

# Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports



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www.townscountyherald.net

Hiawassee, Georgia

## Indians fall to rapid Athens Academy start

By Jerry Kendall

In this the third year for Athens Christian Head Coach Ron Link at the school, the Eagles have become known as the team with new players each year. They had three youthful newcomers to their program two years ago and added two foreign superstars for one year last year, propelling them to the top of Region 8A. With two far less spectacular but solid replacements for last year's departing players, the original three additions on hand, and a spectacular 6'7" sophomore, the Eagles provide a formidable opponent for Region 8A foes.

With the extreme quickness of the Athens team not possible to duplicate for the Indians during practice, it becomes an on the job task to try and adjust to their in your face pressure which resulted in numerous turnovers and an early explosion of points for the Eagles. A trey by Devin Henderson a minute into the game gave the Indians their only lead of 3-1 with the Eagles racing out to a 25-12 first quarter lead which became 48-17 by the 3:14 mark of the second quarter.

After that, the Indians reduced the lead to 56-32 by intermission, played on nearly even terms with the Eagles for a 75-49 score after three quarters, and then outscored the Eagles in the fourth in pulling to within 85-63 by the final buzzer. It wasn't a matter of the Eagles resting their regulars and allowing the Indians to reduce the big lead as the Eagles used just eight players in the game with the top four scoring seventy three and the top six contributing eighty two of their eighty five points.



Rylan Albach drives over an Athens Christian Eagle on his way to the glass.

The loss leaves the Indians with a 2-6 overall record but 2-1 in Region 8A with victories over Tallulah Falls and Prince Avenue. The Eagles, like the Lady Indians hold first place in the region with a 3-0 record although Commerce remains undefeated in region play but with just two wins.

The Indians placed Bradley Swanson and John

Bleckley in double figures with 20 and 13 points respectively against Athens Christian. Other top scorers were Rylan Albach with 9 points, Ryan Tallent with 8 in the second quarter, Devin Henderson with 6, and Brandon Henderson with 5. Leading in assists were Bleckley with 5 and Swanson with 3.

Photo by Jim/Lisa Bryant

## Lady Indians destroy AC, claim top spot in Region 8A

By Jerry Kendall

The Towns County Lady Indians Varsity Basketball Team entered last Saturday's home game with Athens Christian on a bit of an upswing after sending the Prince Avenue Ladies to their first loss of the season on Friday night. There were questions to be answered, however, as they faced off against the Lady Eagles who entered with just a 2-5 record but with four of the losses to Class AAA and AAAA schools and three of those being decided by between twelve and eighteen points.

Of greater significance was Athens having lost by just a 43-39 score on Tuesday to Social Circle and having defeated Lakeview Academy 39-34 on Friday. These two Region 8A opponents were expected to be among the contenders for this year's Region 8A championship.

The Lady Indians didn't require much time to establish a pattern which would serve them well against Athens Christian, embarking on a 19-7 run the final 4:43 of the first quarter for a 25-11 advantage. By the mid point of the second quarter, they had sunk seven 3-pointers with the final three of those coming between the 4:43 and 4:02 marks of that quarter for a 41-14 lead. They weren't through, however, as they continued on to a 53-20 bulge by intermission and led 67-28 after three quarters on the way to a 75-35 conquest.

With the completion of region play on Saturday, more surprises were in store with Lakeview handing the Hebron girls their first loss after Hebron had sent Athens Academy



Ali Bleckley shoots in the paint in 75-35 win over the AC Birds.

to defeat in the region for the first time on Friday. Further, Athens Academy defeated Social Circle on the road on Saturday, leaving the Lady Indians as the only undefeated team in the region and in first place with a 3-0 record.

Nine Lady Indians saw action in the game with eight entering the scoring column and seven being credited with

at least one assist. Gabby Arencibia led a balanced scoring attack with 14 points with other leaders being Ali Bleckley with 13, Jordan Moss with 12, Kerri Abernathy with 11, Melissa Conrad and Lindsay Patton with 8 each, and Heather Hamilton with 7. Bleckley and Moss took the lead in assists with 4 each.

Photo by Jim/Lisa Bryant

## Lady Indians and Indians rebound with impressive wins at Prince Avenue

By Jerry Kendall

With nearly a week to ponder decisive losses at Class AA Rabun County and Class AA Union County the previous weekend, the Towns County Lady Indians and Indians Varsity Basketball teams provided a very satisfying turnaround for their followers on Friday night at Prince Avenue Christian School near Athens. Both teams brushed aside a long trip by bus in unruly weather with a threat of icy precipitation to take the measure of the home standing Lady Wolverines who entered the game with a 7-0 record and the Wolverines who had doubled last year's win total with a 4-3 record.

A 53-41 win by the Lady Indians and a 67-57 victory by the Indians were remarkably similar in how they developed. Each of the Towns teams led for most of the game and had a ready answer each time Prince Avenue mounted a challenge.

With the victories at Prince Avenue, the Lady Indians and Indians both improved their record to 2-0 in Region 8A.

LADY INDIANS - After taking a 7-2 lead barely two and a half minutes into the game, the Lady Indians went cold for awhile with Prince Avenue taking a short lived 9-8 lead and forcing an 11-11 tie during the last minute of the first quarter. The Lady Indians responded each time with a trey by Ali Bleckley and a basket by Melissa Conrad for 11-9 and 13-11 leads with the latter being the score at the end of the first quarter.

The Lady Indians maintained leads of between one and five points in the second quarter until a 7-2 run the final 2:02 of the stanza gave them a 31-22 lead at intermission. An ice cold start by the Lady Indians in the third quarter, however, opened the door for the Lady Wolverines who ral-

lied to a 32-32 tie with 3:51 on the clock and a 35-34 lead on a trey with 2:11 remaining in the quarter.

With the Lady Wolverines having stung the Lady Indians with three treys in just over four minutes of playing time, the Lady Indians called time out and switched to a man to man defense. This move stopped the Lady Wolverines cold with the Lady Indians striking for a 13-0 run and a 47-35 lead with 4:17 left in the game.

Gabby Arencibia triggered what turned out to be the decisive run with a trey, giving the Lady Indians the lead for good at 37-35 at the 1:35 mark of the third quarter. Arencibia added a second trey at the start of the fourth quarter and she had help from four teammates who dented the score board during the run. The two teams played on even terms the final 3:42 of the game

with the Lady Indians taking a 53-41 victory.

Arencibia included four treys in a team leading 14 point performance while Conrad, Kerri Abernathy, and Jordan Moss scored in every quarter in contributing 13, 11, and 8 points respectively and Bleckley totaled 6 points on a pair of treys in the first quarter. Bleckley and Moss led in assists with 3 each according to your reporter's tally. Such vital contributions as rebounds and steals are usually not addressed in the newspaper articles but three late steals by Moss were especially noteworthy as the Lady Indians protected their lead in closing out the victory.

INDIANS - Hot 3-point shooting highlighted the first quarter and a half of the Indians game with Prince Avenue with the trio of Bradley Swanson, Ethan Burch, and John Bleckley sinking two each as

compared to a total of three by the Wolverines. The Indians overcame three early deficits of two point with the first trey by Burch at the 2:57 mark of the first quarter giving them an 8-7 lead they would hold by mostly small margins for most of the remainder of the game.

An 8-0 Prince run between the 4:02 and the 2:37 marks of the second quarter had them ahead 29-25 but the Indians responded with an 8-0 run of their own for a 33-29 lead which became 33-31 at intermission. This run was highlighted by four points and a steal by Rylan Albach and a field goal and assist each by Bleckley and Swanson with Swanson's basket at the 1:14 mark giving the Indians a lead they would never relinquish.

The Indians led by as few as two points and as many as eight with the overall play of DJ Rogers highlighting the

third quarter with Rogers scoring their final six points on a trey, a deuce, and a free throw as they led 49-45 at quarter's end. A basket by Brandon Henderson, two free throws by Bleckley, and a bucket by Swanson at the start of the fourth quarter gave the Indians a 55-45 lead by the 5:20 mark and the Wolverines never got closer than six points on three occasions after that as the Indians closed out a 67-57 victory.

The Indians got excellent scoring balance in the game with Bleckley and Brandon Henderson each scoring in every quarter and leading with 18 and 12 points respectively but followed closely by Swanson with 11, Albach and Burch with 9 each, and Rogers with 8. Leading in assists were Bleckley and Swanson with 4 each and Devin Henderson with 3.

## TCHS holds annual softball banquet



Seniors Haley Ledford, Chelsey Noblet and Heather Hamilton are flanked by their softball teammates at the annual Indians' Softball Awards Banquet.

By Jim Bryant

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Wednesday night, the annual TCHS softball banquet celebrated their season and honored several players with accolades. The photo-plaques were presented to the honorees by softball head coach, Shannon Floyd after the players enjoyed a special meal at Monte Albans Mexican Restaurant. Coach Floyd wished to thank all the players

and fans who supported the program this season. Special thanks to his assistant coaches, Jessica Anderson, Brad Wilson, Michael Anderson, score keeper Melanie Beighley and others in the dugout each game to help keep the games running smoothly.

Receiving special awards for the 2009 softball season were: Most Improved, Kayla Moody and Ashley Thrasher;

Most Valuable Player, Kayla Roberts; Offensive Player of the Year, Claire Wilson; Defensive Player of the Year, Kayla Roberts; All-Round Pitcher of the Year, Brittany Ledford; Encourager Award, Ali Bleckley and Senior Awards, Chelsey Noblet, Haley Ledford and Heather Hamilton. All of the players received certificates of participation.

Photo by Jim/Lisa Bryant

## TCHS holds annual Cross Country banquet



Coach Jeannie Ledford-Stephens (center) with her senior cross country runners, Melissa Conrad, Tommy Black, Amy Vardeman and Ethan Burch.

By Jim Bryant

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The Towns County Indians took to the banquet table Wednesday night to honor the 2009 cross country team. Brothers Willow Restaurant in Young Harris was the site for the accolades to be awarded. It was an emotional affair, as Coach Jeannie Ledford-Stephens said farewell to four of her seniors. Also generating strong emotions was the 4x4 Award presented to Ledford-Stephens, Melissa Conrad and Amy Vardeman for their

attendance at state all four years of high school. During the last four years, the Indians have been to state four times finishing 6th 2006; 8th 2007; 9th 2008 and 15th 2009. They have been ranked in the top ten teams in Class A three out of four of those years, finishing as the top public school during those years. The cross country team and their loyal boosters also gave their coach another award for her work with the runnes from both the high school and middle school since she became cross country

coach in 2000. Receiving special MVP awards at the banquet were: Middle School Minis Bradley Rogers and Ansley Vardeman. Receiving Senior Awards for the varsity team were Ethan Burch, Thomas Black, Melissa Conrad and Amy Vardeman. Of special note was the fact that Melissa Conrad and Amy Vardeman are the only senior athletes as of this date that have participated in a state championship every year they have been in high school.

Photo submitted

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## 16th annual Battle of the States basketball tourney begins Monday

By Jerry Kendall

The sixteenth annual Battle of the States Prep Basketball Tournament is scheduled for Monday through Wednesday of next week in the Towns County High School Gym. Eight games will be played each day, beginning at 10 a.m. and continuing until around 10 p.m. The Tournament has become a most respected sporting event, drawing interest from fans and teams over much of the Southeast, as evidenced by the fact that teams from six different states have made appearances during the first fifteen years the event has been held.

The Pendleton (South Carolina) Girls and Boys Teams, the Gordon Lee (Georgia) Girls, and the Gilmer (Georgia) and Piedmont (Alabama) Boys will be replaced in this year's tournament by the Murphy (North Carolina) and Hebron Christian (Georgia) Boys and Girls and the Southside (Alabama) Boys. This will be the first appearance for all of these teams in the tournament. Returning from last year will be the Fannin County (Georgia), Union County (Georgia), Hayesville (North Carolina), and Polk County (Tennessee) Boys and Girls Teams and the Hokes Bluff (Alabama) Girls along with our host Towns County Teams. Polk County and Towns County are the only two schools to have appeared in all fifteen previous tournaments.

This is our annual edited and updated review of winners, details from some of the earlier tournaments, and a look at some of the teams and individuals who have played in previous tournaments. For many if not most readers, most of the quite lengthy article will be old news but it is provided for newcomers to the area and visitors to the tournament who have not previously had access to the information.

The Tournament Champions - Previous Battle of the States Girls Tournament Champions have been Smoky Mountain (North Carolina) in 1994, Polk County (Georgia) in 1995, Elbert County (Georgia) in 1996, McEachern (Georgia) in 1997, Holy Innocents' (Georgia) in 1998, Polk County again in 1999 and 2000, White County (Tennessee) in 2001, Robbinsville (North Carolina) in 2002, Fannin County in 2003, White County (Tennessee) again in 2004, South Cobb (Georgia) in 2005, White County (Georgia) in 2006, Fannin County again in 2007, and Polk County for the fourth time in 2008.

Boys Champions have been Walhalla (South Carolina) in 1994 and 1995, Tavares (Florida) in 1996 and 1997, Loganville (Georgia) in 1998, Andrews (North Carolina) in 1999, Union County in 2000, North Forsyth (Georgia) in 2001, Cherokee County (Alabama) in 2002, North Forsyth again in 2003, White County (Tennessee) in 2004, Chapin (South Carolina) in 2005, Union County again in 2006, Fannin County in 2007, and Pendleton in 2008.

Tough Competition Building Strong Teams - In looking at details from earlier tournaments, it may seem strange to look at some of the seventh place games of the past, but a close look at the teams who appeared in some of these contests gives perhaps the most interesting insight into how tough the Battle of the States Tournament can be. In 1994, the Cherokee County (Alabama) Girls appeared in the first Tournament with a 7-1 record and ranked Second in Class 4A, with 6A be-

ing the highest classification, in their state after having won State Championships in two of the three previous years. They proceeded to lose three straight games to eventual Tournament Champion Smoky Mountain (North Carolina), Polk County, and Walhalla, with the latter two games going into overtime, for an eighth place finish. Of course, the Cherokee County Girls appeared in many subsequent Battles of the States and acquitted themselves well, including finishing second in the 2001 tournament.

In 1995, the Lake Weir (Florida) Girls appeared in the Tournament with a fifth place ranking in Class 6A, with 6A being the highest classification, in their State. Although playing without an All American Player who was injured, they were defeated by Hayesville and Smoky Mountain before pulling away in the final quarter of their game with Walhalla for a seventh place finish.

Although the significance was not known at the time, perhaps the Seventh Place game eventually creating more discussion than any among close observers of the Tournament was the Boys contest in 1996. Polk County defeated Hayesville 50-48 in one of the most intense and interesting games of any year the Tournament has been held. No one could have anticipated it at the time, but the eighth place Hayesville Boys from the Battle of the States would become almost invincible in future weeks and play in the Dean Dome in Chapel Hill and earn a State Runner-up Trophy in Class A in North Carolina for the year.

More recently, the Pisgah (Alabama) Boys, a very impressive seventh place participant in the 2003 Battle of the States, made it all the way to the Class AA State Final Four in Alabama that season where they lost by just three points to the eventual State Champion. Further, the Towns County Girls finished eighth in that 2003 Battle of the States but rallied as the season progressed to a 16-12 record and an appearance in the State Tournament, including in the Georgia Class A Sweet Sixteen.

The Towns County Girls finished eighth again in 2004 but again qualified for the State Tournament for the sixth time in seven years under the direction of Head Coach Jim Melton. Melton, by the way, has been a moving force of the Battle of the States for many years as the Chairman of the Tournament Committee who contacts the teams, assures that the vital volunteers are available for service each year, makes lodging arrangements, and much more.

Excellence In The Battle Of The States And Continuing - Success in post season has, of course, not been limited to the teams competing for seventh place in the Battle of the States although perhaps more striking. The 1997 Battle of the States featured three teams who would make huge marks in their states during post season play.

The Cherokee County Girls entered that Battle of the States with a 12-0 record and finished fifth by taking nine and five point wins over Franklin (North Carolina) and Polk County following an opening night eight point loss to fourth place Towns County. The Lady Warriors went on to win the Alabama Class AAAA State Championship for the third time in the 1990's. The Cherokee Ladies were under the direction of Head Coach Jason Shields who currently

serves as head coach of the Hokes Bluff Girls who will be making their second straight appearance in the tournament this year. The Paideia Boys of Atlanta finished third in that 1997 Battle of the States and went on to become State Runners-up in Class A in Georgia while the Paideia Girls, who finished second in the Battle of the States the same year, made it to the State Final Four in Class A.

The 1998 Battle of the States Girls Champion, Holy Innocents' of Atlanta, won the Class A State Championship in Georgia later that school year and at least two teams from the 1999 Battle of the States went on to prominence in post season play. The Towns County Lady Indians, who finished second to Polk County in the 1999 Tournament, compiled a 24-6 record in winning their sixth consecutive Sub-Region 8A North Championship and making it to the 2000 State Final Four in Class A in Georgia. Meanwhile, the 1999 Battle of the States Boys Champion Andrews Wildcats finished their season with a 24-2 record in winning their Smoky Mountain-West Conference Championship and finishing in the Final Eight in Class A in North Carolina.

The Towns County Lady Indians, who finished sixth in the Battle of the States that year, were no slouches either in regular season and postseason play. They finished just one game behind Union County in their Sub-Region after having handed the Lady Panthers a defeat in the Union Gym. The Lady Indians qualified for the State Tournament for the third straight year and outplayed Greater Atlanta Christian for more than three quarters, leading 33-28 through three quarters, before falling in the Region Tournament to the soon to be State Champions. The GAC Lady Spartans of that year featured front line players measuring 6'4", 6'2" and 6' along with Superstar Sherrill Baker, a four year star guard for the nationally prominent University of Georgia Lady Bulldogs.

The 2003 Battle of the States featured another team in addition to the aforementioned Pisgah Boys and Towns County Girls which made a strong showing in post season play. The unranked Battle of the States Champion Fannin County Girls, who had won two State Championships in the 1990's under legendary Head Coach Johnny Farmer got stronger as the season progressed. The Lady Rebels completed a 25-8 season by finishing second in the Georgia Class AAA State Tournament, falling to fellow Region 7AAA foe Gainesville, which featured 6'3" Superstar Tasha Humphrey, later a four year sensation with the University of Georgia Lady Bulldogs.

Although the neighboring North Carolina Class A State Champion Hayesville Boys of 2004 didn't participate in the 2003 Battle of the States, they did encounter strong battles with two tournament participants. The Sixth Place Battle of the States Robbinsville Boys handed the Yellow Jackets one of just two losses, including their only home court loss for the season. Further, the Third Place Battle of the States Towns County Boys were within one point with four minutes to go at Towns County and the Indians led Hayesville by a point with two minutes to go at Hayesville before the Yellow Jackets pulled away for seven point victories in each game.

And the Towns County

Lady Indians, who finished third in the 2007 Battle of the States, went on to a record setting season, finishing with a 28-4 record and making it to the Georgia Class A State Final Four for the second time in nine years. They trailed by just five points near the three minute mark before falling in the state semi-finals by a thirteen point margin to eventual state champion Calvary Day of Savannah.

The most competitive grouping of teams to date in the Tournament would have to be the Boys field in 1995 when five of a total of twelve contests were decided in overtime and four other games were decided by seven or fewer points. A comparison of results of some of the contests reveals the competitiveness of the 1995 Tournament from top to bottom. Tournament Champion Walhalla was taken to three overtimes in the semi-finals by Fourth Place finisher Towns County who was taken to overtime by Seventh Place Gilmer (Georgia) who was taken to overtime by Eighth Place Polk County during the course of the tournament.

Players From Prior Tournaments Achieving Continuing Success - There have been many individual performers from the Battle of the States who have pursued their basketball careers and some in other sports as well with great success in college, including in Division I, through the years. It would be impossible to list or even know of all the performers who have continued their careers in college but several will be identified here.

Some of the more notable among the Division I signees are Lee Scruggs, a 6'10" three year starter in the Tournament for Franklin, who went on to stardom for three years at Georgetown University in Washington, DC; Angelina Miller, also a three year starter in the Tournament for McEachern (Georgia), who was a top player for four years at Georgia State University in Atlanta; and Megan Isom of Paideia, a two year starter at Georgia Tech. Wynter Whitley of Holy Innocents' finished her career several years ago at Duke University as did Andrea Neeley of Union County at Georgia State University.

Of more recent vintage, two all tournament players from previous Battles of the States both battled injury but had significant success at Kennesaw State University, a school elevated just a few years ago to Division I status. Nikki Gurley of Union County earned all tournament honors in the Battle of the States three times during her career while Stephanie Searce of Fannin County made the all tournament squad in her only appearance in 2003. Kennesaw State, by the way, is coached by Colby Tilley who directed Truett McConnell College to a Junior College National Championship in 1980 with Towns County's own Martha Moss being a superstar on that team.

Another Division I player to mention is Matt Womack of North Forsyth who made the 2003 Battle of the States All Tournament team and participated as a walk on player for the University of Georgia Bulldogs Varsity during the 2005 season. And Kori Penland of Gordon Lee is a sophomore at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga where she was recently named the Southern Conference Student-Athlete of the Week after making the Battle of the States All Tournament Team in 2007.

Last but far from least as related to Division I is the success

### BASKETBALL INDIVIDUAL SCORING

PRINCE AVENUE	
Lady Indians (Grade)	
Gabby Arencibia (10)	14
Melissa Conrad (12)	13
Kerri Abernathy (12)	10
Jordan Moss (11)	8
Ali Bleckley (10)	6
Lindsay Patton (10) 2	
INDIANS (Grade)	
John Bleckley (12) 18	
Brandon Henderson (10)	12
Bradley Swanson (11)	11
Rylan Albach (10) 9	
Ethan Burch (12)	9
DJ Rogers (11)	8
ATHENS CHRISTIAN	
Lady Indians (Grade)	
Gabby Arencibia (10)	14
Ali Bleckley (10)	13
Jordan Moss (11)	12
Kerri Abernathy (12)	11
Melissa Conrad (12)	8
Lindsay Patton (10) 8	
Heather Hamilton (12)	7
Brittany Walls (11) 2	
INDIANS (Grade)	
Bradley Swanson (11)	20
John Bleckley (12) 13	
Rylan Albach (10) 9	
Ryan Tallent (9)	8
Devin Henderson (11)	6
Brandon Henderson (10) 5	
Donald Lindemuth (9)	2
LADY INDIAN JV'S (Grade)	
Dadrian Blythe (9) 15	
Drew Kendall (8)	11
Alex Fagin (9)	8
Makayla Underwood (8)	7
Davilyn Blythe (9) 6	
Kindle Moss (10)	2

## Lady Indian JV's stifle Athens Christian

By Jerry Kendall

The Towns County Lady Indian JV's got their second win in a row last Saturday with a home court victory over Athens Christian. The victory gave them a 2-2 record after close losses to Class AA Union County at home and at Class AA Rabun County and an impressive win at Union County. This was the only JV action for the week.

The Lady Indians broke out to a 9-0 lead over Athens Christian barely five and a half minutes into the game and held a 9-4 advantage after one quarter. The Lady Eagles were never in the game after that as the Lady Indians exploded out to a 28-8 lead at the half, shut the visitors out in the third quarter for a 38-8 score, and finished off a 49-13 triumph.

Dadrian Blythe put

points on the scoreboard in every quarter and led the Lady Indians in scoring with 15 points with other leaders being Drew Kendall with 11 points, Alex Fagin with 8, Makayla Underwood with 7, and Davilyn Blythe with 6. Leading in assists were Davilyn Blythe with 6. Leading in assists were Davilyn Blythe with 6 and Underwood with 3.



Makayla Underwood blows past an Eagle in a vertical move to the basket.

of Candace Williams of Union County who made the University of Georgia team as a walk on for this season and has seen significant and quite successful playing time for the undefeated and thirteenth ranked Lady Bulldogs as a freshman. Williams was injured and missed the Battle of the States her freshman year at Union County but made the all tournament team in each of her three years in the tournament.

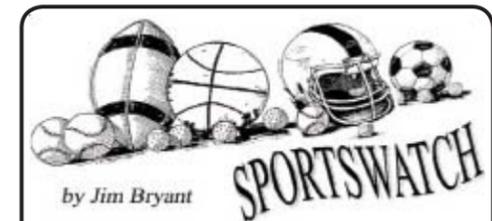
Locally, 1997 Towns County Graduate Keisha Taylor was a top player for NCAA Division II Columbus State University in Columbus, Georgia, with the Lady Cougars being the top ranked team in the nation for much of the 2001 season. The Lady Cougars made it to the National Final Four for the second year in a row that year before being upset for their only loss of the season by Cal Poly-Pomona, the eventual National Champion, in the Semi Finals.

Three vital members of the Towns County Lady Indians Class A State Final Four Team in 2000 completed successful four year college careers. Brandy McNabb (TCHS Class of 2000) completed her career in 2004 at LaGrange College as did Olivia Swanson (2001) in 2005 while Candice Blythe (2000) completed her career in 2004 at Piedmont College under the late Head Coach Charles Cooper, the 2001 Battle of the States Breakfast Banquet Speaker. McNabb and Blythe were two year starters at Truett McConnell Junior College before moving on to their respective four year schools. Blythe returned to Piedmont for

the 2005 season as an assistant coach and served the last two years as the top assistant for the Towns County Lady Indians.

Further, Heath Hooper of Towns County made the 2004 Battle of the States All Tournament Team and continued his basketball career at Reinhardt College in Waleska. He battled injury throughout his four years at Reinhardt but saw some quality playing time, sometimes as a starter, when able to play. And Amanda Irwin of Towns County, a member of the Battle of the States All Tournament team in 2008 and then a first team All Region and honorable mention Class A All State selection, is a sophomore who has seen action in most of her team's games as a freshman and sophomore for the Division II Georgia College and State University Lady Bobcats in Milledgeville.

And Finally - Fans interested in post flight basketball action involving current and future individual superstar athletes and championship games, seventh place games, or anywhere in between, should give serious consideration to attending the 2008 Battle of the States Tournament. Complete girls and boys brackets are included in this week's paper but in their opening games the Towns County Indians will face Polk County at 5:30 on Monday with the Lady Indians to follow against Murphy at 7:00 p.m. Starting times and opponents for future games in the Tournament for all teams will be based upon the results of the contests as they are played.



by Jim Bryant

### GIRLS PREP BASKETBALL

Towns County 75	Athens Christian 35
Towns County 53	Prince Avenue 41
JV Towns County 49	Athens Christian 13
TC Middle School 43	Copper Basin, TN 8
Union County 45	Lumpkin County 41
Social Circle 51	Athens Academy 48
Lumpkin County 21	Flowers Branch 56
Hebron Academy 29	Lakeview Academy 46
Athens Christian 39	Lakeview Academy 34
Athens Christian 42	Hebron Academy 44
Dawson County 31	Walnut Grove 52
Woody Gap 24	Yeshiva 17
Apalachee 78	Monroe Area 66
Forsyth Central 48	Chamblee 58
North Forsyth 44	Habersham Central 41
North Forsyth 57	Hart County 52
South Forsyth 71	Meadow Creek 46
Gilmer County 27	Chestatee 54
Pickens County 39	North Hall 41
Pickens County 49	Gilmer County 35
West Hall 37	Lambert 31
West Hall 23	Gainesville 46
West Hall 33	Creekview 48
East Hall 44	Flowers Branch 36
Oconee County 48	Johnson 32
Jackson County 62	East Jackson 42
Clarke Central 61	Monroe Area 36
Girls Tri-County Prep Basketball	
Robbinsville, NC 69	Franklin, NC 64
Smoky Mountain 22	West Henderson, NC 32
Franklin, NC 69	Pisgah, NC 61
Andrews, NC 31	Rosman, NC 56
Murphy, NC 66	Hayesville, NC 51

### BOYS PREP BASKETBALL

Towns County 63	Athens Christian 85
Towns County 67	Prince Avenue 57
TC Middle School 34	Copper Basin, TN 37
Hebron Academy 51	Lakeview Academy 102
Dawson County 51	Walnut Grove 54
Pickens County 72	North Hall 71 (OT)
Lumpkin County 65	Creekview 59
Lumpkin County 22	Flowers Branch 58
Jackson County 64	East Jackson 58
White County 88	Oglethorpe County 51
Athens Christian 66	Lakeview Academy 62
Athens Christian 48	Hebron Academy 52
West Hall 33	Gainesville 52
West Hall 68	Creekview 47
West Hall 63	Lambert 53
West Hall 46	Stephens County 50
East Hall 68	Flowers Branch 75
Jefferson 63	Riverside Academy 58
Johnson 90	Gainesville 75
Johnson 69	Oconee County 40
Oglethorpe County 59	Riverside Academy 71
Walnut Grove 65	Riverside Academy 58
West Forsyth 62	North Springs 68
Clarke Central 75	Avondale 57

### BOYS TRI-COUNTY PREP BASKETBALL

Franklin, NC 49	Robbinsville, NC 54
Franklin, NC 52	Pisgah, NC 65
Andrews, NC 50	Rosman, NC 41
Murphy, NC 66	Hayesville, NC 57
White Creek, NC 51	Hiwassee Dam, NC 86

### ACHASTA CHRISTMAS BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

(G) Union County 41	East Hall 51
(G) North Hall 47	Buford 70
(G) Buford 60	East Hall 45
(B) Lumpkin Co 22	Flowers Branch 58
(B) East Hall 76	Wesleyan 70
(B) North Hall 75	Buford 54
(B) North Hall 72	Wesleyan 65

### ANDERSON, SC WRESTLING TOURNAMENT

3rd Place Riverside Military Academy	
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### PREP WRESTLING

West Hall 42	Jackson County 31
Lumpkin County 54	Murphy, NC 12
Lumpkin County 34	White County 27

### LONGHORN HOOK'EM CLASSIC WRESTLING TOURNAMENT

6th North Hall	
3rd West Hall	

### RED RAIDER RUMBLE WRESTLING CLASSIC

Chestatee 75	Stephens County 0
Chestatee 63	Westside-Augusta 9
Chestatee 1	Cedar Shoals 0
Chestatee 42	Madison County 37
Chestatee 12	Commerce 50
Commerce 69	Westside-Augusta 12
Commerce 83	Madison County 0
Commerce 84	Stephenson County 0
Commerce 68	Athens Christian 12