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Indians victimized by stalling tactics and turnovers in losses at Riverside and Union

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The Towns County Indians Varsity Basketball Team was on the road for games against Region 8A opponent Riverside Military Academy in Gainesville on Tuesday and Class AA Union County on Friday of last week. Stalling tactics by Riverside and Indian turnovers at Union left them short of victory in otherwise winnable games as the Indians saw their overall record fall to 2-9 and their Region 8A record drop to 1-2.

INDIANS AT RIVERSIDE MILITARY—The Indians took three early leads of 2-0, 5-2, and 7-5 at Riverside with the first two leads being compliments of a deuce and a trey by Dakota Barrett and the third on a drive for two by Dallas Manus but the Eagles got ahead 9-7 by the five minute mark and held a 15-14 lead at quarter's end. Barrett and Manus divided the individual scoring with each including a trey among seven points in the quarter.

Manus took the ball coast to coast after a steal for a 16-15 Towns lead just fifteen seconds into the second quarter and, with the exception of brief 16-16 and 20-20 standoffs, the Indians held leads of as much as four points on two occasions until late in the quarter. A free throw by Stetson Hedden and a trey by Grant Arencibia broke the two ties while Ryan Tallent scored five points on a trey and two free throws in the quarter. Two late Indian turnovers allowed the Eagles to finish on a 5-0 run for a 27-26 lead at intermission.

There were two ties and three lead changes in the third quarter with no more than a three point lead for either team and the Indians leading 42-39 at quarter's end. Ryan Tallent scored eight points in the quarter, giving the Indians a 31-29 lead on a three point play, a 33-33 tie on a deuce, and a 38-37 lead on a trey by the 2:08 mark with a pair of Brandon Henderson baskets keeping them ahead for a 43-39 lead entering the fourth quarter.

The Eagles opened the fourth quarter with a 7-0 run for a 46-42 lead, however, with a Tallent basket on a nice baseline drive at 5:28 cutting the lead to 46-44. Those would turn out to be the final points for the Indians in the game, however, as the Eagles matched Tallent's basket with one of their own fourteen seconds later for a 48-44 lead and they called time out with that lead and 3:53 on the clock.

The Indians would have just three possessions of the ball the remainder of the game as the Eagles went into a stall following the time out and held possession of the ball until they turned it over on a double dribble violation with 1:43 on the clock, giving the Indians their first possession since the time out. After the Indians missed an ensuing field goal attempt, they had just four team fouls so made their fifth and sixth at the forty seven and forty two sec-



Brandon Henderson races for the ball against Union. Photo by James Reese.



Rylan Albach soars to the net against Union. Photo by James Reese.



Grant Arencibia fires up a three pointer against Union. Photo by James Reese.

onds marks, sending the Eagles to the foul line for a one and one opportunity on the seventh foul of the half at 32.4 seconds.

The Eagles sank two charity tosses for a 50-44 lead and the Indians turned the ball over after gaining possession with the Eagles sinking another free throw at 13.7 seconds for a 51-44 lead which held up for the win when a late Indian field goal attempt missed the mark.

The Indians were led in scoring for the game by Tallent with 15 points, Manus with 11, Dakota Barrett with 7, and Arencibia with 5. Leading in assists were Rylan Albach with 5 and Manus with 3.

INDIANS AT UNION COUNTY

After falling behind and trailing from beginning to end against Union County on their home court fourteen days earlier in a 63-49 loss, the Indians exerted a stiff challenge for some two and a half quarters on the Panthers' home court. The Indians managed three early ties and an 8-6 lead on back to back baskets by Rylan Albach by the 3:46 mark.

The Panthers used three treys to advantage after that, regaining and increasing the lead, with a threat of taking control of the game with a 22-15 lead by quarter's end. Most of the sec-

ond quarter actually belonged to the Indians, however, as they outscored the Panthers 11-1 during the first six minutes for a 26-23 lead but the Panthers turned three Indians turnovers into six points the last 1:13 of the quarter for a 29-26 lead at the half.

The Indians opened the third quarter with a 9-4 run, ending on a coast to coast run for two and then a trey by Manus for a 35-34 Towns lead. The Panthers responded with a trey and took advantage of a flurry of at least six turnovers by the Indians after that, however, in building a 54-38 lead by the 1:45 mark which became 58-42 entering the fourth quarter.

Ryan Tallent sank two free throws and contributed two put back baskets for six points during the third quarter. The Panthers opened the fourth quarter with a 7-0 run for a 65-42 lead by the 5:46 mark and successfully played keep away for most of the remainder of the game as they closed out a 65-46 victory.

Scoring leaders for the game were Manus with 13 points, Tallent with 12, Brandon Henderson with 9, and Albach with 5. The leader in assists, according to your reporter's unofficial tally, was Dakota Barrett with 2.

Lady Indians fall to early red hot shooting at Union County

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The Towns County Lady Indians Varsity Basketball Team and their followers are accustomed to providing rousing scoring rallies such as was evident in their 44-14 closing run in just ten and a half minutes against Dawson County following a 32-32 tie in their most recent game. It was to be the Union County Lady Panthers, however, who opened the game with red hot 3-point shooting in the Lady Indians' only contest of last week as the Lady Panthers used the opening salvo in taking a 61-48 victory over the Lady Indians.

The Union victory snapped a four game winning streak by the Lady Indians over the Lady Panthers. In fact, the Lady Indians had quite a dominant streak going as they had further won six of the last seven games between the two teams and thirteen of the last sixteen back to January, 2005.

The seventh ranked Lady Indians got Tuesday night off while the Indians traveled to Riverside Military Academy in Gainesville. The Lady Indians will themselves host two state ranked Class A teams from Atlanta, Holy Innocents' and defending state runner up Pace Academy, next month while the Indians are idle on those nights as a result of having the extra two Region 8A games against Riverside.

The Class A Lady Indians completed the 2011 portion of their regular season schedule with a 7-3 record with two of the losses being to third ranked Class AA power Rabun County, currently with an 8-0 record for this year and 35-2 for last year and this combined. The Lady Indians actually represent the two closest games for Rabun this year with the first game at Rabun being a two point game near the two minute mark in a twelve point loss and the Lady Indians being short handed in an eighteen point home court loss to the Lady Cats. Rabun and Union have combined for a 16-1 record to date with the loss being to the Lady Indians and each of the opponents having 3-0 records against Class AAA schools and higher.

The Lady Panthers entered the game against the Lady Indians with a 7-1 record which included a 52-44 loss to the Lady Indians just fourteen days prior. It was quite striking to realize that the forty points scored by Union the first half against the Lady Indians emphasized the hot finish by the Lady Indians against Dawson County. As hot as they were the first half but in particular the first quarter, the Lady Panthers actually scored four fewer points in the sixteen minutes of the first half than the Lady Indians in the final ten and a half of the Dawson County game.

The Lady Panthers missed their first 3-point attempt but got two points out of the effort on a put back basket for a 2-0 lead just forty one seconds into the game. They



Brandon Henderson races for the ball against Union. Photo by James Reese.



Eryn Cochran gets tied up down under by the Lady Panthers. Photo by James Reese.

followed up that basket with three different players combining to sink six straight treys as they built leads of 17-2 and then 22-6 with two free throws included late in the run.

The seven straight field goals and two for two free throw shooting by the Lady Panthers brought memories to some Lady Indian fans of their state tournament game against Pace Academy last year in the Towns County Gym. In that game, Pace sank thirteen of their first twenty field goal attempts for a 27-8 lead before cooling off and the Lady Indians fighting back for an early fourth quarter 45-44 lead, only to see the Lady Knights respond with eight straight field goals and four straight free throws with three treys included in taking a 69-54 victory. The Lady Knights went on to reach the Class A State Finals where they fell in an unexpectedly competitive game to perennial state champion Wesleyan.

The first quarter of the Friday night game was pretty close to a mirror image of the earlier game between the Lady Indians and Lady Panthers. In that contest, the Lady Indians used six treys by three different players in taking a 21-12 first quarter lead which the Lady Panthers challenged but never overcame as the Lady Indians prevailed by the aforementioned 52-44 score.

A trey, a steal at mid court and old fashioned three point play, and a long deuce in the final 2:53 of the quarter

by Gabby Arencibia prevented disaster for the Lady Indians as they reduced the 22-6 margin to 24-14 by quarter's end. The Lady Indians have a long history of rousing comeback wins over the Lady Panthers and Union a few against the Lady Indians too but it wasn't to be on this night.

The Lady Panthers opened the second quarter with a 7-0 run for a 31-14 lead and led by a similar margin of 40-24 at intermission with Arencibia adding five points on a trey and a coast to coast run for a layup. Other than an early Union field goal, points were hard to come by for both teams for nearly two and a half minutes at the start of the third quarter before the Lady Indians made a move.

Stephanie Patton followed a trey by Arencibia at 5:34 with a coast to coast run for a three point play and then a trey to get the Lady Indians within single digits at 42-33 at the 3:47 mark. The Lady Panthers responded, however, with a long deuce, a trey, and an inside basket for a 49-33 lead and the Lady Indians could get no closer than 56-46 on an Eryn Cochran trey near the two minute mark of the fourth quarter as the Lady Panthers closed out a 61-48 victory.

Scoring leaders for the Lady Indians for the game were Arencibia with 16 points, Stephanie Patton with 13, Dadrion Blythe with 6, and Cochran with 3 while leaders in assists were Cochran with 3 and Lindsay Patton with 2.

Indian JV's fall at Riverside and Union

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The Towns County Indian JV's Basketball Team traveled to Riverside Military Academy in Gainesville on Tuesday and to Union County on Friday of last week and played well in spurts but came up short in 55-29 and 57-38 losses to their respective opponents. The mostly very young Indians continue to have several players doing double duty with the Indian Varsity, appearing in just one or two quarters of the JV games to be available for either three or four in the varsity games.

Turnovers were especially costly in the early portions of the game at Riverside as the Eagles jumped out to such leads as 17-2 late in the first quarter on a 30-6 by the minute and a half mark of the second. The Indians finished the quarter on a 6-0 run in reducing the deficit to 30-12 at intermission and they outscored the Eagles 9-6 the first five and a half minutes of the third for a 36-21 Riverside lead.

An 11-0 Eagles run the final 1:13 of the third quarter and first two minutes of the third extended their lead to 47-21 after which the two teams played on even terms the rest of the way as Riverside closed out a 55-29 victory. Top individual scoring totals by quarter included four points by Grant Arencibia in the second, four by Cruz Shook in the third, and four by Boone Moss in the fourth.



Brett Barrett pulls down a rebound against Union. Photo by James Reese.

game included Arencibia with 7 points and Jordan Jacobs and Shook with 6 each. Leading in assists, according to your reporter's tally, was Trace Moss with 2.

The Indians spurred out in front and led for the entire first quarter at Union County, including by as much as 7-2 and then 11-7 at quarter's end with scoring highlights being four points each by Boone Moss and Austin Wood. The Indians led by as much as 15-10 in the second quarter before an 8-0 Union run gave them an 18-15 lead by the 4:06 mark.

The Indians continued to remain in the game as they got an 18-18 tie on a trey by Grant Arencibia and then a 20-20 tie on Moss' second field goal of the quarter at the three minute mark. The Panthers finished the quarter with a 7-0 run, however,

for a 27-20 lead at intermission and led 31-20 by the five and a half minute mark of the third quarter after which the Indians had another good run.

Jordan Jacobs contributed six points in a 13-8 Indian run which had them within 39-33 by the half minute mark of the third quarter. The Panthers broke the game open after that, however, by scoring the last basket of the quarter and holding a 16-5 advantage in the fourth in taking a 57-38 victory with Arencibia scoring all five Indian points on two free throws and a trey in his second quarter of play in the game.

Scoring leaders for the game were Boone Moss with 10 points, Arencibia and Wood with 8 each, and Jacobs with 6. Cruz Shook had a stunning 9 assists in leading the Indians with Jacobs in second place with 2.

Lady Indian JV's win a squeaker at Union County

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The Towns County Lady Indian JV's Basketball Team was in action just one time last week but extended their record on the season to 6-2 with a tense 50-47 victory at Union County. The win was the second of the year over the Class AA Lady Panthers for the Class A Lady Indians who won some two weeks earlier on their home court by a 44-32 score.

The Lady Panthers took a quick 3-0 lead on a trey just sixteen seconds into the game and, with the exception of three brief Lady Indian leads of one point each in the second and third quarters, led by mostly small margins until the Lady Indians began to turn the tables in the fourth quarter. Four different Lady Indians each put a field goal in the score book in the first quarter with Union clinging to a 9-8 lead.

The first of two second quarter baskets by Alyssa Pyle gave the Indians a 10-9 lead just seconds into the second quarter. The Lady Panthers answered with an 11-2 run for a 20-12 lead which was reduced to 22-16 at halftime on field goals by Pyle and Misty Lindemuth sandwiched around a Union basket the final 2:04 of the second quarter.

Trailing 29-20 near the two and a half minute mark of the third quarter, the Lady Indians struck for ten straight points on a pair of inside baskets by Lindemuth and treys



Karly Albach gets control of the basketball in Union territory. Photo by James Reese.

by McKenzie Moss and Destiny Blythe for a sudden 30-29 Towns lead at 1:20. A free throw by Pyle and a field goal by Madison Johnson matched a Union trey for a 33-32 Lady Indian lead at twenty two seconds but the Lady Panthers reclaimed the lead 34-33 on a field goal with six seconds left in the third quarter.

The Lady Indians received scoring contributions from six different players in the decisive fourth quarter. Highlights included a trey by Bailey Sutton for a 36-36 tie and treys by Moss at 3:52 giving them a 44-41 lead and at the two min-

ute mark giving them a 48-45 lead they would not relinquish. A put back basket got Union within 48-47 at 1:13 but the Lady Panthers would not score again and Moss and Karlie Albach each sank a free throw during the final half minute of play for a 50-47 Lady Indian victory.

Lindemuth and Moss led the scoring parade with 12 points each with other leaders being Pyle with 9 and Blythe with 6. Seven different Lady Indians were credited with an assist with leaders being Lindemuth with 4 and the trio of Albach, Johnson, and Moss with 2 each.