

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Eryn Cochran returns, Lady Indians defeat Commerce

By Jerry Kendall
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The Towns County Lady Indians Varsity Basketball Team got the 2014 portion of their schedule off to a good start last Tuesday when they ended a five game losing streak by taking a home court 64-29 victory over Commerce in their only action for the week.

The win improves their overall record to 7-7 and their Sub-Region 8A North record to 3-1.

Of greater news than the victory, however, was the return from injury for senior point guard Eryn Cochran, who had not appeared in a game since the pre-season game against Gilmer High School on November 16.

A putback basket by Kellsie Cowart less than a minute into the game got the Lady Indians off on a 6-0 start which they extended to as much as 11-2 in leading 13-4 after one quarter.

Five different Lady Indians put points on the board in



Eryn Cochran (10) returns to the lineup to lead Towns County past Commerce. The senior scored 10 points as the Lady Indians improved to 7-7. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

the quarter with Cowart leading with four. With the exception of a 6-1 Commerce run near the mid point of the second quarter for a 21-10 deficit, the Lady Indians controlled the game not only in the second quarter but for the

remainder of the game.

The Lady Indians led 32-12 at intermission and after a near standoff third quarter with a lead of 45-24 entering the fourth quarter they used four treys and seven-for-eight free throw shooting in a

19-5 fourth quarter in breaking the game open for a 64-29 victory.

Scoring highlights the last three quarters for the Lady Indians included six points on two treys by Bailey Sutton in the second, four points each in the middle

two quarters by Cochran, and six points each by Jocelyn Byers, on a trey and three for four free throw shooting, and Brooke Smith, on two treys, in the fourth.

Scoring leaders for the game were Byers with 12 points,

Cochran with 10, Sutton with 9, Savannah Dyer with 8, and Cowart and Smith with 6 each. Leading in assists, according to your reporter's unofficial tally, were Cowart, Mckenzi Moss, and Sutton with 2 each.

Brief 3-point scoring flurry propels Commerce past Indians

By Jerry Kendall
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It would have been easy to think that the Towns County Indians Varsity Basketball Team might be in over its head when hosting the Commerce Tigers in opening the 2014 portion of their season if looking at scores of some related games which had taken place.

After all, the Indians fell in back to back games to common opponents by scores of 64-40 at Tallulah Falls and 66-40 at Lakeview Academy in early December.

When observing, then, that Commerce fell by just a 54-53 score at Lakeview Academy and drilled Tallulah Falls by a 76-36 score shortly after the two Indian games against the common opponents, the potential was there for a tough mismatch for the Indians. That was then and this was now, however, as the young Indians came close to but not quite achieving their first win of the season as the Tigers used actually two big scoring runs but the second decisive in taking a hard fought 68-59 victory.

In the early going, the Indians overcame 5-1 and 8-4



Trace Moss led the Indians with 18 points. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Commerce leads for a 13-11 lead after one quarter with five Indians entering the scoring column and highlights being a pair of field goals for four points for Major Moss and a trey by Dallas Manus. A quick second quarter Trace Moss basket had the Indians ahead 15-11 but the Tigers struck for their first scoring run of 15 straight points for a 26-15 lead with 2:45 left in the second quarter. A trey and a deuce by Darringer

Barrett in less than half a minute of playing time followed with the Indians getting within 26-20 at 2:03 but the Tigers led 29-20 at intermission.

The first 6:30 of the third quarter belonged to the Indians with what is almost certainly their best extended run of the year. They struck for a 15-4 run for a 35-33 lead by the 4:14 mark and matched a 5-0 run by the Tigers with one of their own for a 40-38 lead with 1:30 on



Boone Moss chipped in 13 points vs Commerce. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

the clock. The quartet of Boone Moss with six points, Major Moss and Trace Moss with five each, and Manus with four accounted for the firepower in the extended 20-9 run.

The aforementioned and decisive second scoring run by the Tigers followed, however.

The Tigers had included two treys, their first two of the game, among their nine earlier points in the third quarter but would strike for six more treys,

Barrett matched the first Tiger trey for a 43-41 Towns lead, a Boone Moss three point play got the Indians within 47-46 early in the fourth quarter, and Trace Moss sank a trey within the run and immediately following the Tiger run with the Tigers leading 61-52 with 3:49 left.

The Tigers appeared to have a safe lead as they followed with a 5-1 run for their biggest lead of 66-53 but Boone Moss, Manus, and Trace Moss struck for field goals between the 1:41 and 1:04 marks, giving the Indians a glimmer of hope with just a 66-59 deficit.

They had a couple of chances after that but couldn't dent the scoreboard and two free throws by the Tigers with 17.1 seconds left gave them a 68-59 victory.

Scoring leaders for the Indians for the game were Trace Moss with 18 points, Boone Moss with 13, Major Moss with 10, Manus with 9, and Barrett with 8.

They accumulated a stunning total of nineteen assists with leaders being Manus and Major Moss with 6 each and Garrett Bradshaw, Boone Moss, and Trace Moss with 2 each.

Lady Indians falter at Union, rebound with vigor in two point loss at Mt. Paran

By Jerry Kendall
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Staff Writer

From Dec. 19th-20th

"What a difference a day makes" is a commonly heard expression which could never be more true than as related to the Towns County Lady Indians Varsity Basketball Team last Thursday and Friday.

They experienced the deflating emotion of an excruciatingly sub par performance as the game progressed at Union County on Thursday and then the exhilaration, although coming just short of a victory, of an astounding turnaround in their fortunes the following night at Mt. Paran Christian School in Kennesaw.

With the two losses to Union and Mt. Paran, the Lady Indians have a 6-4 record as they enter the Battle of the States Tournament this week in the Towns County Gym.

Lady Indians 27
Union County 49

The first quarter at

Union County was a real battle, especially at the start with both teams struggling to put points on the scoreboard. The Lady Indians drew first blood when Kellsie Cowart came up with a steal and assisted Misty Lindemuth on a field goal for a 2-0 lead at the 6:38 mark. The Lady Indians held leads of 4-0 by the 3:58 mark, 6-2 by 3:34, 8-5 by 2:45, and 10-9 at 1:06 with Stephanie Patton providing six of their points but the Lady Panthers took an 11-10 lead they would never relinquish, as it turned out, at the forty eight seconds mark.

The Lady Panthers opened the second quarter with a 6-0 run for a 17-10 lead but Patton kept the Lady Indians close on a trey at 5:56 for a 17-13 deficit and field goals at 3:33 and 3:08 for just a 22-17 Union lead but the Lady Panthers held a solid but still not insurmountable led of 25-17 by intermission. The Lady Indians got as close as 27-21 by the 4:52 mark of the third quarter on field goals by Lindemuth and Cowart but Union seized the momentum after that and used a 10-1 fin-

ish for a 37-22 lead entering the fourth quarter.

The Lady Panthers extended their lead with a 12-3 run, interrupted only by three free throws by Patton when fouled on a trey attempt, the first four minutes of the fourth quarter and then went into a stall the final three minutes after a short jumper by Patton at the 3:03 mark. The Lady Indians were content to let the clock run after a disappointing performance and move on to the next game with Union taking a 49-27 victory.

Patton led the Lady Indians in scoring for the game with 19 points while Lindemuth followed with 4 and Lindemuth led in assists with 2 according to your reporter's unofficial tally.

Lady Indians 55
Mt. Paran 57

It's always interesting to see how teams respond to adversity and it was a daunting task for the Lady Indians to travel the next evening following the Union County game to Kennesaw to face off

with the Mt. Paran Christain School Lady Eagles who entered the game, as had Union County, with a 6-1 record. The Lady Eagles had won their six games by an average of 27.7 points per game, including two wins by thirty four and nineteen points over Class AAAAA North Paulding and their only loss was to Holy Innocents by 17 points, the same margin of victory by Holy Innocents in a stunning victory over perennial state champion Wesleyan.

To state that the Lady Indians responded positively to the challenge presented to them against the full court pressure defense of the Lady Eagles, with the added dimensions of continuing without injured senior point guard Eryn Cochran, vastly understates their performance. They were in a word awesome in meeting the challenge in a game not decided until the final buzzer with all Lady Indians followers immensely proud of their return to form.

The Lady Indians claimed claimed one point leads on three occasions

Indians 43
Mt. Paran 61

The Indians stayed on the heels of the Mt. Paran Eagles for much of the first quarter on Friday, even taking a 6-4 lead on a deuce and trey by Trace Moss by the 4:38 mark.

They got within 10-8 on a drive for two points by Garrett Bradshaw at the 3:40 mark and Trace Moss' second trey of the quarter had them within 16-11 with 1:53 on the clock but the Eagles included two treys and an old fashioned

in the first quarter on field goals by Misty Lindemuth, Jocelyn Byers, and Karlie Albach for what would be their only leads of the game but they remained right on the heels of the Lady Eagles throughout the game. They got a 16-16 tie on three free throws by Stephanie Patton when fouled on a trey attempt with 1:23 left but trailed 18-16 after one quarter, 26-24 at intermission, and 41-38 after three quarters in falling by a 57-55 score.

Each of the final three quarters brought heroics from a wide range of Lady Indians as they used an 8-0 finish the final 3:45 of the second on baskets by Kellsie Cowart and Savannah Dyer and two free throws and a field goal by Patton to pull within 26-24. The third quarter saw Byers with six points and four each by Cowart and Dyer lead the way as they trailed by as many as nine points on two occasions but used an 8-0 run, ending at 1:49 for just a 39-38 deficit which became 41-38 at quarter's end.

The Lady Indians trailed by as much as 43-38

early in the fourth quarter but reduced the Mt. Paran lead to one point on five occasions on two free throws on two occasions by Cowart, on a trey by Patton, a trey by Mckenzi Moss, and finally a putback basket by Dyer with three seconds on the clock. The Lady Eagles sank the second of two free throws with 2.1 seconds left for a 57-55 lead but Patton took a long pass from Cowart near mid court, took one dribble for a look at the basket with the ball falling just inches short of a miracle win, bouncing in perfect line off the front of the rim with the horn having blown with the ball in the air, as Mt. Paran held on for a 57-55 win.

The Lady Indians were led in scoring by Patton with 17 points with other leaders being Cowart and Dyer with 10 each and Byers with 8 while Karlie Albach and Patton led in assists with 3 each. Leading in rebounds were Patton with 9, Cowart with 7, Lindemuth with 5, and Byers, Dyer, and Bailey Sutton with 4 each. Patton led in steals with 2.

Tough first quarters decisive in Indian losses at Union County and Mt. Paran

By Jerry Kendall
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Staff Writer

From Dec. 19th-20th

For the second and third times in four days the Towns County Indians Varsity Basketball Team was stung by big scoring sprees by their opponent in the first quarter last Thursday and Friday as they fell to defeat at Union County on Thursday and at Mt. Paran Christian School in Kennesaw on Friday.

A similar fate had occurred on Tuesday at Blue Ridge when the Bobcats took a 23-10 lead after one quarter.

The losses to Union and Mt. Paran leave the Indians with an 0-9 record as they host the Battle of the States Tournament this week.

Indians 30
Union County 60

A Trace Moss basket got the Indians a 2-2 tie just a minute and a half into their game at Union County but the Panthers went on a 17-3 run for a 19-3 lead at 1:58 of the first quarter and more than matched field goals by Kobe Denton and Jake Pyrlk at the 1:43 and thirty seven seconds marks with treys for a 25-7 lead at quarter's end.

The Panthers continued

on for a 35-12 lead at intermission and a 44-22 advantage after three quarters in taking a 60-30 victory.

Scoring highlights for the Indians were four points by Boone Moss in the second quarter and eight in the third and five in the fourth by Trace Moss who included three treys among thirteen last half points after missing playing time with foul trouble in the first half.

Scoring leaders for the game for the Indians were Trace Moss with 15 points and Boone Moss with 7 while Denton led in assists with 3 and Major Moss followed with 2.

Leaders in rebounds

were Boone Moss with 11, Major Moss with 6, and Garrett Bradshaw with 4.

three point play in an 11-0 finish for a 27-11 lead entering the second quarter.

After that and in contrast to the Union County game when the Panthers extended their lead throughout the game, the Indians outscored Mt. Paran 12-8 in the second quarter for a 35-23 halftime deficit, followed a 7-0 start in the third quarter by the Eagles with an 11-8 advantage the remainder of the quarter for a 50-34 score, and were outscored by just an 11-9 margin in the fourth as the Eagles took a 61-43 victory.

Trace Moss continued his good work with three baskets for six points in the

second quarter with Boone Moss adding four points on a deuce and two free throws. Garrett Bradshaw then sank three medium range jump shots for six points in the third quarter and Adam Barrett led with four points on two field goals in the fourth.

Trace Moss led the Indians in scoring for the game with 18 points with Bradshaw and Boone Moss tying for second honors with 8 each and Slade Davenport and Bradshaw leading in assists with 3 and 2 respectively according to your reporter's tally.