

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Lady Indians defeat Piedmont, fall to Hayesville in BOTS Finals

By Jerry Kendall
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

It was a split decision for the Towns County Lady Indians in second and third round play in the Battle of the States Tournament last week in the Towns County Gym as they took a decisive 62-41 victory over Piedmont, Ala. in the semifinals on Monday but fell by a decisive 64-34 score to Hayesville in the Championship Game on Tuesday.

A 2-1 showing, when including their opening round win over Polk County, Tenn. in the Battle of the States gives the Lady Indians a 4-9 record as they prepare for the 2015 portion of their schedule.

**Lady Indians 62
Piedmont, Ala. 41**

There were four lead changes and one tie the first six minutes of the Lady Indians' game against Piedmont on Monday with seven points by Jocelyn Byers highlighting first quarter play when the Lady Indians began to take control of the game during the closing minutes, leading by a 12-6 margin by quarter's end.

The first of two treys by Byers gave them an early 4-2 lead, a free throw gave them a 7-6 lead they would not relinquish, and the second trey doubled a three point lead for the 12-6 score after one quarter.

Kirsten Ledford had the hot scoring hand in the second



The Towns County Lady Indians claimed second in the 21st Battle of the States. Photos/Lowell Nicholson

quarter with eight points on two field goals and 4-for-6 free throw shooting with Byers and Madison Landress adding four points each as the Lady Indians took a 30-11 lead to the dressing room at intermission.

Byers continued her hot scoring hand begun in the tournament opening game against Polk County by including two treys among 10 points in the third quarter and two more treys for six points in the fourth as the Lady Indians led 47-22 after three quarters on their way to a 62-41 victory.

Byers included six treys

among a team high 27 points for the second game in a row with Ledford following with 13 points and other leaders being Landress with 8, and Karlie Albach with 5.

Leading in assists were Albach and Misty Lindemuth with 4 each and Madison Johnson with 2, according to your reporter's tally.

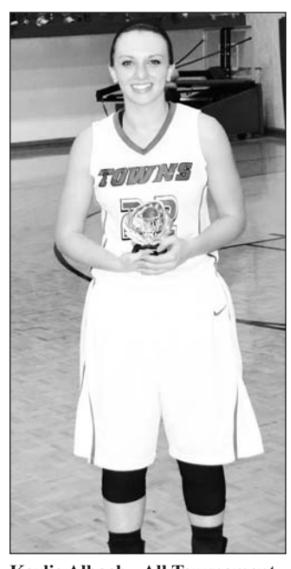
SCORING: Byers 27, Ledford 13, Landress 8, Albach 5, Dyer 4, Lindemuth 3, Henson 2

**Lady Indians 34
Hayesville, NC 64**

The Lady Indians faced a tough matchup against the senior laden Hayesville Lady Yellow Jackets in the championship game on Tuesday.

An early putback basket by Madison Johnson had them within 3-2 and a drive for two points by Misty Lindemuth had them within 6-4 but the Lady Jackets embarked on an extended 31-4 run for a 37-8 lead by the 3:49 mark of the second quarter.

The Lady Indians followed with a strong run of their own, finishing the quarter on a 12-1 run, highlighted by nine straight points by Misty Lindemuth and



Karlie Albach - All Tournament



Jocelyn Byers - All Tournament

ending on a trey by Kristen Henson at the one minute mark for a 38-20 Hayesville lead at intermission.

The Lady Indians continued their strong run when a trey by Jocelyn Byers and a deuce by Karlie Albach wrapped around a free throw by the Lady Jackets had them within 39-25 by the five minute mark of the third quarter.

The Lady Jackets regained the momentum after that, however, finishing the quarter on a 19-3 run interrupted only by a second trey by Byers for a 58-28 lead on the way to a 64-34 victory.

The leading scorer for the Lady Indians was Byers for

the third straight game as she included three treys among 12 points with Lindemuth right behind with 11 and Savannah Dyer following with 4.

Five different Lady Indians contributed at least one assist with Lindemuth leading with 2. As the tournament runner up, the Lady Indians got two All Tournament selections in the persons of Byers and Albach.

The Lady Jackets, who have faced a very challenging early schedule, completed Battle of the States play with a 7-3 record with the three game sweep.

SCORING: Byers 12, Lindemuth 11, Dyer 4, Henson 3, Albach 2, Johnson 2

Indians fall just short of two victories against Alabama schools

By Jerry Kendall
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

After taking a 55-47 victory over Polk County, Tenn. in the first round of the Battle of the States Tournament on Saturday, Dec. 27, the Towns County Indians Varsity Basketball Team fell to defeat in very close games against schools from Alabama last week in the Towns County Gym.

They lost a 64-50 game which was much closer than the final score would indicate to Piedmont, Ala. on Monday and then came within less than a second of a victory over Hokes Bluff on Tuesday before falling by a 53-48 score in overtime.

The wins over the Indians were the 10 of the season for both of the Alabama schools with Piedmont being a Class AAA school and Hokes Bluff playing in Class AAAA.

The Class A Indians, who have played a most challenging schedule in facing Class AAAA schools on two occasions, Class AAA three times, and Class AA five times with all being public schools while facing three Class A Private, saw their record fall to 2-11 as they enter the 2015 portion of their schedule.

**Indians 50
Piedmont Ala. 64**

The game with Piedmont was a real battle for the first twenty one minutes with the visiting Bulldogs putting a bit of distance between themselves and the Indians the final 11 minutes but only putting the game out of reach with a 9-1 run the final 1:30 of the game in the 64-50 win.

Four different Indians put points on the scoreboard in the first quarter with the Indians leading by as much as 5-2 and the Bulldogs by as much as 9-5 but Piedmont just ahead 12-10 by quarter's end.

The Indians got leads of 2-0 on a Jake Pyrlik field goal, 5-2 on a three point play by Major Moss, and 10-9 on a trey by Darringer Barrett.

The second quarter saw an unusual pairing of senior Dallas Manus and freshman Zach Davenport providing much of the firepower as the Bulldogs extended their lead by a single point to 34-31 at intermission.

Manus included a pair of treys in an eight-point quarter while Davenport scored 7 points and handed out 3 assists.

The highlight of that second quarter featured an 11-0 Indian run between the 5:37 and 4:22 marks when a three point play by Davenport and two treys and a deuce by Manus brought them from a 19-14 deficit to a 25-19 lead.

The Bulldogs followed with a 15-2 run of their own, however, for a 34-27 lead before baskets by Adam Barrett and Davenport the final 22 seconds got the Indians back to within just the three point deficit at intermission.



Sophomore Adam Barrett vs Hokes Bluff, Ala Photo/Lowell Nicholson

the quarter on a 9-0 run the final 2:18, ending on a 3-point play off an Indian turnover with just seven tenths of a second left for a sudden 49-40 advantage.

The Indians hung close behind the heroics of Will de Vries the final quarter, however, as the sophomore scored eight points in getting them within 50-44 on back to back field goals by the six minutes mark, to within 52-46 on a field goal at 4:11, and 55-49 on a basket at 2:05 with plenty of time for completing a comeback victory.

It was not to be, however, as the Bulldogs extended the six point lead with the aforementioned 9-1 finish the final 1:30 of the game for the deceptive 64-50 victory.

Scoring leaders for the game for the Indians were Davenport with 11 points, Manus with 9, de Vries with 8, Major Moss with 7, and Darringer Barrett with 6 while Davenport and Major Moss tied for the lead in assists with 4 each and de Vries followed with 2.

The win was the tenth of the season for the Bulldogs who had defeated Lumpkin County 65-58 in a game also more competitive than the final score in their opening game on Saturday and went on to face Hayesville in the championship game on Tuesday.

The Bulldogs caused some anxious moments for the Yellow Jackets by opening the game with an 11-2 run and then used a 12-0 run in the third quarter for a 25-22 lead before the Yellow Jackets used a second extended run of 16-2 to great advantage in taking a 49-36 championship game victory.

SCORING: Davenport 11, Manus 9, DeVries 8, M. Moss 7, D. Barrett 6, B. Moss 4, A. Barrett 3, Pyrlik 2

**Indians 48
Hokes Bluff Ala. 53 (OT)**

The loss to Piedmont placed the Indians in the third place game on Tuesday against the Hokes Bluff Eagles who had taken a 42-40 win over Union County in the opening round and seen Hayesville break away from just a 26-23 halftime lead for a 61-43 win in the second round.

The game was a real battle for the first eleven minutes with six lead changes and three ties, including 10-10 after one quarter.

and Dallas Manus for as much as a 21-14 lead and a 23-18 advantage on a putback basket at the halftime buzzer but stay tuned for details of a very intense and hard fought second half.

Six different Indians put points on the scoreboard in the first half with a trey and two free throws in the first quarter by Manus representing the top individual contributions by quarter.

The Indians came out hot the first three minutes of the third quarter, striking for eight straight points and a 26-23 lead on two field goals by Zach Davenport, a dunk by Boone Moss, and a coast to coast run by de Vries.

The Indians went ice cold after that, however, and the Eagles finished the quarter on a 9-2 run for a 32-28 lead entering the fourth quarter.

The Indians got a 32-32 tie in the first minute of the fourth quarter on baskets by Darringer Barrett and Adam Barrett and a 36-34 lead on a field goal by Adam and two free throws by Boone Moss by the 4:41 mark.

After the Eagles retook the lead by a 38-36 score on two field goals, a three point play by Adam Barrett at 1:47 got the Indians back ahead 39-38 and two free throws each by Manus and de Vries gave them a 43-38 lead with just forty five seconds on the clock.

A free throw by Adam Barrett at 18.7 seconds following a putback basket by the Eagles had the Indians ahead 44-40 but a trey at the ten seconds mark by the Eagles got them within 44-43 and they got a foul call after the Indians missed at the foul line with just nine tenths of a second on the clock and sank the first of two free throws for a tie and the game went to overtime when the second attempt was missed.

The two teams went more than two minutes into the overtime period before Boone Moss gave the Indians a 46-44 lead on two free throws with 1:52 on the clock but the Eagles sank a trey at 1:13 for a 47-46 lead they would not relinquish.

Three Indian 3-point attempts the rest of the way missed the mark and the Eagles stretched their lead by sinking six straight free throws between the 46.2 and 18.6 second marks in more than offsetting a field goal by Adam Barret for a 51-48 score as the Eagles took the 53-48 victory.



Will DeVries

points with other leaders being Manus with 9 and the trio of Davenport, DeVries, and Boone Moss with 6 each. Major Moss led in assists with 5 and was followed by DeVries and Manus with 2 each according to your reporter's tally.

Manus was selected for the Battle of the States All Tournament Team.

SCORING: A. Barrett 15, Manus 9, Davenport 6, DeVries 6, B. Moss 6, D. Barrett 4, M. Moss 2

Battle of the States notes - The 21st annual Battle of the States Tournament is now history and perhaps a few comments and observations might be of interest with a couple of comparisons with prior Battle of the States events included.

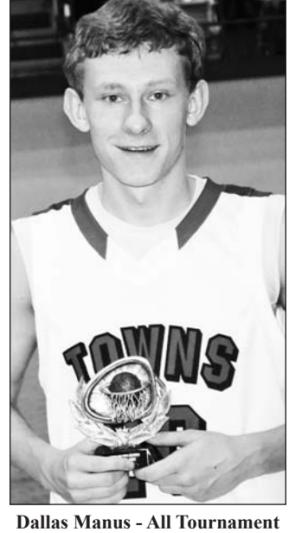
A Change in Competitive Balance - After several years of a trend toward more competitive girls games in the tournament, this year saw the boys take a turn at very competitive contests.

In first round play, the eventual tournament champion Hayesville Yellow Jackets took just a 65-64 win over White County and Hokes Bluff, Ala., defeated Union County by just a 42-40 score while tournament runner up Piedmont, Ala. took a closer than the final score 65-58 win over Lumpkin County and our Towns County Indians took a 55-48 win over Polk County, Tenn.

The second round saw White County surprise Union County by taking a 76-69 win and the Indians falling by a 64-50 score but with Piedmont extending just a six point lead for a 64-50 score with a 9-1 run the final 1:30 of the game. There were two decisive wins in the second round with Lumpkin County extending a nine point lead after three quarters in defeating Polk County 71-48 and Hayesville extending a three point halftime lead for a 61-43 win over Hokes Bluff.

In the third round, Union County trounced Polk County 84-47 but White County took a 69-68 nail biter over Lumpkin County and the Indians fell in overtime to Hokes Bluff before Hayesville got the best of alternating strong scoring runs for a 49-36 win in the championship game.

One would almost certainly have to go back to the second Battle of the States in 1995 for a more competitive boys tournament when five of twelve games played were decided in at least one overtime and and four others by seven or



Dallas Manus - All Tournament

fewer points. In a unique situation, our Towns County Indians, who took eventual champion Walhalla, South Carolina, to three overtimes in the semifinals, were themselves taken to overtime by eventual seventh place Gilmer in the opening round with Gilmer also being taken to overtime by eighth place Polk County.

WHITE COUNTY SQUEAKERS - The two one

Towns wrestling takes fourth on the Reservation

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Towns County Indian grapplers finished in fourth place at the Cherokee Tournament in North Carolina on Saturday, Jan. 3.

The Indians, a Class A school, placed well taking into account that the Top 3 places were two AAA schools and a AAAA school.

"We actually did a lot of things well," said Head Coach Jeff Stowers. "The first thing we did pretty well is we've maintained our weight really well. Didn't have anybody that was way over that had to cut a lot of weight. So, the kids were disciplined enough over the holidays to keep their weight in check, and that's really a huge, huge deal over the Christmas holidays."

Christmas break offered one full week off, but after that, it was back to the mat.

"The second thing is we spent a lot of time over the holidays working on some specific problems that kids have had in their matches, and things specific to individual kids," said Coach Stowers. "And we tried our best to hit on all of those at different times during the holidays, with practices to try to get the benefit for each individual kid to try to improve their specific situation. I think for the most part we did a good job of correcting some of those things that we're doing."

Individually, several Indians reigned supreme. Aaron Collier, competing for the first time since King of the Mountain due to injury, placed first at 126 pounds.

point decisions listed above for the White County boys tell just part of the story. The Warriors have now played four games in the Towns County Gym this season with three being decided by just one point.

They lost a 73-72 regular season decision in overtime to the Indians back on December 9 and then came the Battle of the States opening round 65-64 loss to Hayesville.

They then took a comparatively comfortable win over Union County and then came literally within one tenth of a second of a third one point loss to Lumpkin County.

Trailing 68-67, they got a foul call with just the smallest amount of time remaining that could be possible and sank two free throws after two Lumpkin timeouts for the razor thin victory.

That wasn't the only third round game affected by a foul call with less than a second left on the clock although four tenths of a second was added back to the nine tenths of a second at the buzzer for 1.3 on the clock at the end of regulation in the Indians' third round game against Hokes Bluff.

The Eagles sank the first of two free throw attempts for a 46-46 tie in sending the game to overtime as they took a 53-48 win as described in a separate article.

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