

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Lady Indians continue to impress in two competitive losses to much taller opponents

By Jerry Kendall
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The Towns County Lady Indians varsity basketball team faced two tall orders last weekend when they played very competitively against significantly taller teams and there's a good chance they would have gotten a victory in the first game if not for, in your reporter's opinion and that of many other observers, a couple of missed official's calls near the end of the game as will be described.

Hebron Christian Academy 40, Lady Indians 36 – The first quarter and a half of the game against Hebron Christian Academy of Dacula saw the Lady Indians staying close to the visiting Lady Lions on Friday, despite a flurry of turnovers at the start of the game, but a 12-1 run between 3:48 of the second quarter and six seconds into the third had the Lady Indians trailing 23-11. Prior to the Lady Lions run, senior Madison McClure had provided seven of the first ten Lady Indian points in keeping them within such scores as 7-5 late in the first quarter and 9-7 early in the second and then 11-10 on a trey at 4:32 of the second quarter.

The Lady Indians came alive beginning at the 7:19 mark of the third quarter when they embarked on a 19-4 run the remainder of the quarter for a 30-27 lead by quarter's end. The Lady Indians used runs of 4-0 on baskets by McClure and sophomore Sophia Shook and then 10-0 following a Lady Lions deuce on a McClure basket, a long deuce by junior Taylor Cornett, and treys by junior Erika Spano and Cornett for a 25-25 tie at 3:19.

After the Lady Lions retook the lead on a deuce at 2:18 for a 27-25 advantage, a trey and deuce by McClure during the final forty eight seconds of the quarter got the aforementioned 30-27 lead. Neither team would score in fourth quarter action until the 4:25 mark when three point play by Shook had the Lady Indians leading 33-27 but Hebron answered with six straight points between 4:14 and 3:25 for a 33-33 standoff.

A McClure trey at 1:38 gave the Lady Indians a 36-33 lead but the Lady Lions reduced the lead to 36-35 on two free throws at 1:26 and misfortune



The Towns County Lady Indians in action over the weekend. Photos by Lowell Nicholson

referenced earlier struck the Lady Indians at the 1:02 mark. Your reporter recognizes the difficult job officials in all sports face with making the right calls so complaints are rarely expressed in the newspaper about officiating but especially the shock brought about by the first of two crucial calls near the one minute mark bring us to two official calls in just two seconds of playing time that must be addressed for completeness in reporting this game.

With the Lady Indians clinging to the one point lead and freshman Vanessa Floyd dribbling the ball down the right sideline, she was called for an offensive foul at the 1:04 mark which was very clear to probably everyone in the gym knowledgeable about basketball rules to be a blocking violation by Hebron, except to the official who called it. With the defender moving laterally beside Floyd, the only reasonable way for an offensive foul to be called would have been for Floyd to be pushing off with her forearm or with her shoulder and

this was in no way whatsoever the case.

The misfortune for the Lady Indians wasn't over as it turned out, however, as the Lady Lions gained possession of the ball as a result of the offensive foul call. Floyd stole the inbounds pass and appeared to be fouled after what appeared to be a clean steal but was charged by the same official two seconds of playing time after the first call with her fifth foul. So instead of Floyd going to the foul line on either of the calls with a chance to add to the Lady Indians' lead, the Lady Lions went to the line instead and sank two free throws for a 37-36 advantage. At any rate, the two free throws would turn out to be the winning points for the Lady Lions as they sank two more free throw attempts at 25.0 seconds and one of two at 5.4 for a final margin of victory of 40-36.

Leading scorers for the Lady Indians for the game were McClure with 19 points and Cornett and Shook with 5 each while Floyd led in assists with



2. The Lady Lions were led in scoring by sophomore McKenna Taylor with 13 points.

Lakeview Academy 55, Lady Indians 44 – The Lady Indians faced not only a very tall team but an outstanding one as well on Saturday when the two time defending Region 8A Tournament Champion Lakeview Lady Lions came to visit for a game rescheduled from last month due to snow. The Lady Lions entered the game with just a 9-7 overall record against, like the Lady Indians, a very challenging schedule but 5-1 in region play with their only region loss having been to Prince Avenue Christian School, the region leader with a 7-0 record at week's end.

The Lady Lions took a 6-0 lead less than a minute into the game and would never trail but have the Lady Indians persistently challenging them throughout the game. The Lady Lions would lead 14-6 after one quarter and by a 25-12 score by the 4:02 mark of the second despite five points each by senior Madison McClure and freshman Vanessa Floyd.

The Lady Indians would finish the quarter on an 11-4 run in just 3:35 of playing time, however, for just a 29-23 deficit at the halftime break. Highlights of the quarter closing Towns run were treys by juniors Erika

Spano and Taylor Cornett and a deuce and two free throws by Floyd for four points with the free throws coming with eight tenths of a second on the clock.

The Lady Lions extended their lead in third quarter action to 45-33 with Lady Indian highlights being five points by McClure, including on a coast to coast run and deuce with two seconds on the clock, and Cornett's second trey and a put-back basket by junior Kenzlee Denton who was able to return for brief play following several days of illness.

The Lady Indians had several chances to close the gap during nearly two minutes at the start of the fourth quarter but couldn't connect with the basket and the Lady Lions sank a breakaway layup at 6:04 for a 47-33 lead. But here came the Lady Indians again with a 10-2 run between just the 5:51 and 4:32 marks on two deuces by Floyd and treys by junior Kristen Byers and Cornett for just a 49-43 deficit. But the Lady Lions would finish on a 6-1 run, however, on four for eight free throw shooting and a deuce for a 55-44 victory.

Scoring leaders for the game for the Lady Indians were Floyd with 13 points, McClure with 11, and Cornett with 9 while Floyd also led in assists

with 3. Scoring leaders for the Lady Lions were junior Sadie Thrailkill with 20 points and senior Tori Taylor with 15.

Lady Indians Health Update – As of the newspaper deadline time, freshman Kennedy Henson is scheduled to have surgery on her knee this Thursday, January 18, in Athens by doctors who serve the athletes from the University of Georgia. Junior Kenzlee Denton returned to action last weekend after missing prior games due to illness and sophomore Sophia Shook will continue to play as much as possible under the handicap of painful shin splints. The Lady Indians' inspired play continues to amaze their supporters in the absence of Henson, who is their tallest player, leading scorer and a strong defender and rebounder, and under the health limitations for Denton and Shook.

Baseball/softball registration

Recreation baseball/softball: We will offer the following age groups: Co-ed T-ball ages 5 - 6, Coach's Pitch ages 7 - 8, 10 and under, 12 and under, 14 and under. Registration will run through February 16th. Visit townscountyrec.com to sign up. TJan17.F15H



Towns County pep rally on Friday afternoon. Photos by Lowell Nicholson

Towns County participates in FCA East/West Classic



L to r: Harold Cox, Luke Woody, Cole Ledford, Hayden Walters, Andy Chambers, Logan Cowart.

We are so excited that our boys got to play in the FCA East/West Classic again this year. Last year Russell Cox was the only Senior from Towns Co, that went and he received an offer from a college to play ball for them.

With hopes that it would happen again this year we had 6 Seniors participate in the game on Dec. 16th which we won 20 - 13. This is a huge opportunity for our Seniors as there are many colleges that send scouts for 2 reasons. First is because they know they are only looking at seniors, and secondly if the boys are there they love football! So this not only gives them a chance to do what they love, it also gives them a chance for a paid scholarship, or a bigger college than they ever dreamed.

Let me give you a little history on what FCA is. The FCA is an organization started by Don McClanen in 1954 in Kansas City, MO called "Fellowship Of Christian Athletes"

which invites all to be involved not just athletes.

Who makes up the teams: The East side is the seniors from Towns, Union, Fannin, Gilmer, and Pickens. The west side is five counties of seniors from Habersham, Hall, East Hall, and 2 other schools that fill in to make 5. However, with the West side backing out North Carolina gladly stepped in for the opportunity of their boys being seen. North Carolina was made up of Murphy, Cherokee, Robbinsville, Hayesville, Andrews, Rosman and Swain. So now I guess it will be The FCA Georgia/North Carolina Classic. Our regional director for FCA is Matt Queen from Fannin Co., our County Rep, is Joelle Kinsey, and most importantly our school leaders for FCA are Shannon Floyd for High School, Gina Chambers and Christie Melton for our middle school.

We are happy to say that so far one of our seniors Logan Cowart has received 2 offers

from the game that day and multi offers from others prior and after.

It takes a tremendous amount of money to put this on, from uniforms for 75 players, to pregame meals, location cost, and Referees. Without sponsors we couldn't make this happen so we would like to give a special thank you to all the sponsors from Towns County for this year's game: Susan DeVries at State Farm Ins., Georgia Vision Center, Something Special, Chatuge Cabinetry, Robert Williams CPA, Threadz Inc., Surgical Assoc. Of North GA, Chatuge Land Company, Benchmark, Pamela Kendall Floyd at Law, Mountain Mobile Vet Clinic, Studio 116, Mountain Rest Cabin, Envrh Graphic, Artworks, Environmental Analysis North, Inc.

A huge special thanks to Penny Ledford for being our personal photographer! She will be missed after Cole graduates. TJan17.F25H

12 - 0 season for Towns County U-12 Boys Soccer



(L-R) Top row: Coach Timothy Barrett, Luis Viera; Middle row: Brock Murray, Cale Kirby, Blake Gleaton, Connor Williams, Seth Rutan; Front row: Max Baron, Isiah Viera, Silas Nicholson, Brody Barrett, Nathan Woods.

It has been a fantastic season for the undefeated U-12 Boys team coached by Luis Viera and Timothy Barrett, for a 12-0 record. The coaches knew they would do well because they had some great athletic talent on their team.

The team had 10 players which only allowed for two subs. One of those subs was an eight year old. Even though some of

these boys had never played soccer before and had never been on a team together, they became a force to be reckoned with. Each practice they worked hard, took it seriously, and brought it to the next level.

Coach Viera told the boys, "Practice doesn't make perfect. Perfect practice makes perfect." The players really took what he said to heart. Coach Timothy Bar-

rett said, "These boys gave it their all. Not one practice or game did they not strive to do better than their best. They inspired me." Looks like we will be seeing more great things from our youth soccer programs at Towns County Rec. Department! The teams MVP this season went to Isiah Viera, and the Most Improved Player went to Cale Kirby. TJan17.F45H