

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Indians victims of two decisive scoring runs in season ending loss at Calhoun Co.

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Edison - Georgia's Class A Public fifteenth seeded Towns County Indians Varsity Basketball Team saw their season come to an end last Thursday in Edison in deep southwest Georgia in a 75-48 loss to the Calhoun County Cougars. The Cougars are the state's second seeded team based on the Power Points setup used by the Georgia High School Association with the vast majority of the game being much more competitive than the final score would indicate.

Your reporter often mentions scoring runs of various lengths in reports of games throughout the season but with perhaps no two games this season or maybe many other seasons as well being affected more noticeably by decisive runs than the two first round state tournament games involving the Indians as will be described in the following paragraphs.

There was incredible similarity in the manner by which the Cougars took their victory over the Indians and the Indians their win over Schley County just five days earlier with decisive scoring runs being present in both games during very short periods of playing time by the two very explosive offenses.

The Indians used an 18-0 run within an overall 24-3 third quarter surge requiring just 4:27 of playing time, in a game lasting thirty two minutes, in propelling themselves from a 31-25 deficit to a 49-34 lead in route to a 68-58 home court victory over Schley County.

On the other hand, Calhoun County used two potent scoring surges of 29-5, including the first seventeen points, at the start of the game and 13-2 midway through the second half on their home court last Thursday in accounting for a 42-7 advantage achieved during a total of just 11:27 of playing time.

The Indians held the upper hand in very impressive fashion in outscoring the Cougars 41-33 during the remaining twenty minutes and forty seconds of the game in a similar manner to Schley County outscoring the Indians 55-44 with the exception of their decisive Indians run.

The comparison of the brief lengths of time required by the explosive offenses of the two teams in their decisive runs is quite interesting although it seemed much longer to the Indians and their followers during the two Calhoun runs and most likely to Schley County and theirs during the Indians' overall single run.

Most of those experiencing or viewing the Indians' stunning run against Schley may have not noticed the extent of the dominance as they would have if at the start of the game with perhaps 18-0 and 24-3 scores



appearing on the scoreboard with these totals not much different than the opening 19-17-0 and 29-5 Calhoun leads with both victims of the runs, Schley and the Indians, having excellent teams and being very athletic themselves.

The early Calhoun dominance of the Indians reminds your reporter of legendary Fannin County head coach Johnny Farmer's mentioning to me year ago how difficult it is for teams to be ready for such athleticism and quickness as displayed by the Cougars in the opening minutes.

Farmer stated that adequate preparation for such opponents is very difficult to achieve if your own team doesn't have these traits to the level of the opponent to be able to practice against during the preparation.

Such a situation requires a bit of an on the job training situation and as seems the case for the victim of a lengthy run, there are always shots that appear headed into the basket but find a way to roll or bounce off or out of the rim which was the case for the Indians during the opening Calhoun run.

At any rate, after this early run came to an end just nine minutes and thirty two seconds into the game, the Indians more than held their

own against the Cougars for an extended period of time, outscoring the Cougars 19-10 the final 5:57 of the half for a 39-24 halftime score.

A trey at that 5:57 mark by junior Zach Davenport triggered the second quarter heroics for the Indians with highlights being six points by sophomore Will Travis and four each by senior Adam Barrett and junior Logan Cowart.

And, yes, for readers who didn't make it to the game, you read that correctly as Barrett, who was sidelined by a severe ankle injury in a preseason scrimmage on November 14, got medical clearance earlier in the week to play and looked in mid-season form during several minutes of playing time off the bench in his first appearance in the more than three months since the injury.

Kudos are extended to Adam for his dedicated rehabilitation work and his contributions to his team in this game and best wishes are extended for good health and success in the just underway Indians baseball season.

It turned out that the Indians weren't through with their mid game heroics begun prior to intermission as they opened the third quarter with an 11-6 run, ending with a three point play by senior Will De Vries and Cowart's

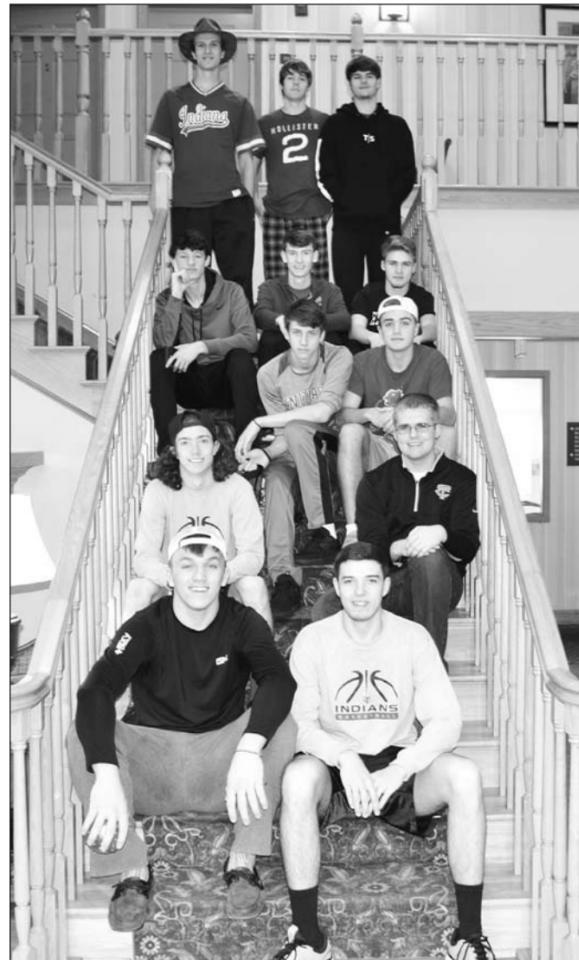
second basket in the run for just a 45-35 deficit at the 3:34 mark.

This represented the completion of an overall 30-16 Indian run during a span of 10:23 of playing time back to 5:57 of the second quarter.

The Indians nearly matched two free throws and two field goals by the Cougars on a basket by De Vries and a putback by senior Major Moss for a 51-39 deficit at thirty six seconds and a score still perhaps within reach but the Indians were then victimized by the aforementioned 13-2 Cougars run.

They sank a trey at eighteen seconds and a break-away basket at the buzzer for a 56-39 lead and the same seventeen points margin they started the game with and they opened the fourth quarter with an 8-2 run for a 64-41 lead at the 6:30 mark which would become the 75-48 victory.

Cowart and De Vries led the Indians in scoring for the game with 9 points each and they were followed by Moss and Travis with 8 each, Davenport with 6, Barrett with 4, and junior Evan Ber-



rong and sophomore Brett Denton with 2 each.

Moss led in assists with 6 and was followed by the quartet of Davenport, De Vries, senior Colton Shook, and Travis with 1 each while Moss also led in rebounds with 14 and was followed by Cowart with 5; Barrett with 4; Davenport, De Vries, and Travis with 2 each; and Berrong, sophomore Trent Bradshaw, and Shook with 1 each.

The Indians trailed the very athletic Cougars in rebounds by just a 34-32 total according to the work of Indians statistician Kendall Floyd whose provision of rebounding totals throughout the season is much appreciated.

The Cougars improved their record to 26-1 with the victory while the Indians finished their season with an excellent 19-10 record.

It is interesting that

this was the first loss for the Indians to a Class A Public school in Georgia since January 3, 2014, when they fell to Commerce by a 68-59 score.

They went on to win at Commerce later that year and defeated the Tigers twice in each of the last three seasons along with the recent win over Schley County for an 8-0 record against Class A Public between the losses to Commerce and Calhoun County.

An article is still planned to try and explain the Georgia High School Association Power Points system along with the various qualifying procedures for reaching the state tournament through the years along with information about the Indians' four previous trips to the event prior to this year along with several connections between those and this year's team.

10U Girls Basketball Team take District Championship



Back Row: Left to Right - Brittany Cook, Callie Drew Livingston, Ansleigh Hardin, Kaleigh Beaver, Hope Chastain. Front Row: Abigail Gardella, Zoe Phillips, Maycee Garrison, Makaylee Bradley, Scotlyn Fain. Coach: Erica Chastain. Assistant Coach: Sheri Livingston.

Congratulations to the 10U Girl's Basketball Team on becoming District Champions! The team defeated Rabun, White and Lumpkin counties to gain the District title. The team goes on to play in the State Tournament on March 3rd and March 4th in Oglethorpe County. Good luck 10U Lady Indians! T(Mar1,F7)SH

Towns County 10U Boys Basketball are District Champs



Georgia Recreation and Parks Association 10U Boys District 7 Tournament was held this past weekend with teams from Towns, White, Union, Lumpkin, Oglethorpe, Commerce, Banks and Rabun participating in single elimination play. Towns County Indians began by playing Commerce on Friday, where they defeated the Tigers 44-9. On Saturday, the Indians conquered Rabun

Wildcats with a final score of 49-38. The championship game placed White County Warriors against the Towns County Indians, where the score was 29-27 at the buzzer, sending the Indians to the state playoffs.

Towns County 10U boys basketball team will be playing in North Bryan County near Savannah on March 3-4. The following boys are on the

team: Connor Chastain, Matthew Chastain, Austin Cornett, Jensen Goble, Kade McConnell, Brock Murray, Seth Rutan, Dawson Smith, Walker Underwood and Trey Williams. The Indians are coached by Randy McConnell and assisted by Jimmy Smith.

Good Luck 10U Boys at State Tournament this weekend! T(Mar1,G)SH