

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Lady Indians season ends with loss to Tallulah Falls at Region Tourney

By Jerry Kendall
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The Towns County Lady Indians Varsity Basketball team saw their season come to an end last Tuesday in the Region 8A tournament in Commerce when they fell to the Tallulah Falls Lady Indians by a score of 44-21. An excellent finish was not enough to overcome a very difficult start against a difficult matchup for the Lady Indians who struggled without the presence of injured junior Kennedy Henson against an aggressive full court press.

The Lady Indians did enjoy some very impressive games during the season and appeared set to finish on a strong note before the unfortunate injury to Henson. They completed the season with an overall 9-15 record against a quite challenging schedule. A 4-5 regular season region record was good for sixth place but placed them against third place Tallulah Falls with Tallulah earning the third spot by scoring the final five points for a 40-38 home court victory over Athens Academy in their final regular season game.

An Athens Academy victory in that game would have placed the Lady Spartans in third place and the Lady Indians' opponent last week with this likely being a better matchup for the Lady Indians who lost by just a 42-35 score at Athens Academy although Henson was in the lineup for that game. The Lady Indians would have avoided the full court pressure as used by Tallulah in a matchup with Athens Academy but that is an example of the breaks of the game.

A look at some of the margins of victory by opponents reveals very competitive efforts in games lost by the Lady Indians



Towns County's Sophia Shooks shoots up and over a Tallulah Falls defender during last week's tournament game. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

while improving their status as the season went along. The Lady Indians lost a total of six games by seven or fewer points and a look at a few other games reveals improvement as the season progressed while having Henson in the lineup with improvement through a season being perhaps the most admirable accomplishment a team can make.

For example, the Lady Indians fell by a 70-36 score

at Rabun Gap in a preseason scrimmage on November 9 but by just a 53-43 score in a regular season home game almost two months later on January 7 with two seniors combining for forty of the Rabun Gap points against the mostly quite youthful Lady Indians. Rabun Gap completed regular season play with a 15-10 record against teams from a wide geographical area, including some very prominent teams with

three of their losses being by two or three points with one of those losses being by a 54-52 score at Lakeview Academy.

A second impressive comparison involves two games by the Lady Indians against Region 8A foe Commerce. The Lady Tigers scored the final six points in a 39-34 win at Commerce only to see the Lady Indians pull away the last half for a decisive 52-37 home court victory a month and

three days later. Henson was in the lineup in the second game but scoring just one point while having her mobility hindered at that time by a then hyper extended knee but contributing greatly with her rebounds, defense, and passing talents.

Tallulah Falls 44, Lady Indians 21 - Ice cold shooting even on a number of good shot attempts for more than two and a half quarters for the Lady Indians

allowed Tallulah Falls to spring out to such leads as 16-4 after one quarter, 28-8 at intermission, and 37-8 by the 3:39 mark of the third quarter before the Lady Indians came alive for an excellent finish.

Most readers not seeing the game probably expect to learn that the Lady Indians rally to be described came against substitutes for Tallulah but that would not be the case as they continued to use their front line players during a 13-2 Lady Indians scoring surge in less than seven minutes of playing time between the 3:17 mark of the third quarter and the 4:31 mark of the fourth.

The Lady Indians closed to within 37-21 with the impressive run before Tallulah finished with a deuce and three for seven free throw shooting for the 44-21 victory. The Lady Indians surge was achieved by two treys for six points by senior Sophia Shook, a deuce and three for four free throw shooting by junior Vanessa Floyd for five points, and a deuce by junior Abby Mauldin for the other two points.

Leading the scoring for the game for the Lady Indians were Floyd with 13 points and Sophia Shook with 6 while Floyd, Sophia Shook, and sophomore Jayce Young led in assists with 2 each. Leaders in rebounds were freshman Sarah Shook with 8 and Floyd and Mauldin with 4 each while Floyd and Sophia Shook led in steals with 2 each.

Scoring leaders for Tallulah Falls were freshman Denika Lightbourne with 18 points and freshman Veronaye Charlton and junior Katy Corbett with 9 each. Tallulah Falls continued to the region tournament semi-finals with their win over the Lady Indians where they let a ten points lead in the fourth quarter get away in a 47-45 loss to Lakeview Academy. At week's end, they had a 16-7 overall record and had a 7-2 regular season region record.

Indians head to Macon Centreplex for State Wrestling Tournament

By Chad Stack
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Towns County grapplers competed in the Georgia High School Association Traditional Wrestling Sectional Tournament Feb. 7-8, placing two automatic qualifiers and a possible third contender for state-level competition this week inside the Macon Centreplex.

Senior Austin Edrington and junior Garrett Oakes will take on challengers in the Public Single-A State Tournament that runs Feb. 12-15.

Sophomore Hannah Wecer was expected to be able to compete in the Second Annual Girls State Wrestling Tournament scheduled for Feb. 13-15, though GHSA was still formulating tourney brackets by press time.

Edrington, who competes in the 160-pound weight division, went into sectionals with a 6-3 record and a Fourth-Place finish at the recent Area Tournament in Commerce, and he walked away with Second Place in Saturday's sectionals tournament in Locust Grove.

The senior Indian entered the finals 3-0 by pinning all three of his opponents before falling in the championship match Saturday.

Oakes wrestles in the 120-pound weight class, and he went into sectionals as Area Champ with a 6-2 record, giving him a first-round bye over the weekend.

He won his first match 7-4 to advance to the semi-finals, where he grappled against an experienced Trevor Borom from Strong Rock Christian School, who held a 29-2 record going into the match.

The 120-pound Oakes went the distance with Borom but lost in a 16-7 decision, putting him into a Third-Place matchup against Peyton Pierce of Irwin County.

Though it was a close match, Oakes ended up falling to Pierce to finish the day in Fourth Place, which guaranteed him a spot in the state tournament this week.

Head Wrestling Coach Jeff Stowers said Oakes wrestled very well for going against kids with a lot more experience. After all, Borom and Pierce had a combined total of 59 wins heading into sectionals.

Regardless of the dif-



Towns County Wrestling turned in another solid performance at last weekend's State Sectionals Tournament at Commerce High School. Photo/Lisa Oakes

ference in experience, Stowers said Oakes is a great wrestler who can go toe to toe with anyone in his weight class, as he has demonstrated time and again over the last two years.

Oakes competed in Macon last year, and with two years of experience and a state tournament already under his belt, Stowers said he feels confident in Oakes' ability to compete at the state level this week.

Girls sectionals took place in Pike County last week, and sophomore Hannah Wecer finished her second ever sectionals competition with a potentially state-qualifying finish at Third Place, though a final determination of brackets was still being made at press time.

Wecer came in First

Place during last year's sectionals tournament as a 102-pound weight class competitor, and she moved up to the 122-pound weight class this year.

Heading into sectionals on Feb. 7, she had a 3-1 record and a first-round bye. Wecer fell in her first match but bounced right back, defeating her next two opponents to earn a Third-Place finish for the day.

Junior Alisa Moss, wrestling in the 102-pound division, walked away with a Third-Place finish for the second year in a row in Pike County on Friday.

Moss went into the tournament with a 3-1 record, having also earned a bye in the first round. After dropping her first match, Moss went on to win her next two

to finish Third Place in her weight class.

Although Wecer and Moss had near identical wrestling experiences in the area and sectionals tournaments, Wecer has a better chance of grappling at state because she wrestles in a more populated weight class, which equates to a larger competition bracket.

As such, Wecer was a potential state qualifier after sectionals while Moss served as an alternate for the all-girls state tournament at press time, though Stowers was hopeful that both Lady Indians would be added to brackets for state this week.

The Indians are leaving for Macon on Wednesday, Feb. 12, at 1:30 p.m., with all wrestling to occur inside the Macon Centreplex through Saturday, Feb. 15.

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 1, 2005 to August 31, 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 TCRcreation2600@gmail.com.