

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Lady Indians get win over Athens Christian after loss at Hebron Christian

By Jerry Kendall
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Towns County Lady Indians varsity basketball team completed their regular season play last week when they traveled to Dacula to face the Hebron Christian Academy Lady Lions and to Prince Avenue Christian School near Athens to face the Athens Christian Lady Eagles who were displaced from their home court gym due to renovations which are underway.

The Lady Indians fell victim to a decisive 10-0 second quarter run at Hebron in a 42-31 loss before leading for most all of the game in taking a tough 52-47 victory over Athens Christian. Although far from a return to athletic competition, the injured freshman standout Kennedy Henson got good news last week when her medical providers in Athens informed her that she is showing excellent progress following ACL surgery on her injured knee.

Hebron Christian 42, Lady Indians 31 – For the second time this season, the Hebron Christian Lady Lions proved to be a tough match up for the Lady Indians as they used a significant height advantage in breaking away from a slender 11-10 lead with a 10-0 run for a 21-10 lead at intermission.

The last half would then be a total standoff with the Lady Indians holding a 13-12 advantage in third quarter action and the Lady Lions a 9-8 advantage in the fourth with the Lady Lions completing a 42-31 victory in Dacula.

Points had been hard to come by for both teams during first quarter action but a deuce by freshman Vanessa Floyd got the Lady Indians a 2-0 lead at the 6:10 mark and a trey by junior Erika Spano at 4:55 had them leading 5-3. But two field goals by Hebron had the Lady Lions leading 7-5 at quarter's end.

Two free throws by junior Kristen Byers at 6:51 of the second quarter forced



The Towns County Lady Indians battle under the basket vs Athens Christian. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

a 7-7 tie and an old fashioned three points play by senior Madison McClure at 4:46 had the Lady Indians within the aforementioned 11-10 score. The Lady Lions would finish the quarter on the 10-0 run, however, for the 21-10 lead at intermission.

Two free throws and a trey by Byers had the Lady Indians within 25-15 at exactly the five minutes mark of the third quarter and the Lady Indians followed a 6-0 Hebron run and a 31-15 score by finishing the quarter on an 8-2 run for a 33-23 deficit entering the fourth quarter.

The quarter ending run came in just 2:23 of playing time and was highlighted by a deuce by freshman Shelby Morris, a drive for two points by Byers, and a trey by junior Taylor Cornett at three seconds.

Four different Lady Indians then entered the scoring column in fourth quarter action with the Lady Indians edging to within single digits at 38-29 on a deuce by Floyd at 5:10 and two free throws by McClure at 4:04 but the Lady Lions outscored the Lady Indians 4-2 the rest of the way for the 42-31 victory.

Byers took the scoring lead for the Lady Indians with 11 points and was followed by McClure with 6 points and Floyd with 5. Cornett provided 3 assists and McClure 2 with rebounding leaders being Cornett, Floyd, and McClure with 5 each and Byers with 4.

Junior Kenzlee Denton remained out of action for both the Hebron and Athens Christian games with a sprained ankle sustained in the first quarter of their most recent prior game against Prince Avenue. Super tall freshman Carly Heidger led the Lady Lions in scoring with 13 points and was a strong presence both defensively and on the boards.

Lady Indians 52, Athens Christian School 47 – The Lady Indians would lead the Athens Christian Lady Eagles, with few exceptions, from start to finish at Prince Avenue Christian School on Friday night but not be able to clinch the victory until sinking two free throws with 8.3 seconds remaining in the game.

The following paragraphs will describe how the Lady Indians got to the point of clinching their sixth

victory of the season. A field goal by freshman Vanessa Floyd got them a 2-0 lead at the 6:51 mark of the first quarter, a trey by junior Kristen Byers at 4:55 gave them a 5-4 lead, and Floyd's second deuce had them leading 10-7 before a pair of deuces by the Lady Eagles during the last fifty seven seconds of the quarter had them ahead 11-10 at quarter's end.

The Lady Eagles added two free throws at 7:28 of the second quarter for a 13-10 lead but senior Madison McClure struck with a trey at 6:56 for a 13-13 tie. Three for four free throw shooting by McClure, a runner for two points by sophomore Sophia Shook, and two for two free throw shooting by junior Erika Spano had the Lady Indians leading 20-15 by the 4:18 mark.

The Lady Indians would go ice cold for awhile after that, however, with the Lady Eagles including a trey in a 7-0 run for a 22-20 lead at the 1:51 mark but freshman Shelby Morris sank two free throws at 45.5 seconds for a 22-22 tie at intermission.

A free throw by Floyd at 7:22 of the third quarter would give the Lady Indians

a 23-22 lead they would not relinquish although have it challenged until the final seconds of the game as referenced above.

McClure included a trey among five third quarter points with other highlights of the quarter being treys Shook and junior Taylor Cornett but with a deuce and trey by the Lady Eagles during the final 2:05 of the quarter reducing a 37-29 Towns advantage to 37-34 entering the fourth quarter.

Two field goals by Floyd would highlight a fourth quarter opening run of 9-4 by the Lady Indians for a 46-38 lead on a Spano deuce at 2:55 but a three points play and a trey had the Lady Eagles within 46-44 at the 2:02 mark.

McClure sank two clutch free throws at both the 1:17 and 48.5 marks for what seemed to be a pretty safe 50-44 lead but the Lady Eagles sank a trey at twenty eight seconds for just a one possession lead of 50-47 by the Lady Indians.

Floyd was sent to the foul line at 8.3 seconds, however, and put the game out of reach with two clutch free throws for a 52-47 Lady In-

dians victory.

Scoring leaders for the Lady Indians were McClure with 18 points, Floyd with 11, Byers and Shook with 6 each, and Spano with 5 while McClure also led in assists with 5 and was followed by Cornett with 2. Leaders in rebounds were Floyd with 7 and Shook with 4. The Lady Eagles were led in scoring by seniors Madison Pickerel with 20 points and Sydney Bridges with 11.

As of the newspaper deadline, the Lady Indians are scheduled to participate in the Region 8-A Tournament this week.

As the fifth seeded team from the north sub region, they are scheduled to face fourth seeded Athens Christian from the south sub region for a quick rematch of Friday's game on Monday of this week at 4:00 pm in Commerce.

The winner of that game will face Lakeview Academy on Tuesday at 7:00 with the winner of that game to play again at 7:00 pm on Friday in Commerce with a spot in the region championship game at 6:00 pm on Saturday on the line.

Four Towns County Wrestlers qualify to wrestle at state tournament

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Assistant Editor

Four of Towns County's finest athletes will make their way to the Macon Centreplex this weekend for the 2018 GHSA Traditional Wrestling State Tournament.

After a long and grueling season, the remaining Indians will grapple their way to respectable finishes at the tournament during one final weekend of wrestling.

Those traveling to the tournament qualified after their performances at the GHSA Traditional Wrestling Sectionals that took place last weekend.

"We wrestled really well," said Indian Head Coach Stowers of sectionals. "We took six kids down there, and really felt that we had a chance to get all six of them out, get them to state.

"Blaine Rogers finished second. He lost to a two-time defending state champ in the finals. Garrett Oakes finished third, Tyler Swanger finished third and Harold Cox finished third.

"Wesly Calhoun wrestled his butt off all day and came up a little short. He wound up finishing sixth, so he's an alternate

this weekend.

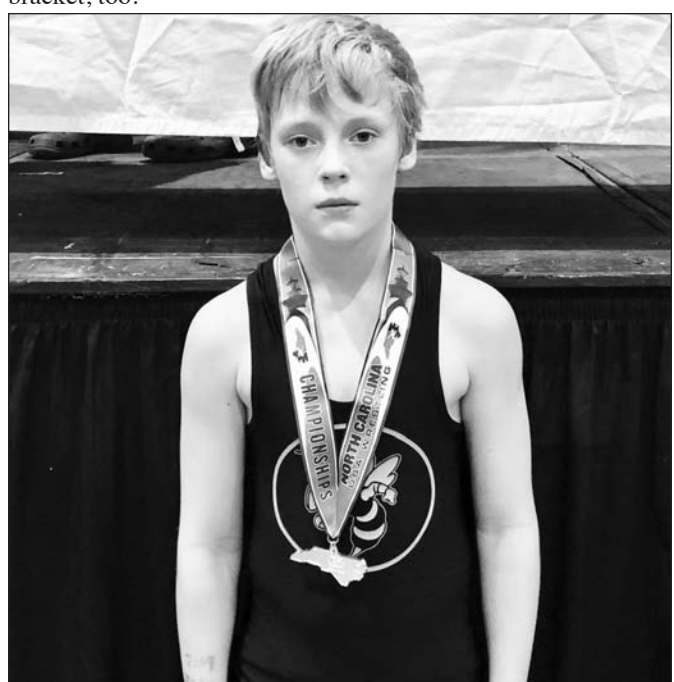
"Our heavyweight Jamison Boggus got hurt in his first match and had to go to the hospital, so he wasn't able to finish the tournament.

"Overall, we took six down to sectionals, and four of them are in the state tournament. The way this past week went with all the sickness and injuries that happened for sectionals, there's no telling, Wesly may wind up getting in a state bracket, too.

"We're just going to try to get everybody healthy, get them prepared to roll down there, and see what we've got."

Coach Stowers would also like to congratulate his nephew, Jack Stowers, who is a Towns County student but wrestles for the Hayesville, North Carolina, youth team.

The younger Stowers finished Third Place in his age range during the recent state competition.



Football: Cowart commits to Tusculum

Photo/Twitter @LoganCowart1

Cochran having an outstanding year at YHC

By Jerry Kendall
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

A spectacular game by former Towns County Lady Indian Eryn Cochran for the Young Harris College Women's Basketball Team last Saturday prompts a long overdue look at her outstanding year for the Mountain Lions. For those who may not know of her history, Cochran had a truly outstanding four years career for the Lady Indians before joining Columbus State University of the very highly regarded Division II Peach Belt Conference under head coach Jonathan Norton.

Following two successful seasons under Norton whose parents, Junior and Peggy Puett Norton, are Towns County natives, Cochran transferred to YHC upon the resignation of Norton



Eryn Cochran

for the Mountain Lions this year. Through games of last week, she leads the Mountain Lions in scoring average at 10.5 points per game on a very balanced scoring squad and in assists with 66 and steals with 28.

As for the aforementioned outstanding game against her former Columbus State University team, she had a career high of 24 points on seven of thirteen field goal shooting, including five for ten on trey attempts, and she sank five of seven free throw attempts. She also contributed 6 rebounds and 7 assists with no turnovers in forty two minutes of playing time in a 93-92 YHC overtime win.

The failure to make a single turnover is most remarkable and in fact, she has had just one turnover in her last three games and just two in the game before that.

at Columbus State. After sitting out last year as a requirement of transferring within the Peach Belt Conference to YHC, she has had a most productive season