

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

www.townscountyherald.net • E-mail: tcherald@windstream.net

TCHS Basketball Senior Night outshines all expectations

By Shelly Knight
Staff Writer
Towns County Herald

Towns County Basketball teams celebrated their seniors in a big way last Saturday, Feb 1 with balloons and ribbons and honors galore.

And most importantly, they picked up two region victories.

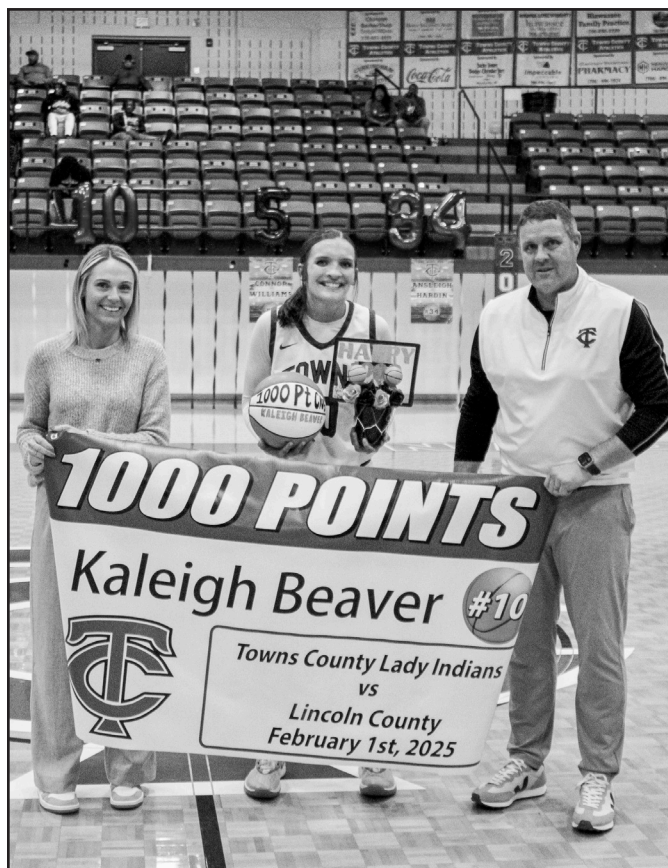
Naturally, the celebration occurred between games, after the Lady Indians won a hard-fought battle against the Lincoln County Devils with a final score of 69-58.

It was an incredible game, made even more so when Kaleigh Beaver reached point number 15 before half time. That marked her entrance into the 1,000 point, club an honor very few players ever reach.

"All three seniors played their butts off tonight," said coach Alan Rogers. "It's been so much fun this year. They have always done more than what's been asked for. Great group of seniors. I just love them. Kaleigh with 1,000 points. I'm so proud of their accomplishments."

"We had great practices this week. Coming into tonight's game we played really well. Especially in the second half. We had a great second half. We outscored them 44-25 in the second half and that made all the difference in the ball game."

"Kaleigh Beaver led us in scoring tonight with 34 points, followed by Scotlyn Fain who was coming off an injury and still scored 14. Ava Thompson dropped in 9. Chloe Sutton had a great game and dropped in 7 for us tonight. Natalie Barnes had 3 although it was a huge 3 in the 3rd quarter. Ansleigh Hardin had 2 but Ansleigh did a great job handling the pressure. The girls passed the ball and



Senior Kaleigh Beaver joined the 1,000-point club during last week's win over Lincoln County. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

shared it well. "They are a very physical team. They were when we played them earlier in the season and they still are. The girls did a great job with them. We cleaned up some of the rebounding in the second half and did a much better job," said Rogers.

Regarding the upcoming Region tournament, Rogers says he feels good about the team. "We're playing well right now. I'm so proud of them. We have our last scheduled game against Washington Wilkes next Friday. Then we take on Warren County and if we beat them, we'll be coming back home for the semifinals. We're gonna miss our three seniors next year, there will be a lot of

big shoes to fill, but we got the players in our program that can step up and do that."

Towns County boys also played fiercely, beating the Lincoln County Devils by a score of 72-63. It was a physical and psychological battle from the first whistle.

"A great win on Senior Night. So proud of the boys. That was a playoff like game. That was a physical game," said coach Brian Hunnicutt. "Lincoln is a very good team. They just got beat last night by Warren by 7 points and Warren is top 10 in the state. They have put us out of the region tournament for the last two years. They are very physical, and they play hard."

"That's why I'm so



TCHS Basketball seniors (L-R) Connor Williams, John Durham, Kaleigh Beaver, Ansleigh Hardin and Natalie Barnes. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

proud of the boys' efforts tonight. We had a terrible start, but we bucked up from the second quarter on and played man ball, really. I'm so proud of our two seniors.

"Unfortunately, Connor Williams couldn't play tonight because of a shoulder injury, but that kid has injured his shoulder three times this year and has just fought the fight to get back with us each time. He has been the consummate teammate and has for four years."

"And then John Durham. What a servant leader. He comes in and works everyday his nose to the grindstone and always gives 110%. I'm really happy that on senior night they get to go out with a win, and a gutsy win at that. Something

that really represents what they have given to this program for four years. I couldn't be more proud of them.

"Or the whole team. We got Tucker Engert and Sam Serafin and they are freshmen. They are playing big boy basketball as young pups. So going forward we're maturing as a team and now we're gaining the experience we need. As long as we beat Wilkes next week, we'll be in the third seed. If we win on February 11th we'll come back home for the semi-finals."

"That's another reason this game tonight was so big. That's the kind of ball we're going to have to play that physical again. But I believe in this group. Tonight was something

that as coaches we've been telling the boys we've been waiting to see happen," said Hunnicutt.

Mountain High Hikers Schedule

Mountain High Hikers offers three hikes in the local area each week: Tuesdays - a long hike from 8-14 miles and a shorter hike of 5-8 miles. Thursday we lead a leisure hike usually around 5 miles. We also maintain over 100 miles of trails in North Georgia and Western NC area and run trail maintenance hikes on Thursdays each week.

For more information visit <http://www.mountainhighhikers.org>. NTFeb5.22JCA

Wrestling qualifies five for Sectionals



Senior Jack Stowers (left) placed third at last weekend's Area Tournament at Elbert County.

By Shelly Knight
Staff Writer
Towns County Herald

Elberton - The week of January 2 was a good one for Towns County wrestlers.

It was a very good weekend of wrestling with the boys 8-A Area traditional (individual) tournament. In the girls' portion of the tournament, Madilyn Walls wrestled hard

and finished first and second on the day.

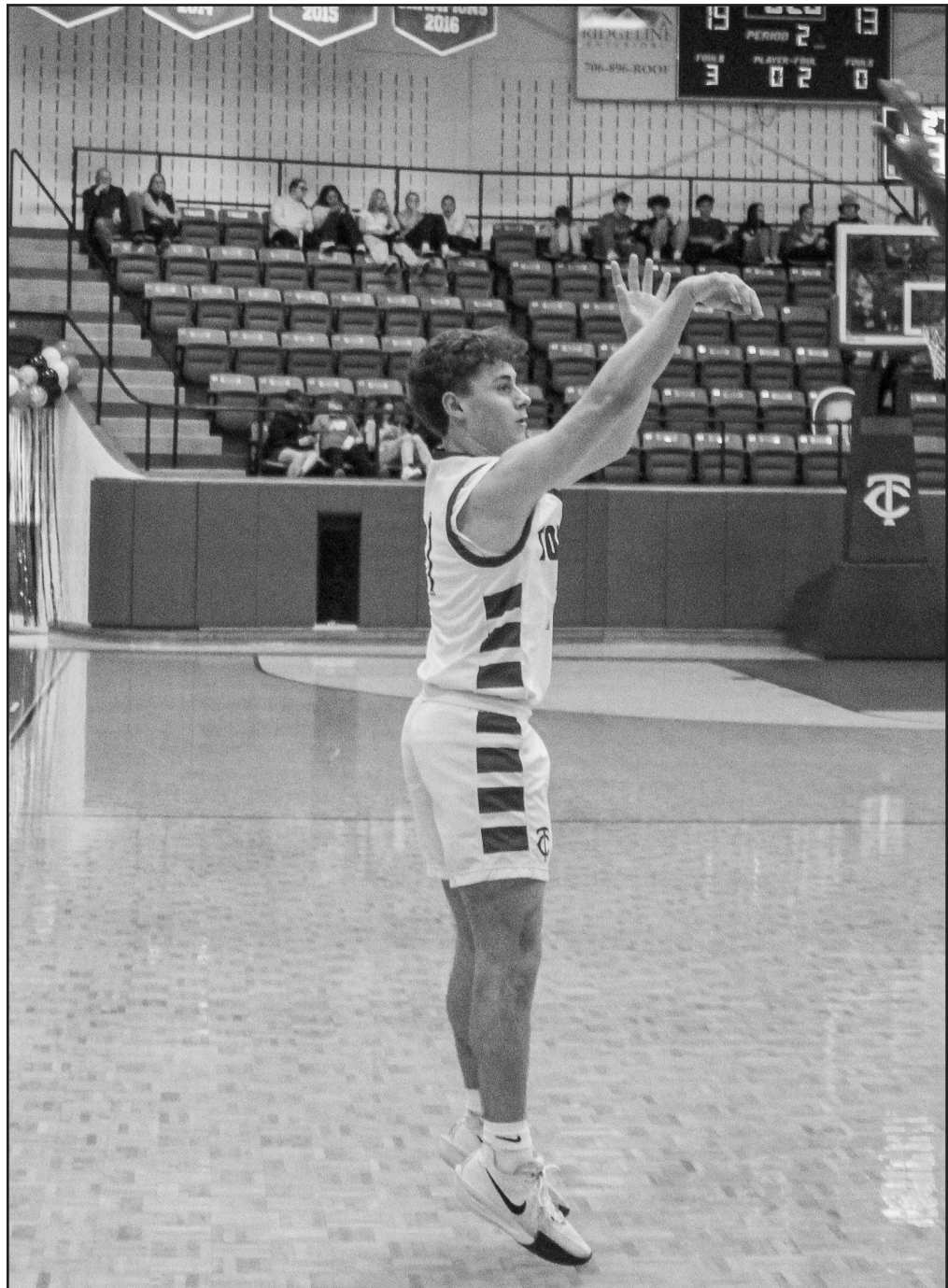
"She won a tough match in her first ever area tournament," said coach Clay Livingston. "We carried that momentum into Saturday and pushed four wrestlers through to sectionals."

"Jack Stowers finished third and Gabe Calhoun finished fourth. Noah Davis competed in his first ever area tournament and finished

fourth."

Senior Nick Vargas was tough all day and finished fourth to make it through to his first career sectional tournament.

"All of our kids wrestled hard. We have had some nagging injuries which you expect this time of the year and some sickness they've had to push through. But I'm so proud of them all," said Livingston.



Mason Pierson launches a trey during Towns County's win over Lincoln County last week. Photo/Lowell Nicholson