

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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

Lady Indians and Indians fall to senior-laden teams at Union County

By Jerry Kendall
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Towns County Lady Indians and Indians varsity basketball teams traveled to Union County High School last Friday for their first games in eleven days and fell to defeat to the outstanding Class AA Lady Panthers and Panthers.

After seizing a 52-48 victory over the Lady Panthers for third place in last year's Battle of the States Tournament, the Lady Indians have faced an especially difficult matchup for the second time in three games this year against the undefeated Lady Panthers who extended their record to 5-0 with a 51-24 victory before falling to their first defeat of the season by a 52-47 score on Saturday night at Class AAA Fannin County.

The Indians, on the other hand, gave the Panthers a real challenge in a tense defensive battle for nearly three and a half quarters before a hot scoring run by the Panthers the final four and a half minutes extended a four points lead for a 69-49 victory.

The Indians had taken an 83-70 home court victory against a short handed Panthers team due to four seniors and a junior still involved in the Panthers' state playoffs football team, including two All Region 8-AA members last year in the persons of Pierson Allison and Sawyer Drake.

The returning football players would combine for fifty six of the Panthers' sixty nine points scored in this game. The Panthers improved their record to 2-3 after an 0-3 start with losses in addition to the Indians to Class AAAA White County and Class AAA North Hall with the win over the Indians but fell 53-51 at Class AAA Fannin County on Saturday night.

The Lady Indians have a 2-3 record and the Indians a 3-2



L-R: Junior Collin Crowder goes up for the opening tip; Sophia Shook at the free throw line at Union County. Photos/Lowell Nicholson

mark with three games remaining prior to their hosting the twenty sixth annual Battle of the States Tournament beginning on December 26. The Towns teams travel to face Region 8-A foe Commerce on Saturday night of this week and to Andrews High School next Thursday, December 19, and host Hiwassee Dam on Friday, December 20.

Union County 52, Lady Indians 24 – Not much went right for the Lady Indians at Union County the first half as the Lady Panthers extended just a 4-0 lead with a 12-0 run the final 3:23 of the first quarter and held a 28-0 advantage by the 5:13 mark of the second quarter.

Seven for eight free throw shooting by Lady Indians junior Vanessa Floyd the final 4:45 of the quarter would almost match the Lady Panthers total during that period with Union holding a 36-7 lead at intermission.

This pattern would con-

tinue throughout the third and fourth quarter with the Lady Panthers outscoring the Lady Indians 13-12 in the third quarter and the Lady Indians holding a 5-3 advantage in the fourth with the score being 49-19 after three quarters and 52-24 at game's end.

Last half scoring highlights for the Lady Indians included four points in the third quarter on a field goal and two for three free throw shooting by freshman Sarah Shook and two deuces for four points by Floyd. Senior Sophia Shook took the ball coast to coast and sank a runner at the third quarter buzzer and then sank a trey early in the fourth quarter for five consecutive Lady Indians points.

Floyd led the Lady Indians in scoring for the game with 11 points and was followed by Sophia Shook with 5 and junior Kennedy Henson and Sarah Shook with 4 each. Floyd, Henson, and Sophia Shook contrib-



uted 1 assist each while Henson, Sarah Shook, and Sophia Shook led in rebounds with 5 each.

The Lady Panthers were led in scoring by sophomore Ava Hunter with 24 points, freshman Ellie Cook and junior Kyla Locklear with 6 each, and senior Kate McCarter with 5.

Injury Report – The very youthful Lady Indians have two team members out of action due to injury for a probably lengthy period of time. They are freshmen Jenna Durham and Brooke Murrell with best wishes extended to them for safe and speedy recoveries.

Union County 69, Indians 49 – Indian fans attending the game and those just now reading about it can feel much admiration for the youthful Indians' performance against the senior laden and significantly taller Panthers on their home court even when considering the quite common occurrence, including by the Indians this year, of sudden potent scoring

runs, this time by the Panthers, leading to a final score not indicative of the competitiveness of the game.

The first quarter saw four lead changes with the Indians getting leads of 2-0 on an early deuce by junior Kolby Moss, a 6-5 lead on a deuce by sophomore Kyle Oakes, and 9-7 on a trey by junior Aidan Berrong but the Panthers using an 8-1 finish in changing an 11-7 deficit into a 15-12 advantage at quarter's end.

The Indians defense would hold Union scoreless for nearly five minutes of playing time at the start of the second quarter and hold a lead of 17-15 at the 4:12 mark on a deuce and three for four free throw shooting by Moss.

Altogether, there were three ties and three lead changes by quarter's end with Moss forcing two of the ties and getting the Indians both leads and Oakes getting the third tie. The Indians held a 23-22 Towns

lead at intermission on two free throws by Moss with 2.9 seconds left.

An early field third quarter goal by Berrong had the Indians ahead 25-22 but a 12-2 Union run between the 6:42 and 4:58 marks got the Panthers a 34-27 lead only to see the Indians use a 10-4 run of their own between the 4:37 and 1:43 marks for a slender 38-37 Union County lead with six points by Moss and deuces by Oakes near the start of the run and Berrong at the end.

Junior Collin Crowder almost matched a Union trey with a deuce for just a 41-39 Indians deficit at twenty six seconds but a Union deuce gave them a 43-39 lead entering the fourth quarter. Union sank two deuces by the 6:01 mark of the fourth quarter for a 47-39 lead but Moss wrapped a pair of treys around a Union deuce for just the aforementioned 49-45 Union lead at 4:48.

The Panthers would respond, however, by wrapping two treys around a deuce between just the 4:28 and 3:17 marks for a sudden twelve points lead at 57-45 as a trigger for a 20-4 finish interrupted only by two deuces by Moss, giving him ten points in the quarter, for a 69-49 victory.

Moss led the Indians in scoring with 30 points and was followed by Berrong and Crowder with 7 each and Oakes with 5. Leaders in assists according to your reporter's unofficial tally were Crowder with 4, Berrong and Oakes with 3 each, and Moss with 2.

Senior Pierson Allison led the Panthers with 27 points, including seven in the third quarter and fourteen in the fourth, and he was followed by senior Sawyer Drake with 13, 6'6" senior Kyle Warlock with 10, 6'6" senior Sawyer Brey with 8, 6'6" junior Kaston Hemphill with 6, and sophomore Lake Hughes with 5.



Junior guard Kolby Moss with two of his game-high 30 points at Union County. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



Sarah Shook connected on 2-of-3 at the free throw line to finish with 6 points. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



Junior Aidan Berrong glides to the basket at Union County last Friday night. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Union General Sports Medicine Program hosts monthly CME Conference

Dr. Jacob Stirton and the Union General Sports Medicine Program held their monthly Continuing Medical Education (CME) Conference at Union General Hospital on December 2nd. This CME lecture series is the first of its kind to be offered in the Tri-State area. This monthly series aims to educate medical staff on the most up-to-date science behind a variety of sports related injuries.

CME credit is given to all physicians, advanced practitioners, nurses, physical therapists, and athletic trainers who attend their lectures - all free of charge.

The conference consisted of knowledgeable speakers and a delicious dinner. The speakers included Cardiologist, Charles Campbell, MD and Orthopedic Surgeon and Sports Medicine Medical Director, Jacob Stirton, MD. The physicians educated medical staff on Sports Cardiology/ Cardiac Screening as well as Shoulder Exam/Rotator Cuff and Shoulder RTC Cases. For more information, please call (706) 439-6858. NIDec11Z18JCA



Speakers at the Union General Sports Medicine Program CME December Conference