

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Ailing Indians fall at Lumpkin; BOTS opens Wednesday

By Jerry Kendall
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Dahlongega - In their only game of last week, the Class Towns County Indians Varsity Basketball Team faced not only a prominent Class AAA opponent in Lumpkin County and a trip across the mountain to Dahlongega but ill health as well with most members of the team feeling the effects of flu like symptoms.

Under the circumstances, it was quite a tribute that the Indians fought valiantly and remained in contention until the final minutes of the game before coming out on the short end of a 71-52 score with the game being much more competitive than the final score would indicate.

The Indians finished the 2016 portion of their regular season with a 7-3 record while the defending Battle of the States Champion Lumpkin County Indians improved to 6-6 with the win against a quite formidable schedule after losing much of their fire power from last year and opening the season with a 1-3 record including a loss to the Indians in Hiwassee.

Both teams are entered in this year's Battle of the States being played Wednesday through Friday of this week in the Towns County Gym.

The Indians got early



Senior Major Moss drives to the basket for two at Lumpkin County. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

2-0 and 4-2 leads on baskets by junior Logan Cowart and senior Will De Vries but turnovers were costly at times for the Indians with Lumpkin using a pair of treys in getting a 10-4 lead by the 6:10 mark of the first quarter.

They would use two more treys, including one at the three seconds mark, for a 20-12 lead by quarter's end.

De Vries wound up with six points and Cowart four in first quarter action for the Indians.

Lumpkin took a 30-19 lead by the mid point of the second quarter but the Indians used a 9-3 run on junior Zach Davenport's second three point play of the quarter and two field goals and two free throws by De Vries for just a

33-28 Indian deficit near the one minute mark.

Lumpkin would respond with a couple of quick deuces for a 37-28 lead which was reduced to 37-30 by a basket at the buzzer by De Vries giving him ten points for the quarter and sixteen for the first half.

The Indians opened the third quarter on baskets by Cowart and sophomore Will

Travis for just a 37-34 deficit at 7:25 and Travis and Davenport answered Lumpkin baskets for just a 41-38 Lumpkin advantage by 5:06.

Cowart then answered a Lumpkin trey with a field goal at 4:42 for a 44-40 score but Lumpkin finished the quarter on a 12-4 run for a 56-44 lead entering the fourth quarter.

Travis scored six points

and Cowart and Davenport four each during third quarter play for the Indians.

Senior Major Moss scored six of eight Towns points for a single digits deficit of 61-52 and enough time left for a winning rally by the 2:32 mark of the fourth quarter when considering the Indians' 12-0 run the final 1:59 in an earlier thrilling 67-60 come from behind win over Union County but Lumpkin finished the game on a 10-0 run in establishing a deceptive 71-52 final score.

De Vries led the Indians in scoring for the game with 16 points and was followed by Cowart and Davenport with 10 each and Moss and Travis with 8 each while leaders in assists were Moss with 5 and Cowart and Davenport with 3 each.

Moss took the lead in rebounds with 9 and was followed by De Vries with 3.

The Indians continue to play without the services of 6'5" senior Adam Barrett who suffered a severe ankle injury in a preseason scrimmage game against Robbinsville but Barrett is in rehabilitation now in the hope that he can return to action before the end of the season.

Lumpkin senior Zach Pulley included seven treys among his team leading 31 points with junior Austin Brooks also reaching double figures for Lumpkin with 10 points.

Early scoring surge propels Lumpkin past Lady Indians

By Jerry Kendall
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Dahlongega - The Towns County Lady Indians Varsity Basketball Team dropped a 67-40 decision to Christian Heritage of Dalton in their only game of last week in the Towns County Gym on Saturday night.

The Lady Lions from Region 6-A extended their record to 5-4 with the win while the Lady Indians are still in search of their first victory of the season.

The Lady Indians took a quick 2-0 lead on a long deuce by senior Kristen Henson just twenty five seconds into the game but they found themselves trailing by a 20-11 score by quarter's end despite a field goal by sophomore Taylor Cornett, two free throws each by senior Kirsten Ledford and junior Madison McClure, and a trey by sophomore Erika Spano.

A McClure trey at the 6:39 mark of the second quarter got the Lady Indians within striking distance of 20-14 but the Lady Lions spurted out to a 32-15 lead by the 3:03 mark.

The Lady Indians re-



Towns County Lady Indians at Lumpkin County photos by Lowell Nicholson

duced the margin a bit on a 6-4 finish highlighted by a field goal and two free throws by Henson for a 36-21 deficit at intermission.

The Lady Lions dominated the third quarter, outscoring the Lady Indians 21-2 before a long trey and the buzzer by sophomore Kristin Byers got

the Lady Indians within 57-26 and triggered a strong fourth quarter.

Freshman Sophia Shook scored the first six points of the quarter for the Lady Indians and McClure included a trey among five points as the Lady Indians outscored the Lady Lions 14-10 as the visitors from Dalton

closed out the 67-40 victory.

McClure took the scoring lead for the Lady Indians for the game with 12 points and was followed by Henson with 8, Byers with 5, and Ledford with 4 while Byers led in assists with 4 and was followed by Henson with 3.

The Lady Lions were



led in scoring by sophomores Kelsey Schneller and Meghan Schneller with 19 and 14 points respectively and freshman Madison Brown with 13.

The Lady Indians complete the 2016 portion of their season at Lumpkin County on Tuesday of this week while hosting the twenty third annual

Battle of the States Tournament Wednesday through Friday of next week on December 28, 29, and 30.

They will host Piedmont, Alabama, on Wednesday at 7:00 pm with the times of remaining games depending on the results of the games as played.

TCHS hosting 23rd annual Battle of the States basketball tournament this week

By Jerry Kendall
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The 23rd annual Battle of the States Prep Basketball Tournament is being held this Wednesday, December 28 through Friday, December 30, in the Towns County High School Gym. Eight games will be played each day, beginning at 10 am and continuing until around 10 pm.

The Tournament has become a most respected sporting event, drawing interest from fans and teams over much of the Southeast, as evidenced by the fact that teams from six different states have made appearances during the first twenty two years the event has been held.

There has been just one change in the lineup of teams from last year's tournament as Swain County (North Carolina) of Bryson City is replacing White County (Georgia).

Joining the Swain girls and boys teams in the tournament will be the girls and boys teams from Hayesville (North Carolina), Hokes Bluff (Alabama), Lumpkin County (Georgia), Piedmont (Alabama), Polk County (Tennessee), Union County (Georgia), and of course host Towns County (Georgia). Polk County and Towns County are the only schools to participate in every prior Battle of the States.

The Hokes Bluff Girls and Lumpkin County Boys are the defending Battle of the States champions with Hokes Bluff having defeated two time defending champion Hayesville 36-21 and Lumpkin defeating

defending champion Hayesville 46-43 in last year's championship games.

The Towns County Lady Indians and Indians will face Piedmont on Wednesday beginning around 7:00 pm, depending on the length of the earlier games, with game times for all teams on Thursday and Friday depending upon the results of games from the previous day.

For quite a number of years, an annual edited and updated review of previous winners, details from some of the prior tournaments, and a look at some of the often stunning future successes of the teams and individuals who have played in previous tournaments has been provided in the Herald.

With a 22- year tournament history, however, the articles have become so cumbersome, lengthy, and largely old news that they have been discontinued as of two years ago.

For newcomers to the area and visitors to the tournament who would like to view some of the history of the tournament and those who would like to refresh their memory, preview articles from prior years can be found by visiting the archives on the Towns County Herald website at www.townscountyherald.net or the North Georgia News website at www.nganews.com.

Readers can click on the Archives link and then on the newspaper date usually nearest Christmas Day from 2009 through 2013 for information about the tournament which is usually included on both the front page and on the sports pages.

