

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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

Lady Indians lose three games while continuing to impress against difficult odds

By Jerry Kendall
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Towns County Lady Indians varsity basketball team continues to struggle to put games in the win column but they also continue to show a lot of heart and intensity in facing usually significantly taller opponents without the services of injured freshman Kennedy Henson, their tallest player with excellent scoring, defensive, ball handling, and rebounding skills.

The following paragraphs will relate some most admirable accomplishments within the three losses for the week which leave them with an overall record of 5-17 and 3-8 in Region 8-A.

The Lady Indians will compete in the Region 8-A Tournament next week in Commerce with the dates and times of their first and any additional games to be determined after the completion of this week's region games.

Commerce 56, Lady Indians 41 – The Lady Indians would lead for most of the mid portions of the first half of their home game last Tuesday against Commerce but not at the start of the game nor at intermission. Commerce got early 2-0, 4-2, and 6-5 leads during the first three minutes of the game but a trey by senior Madison McClure got the Lady Indians an 8-6 advantage at 4:45 that they would hold until the 2:03 mark of the second quarter.

First quarter highlights for the Lady Indians in addition to McClure's trey were two baskets for four points by junior Kristen Byers and treys by juniors Taylor Cornett and Erika Spano. The Lady Indians extended a 17-13 lead after one quarter to 26-16 on a 9-3 run in less than three minutes at the start of the second quarter with highlights being deuces by Byers and Spano and two by freshman Vanessa Floyd.

Cold shooting would make points hard to come by for the Lady Indians for most of the remainder of the game but they would still be within a single point near the end of the third quarter.

The Lady Tigers included three treys in an 11-0 run for a 27-26 lead at the 2:03 mark of



Towns County senior Madison McClure at the line. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

the second quarter. McClure got the Lady Indians a 28-27 lead on a drive for the basket at twenty seven seconds but a putback basket by the Tigers with two seconds left had them leading 29-28 at intermission.

The first three and a half minutes of the third quarter would be a struggle for both teams with a deuce by the Lady Tigers at 7:16 for a 31-28 lead being matched by a deuce by junior Kenzlee Denton for just a 31-30 Commerce lead at 4:31. The Lady Tigers seemed to be taking control of the game after that when they used a 9-2 run between the 4:14 and 1:41 marks for a 40-32 lead.

But hold on as a steal and four points play on a field goal and two free throws by McClure on an intentional Tigers foul at 1:13 and a trey by Spano at 1:03 got the Lady Indians within 40-39. A Lady Tigers field goal at twenty five seconds, however, increased the Commerce lead to 42-39 entering the fourth quarter.

The fourth quarter would unfortunately prove to be especially difficult for the Lady Indians. Two early Commerce field goals for a 46-39 lead was reduced at 6:30 to 46-41 on a basket by McClure but that would be the Lady Indians' final points of the game with the Lady Tigers finishing on a 10-0 run for a 56-41 victory.

Leading scorers for the

game for the Lady Indians were McClure with 15 points, Spano with 8, and Byers and Floyd with 6 each. Leaders in assists were Cornett with 4, Floyd with 3, and sophomore Sophia Shook with 2 while Floyd led in rebounds with 4 and was followed against the taller Lady Tigers by McClure with 3. Nine different Lady Tigers entered the scoring column with junior Jeanee Smith leading with 10 points. By week's end, the Lady Tigers would have an 8-16 overall record, including 4-7 in Region 8-A.

George Walton Academy 50, Lady Indians 44 – The Lady Indians' game at George Walton Academy in Monroe was a battle all the way but especially for the first ten and a half minutes with two ties and seven lead changes. The Lady Bulldogs would lead for the remainder of the game with the exception of a brief tie but not without the Lady Indians making their presence known right up to the final seconds of the game.

The Lady Indians got first quarter leads of 2-0 and 4-3 on deuces by junior Kristen Byers and freshman Vanessa Floyd, a 7-6 advantage on a trey by senior Madison McClure, and a 13-13 tie at the buzzer on a trey by Byers, who contributed seven points in the quarter. McClure then got them a 16-15 lead on a trey at 7:25

in the second quarter and she then pulled them within 24-21 at intermission on a trey with thirty seconds on the clock.

A trey by sophomore Sophia Shook at 6:55 in the third quarter more than matched a deuce by the Lady Bulldogs for a 26-24 George Walton lead and McClure more than matched a free throw with two of her own at 4:43 for a 27-26 score. And she then more than matched a Lady Dogs deuce with a trey at 3:20 for a 29-29 standoff.

A deuce by Floyd had the Lady Indians within 34-31 at 1:21 but a pair of Towns turnovers were costly as the Lady Bulldogs turned them into a deuce and trey during the final forty four seconds for a sudden 39-31 lead entering the fourth quarter. The Lady Indians were still able to hang close for just 41-37 and 43-39 deficits by the 3:26 mark of the fourth quarter with highlights being two deuces and a trey by junior Erika Spano.

George Walton sank five of seven free throw attempts between the 3:11 and 29.8 seconds marks for a 48-39 lead but the Lady Indians refused to go away. McClure got two points on a drive for the basket at twenty four seconds and Floyd sank a trey at eight seconds for just a 48-44 Lady Dogs lead and an inbounds turnover turned the ball back over to the Lady Indians but a shot to reduce

the lead further wouldn't fall and George Walton sank two free throws at 3.3 seconds for a 50-44 victory.

The Lady Indians were led in scoring by McClure with 18 points, Floyd with 11, Byers with 7, and Shook with 5 while junior Taylor Cornett led in assists with 5 and was followed by McClure with 3 and Floyd with 2. Leaders in rebounds were junior Kenzlee Denton and Shook with 6 each and Floyd with 4. The Lady Bulldogs were led in scoring by junior Emma Adair with 18 points and senior Baylee Bowers with 14. George Walton improved their record to 11-8 overall and 7-4 in the region with the victory.

Prince Avenue Christian School 61, Lady Indians 43 – The Lady Indians faced a tough assignment upon their return home on Saturday when they faced Prince Avenue, the leader in the south sub-region with a 20-2 overall record and 10-1 in Region 8-A.

The Lady Indians took an early 2-0 lead at 7:25 of the first quarter on a field goal by freshman Vanessa Floyd and they were within 5-4 on a runner by junior Taylor Cornett at the 2:09 mark. But the Lady Wolverines sank two deuces the final 1:07 of the quarter for a 9-4 lead which became 12-4 on a trey just twenty five seconds into the second.

A trey by senior Madison McClure at 7:24 had the Lady Indians within 12-7 but Prince built a 36-10 lead before a trey and two free throws by junior Erika Spano during the final twenty three seconds reduced the Lady Wolverines advantage to 36-15 at intermission.

The Lady Indians, already playing without the services of the aforementioned injured freshman Kennedy Henson, faced further first half misfortune when junior Kenzlee Denton injured her ankle for the third time this season and left the game in the first quarter after playing an excellent game the night before at George Walton, including tying for the lead for her team in rebounds for the game.

The Lady Indians outscored the Lady Wolverines 16-12 in the third quarter with Prince just holding a 13-12 advantage in the fourth for a 48-31 score after three quarters and a final score of 61-43. As in the Lady Indians game at Lakeview Academy when they played on virtually even terms for most of the last half against the Lady Lions' front line players, Lady Wolverines front line players saw extensive action the last half against the Lady Indians.

Last half individual highlights for the Lady Indians included three treys and a deuce for eleven points for McClure, three deuces and a free throw for seven points for Floyd and two treys by Spano for six.

The Lady Indians actually completed a 26-12 scoring run in reducing a twenty six points deficit of 36-10 to just twelve at 48-36 between the twenty three seconds mark of the second quarter and 6:21 of the fourth. The end of the overall 26-12 run included a trey at the third quarter buzzer by sophomore Sophia Shook and a deuce by Floyd and a trey by McClure for an 8-0 run in just a minute and thirty nine seconds of playing time.

Scoring leaders for the Lady Indians for the game were McClure with 15 points, Spano with 11, and Floyd with 9. Junior Taylor Cornett again led in assists with 4 and was followed by Floyd and McClure with 2 each. Scoring leaders for the Lady Wolverines were Karlee Armstrong with 16 points and Maddie Britt with 13.

Six Towns County wrestlers headed to GHSA Traditional Sectionals

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Assistant Editor

Six young men from Towns County Wrestling will be moving on to compete in the GHSA Traditional Wrestling Sectionals this weekend in Macon.

The six Indians who qualified during area competition last weekend to move to the next level are Garrett Oakes at 106 pounds, Blaine Rogers at 160 pounds, Tyler Swanger at 170 pounds, Wesly Calhoun at 182 pounds, Harold Cox at 220 pounds and Jamison Boggus at heavyweight.

"Five or six was kind of our number we thought we could get through, and that's what we were able to put through," said Wrestling Head Coach Jeff Stowers. "I think that we compete in the toughest area in the state, so getting out of our area is a huge accomplishment in its own right."

"It's just a matter of how the brackets fall, and who's healthy and who's not, all that stuff. You never know this time of year, if you have a bad day on the wrong day, your season's over."

Continued Coach Stowers: "I think that all six of the ones that we're taking have a chance to (go to state). It wouldn't surprise me for us to take all six, but the reality is that the odds of us taking all six are pretty slim."

"Somebody's going to not have a good day, somebody's going to make a mistake that's going to cost them. Somebody's going to get sick sometime this week and not be able to go. There are so many variables that are out of our control that, we're going to try to prepare the best we can and go down there and compete, and at the end of the day, we'll see what happens."

Coach Stowers and the rest of the Towns County



Top: Garrett Oakes (2nd - 106 lbs). Bottom: Tyler Swanger (3rd - 170 lbs)

Wrestling coaching staff are extremely proud of their Boys in Blue, for the hard work that they've committed and their passion for the sport.

"You can't say enough about the good kids we've got," said Stowers. "We've got, really, two distinct groups of kids. We've got veteran guys that have been around a while and have been working. Then, we've got a bunch of new kids that came in and just worked their butt off."

"The success that they've had as a group to achieve stuff – they've fought through injuries, sicknesses, weather and more to finish fourth in the area this year as a group."

Continued Coach Stowers: "The character these kids have displayed all year and

the work ethic, it's been fun to watch. It's been frustrating to not have our whole group together all year long, but you couldn't ask for more from these kids as far as being willing to work, fight and battle, and do what they're supposed to do.

"This is a bittersweet time of year. The reality is that only one person in every weight class leaves the arena happy on the last day of the season. Everybody else leaves with a loss, and that's just how wrestling is."

Student-athletes who wrestle well enough at sectionals will be attending the 2018 GHSA Traditional Wrestling State Tournament, also in Macon, the weekend of Feb. 7.

Nine seniors recognized during TCHS Basketball Senior Night



L-R: Senior Bradley Benson and senior Madison McClure. Photos by Lowell Nicholson

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Assistant Editor

The Towns County High School Girls and Boys Basketball teams honored nine seniors at their last home game of the year on Saturday, Jan. 27, against



Prince Avenue Christian.

Senior girls were basketball managers Sara Perry and Kyra Tallent, and Lady Indian Madison McClure.

Senior boys were Bradley Benson, Evan Berrong, Caleb Clark, Logan Cowart, Zack Davenport and Cole Ledford.

"In recognition of their

accomplishments, to show our appreciation for their hard work at Towns County High School, and to wish them all the best for a bright and successful future, let's hear it for all our seniors," said Ken Edwards, who emceed the Senior Night event in Bill P. Kendall Gymnasium.

U-12 Girls Soccer finishes season with 9-1 record



(Top row l-r) Kya Smith, Jamie McCarter, Kaleigh Beavers, Drew Livingston, Makaylee Bradley, Coach Eric Barrett; (bottom l-r) Jubilee Barrett, Abigail Gardella, Sailor Fain, Lilly Cannon, Scotlyn Fain, Ansleigh Hardin.

The Girls U-12 team ended their season with an astounding record of 9-1.

Coach Eric Barrett has been coaching the girls team for over four years. He said, "I'm proud of this

team and how they kept pushing themselves to get better throughout the season."

This team has been growing and getting more players as the years have

gone on. The interest in girls' soccer has definitely taken off. Coach Barrett didn't do an MVP or a most improved player because in his book they all were both.

TJJan31.F2JSH