

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Indians breeze past George Walton, fall to Riverside Military

By Jerry Kendall
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Towns County Indians varsity basketball team faced a quite tall order last week in hosting Riverside Military Academy of Gainesville on Tuesday and traveling to Athens Academy on Friday before hosting George Walton Academy from Monroe on Saturday.

The Indians' schedule this year has largely featured at least one and often additional players in the 6'5" to 6'6" range and often very athletic as well with this feature being present on all three opposing teams last week while the Indians feature a lineup with no one much taller than six feet.

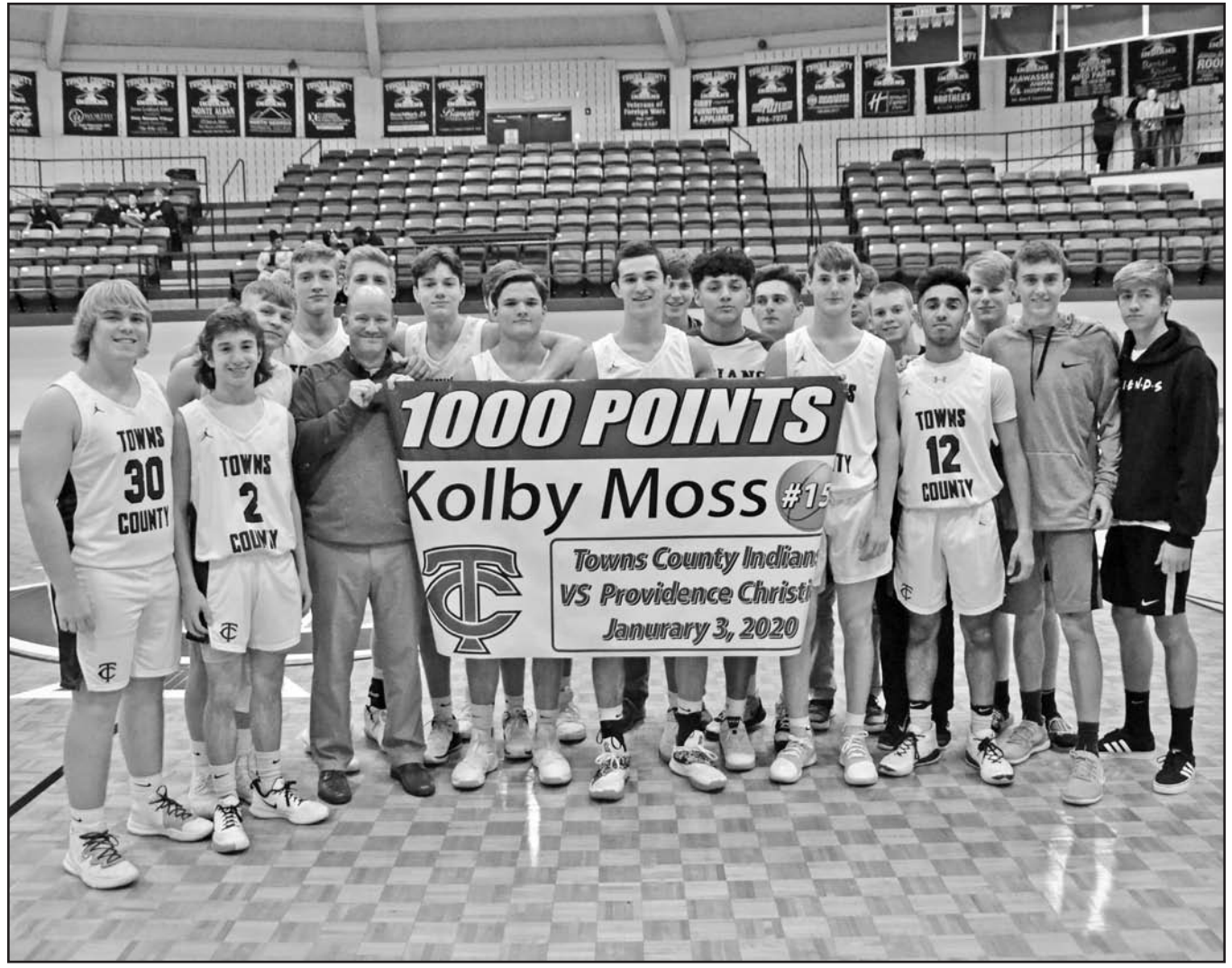
The Indians would drop a 74-59 decision to Riverside before rallying past Athens Academy and closing out the week by taking a very comfortable home court victory over George Walton Academy.

Indians 62, George Walton Academy 44 – A drive to the basket for two points by junior Aidan Berrong got the Indians a 2-0 lead just sixteen seconds into the game against George Walton but the visiting Bulldogs struck for a 7-1 run and a 7-3 lead at the 5:33 mark of the first quarter.

That would be the only serious challenge the Bulldogs would give the Indians, however, as they struck for a 15-0 run and an 18-7 lead at the 2:21 mark which became 20-12 at quarter's end.

The Indians had gotten a 7-7 tie on a driving lefthanded layup by sophomore Kyle Oakes at 4:48 and a 10-7 lead that they would not relinquish on an old fashioned three point play by junior Kolby Moss at 4:25 within the scoring charge. Moss contributed seven points, Oakes six, and Berrong five as leaders during first quarter action.

The Indians extended their lead to 34-14 by the 3:15 mark of the second quarter before George Walton closed out the quarter by including a pair of treys with a 10-2



Towns County junior Kolby Moss was recognized alongside his teammates for surpassing 1,000 points in his career. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

run for a 36-24 Towns lead at intermission. Moss included a pair of treys among ten points in the second quarter for seventeen the first half while Oakes contributed four for a 10-point first half.

The Indians dominated the third quarter 13-4 in extending their lead to 49-28 before the Bulldogs held a 16-13 advantage in the fourth quarter as the Indians closed out the 62-44 victory.

Last half scoring highlights for the Indians included four points each by Berrong and sophomore Collin Crowder and a trey by junior Colton Day in the third quarter and six points by Day in the fourth.

Leading scorers for the Indians for the game were Moss with 19 points, Berrong with 13, Day with 11, Oakes with 10, and Crowder with

7. Berrong led in assists with 3 and was followed by Day, Moss, and Oakes with 2 each according to your reporter's unofficial tally.

Additional stats for this game are not available at press time due to problems transferring video for evaluation as a result of weekend storms.

The Bulldogs placed nine players in the scoring column with leaders being seniors Jacob Dally with 9 and 6'5" Daniel Yarman with 7 on an otherwise very young team.

The Bulldogs completed the week with just a 2-16 overall record including 1-4 in the region but no with no less than five losses by single digits and several more by low double digits and the most impressive outcomes being just a 42-37 loss at Providence Christian and a 42-39 home court vic-

tory over region foe Lakeview Academy.

Riverside Military Academy 74, Indians 59 – After Riverside used a trey and a deuce for a 5-0 lead by the 5:15 mark of the first quarter, there would be five ties and four lead changes by quarter's end with the Eagles sinking a pair of deuces during the final two minutes for a 17-15 lead.

Four Indians put points on the score board in the first quarter with junior Aidan Berrong including a trey in scoring five points with sophomore Collin Crowder and junior Kolby Moss adding four each.

After the Eagles extended their lead to 21-17 at the 6:53 mark of the second quarter, however, the Indians would forge ahead on a deuce and a trey by Moss at the 6:18 mark and lead for the remain-

der of the quarter, including by a 36-32 score at intermission. Moss led the scoring in the inning with nine points while sophomore Kyle Oakes took second honors for the quarter with four.

The third quarter would turn the Eagles' way when they struck for the first seven points for a 39-36 lead at the 6:21 mark but with the Indians hanging tough for most of the quarter.

A trey by Berrong got a 39-39 tie and a deuce by Moss a 41-41 standoff by the 4:50 mark. Deuces by Moss and Berrong then got the Indians within 46-43 and then 48-45 by the 59-second mark but the Eagles used an old fashioned three point play for a 51-45 lead entering the fourth quarter. After the Eagles opened

the fourth quarter with a deuce for a 53-45 lead, deuces by Crowder and Moss got the Indians back within 53-49 at 6:43 and Moss matched a Riverside deuce for another four points deficit of 55-51 at 5:55. The Eagles struck for a 13-4 run after that, however, for a 68-54 lead at the 2:02 mark.

The Indians used two free throws by Moss and a trey by junior Luis Quijada to get within single digits by a 68-59 score at 1:17 but they couldn't dent the scoreboard after that and the Eagles finished with the final six points for a quite deceptive final score of 74-59 when considering the competitiveness of the game with a 59-53 score past the three and a half minutes mark of the fourth quarter.

Scoring leaders for the Indians for the game were Moss with 25 points, Crowder with 12, Berrong with 11, Quijada with five, and Oakes with 4 while leaders in assists were Oakes with 4, Moss with 3, and Berrong and Crowder with 2 each.

Leaders in rebounders were Crowder with 8, Moss with 6, and junior Reace Hampton and Oakes with 3 each. Junior Luis Quijada led in steals with 2 and Moss blocked 2 shots. Riverside was led in scoring by juniors Shad Dabney with 24 points and Adriel Clark with 17, and newcomer to the team Bryce Klancyaiski with 11.

The victory by Riverside over the Indians gave them a 4-0 record in region play but by week's end, they held an overall 8-7 record, including 5-1 in the region.

In what is proving to be an incredibly balanced region, the Eagles lost a home court 63-58 decision to Athens Christian on Friday with the Athens group of Eagles getting their first region win after five losses.

On Saturday, Riverside rebounded, however, and took a 60-53 home court overtime victory over Athens Academy with the visiting Spartans no doubt weary as a result of their overtime home court loss to the Indians the prior night.

TCMS: Indians improve to 11-2; Lady Indians send Highlands, NC home with loss

By Chad Stack
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Towns County Middle School Basketball Indians took their season record to 11-2 after suffering one loss and earning one win against two North Carolina teams last week.

There are just two regular season games left before the Tri-State Regional Tournament starts on Monday, Jan. 27.

The Indians, who are under the direction of Head Coach Shea Taylor, had a seven-game win streak going into Hayesville on Wednesday, Jan. 8.

In the opening minutes of the game, the Indians went on a 7-0 run, forcing the Yellowjackets to call a timeout.

Following the Hayesville adjustments, the Yellowjackets managed to generate some offense to tie the game 8-8 with just under a minute left in the first period. With about 15 seconds remaining in the first, the Yellowjackets drained a 3-pointer to take an 11-8 lead.

The Indians started the second period red hot, getting a stop on defense and hitting back-to-back shots on offense to put them back up by 1. But Hayesville managed to regain the lead yet again due to several Indians having to sit from foul trouble.



TCMS knocked off Highlands, NC last week. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Tied at 18 with just under a minute left in the first half, the Yellowjackets hit a buzzer-beater to take a 3-point lead, up 21-18 after two periods.

Midway through the third, the Yellowjackets increased their lead to 28-21, matching the largest lead of the game by the Indians. As the third quarter came to a close, the Indians cut their opponents' lead to 3.

For much of the fourth period, the Indians played their hearts out, doing everything they could to keep the game within reach.

Much like the first half, however, the Indians struggled with fouls, putting crucial players on the bench in the final minutes of the game and allowing Hayesville to take a 43-40 lead with less than a minute left.

This forced the Indians to foul to get the ball back, and the Yellowjackets hit all their free throws, leading to a 50-45 Towns County defeat that ended the Indians' seven-game win streak.

Eighth-grader Conner Chastain lead the Indians with 15 points, followed by Tanner Cunningham with 8, then Seth

Rutan and Floyd with 6 apiece. Drew Sofield had 5, Walker Underwood added a point, and Matthew Chastain and sixth-grader Justin Miles-Hill finished with 2 each.

The Lady Indians suffered a loss in Hayesville, succumbing to the Yellowjackets by a score of 59-29 that Wednesday.

Seventh graders Kaleigh Beaver lead all scorers for the Lady Indians with 13 points. Elizabeth Edwards and Ansleigh Hardin finished with 4 points apiece. Hope Chastain, Brittany Cook, Jenna Pyle and Laura Mauldin each scored 2 points.

In his first year as the Girls Head Middle School Basketball Coach, Rollie Thomas said his Lady Indians were a young but hardworking team that improves every day.

The Middle School Indians bounced back with a win at home on Thursday, Jan. 9, defeating Highlands 37-32, and the Lady Indians also answered with a win on Thursday, beating Highlands 40-34 following their blowout loss to Hayesville.

Towns County Middle School Basketball will finish the regular season with two home games when they host Summit Charter on Wednesday, Jan. 22, and Tallulah Falls on Thursday, Jan. 23.

The Lady Indians will tip off first at 4:30 p.m., followed by the Indians at 6 p.m.

Lady Indians... continued from 2B

blocked a Lady Bulldogs shot, retrieved the ball, and took it coast to coast for a 14-12 Towns lead at 5:09 which became 22-18 at intermission but not without challenge by the Lady Bulldogs.

A deuce by Floyd had gotten the Lady Indians a 12-6 advantage early in the second quarter only to have the Lady Dogs force the previously mentioned 12-12 tie and after a trey by Henson had the Lady Indians ahead 17-12 by the mid point of the quarter, George Walton edged to within 17-16 with a drive for two points by junior Abby Mauldin and another trey by Henson then giving the Indians some breathing

room at 22-16 with the score being 22-18 at intermission.

A deuce and a trey by the Lady Dogs got them a 23-22 advantage at the 6:18 mark of the third quarter but the lead would last just 55 seconds as it seemed to arouse the Lady Indians who embarked on an 18-6 run the final 6:18 of the quarter for a 40-29 advantage entering the fourth quarter.

The dominant scoring run was carried out by Henson with a trey, two deuces, and four for six free throw shooting for 11 points, two deuces by Floyd for four, and a trey by senior Sophia Shook.

Indians in the fourth quarter, however, as they suffered uncommon trouble at the foul line by sinking just one of six free throws with two misses being one and one attempts while the Lady Dogs sank three deuces and a free throw for just a 41-36 Towns lead with the visitors knocking on the door in search of a comeback victory.

The Lady Indians were up to the task at hand, however, as the Lady Bulldogs did not score after their final field goal at the 3:28 and a field goal by Sophia Shook at the 1:04 mark and one for two trips to the foul line by Henson and Sophia Shook during the final minute of play set the final score at 45-

36 for a Region 8A victory.

Leading scorers for the Lady Indians were Henson with 25 points, Floyd with 9, and Sophia Shook with 6 as Sophia Shook and Floyd led in assists with 4 and 3 respectively.

Leaders in rebounds were Henson with 10, Sophia Shook with 9, and Floyd with 5 while leaders in steals were Henson with 4 and Sophia Shook with 3.

The Lady Dogs were led in scoring by junior Marnie Crouch with 11 points. The loss to the Lady Indians dropped the Lady Dogs' overall record to 5-12 and 0-6 in the region.

Register now for Spring Rec Soccer

Just a reminder that Regular Registration for Spring Rec soccer will continue through January 20th. Beginning January 21st, a late fee will be added to each registration.

Rec Assessments will take place Saturday, January 18th. Exact time and field locations for each location to come soon. All U8 & U10 players should attend assessments this season. Any player wishing to play up to the next age group, if not approved prior to the Fall 2019 season, must



first be assessed and approved, so they should also attend Assessments. Register online at mountains.unitedfa.org/. TJan15.FJSH

Register now for Rec Department Baseball/Softball

Towns County Recreation Department Baseball/Softball registration: January 1st - February 16th. Late registration: February 17th - March 1st - \$15 late fee.

The Towns County Recreation Department would like to invite you to participate in our inaugural season with GRPA. There will be evaluations held the second week of March. If you are interested in coaching, please fill out a coaching application at the Towns County Recreation Department & complete a MANDATORY background check ONLY after you have been selected as a coach.

Divisions: T-Ball: Ages 5-6 Born September 1st, 2013 to August 31st, 2015. 8u: Ages 7-8 Born September 1st, 2011 to August 31st, 2013. 10u: Ages 9-10 Born September 1st, 2009 to August 31st, 2011. 12u: Ages 11-12 Born September 1st, 2007 to August 31st, 2009. 14u: Ages 13-14 Born



September 1st, 2005 to August 31st, 2007.

Please register online at www.TownsCountyRec.com or register in person at the Towns County Recreation Department.

Towns County Recreation Department will be providing jerseys, pants & adjustable hats that players will be able to keep at the end of the season.

If you have any questions please contact Matthew Youngblood or Tyler Garrett at (706) 896-2600 or by email at TCRec2000@gmail.com. TJan15.FJSH

Advertisement for Mountain United Soccer Academy. It features a circular logo with a soccer ball and the text 'Mountain United Soccer Academy Est. 1988'. Below the logo, it says 'FOR BOYS & GIRLS AGES 4 - 14 REGISTER NOW - February 9'. A note states: '*ANY PLAYER REGISTERED AFTER THE DEADLINE WILL INCUR A LATE FEE & WILL BE PLACED ON A ROSTER WAITING LIST.' It also includes the website 'Visit MountainSoccer.org and Register today!' and contact information: 'QUESTIONS? EMAIL ADMIN@MOUNTAINSOCCER.ORG'. At the bottom, it says 'Players will be serving as assistant coaches for every team.' and 'Volunteer Coaches Needed'.