

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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TCMS boys basketball 'running the table' in 2016-2017 season

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

With a pair of wins last week at home, the Towns County Middle School Indians improved their already impeccable season record to 9-1, and Head Coach Shea Taylor couldn't be more proud of their hard work and ongoing success.

Just looking at the numbers, the team this year has already shattered last season's record of 5-9, which for one showcases the particular coachability of this group of Indians between seasons.

Such an improvement between seasons can be attributed to the following young men, all of whom exhibit a penchant for teamwork as well as effective communication both on and off the court:

Cabe Poston, Hayden McClure, Kyle Oakes, Carson Williams, Liam King, Kolby Moss, Aidan Berrong, Collin Crowder, Luis Quijada, Reace Hampton, Peyton Barrett and John Watts.

"We had eight returning players from last year," said Coach Taylor. "We were a young team last year, but they've stuck together, and they've been playing together for a few years now and have good chemistry."

"Offensively, we haven't had any trouble scoring, except in the game against Andrews. They gave us a hard time with their press, and we made turnovers we shouldn't have made



Towns County Middle School photos by Lowell Nicholson



in that one."

Other than the single loss to Andrews so far in the season, the Indians have seemed relatively comfortable holding their own against all faced opponents, including a pre-season win against Carolina Christian, whom they doubled-down against last Friday with a regular season win.

"We've got good ball movement, and different players are stepping up on different nights to help us out, so we're getting contributions from

several different players," said Coach Taylor. "We have added a new kid, his name's Reace Hampton, and it's his first year playing. He has been helping us big time on the rebounds."

In preparation for the 2016-2017 season, Coach Taylor took the boys to two basketball camps, one at Tennessee Wesleyan University in Athens, Tennessee, and another in Blairsville.

"I believe they are just all coming together," said Coach Taylor. "Us having a good group of eighth-graders

with a few seventh-graders, they've got good chemistry."

"Being the young team in the league last year, a lot of other schools had all eighth-graders, but now we've got a lot of eighth-graders and we're running the table right now."

Coach Taylor is in his second year as head coach of the middle school boys basketball team, and he is also head coach for the middle school baseball team.

"I love it," said Coach Taylor on coaching. "I'm a very competitive person, and

I just like to teach it. I had good coaches in school, and I admire those people for the time they helped me, so I just want to help the kids."

"And we have a good time doing it. They work hard, but we have fun, too."

One big day of fun for the team is coming up in January, when the Indians will travel to Stegeman Coliseum on a Saturday to watch the Georgia Bulldogs take on Missouri in what is sure to be a heated matchup.

"We try to do stuff like

that to have fun, and to get the kids out and let them see what it's like at the college level, let them experience that - that's always good for them," said Coach Taylor.

The Indians have a couple of away games and one more home game left in the season, that one being against Martins Creek on Monday, Jan. 9, before they head to the season-ending tournament. Middle school games start at 4 p.m. in the middle school gym.

NASCAR 2016

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

Christmas With "The Arkansas Traveler"

Note: Each year during Christmas we break from our traditional NASCAR racing news in order to bring a timeless Christmas story from Bobby Ward, an early sprint car racer from Arkansas. While he was not well known along the east coast, he was a household name among racing fans in the Midwest and South. When Ward showed up at the race track, he was always the "one to beat."

He is a member of the National Sprint Car Hall of Fame.

Bobby Ward had a stroke four years ago, but is doing well. He and his wife sold their "homeplace," and moved to Conway, Arkansas, so he could be closer to a medical facility.

"I think that sometimes people overvalue the things of Christmas, and forget to really focus on their friends and the actual holiday season," said Ward. "I certainly have more material things now, which I thoroughly enjoy, but as far as true happiness goes, I'm not so sure that we weren't just as happy back in my early years."

Ward was born in 1935 in the community of Bee Branch, Arkansas, about 40 miles north of Little Rock, in a one-room log cabin. His racing career began in 1956.

He raced hard, traveled long distances, won many, many championships, accumulated a large fan following, and became known as "The Arkansas Traveler."

"Christmas for us was very light," continued Ward. "Mom and dad, and sometimes all the family would go out on Christmas Eve and cut down a tree. It wasn't always a cedar tree. Sometimes it was a pine. After getting it set up in the house we would decorate it. The decorations consisted of some colorful ribbon that had been cut in strips, and strings of popcorn."

"That was all the decorations we used. There were no lights, or anything shiny."

"My three sisters and I each got one toy. That's the only time of the year we get any store bought toys. But I don't ever remember a Christmas when we didn't get that one toy."

"On my sixth birthday I had asked my mom for some type of



Bobby Ward receives the trophy after winning the 1963 Soputhwest Supermodified Championship at Amarillo, TX.

Tinker Toy. On Christmas Eve, I happened by the bedroom and saw a Tinker Toy sticking out from under the bed. Mom saw me, and said, 'Son, would you believe that Santa Claus came by earlier today and left this for you? And he might even come back again tonight.'

"Well, I believed her, and sure enough, the next morning Santa had paid us a second visit and left some oranges, apples, and cookies."

"Our Christmas dinner consisted of chicken and dumplings, and dressing, along with ham and some other vegetables, plus a cake and pie."

"We never had turkey or anything you had to buy."

"Around Christmastime, daddy would kill some hogs and cure the meat. He would take some type sugar cure and put it all over the ham, and inject it all around the bone. This not only flavored the meat, but preserved it. The meat would keep in a smoke house for at least a month."

"In my very early childhood, we had Christmas by ourselves. We lived a pretty good way from our neighbors, and traveling in our wagon would have taken too long."

"As I got older, we moved and dad bought a car, and we visited my father's mother and dad on Christmas. I had a cousin that always got lots of toys and we were allowed to play with them while the rest of the family visited."

"I never said anything to mother and dad about the single toy I got, because I knew how things were with us."

"During the year, I was able to make homemade cars out of blocks of wood."

"We used our imagination and what we had, to entertain ourselves."

"We always ate well, even outside the holidays. We had pork, along with fried potatoes, pinto beans, and corn bread. Every Thursday night we had corn bread and buttermilk."

"There was no electricity in my early years. Our traditional lighting was a simple kerosene lamp. One day my dad brought home a new type of kerosene lamp, called a 'Latin Lamp.' It gave a much brighter light, and that was the first time my sister and I had been able to do our homework together at the kitchen table."

"Sometimes at night I would get a glass of milk, and only drink half of it. I would leave the rest of it setting in the kitchen. When it was really cold, the next morning I would have a half glass of ice cream."

"When we moved from Bee Branch to Shirley, Arkansas, there weren't any boys around to play with, just girls. Mother made me a doll on her old treadmill sewing machine, and filled it with straw and rags, so I would have something to play with."

"It might seem funny now, but I had the time of my life playing with that doll, along with my three sisters and the other girls."

"Whenever my dad took corn to the grist mill, to get it ground into meal and grits, I always went along. The corn was yellow. We never raised any white corn like they have now."

"My childhood was good. I thoroughly enjoyed growing up with my sisters and we were a loving family. We worked hard, and loved each other. We didn't go around hugging each other, saying, 'I love you,' but we all shared a bond of love."

"I don't ever remember a day growing up when I didn't feel loved."

"I tried to race everyone just like I would want him to race me."

"I didn't always win, but I knew it was important for me to try and finish each race. I think in order to enjoy our success we've got to put forth effort. The races that I enjoyed winning the most were those I really had to work for."

"Greater labor leads to greater love."

"To maximize our present enjoyment in life we might need to give up some of the comforts our easy life style brings us. Instead of buying a present ready-made this Christmas, why not see what kind of physical chore you could do for your neighbor. Instead of buying a pre-cooked pie or cake for Christmas dinner, why not bake it yourself?"

"Christmas happiness can still be found. You just need to know how and where to look."

Racing Trivia Question: What famous family is Ben Kennedy, the Truck Series driver related to?

Last Week's Question: What year did Tony Stewart win the NASCAR Sprint Cup Rookie of The Year? Answer: He was Rookie of the Year in 1999, his first season with Joe Gibbs Racing.

You may contact the Racing Reporter by e-mail at: hodges@race500.com. NT(Dec21)Z13CA

Bowling scores

+16 and Jerry Clark +19.

High Scratch Game: John Poffenberger 269; RayDasilva 257; Cleaston Burger 253; Bonna Graham 199; Diane Kirkland, 192; Tie: Denise Praizler 170 and Linda McKee 170.

High Scratch Series: Chris McKee 712; Gale Glascock 662; Robert Slodysko 634; Lily Clark 504; Jackie Keene 491; Mary Fischer 456. High Handicap Game: Jack Abbott 306; Ed Gerhard 289; Jerry Clark 287; Susan Robinson 283; Rose Burger 272; Karen Hall 269. High Handicap Series: Everett Hall 832; Clifton Deal 791; Ted Nesius 786; Rose Terry 739; Carol Shields 721; Jeanette Harris 731.

The league will begin their Winter Schedule on Wednesday, Jan. 4 at 1 p.m. We have a few vacancies for men and women. If you would like to bowl in this league, please call Rose at 706-745-4268.

Monday Night Men: Walt Whitlock 243, Bill Smith 235, 201, Taz Matetzsch 259, 233, 246 Series 738, Jerimiah Plott 209, 236, 210, Bob Bischoff 221, Ken Thigpen 204, 200, Greg Wittenburg 209, Ryan Cuthbert 205, Ron Wingate 212, Dewey Allen 213, Bonnell Thomas 277, Curtis Corn 200, Stanley Tyler 217, 200, Branden Hartness 278, 236, Jay Burrell 246, Ray Everett 202, 213, 213, Mel White 202, Richard Tanner 227, Bart Rodgers 209, Doug Tanner 213, 211, Del Neiffer 211, Joe Teague 224, Derick Rice 204, 247.

Monday Night Ladies: Erika Star 199, Monita Rodgers 190. Young @ Heart Seniors: Bryan Cuthbert 221, Mel White 236, 205, Stanley Tyler 226, Bob Landis 249, 204, 224, Series 677, Del Neiffer 214, 213, Ron Wingate 235, Nell Rice 236, Bob Bischoff 244, Ron Gaucher 214, 255, Wally Sorocki 214, Gene Clopton 224.

Fall Golden Bowling Club winners



Golden Club Winners for the Fall Schedule

After a festive Christmas Dinner the following winners were declared: 1st Place: Holy Rollers, Capt. Jerry Clark; 2nd Place: Kevin Panter Ins. Capt. Larry Dumas; 3rd Place: Something Special, Capt. John Robinson; 4th Place: Team #6, Capt. Chris McKee; 5th Place: The Wild Bunch, Capt. Carol Shields; 6th Place: McRoberts Counseling,

Capt. McRoberts. 7th Place: Blue Ridge Trophies, Capt. Rose Terry; 8th Place: Undedogs, Capt. Diane Kirkland; 9th Place Heavenly Bake Shop, Capt. Bonna Graham; and 10th Place: Fun Crew, Capt. Gale Glascock.

High Average: Bonna Graham, 151 and John Poffenberger, 200; Most Improved: Mary Fischer

2016 23rd Annual CHRISTMAS TOURNAMENT BATTLE OF THE STATES DEC 28-29-30, 2016

GIRLS

CONSOLATION BRACKETT DAY 1 12/28/16 Lumpkin Co., GA

DAY 2 12/29/16 1 10:00 AM Hokes Bluff, AL

DAY 3 12/30/16 5 10:00 AM Swain, NC

WINNERS BRACKETT DAY 2 12/29/16 7 4:00 PM Union Co., GA

DAY 3 12/30/16 9 10:00 AM Polk Co., TN

DAY 3 12/30/16 12 7:00 PM CHAMPION

DAY 2 12/29/16 2 4:00 PM Hayesville, NC

DAY 3 12/30/16 8 7:00 PM Piedmont, AL

DAY 2 12/29/16 4 7:00 PM Towns Co., GA

DAY 3 12/30/16 10 1:00 PM 11 4:00 PM 3rd Place

W6 Bottom Team in Bracket is Home Team and Will Wear White Uniforms L8

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