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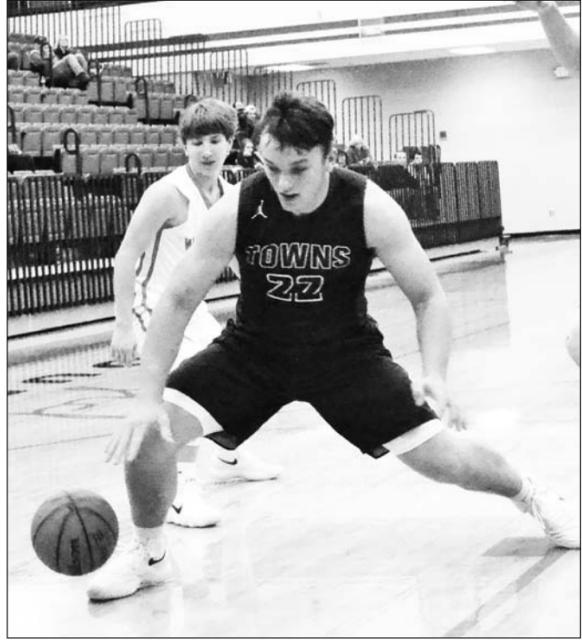
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Indians impress in 79-65 opening night win at Rabun County

By Jerry Kendall
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Staff Writer

Tiger - The Class A Towns County Indians Varsity Basketball Team got their regular season underway last Saturday afternoon when they traveled to Tiger near Clayton to face the Class AA Rabun County Wildcats.

They welcomed five members—seniors Logan Cowart, Zach Davenport, and Cole Ledford and juniors Trent Bradshaw and Will Travis—from the school's first state playoff football team who were ready for action plus one member—Daulton Key—who is sidelined by a knee injury sustained near the end of their last football game in Pelham in deep south Georgia.



Logan Cowart (left) and Trent Bradshaw (right) in action at Rabun County last Saturday night. Photos by Lowell Nicholson

The hard luck Key missed most of last year in basketball due to a shoulder injury.

The Indians had the disadvantage of just a week of practice for the football players to transition from the very different tasks of one sport to the other but Rabun was also handicapped by the absence of their second and third leading scorers from last year who are still involved with the state football playoffs.

Rabun actually lost just one productive senior, just the seventh leading scorer but second leading rebounder, from last year's team which compiled an 11-15 record.

Rabun would take a 2-0 lead on a field goal just thirteen seconds into the game but the Wildcats would hold just one tie and two additional leads during the course of the game with a trey by senior Bradley Benson propelling the Indians past the first lead by a 4-2 score at the 3:45 mark of the first quarter.

The Wildcats followed a second quarter opening dunk by junior Will Travis for a 15-10 Towns lead with a pair of treys for a short lived 16-15 lead at the 7:02 mark with a basket by senior Caleb Clark at 6:36 getting the Indians back in front by a 17-16 score.

The Wildcats would tie the score at 24-24 on a trey at 3:31 of the second quarter and take a 26-24 lead on a deuce at 3:08 but Travis' third basket of the quarter at 2:49 got the Indians even and a baseline jumper by freshman Kolby Moss at 1:22 got the Indians a lead of 28-26 they would not relinquish.



Action shot of a player shooting a basketball during the game. Photos by Lowell Nicholson

By quarter's end, Moss added a trey and seniors Bradshaw, Evan Berrong, and Davenport deuces, giving the Indians a 13-3 quarter ending run

for a 37-29 lead at intermission. Seven different Indians put points on the scoreboard in the second quarter giving them a total of eight entering the scoring column for the half with Davenport including his 1,000 career point in a team leading eight first half points.

The opening two minutes gave the appearance that the Indians might be about to break the game wide open as they struck for a 10-3 run for a 47-32 lead on two free throws at the start and a field goal at the end by Cowart with Benson's third and fourth treys of

the game coming in between.

This was not to be, however, as it was Rabun's turn to have a strong run as they used a pair of treys in embarking on a 16-3 run of their own rally between the 5:50 and 2:11 marks for just a 50-48 deficit.

at 60-58 at the 5:45 mark but quickly went into a self destruct mode after that, being charged with two technical, an intentional, and two common fouls between the 5:09 and 4:03 marks with Davenport sinking five of eight free throw attempts and Cowart three of four and senior Evan Berrong adding a field goal for a 70-58 Towns lead.

The Wildcats would not get closer than ten points after that with the Indians closing out a 79-65 victory.

Davenport didn't miss a triple double by much as he led the Indians in scoring with 22 points and in assists with 10 and tied for the lead in rebounds with 7 but got lots of help from his teammates. Other scoring leaders were Cowart with 14 points, Benson with 12, Travis with 11, Moss with 7, Bradshaw with 6, and Berrong with 5. Cowart tied with Davenport for the lead in rebounds with 7 and was followed by Berrong and Bradshaw with 4 each while Berrong was second to Davenport in assists with 3 and was followed by junior Brett Denton with 2.

Free throw accuracy by Davenport and Cowart was most noteworthy as Davenport sank 12 of 16 attempts with all coming in the fourth quarter while Cowart sank eight of nine attempts. The Wildcats were led in scoring by senior Tevan Dixon with 27 points, junior Jimmy Watts with 14, and junior Kasin Old with 11.

Lady Indians compete well in loss at Stephens, overwhelmed at state power Rabun

By Jerry Kendall
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Staff Writer

The Towns County Lady Indians Varsity Basketball Team was on the road twice last week for their two opening regular season games. The Class A Lady Indians traveled to Class AAAA Stephens County in Toccoa on Tuesday night where they saw a late second quarter run by a different tribe of Lady Indians turn out to be decisive in a 59-45 loss although they battled to within just a seven points deficit with less than two and a half minutes left in the game.



The Towns County Lady Indians in action at Class AAAA Stephens County last week. Photos by Lowell Nicholson



Action shot of a player shooting a basketball during the game. Photos by Lowell Nicholson

The Stephens County ladies won just four games a year ago but lost just three seniors from last year and feature a veteran presence of six seniors this season with three starting against the Lady Indians who lost just two seniors from last year but feature just one, Madison McClure, on the team this year. As it turned out, however, two freshmen took prime roles for Stephens in this game as did two for the Lady Indians.

runners up in their classification last year. The Lady Cats have been one of the premier girls teams for many years in northeast Georgia and it appears that this year is no different.

The Lady Cats finished with a 29-3 overall record last year, including falling by just an 85-76 score in the Class AA

state championship game to Laney High School of Augusta after taking decisive victories in four prior state tournament games. Their only two regular season setbacks were by a 67-60 score to Lakeview Academy in the Hardwood Classic at Piedmont College and by a 49-45 score to Banks County in Tiger.

Stephens County 59, Lady Indians 45 - In a game featuring strong scoring runs by both teams, Stephens County used a 13-2 finish the final 3:33 of the second quarter to establish a 37-22 lead the Lady Indians would challenge but not be able to overcome during the final half of the game as the home standing Lady Indians from Toccoa would come away with a 59-45 victory. The most noteworthy action by Stephens was surprisingly accurate and timely 3-point shooting throughout the game in view of their past history of just the four wins last year and their showing very little accuracy from "behind the arc" and on other shots during warmups.

marks for just a 24-20 deficit only to see Stephens use two treys in the aforementioned second quarter finish for the 37-22 advantage at intermission.

A trey and free throw by freshman Kennedy Henson and two deuces by junior Kristen Byers accounted for an 8-3 run by the Indians at the start of the third quarter for just a 40-30 Stephens lead but a deuce and the seventh and eighth treys of the game for an 8-0 run gave the Stephens ladies a 48-30 lead at the 1:36 mark.

finished on a 9-2 run the final 2:18 of the game for a final winning margin of 59-45.

Henson took the scoring lead for the Lady Indians with 13 points and was followed by Floyd and Shook with 7 points each, McClure with 6, and Cornett with 5. Leading in rebounds were Floyd with 7, Cornett with 5, and McClure with 4 while Cornett led in assists with 3.

first quarter.

Better free throw shooting could especially have reduced the lead even further or perhaps put the Lady Indians ahead but four straight first quarter charity tosses wouldn't fall for them, including a pair of one and one bonus attempts during the final 3:30 of the quarter, and the Lady Cats came up with a steal and basket as time expired for a 12-6 lead after one quarter.

Georgia Waterfowl season now open



Young waterfowl hunter shows off his birds.

With waterfowl hunting season opening Sat., Nov. 18, duck and goose hunters across Georgia should face much better hunting conditions than last year, according to experts with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Division (WRD).

"Last year many of the managed wetlands that provide habitat for migrating and wintering waterfowl on state-operated Wildlife Management Areas were dry," said WRD state waterfowl biologist Greg Balkcom. "But this year conditions are much better due to summer rains and fall hurricanes. WRD managed impoundments are flooded or near full, with good food production."

"Duck and goose hunters should have no problems this year finding hunting spots that have water and provide

habitat for migratory ducks and geese," said Balkcom.

Duck season dates are Nov. 18 -26 and Dec. 9 - Jan. 28. Full migratory bird hunting regulations can be found at www.georgiawildlife.com/Hunting/Waterfowl.

To hunt waterfowl in Georgia you will need a Georgia hunting license, a Georgia migratory bird license, a federal duck stamp (now available when you purchase your other recreational licenses). WRD has made your purchase decision even easier by the creation of the Waterfowl Package at www.GoOutdoors-Georgia.com, which includes all you need (and includes a convenient plastic card).

For more information on Georgia Hunting Regulations, visit www.georgiawildlife.com/hunting/regulations.

Stephens used two treys in building a 10-3 lead by the 5:01 mark of the first quarter only to see the Lady Indians rally for a 12-12 standoff with 47.6 seconds on the clock on the strength of a trey by junior Taylor Cornett and two free throws each by sophomore Sophia Shook, senior Madison McClure, and freshman Vanessa Floyd.

In view of the hot 3-point shooting seemingly each time the Lady Indians got close to Stephens, one would never have expected the home team to go stone cold and score just one deuce between the 1:36 mark of the third quarter and 2:18 of the fourth.

That was the case, however, with the Lady Indians cutting the eighteen points deficit in half in barely more than two minutes between the 1:21 mark of the third and the 7:10 mark of the fourth quarter, getting them within single digits by a 48-39 score. This rally came on the strength of a 9-0 run when Henson wrapped a field goal and two free throws around field goals by Cornett and Floyd and a free throw by freshman Abby Mauldin.

Stephens County was led in scoring by freshman NeNe Eades with 17 points and senior Anaiah Wilson and freshman Bree Taylor with 14 each with the presence of the two very productive freshmen in their first varsity game likely to provide a strong boost to the fortunes of the Lady Indians from Toccoa this year.

The Lady Indians got to within 14-8 on a drive for two points by Henson and to within 20-11 and 24-14 on treys by junior Kristen Byers at the 6:02 and 4:50 marks but Rabun would hold a 36-18 lead by intermission and pull steadily away the last half in holding a 58-25 lead after three quarters on the way to a 76-29 victory.

The Stephens Ladies would follow that Towns rally, however, by using a pair of early treys in a 12-2 run between the 42.6 seconds mark of the first quarter and the 6:08 mark of the second for a 24-14 lead.

The Towns Ladies responded quickly with a free throw by Shook, a long deuce by Floyd, and a trey by McClure between the 6:02 and 4:54

Stephens County throughout the first quarter and were within striking distance until well into the second quarter before the relentless full court pressure by the Lady Cats began to take a toll on the youthful Lady Indians. They overcame cold field goal and free throw shooting and an early 4-0 Rabun lead for a 4-4 tie on a long deuce by sophomore Sophia Shook and two free throws by freshman Kennedy Henson and reduced an 8-4 deficit to 8-6 on a basket by freshman Vanessa Floyd at the 1:48 mark of the

Stephens County game, both teams spent a lot of time at the foul line but this time with the Lady Indians' opponent having greater success with Rabun sinking 25 of 39 attempts while the Lady Indians made just 12 of 26 shots.

Scoring leaders for the game for the Lady Indians were Byers and Shook with 8 points each and Henson with 7 while Henson led in rebounds with 9 and in assists with 4 and Byers was second in rebounds with 3. The Lady Cats were led in scoring by junior Georgia Stockton with 26 points and senior Jordan Haban with 11.

Benton MacKaye Trail group hike

Benton MacKaye Trail group hike, Saturday, December 2nd. Raven Cliff Falls - the falls shoot through a cliff and the water falls 170 feet. Moderate hike, 6 miles, in and out. Register with Hike Leader Larry Dumas: ledumas@hotmail.com; www.bmta.org.