. The Lady Wildcats left the door open a bit by sinking just three of nine free throw attempts the final 1:12 but the Lady Indians couldn't capitalize, missing four free throws themselves during the same period of time.

Underwood put points on the board in each quarter and led her team in scoring with 10 points with other leaders being Dadrion Blythe with 7

points and Alex Fagin with 6. Underwood also led in assists with 2.

Photo by Jim/Lisa Bryant



Emily Anderson gets a rebound in the paint and looks for an outlet pass.

## Lady Indian JVs have lots of heroines in win at Union County

**By Jerry Kendall**  
The Towns County Lady Indians JV Basketball Team found the winning formula last Saturday at Union County in building and holding a lead after seeing both Union County and Rabun County rally from behind for victories in their first two games of the young season. The Lady Indians placed four players in double figures in scoring in besting the home standing Lady Panthers by a 56-48 score.

Union County led for most of the first half, including by as much as eight points in the second quarter, with the Lady Indians managing three ties in the first quarter and one in the second behind the scoring leadership of Emily Anderson and Alex Fagin. The Lady Indians edged ahead for the first and final time as it turned out, by a 23-21 score, on a Kindle Moss field goal with just forty one seconds remaining in the first half and led 24-23 at intermission.

The Lady Indians gradually followed the lead of Dadrion Blythe and Fagin in the third quarter in extending the halftime advantage to their biggest lead of 44-30 just prior to the third quarter break. Union scored the final point of the third quarter, however, and rallied to within 48-44 with 2:14 left in the game but the Lady Indians were able to respond positively to this and a later challenge by the Lady Panthers.

Anderson sank two free throws and Makayla Underwood another at the 2:09 and 1:40 marks for a 51-44 Towns lead but the Lady Panthers were knocking on the door after turning an inbounds Lady Indian pass into a steal under their goal and a quick basket at 1:02 for just a 52-48 Towns lead. A second huge play followed for the Lady Indians when Anderson fired a long pass down court from out of bounds under the Union goal to Underwood who completed a three point play at 59.7 seconds

Makayla Underwood (8) 10  
Dadrion Blythe (9) 7  
Alex Fagin (9) 6  
Davilyn Blythe (9) 4  
Lady Indian JV's (Grade) 16  
Jordan Moss (11) 14  
Gabby Arencibia (10) 9  
Ali Bleckley (10) 9  
Melissa Conrad (12) 8  
Lindsay Patton (10) 5  
Brittany Walls (11) 5  
Heather Hamilton (12) 4  
Sheena Kendall (12) 2  
Indians (Grade) 2  
Bradley Swanson (11) 28  
John Bleckley (12) 9  
Brandon Henderson (10) 9  
DJ Rogers (11) 7  
Rylan Albach (10) 3  
Devin Henderson (11) 2  
Austin Wood (9) 2  
Ethan Burch (12) 1  
RABUN COUNTY  
Lady Indians (Grade) 11  
Melissa Conrad (12) 11  
Jordan Moss (11) 10  
Ali Bleckley (10) 9  
Gabby Arencibia (10) 3  
Brittany Walls (11) 3  
Sheena Kendall (12) 2  
Heather Hamilton (12) 1  
Lindsay Patton (10) 1  
Indians (Grade) 1  
Bradley Swanson (11) 17  
Brandon Henderson (10) 13  
Rylan Albach (10) 6  
DJ Rogers (11) 5  
Ryan Tallent (9) 5  
John Bleckley (12) 4  
Lady Indian JV's (Grade) 4  
Corbin Gilfinian (11) 3  
Jeb Edge (10) 2



Missy Conrad gets off a shot inside as a purple Union Cat tries for the block.

and the Lady Indians had a 55-48 lead which turned into a 56-48 victory.

Leading scorers for the Lady Indians were Blythe with 14 points, Fagin and

Underwood with 12 each, and Anderson with 11 while Moss and Anderson led in assists with 4 and 3 respectively.

Photo by Jim/Lisa Bryant

## Lady Indians fall at state-ranked Rabun County

**By Jerry Kendall**  
The Towns County Lady Indians Varsity Basketball Team traveled to Rabun County last Friday and learned first hand of the capabilities of the Rabun County Lady Wildcats, the state's seventh ranked team in Class AA. The Lady Wildcats extended their season record to 9-0 with a 65-40 victory over the Lady Indians in just the second loss for the Lady Indians on an opponent's home court since the 2007 season. They lost by only a three point margin, also at Rabun County, last year after going undefeated on their opponents' home courts during the state final four season of 2008 and lost no additional games on the opponent's court during the 2009 season.

The Lady Indians would hold just one lead of 7-6 on an Ali Bleckley trey as the Lady Wildcats pushed out to an 18-17 lead after one quarter and

led 35-23 at intermission. They extended that lead to 52-32 after three quarters and completed a 64-40 victory.

Scoring leaders for the Lady Indians for the game were Melissa Conrad with 11 points, Jordan Moss with 10, and Bleckley with 9. Bleckley led her team in assists with 3.

Photo by Jim/Lisa Bryant



Jordan Moss eyes the hoop as she gets set to spring towards the basket.

## A long night for Indian JV's at Union County

**By Jerry Kendall**  
One day after a thrilling come from behind victory at Rabun County and eight days after just a five point loss to Union County, the Towns County Indians JV Basketball Team hit a brick wall on Saturday in the Union County gym. Playing again soon after such a satisfying win as at Rabun County sometimes becomes anti-climatic with difficulty for teams to again rise to the occasion and perhaps this accounted for a huge dropoff in the Indians' caliber of play.

At any rate, the Indians

did rally from a 5-0 Union start for just an 8-6 deficit just over three minutes into the game on a basket by Jeb Edge and a trey and free throw by Ryan Tallent but the points were few and far between after that as nothing went right for the remainder of the game. On the other hand the home standing Panthers played extremely well in taking the victory by an astonishing 59-13 score.

Tallent led the Indians in scoring for the game with 8 points while Donald Lindemuth led in assists with 2.

Photo by Jim/Lisa Bryant



Corbin Gilfinian chases a ball slapped away by a snarling Panther.

## Pinstripes top gray 37-28 in 100-inning game

Young Harris College's baseball team's annual 100-Inning Game fundraiser was a huge success. The Pinstripes defeated the Gray 37-28 Dec. 4 at Zell B. Miller Field on the YHC campus. More importantly, the Mountain Lions received plenty of support and encouragement from parents, friends and backers, and would like to express their thanks to all those who supported the event and the continued success of YHC baseball.

Will Gretsche was named the game's Most Valuable Player. He led the victorious Pinstripes team with 10 runs batted in and four home runs, while also

picking up three doubles.

Chris Holloway picked up a game-high 13 hits for the Pinstripes, while Matt Lowery and Antonio Burke collected nine hits apiece. One of Burke's hits was a home run. Brett Armour hit three homers and drove in seven runs.

Of the 13 players wearing pinstripes, 11 collected at least five hits, including Holloway, Lowery, Burke, Robby Swab (8), JC Cook (7), Christian Stevens (7), Adam Camara (6), Armour (6), Tripp Moore (5), Daniel Marsh (5) and Gretsche (5).

Defensively, the Pinstripes team was led by Cook and

Lowery, who each played multiple positions.

For the Gray team, Matt Lobacz collected a team-high eight hits, including a pair of doubles, and drove in five runs. Michael Squires, Zach Bricknell, Ben Watson and Brice Baker added five hits apiece.

Blake Jenkins hit three home runs and drove in a team-high six runs for the Gray, while Squires belted two round trippers and Will Callaway had a home run and two doubles. Bricknell and Cole Outz also homered.

Squires, Lobacz and Outz drove in five runs apiece. Josh

Rudnick patrolled centerfield for the Gray.



Robby Swab helped his pinstriped team to a 37-28 win in 100 inning baseball scrimmage.

**SPORTSWATCH**  
by Jim Bryant

Georgia State Football Championships

Class A	
Wilcox County 30	Savannah Christian 21
Class AA	
Buford 13	Calhoun 10
(Third Consecutive State Title)	
Class AAA9	
Peach County 13	Gainesville 12
Class AAAA	
Sandy Creek 29	Clarke Central 15
Class AAAAA	
Westside WR 3	Camden County 31
USTAF National Jr Olympics CC Championship	
1st Ty McCormack (North Hall) (16.6 for 3-miles)	
Lanierland Basketball Tournament	
(G) Johnson 21	West Hall 20
(G) North Hall 51	Lakeview Academy 29
(G) Gainesville 57	East Hall 45
Girls 1st North Hall 65	2nd Gainesville 53
Girls 3rd East Hall 61	4th Lakeview Academy 27
(B) Johnson 76	Lakeview Academy 58
(B) Chestatee 47	Flowers Branch 38
(B) East Hall 81	Flowers Branch 76
(B) North Hall 60	West Hall 39
Boys 1st North Hall 67	2nd East Hall 57
Boys 3rd West Hall 49	4th Flowers Branch 41
Girls Prep Basketball	
Towns County 72	Tallulah Falls 27
Towns County 40	Rabun County 65
Towns County 48	Union County 64
JV Towns County 27	Rabun County 34
JV Towns County 56	Union County 48
TCMS (L)	Rabun County (W by 4)
Union County 51	White County 40
White County 40	Dawson County 42
Pickens County 32	Apalachee 52
Buford 62	Avondale 18
Gainesville 69	Chestatee 33
Athens Christian 54	Apalachee 72
Lumpkin County 36	West Forsyth 51
Oconee County 45	Franklin County 48
South Forsyth 63	Mill Creek 67
North Forsyth 46	Northview 43
North Forsyth 63	Duluth 65
Boys Prep Basketball	
Towns County 61	Tallulah Falls 26
Towns County 50	Rabun County 85
Towns County 38	Union County 59
JV Towns County 58	Rabun County 53
JV Towns County 13	Union County 59
TCMS 30	Rabun County 47
Union County 37	White County 51
Dawson County 55	Banks County 53 (OT)
Dawson County 54	White County 51
White County 59	Johns Creek 66
Rabun County 60	Jefferson 90
Buford 64	Avondale 58
Jefferson 62	Fannin County 54
Riverside Academy 67	East Jackson 61
Athens Christian 54	Apalachee 64
Forsyth Central 58	Lakeside DeKalb 99
Forsyth Central 19	Miller Grove 80
Forsyth Central 44	Woodstock 62
Lumpkin County 38	West Forsyth 48
South Forsyth 63	Mill Creek 67
South Forsyth 39	Central Gwinnett 69
Oconee County 35	Archer 46
Girls Tri-County Basketball	
Robbinsville 57	Mitchell 54
Rosman 60	Highlands 64
Hayesville 71	Nantahala 39
Murphy 58	Cherokee 81
Hiwassee Dam 62	Copper Basin, TN 43
Boys Tri-County Basketball	
Robbinsville 57	Mitchell 69
Robbinsville 59	Andrews 55
Hayesville 60	Nantahala 54
Murphy 84	Cherokee 53
Hiwassee Dam 65	Copper Basin, TN 60
Rosman 42	Highlands 46
Prep Wrestling	
West Hall 35	Chestatee 34
Wildcat Open Wrestling Tournament	
1st Place Commerce (404)	
2nd Place North Hall (378)	
Creekview Invitational Wrestling Tournament	
5th Place Chestatee (103)	