

Towns County Sports

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Indians get region wins over Riverside, Hebron; victims of late run at Lakeview

By Jerry Kendall
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The Towns County Indians got two important Region 8-A wins last week over Riverside Military Academy on Tuesday and a sparkling come from behind victory at Hebron Christian in Dacula on Friday before falling to a last half scoring surge by Lakeview Academy in Gainesville on Saturday.

The Indians finished the week with a still sparkling 12-5 overall record, including 5-2 and fourth place overall in region play behind Lakeview and Tallulah Falls who are in a tie for first with 7-0 records and Athens Christian in third place with a 6-1 record.

Indians 58, Riverside Military Academy 48 – The Indians sprang out to leads such as 5-0 and 14-2 on the way to a first quarter advantage of 14-5 against Riverside Military and pretty much maintained that advantage throughout the game, at least as related to quarter ending scores.

Within the remaining three quarters, however, the Indians would lead by as much as fifteen points in the second quarter and seventeen in the third with the visiting Eagles never getting closer than ten points after edging to within 14-7 less than half a minute into the second.

Four different Indians put points on the scoreboard in the first quarter Indian charge with senior Will De Vries leading the way with eight, highlighted by a pair of treys for the Indians' first three and last three points of the quarter. De Vries added a third trey and two free throws for five points in the second quarter with juniors Logan Cowart and Zach Davenport close behind with four each as the Indians led 31-19 at intermission, compliments of a pull up jump shot by senior Colton Shook at the buzzer.

Sophomore Will Travis contributed 6 points on three deuces and Cowart added 4 points on two deuces in third quarter action as the Indians held a 46-33 lead entering the fourth quarter only to have the Eagles sink a trey just 12 seconds into the final quarter for a 46-36 Indian lead.

In a unique scoring trend, the Indians would score 2 points for 12 point leads on six occasions after that with the Eagles matching the two point efforts for six deficits of 10 points, including by a 58-48 score at game's end. Davenport led with 4 points in the fourth quarter.

De Vries took scoring honors for the game with 17 points and was followed by Cowart with 12, Davenport with 10, senior Major Moss with 7, Travis with 6, and the trio of junior Bradley



Towns County boys basketball photos by Lowell Nicholson

Benson, sophomore Caleb Clark, and Shook with 2 each. Davenport led in assists with 7 and was followed by Moss with 5 and the trio of junior Evan Berrong, Cowart, and De Vries with 1 each.

Indians 64, Hebron Christian Academy 59 – The Indians traveled some eighty miles to Dacula to face the Hebron Christian Academy Lions last Friday night where the Lions had recently fallen by just a 73-69 score to the Lakeview Academy Lions who were then and remain undefeated in Region 8A. By week's end, Hebron had improved to an overall 8-10 record, including 3-5 in region play after defeating Riverside on Saturday night in Dacula, against a very challenging schedule.

The Indians took a 2-0 lead on a field goal by junior Logan Cowart less than a minute into the game and brushed aside a brief 2-2 tie to lead by as much as 14-8 by the two minutes mark and 15-12 by the end of the first quarter. Junior Zach Davenport included a trey and an old fashioned three point play among his team leading ten points for the quarter with Cowart providing the other five.

The Indians held a 23-17 lead by the six minute mark of the second quarter on two baskets for four points each by Cowart and sophomore Will Travis before the Lions used three treys in an 11-4 run for a 28-27 lead at the 3:59 mark.

Senior Major Moss followed with a trey for the Indians for a 30-28 lead and senior Will De Vries added a trey following a deuce and three point play by the Lions for a 33-33 standoff with 2:27 left in the second quarter.

The Lions would respond with a three point play and a drive for two points at the buzzer, however, for a 38-35 lead at intermission.

The Lions then opened the third quarter with an 8-2 run for a 46-35 lead at the 4:07 mark but De Vries would contribute a trey and a three point play among seven points in an 8-1 finish for the Indians for just a 47-46 deficit entering the fourth quarter.

Davenport had contributed four points in third quarter action and he followed an early fourth quarter Hebron trey and a 50-46 Indian deficit with two free throws and a trey by the 5:29 mark for a 51-50 Towns lead. A free throw by the Lions tied the score at 4:29 with De Vries twice getting the Indians ahead at 53-51 on a putback basket at 4:03 and 55-53 with a sheer determination move at 3:18 for a lead the Lions would not overcome.

A Cowart field goal at 2:49 for a 57-53 lead turned out to be the final basket of the game for the Indians as they finished off the win with outstanding seven for eight free throw shooting.

Moss sank two charity tosses at 1:26 for a 59-55 score. Davenport hit two at 32.9 seconds for a 61-57 Indian advantage. Travis the first of two at 14.4 for a 62-57 score, and Davenport two more at 3.0 setting the final score at 64-59.

Davenport led the scoring parade for the game with 25 points and was followed by De Vries with 16, Cowart with 13, and Moss and Travis with 5 each while Moss led in assists with 6 and was followed by Davenport with 5 and Travis with 1. Hebron was led in scor-



ing by seniors John Stewart with 14 points, Connor Allmon with 13, and Wesley Warbington with 12 along with sophomore Alex Calvert with 10.

Lakeview Academy 79, Indians 65 – The Indians arrived in Gainesville on Saturday after more than two hundred miles of travel in two days on a school bus and a tough win at Hebron Christian on Friday to face the Lakeview Academy Lions who were tied for first place in the region with Tallulah Falls with a 6-0 record. The Lions, on the other hand, had a short in town drive in taking a decisive win over Riverside Military Academy on Friday night but the Indians would give the Lions all they wanted before falling in a game much more competitive than the final score of 79-65 would indicate.

After Logan Cowart forced a 2-2 tie less than half a minute into the first quarter, a Lakeview trey at 7:22 would give the Lions a 5-2 lead they would hold by mostly very slender margins for the remainder of the first half with the Indians having an answer to each threat by the Lions to take control of the game.

The Indians would edge to within one or two points on seven occasions in the first quarter, including to just a 20-19 deficit at quarter's end when Zach Davenport sank two field goals in the final 1:17 with the second coming at the buzzer in reducing Lakeview's biggest lead of 20-15. Davenport wound up with ten points in the first quarter with Cowart contributing a total of four.

The Lions used two treys in an 8-1 start in the second

quarter for their biggest lead of that quarter of 28-20 at 5:59 but a three point play by Major Moss and field goals by Davenport and Moss had the Indians within 28-27 at 4:48. The Lions led by no more than six points at 36-30 the remainder of the quarter with two baskets by Will Travis and a field goal by Moss with eight seconds left being highlights as the Indians trailed by just a 38-36 score at intermission.

The Lions sank five treys as compared to none by the Indians the first half but a trey by Davenport just thirteen seconds into the third quarter got the Indians ahead 39-38 and Cowart sank three straight field goals following a game tying Lakeview free throw between the 7:11 and 5:44 marks for a 45-39 Indian lead.

Perhaps the turning point of the game came at the 3:51 mark of that third quarter after three straight Lion baskets had tied the score when Davenport drove for the basket and scored with a whistle and the expectation among Towns County followers at least of a free throw attempt and as much as a 48-45 Indian lead.

That would not be the case, however, as Davenport, who is not usually prone to much foul trouble, was charged with his third foul with this being compounded by his fourth on a Lakeview field goal attempt just eleven seconds later.

The Lions sank two free throws for a 47-45 lead at that 3:40 mark but of greater concern for the Indians being the imminent loss of playing time for Davenport with the sudden dire foul trouble.

A basket by Cowart got the

Indians a 47-47 tie at 3:25 and Moss followed a Lakeview trey at 3:03 with a long deuce at 2:46 for just a 50-49 Indian deficit but the Lions followed with an 11-1 run for a sudden 61-50 lead which was reduced to 61-52 on a last second Cowart basket as the two teams entered the fourth.

The Indians edged to within single digits at 65-57 on a trey by Will De Vries and a pull up jumper by Davenport at the 6:13 mark of the fourth quarter and to within 74-63 on treys by Davenport and Moss at the 3:35 and 3:03 marks with plenty of time remaining for the Indians to reduce the lead when considering the Indians' 12-0 finish the final 1:59 of the Union County game for a 67-60 victory.

When a Lakeview player drove for the basket at 2:40, most Indian observers felt certain of a charging call with a chance for the Indians to get within single digits with possession of the ball but, instead, Davenport was charged with a blocking foul, his fifth, and the Lakeview player completed a three point play giving the Lions a 77-63 lead which became a 79-65 victory.

The Lions chose to go into a stall the final minute or so of the game and the Indians, to their credit in your reporter's view, chose to let them run out the clock with no chance for a win by sending the Lions to the foul line.

Of course, Indian fans think the official got the charging and blocking calls on Davenport backward resulting in a five or six points disadvantage on the scoreboard for the Indians not to mention the loss of playing time and caution while playing for Davenport in trying to avoid his fifth foul while the Lakeview faithful probably thought the official got the judgment calls right.

At any rate, you can't fault the Lions for their good fortune but should give them credit for lighting up the scoreboard following the momentum change of the charging foul in pulling away for the victory.

The Indians were led in scoring for the game by Davenport with 21 points and he was followed by Cowart with 14, Moss with 13, De Vries with 8, and Travis with 6 while Moss led in assists with 7 and was followed by Davenport with 2 and Cowart and De Vries with 1 each.

Cowart had an outstanding game despite battling a stomach bug and sophomore Trent Bradshaw missed the games last week due to the effect of a persistent muscle pull after missing earlier playing time due to illness. The Lions were led by junior Drew Cottrell with 23 points and senior Tre Gober with 22.

Lady Indians get second straight win at Hebron, fall at region co-leader Lakeview

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It was a split decision last week for the Towns County Lady Indians Varsity Basketball Team as they traveled to Dacula on Friday and took a 48-33 victory over the Hebron Christian Academy Lady Lions but fell to defeat on Saturday in Gainesville to the Lakeview Academy Lady Lions by an 89-50 score.

The win at Hebron Christian was the Lady Indians' third in their last five games back to the first round in the Battle of the States Tournament.

Both games last week were Region 8A contests with the Hebron victory being the Lady Indians' second in a row following a 49-32 win over Commerce a week earlier.

They completed last week's play with a 2-3 record in the region. The Lady Indians had no game on Tuesday when the Indians faced Riverside Military Academy which has no girls team.

Lady Indians 48, Hebron Christian Academy 33 – Any Lady Indian followers who were aware that the Hebron Christian Lady Lions were entering last Friday's game with just a 1-14 record and had fallen to Commerce by a 47-29 score were probably surprised and maybe concerned that an upset might be upcoming when the Lady Lions took 5-0 and 7-1 leads by the 3:33 mark of the first quarter.

But the Lady Indians had other ideas as a trey and deuce by junior Madison McClure prior to a Hebron deuce and then a trey and deuce by freshman Sophia Shook following the Lady Lions basket gave the Lady Indians an 11-9 lead by quarter's end.



Towns County girls basketball photos by Lowell Nicholson

mark of the second quarter but five different Lady Indians—Shook, sophomore Erika Spano, McClure, and sophomores Taylor Cornett and Kenzlee Denton—put two points each on the scoreboard by halftime for a 21-14 Lady Indians lead.

The Lady Lions would twice pull within five points early in the third quarter but a trey and two free throws by McClure and a deuce and two charity tosses by senior Kristen Henson led the Lady Indians to a 33-23 lead entering the fourth.

Henson then used two

treys and two free throws for eight points in a 10-2 run at the start of the fourth quarter and a 43-25 Towns lead by the 5:39 mark with the Lady Indians finishing off a 48-33 victory.

McClure led the Lady Indians in scoring for the game with 13 points and was followed by Henson and Shook with 12 each, senior Kirsten Ledford with 3, and the quartet of Cornett, freshman Kaitlyn Davis, Denton, and Spano with 2 each. Shook took the lead in assists with 3 and was followed by McClure with 2 and Cornett,

Henson and Spano with

1 each. The Lady Lions were led in scoring by McKenna Taylor with 13 points and senior Alyssa Elliott with 6.

Lakeview Academy 89, Lady Indians 50 – The Lady Indians learned quickly on Saturday that the Lakeview Academy Lady Lions are as good as advertised as they broke away to 10-1 and 16-3 advantages by the mid point of the first quarter and led by scores of 26-10, 55-23, and 73-35 at the quarter breaks in taking an 89-50 victory.

Lakeview improved to 14-4, including 6-0 in Region 8A with the victory, with two



of the four losses being to out of state powers and one each to Class AAAAA Flowery Branch and Class AAAAAA Gainesville.

The Lady Lions took over sole possession of first place as the only undefeated team in region play when previously unbeaten George Walton Academy of Monroe fell to a 31-26 defeat at Prince Avenue Christian near Athens in their game on Saturday.

Nine Lady Indians entered the scoring column during the Lakeview game with Kirsten Ledford leading the way with 12 points and she

was followed by Madison McClure and Sophia Shook with 9 each, sophomore Kristen Byers with 8, Taylor Cornett with 4, Kaitlyn Davis with 3, Kristen Henson and Erika Spano with 2 each, and Kenzlee Denton with 2.

Freshman Kylie Arrowood, Ledford, McClure, and Shook each contributed 1 assists according to your reporter's tally. The Lady Lions had five players to score in double figures with senior Hanna Grogan leading the way with 22 points.