

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Towns County wrestlers walk away with medals at State Championships

By Shawn Jarrard
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All three Towns County Indians who participated in the 2014-15 GHSA Class A Traditional Wrestling State Championship walked away with medals on Saturday, Feb. 14th, in the Macon Coliseum.

Congratulations, gentlemen.

Daulton Rogers took home the bronze on Saturday for the 170-pound weight class, and is only the second Indian to finish so high at State.

Zack Stroud was the first Indian to have taken that honor, at 152, during the 2011-2012 wrestling season.

Kaine Hoffman placed fourth at 106 and Thomas Mitchell placed sixth at 113.

"I'm thankful that they wrestled as well they did," said Head Coach Jeff Stowers. "They all three had great seasons and accomplished a lot of good things this year. Daulton finished third, Kaine finished fourth as a freshman, and for Thomas to finish sixth as a second year wres-



Freshman Kaine Hoffman (second from right) placed fourth at 106 pounds



Daulton Rogers, second from left, placed third at 170 pounds.

tlar - it speaks volumes about the kind of work they put in.

"I'm just really proud of their effort and our fans that showed up to support them. It was a good weekend - it was long, but it was a good weekend."

After a couple of matches apiece Friday, all three wrestlers found themselves in the console semis Saturday morning.

"Kaine was able to win his," said Coach Stowers. "Thomas wound up losing his close, and then Daulton won his to put him in the console finals. Thomas wound up wres-



Thomas Mitchell (far right) placed sixth at 113 pounds despite suffering a concussion.

ting the same kid that beat his head and got a concussion, so he wound up losing the match and finishing

sixth."

After receiving medical attention, Mitchell joined his parents in the stands to cheer on his fellow Indians.

Unfortunately, Hoffman lost his match in the console finals, but was able to secure his fourth place finish above the rest of the competition.

Rogers won three of his four matches for the tournament, which was good enough for his historic third place finish.

"I'm proud of our kids and our team and our coaching staff and our parents, and all of those things

that we accomplished," said Coach Stowers. "We didn't have anybody in the finals as we were really hoping for, but our day will come, and we'll keep plugging along and keep working, and keep doing what it takes to be successful. And eventually, we'll break through there and get somebody in the finals and have a chance to bring a State Title back to Towns County."

Nobody ever said getting an Indian in the final round would be an easy task - especially the guys on the mat.

"Daulton lost a tough match at the area tournament in overtime, and unfortunately, when you're in an eight-man bracket, it messes up the bracket for you, really," said Coach Stowers. "I'm pretty confident Daulton is the second best, if not the best, 170 in the state in Class A."

"But because he finished third at sectionals, he was in the same half of the bracket with the kid from Commerce, and it just kind of messed him up. But it is what it is, and I'm really proud of the kids and their effort. We'll just keep on plugging."

Lady Indians and Indians victimized by hot starts in opening round 8-A Tourney losses

By Jerry Kendall
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The 2015 season for the Towns County Lady Indians and Indians Varsity Basketball Teams came to an end in similar styles last week as they were defeated by teams getting off to hot starts with the Lady Indians and Indians never able to overcome the early deficits.

The Lady Indians fell to George Walton Academy of Monroe by a 48-35 score and the Indians to Providence Christian Academy of Lilburn by a 71-46 score. The Lady Indians and Indians both saw their seasons come to a close with 9-17 overall records against very competitive schedules.

Lady Indians 35
George Walton 48

The first half pretty much belonged to the Lady Bulldogs of George Walton Academy from Monroe who took leads of 7-0 and 11-3 by the 3:19 mark of the first quarter and finished the quarter on a 5-0 run for a 16-7 lead. The 7-0 lead was reduced by a trey by Jocelyn Byers and the 11-3 advantage to 11-7 by two free throws each by Misty Lindemuth and Kristen Henson but the Lady Bulldogs extended their lead to 30-12 by intermission before the Lady Indians put together their best run of the game.

The Lady Indians would cut the eighteen point halftime deficit in half with a 13-4 run by the 1:16 mark of the third quarter for a single digit deficit of 34-25 and perhaps a come from behind victory but the Lady Bulldogs scored the final four points of the quarter for a 38-25 lead entering the fourth quarter. Highlights of the third quarter Lady Indian run included two field goals and two free throws by Lindemuth for six points and two field goals by Kirsten Ledford for four.

The two teams would then play to a 10-10 standoff during the fourth quarter with the Lady Bulldogs taking the 48-35 victory with five different Lady Indians entering the scoring column during the quarter.

Lindemuth took the scoring lead for the Lady Indians for the game with 11 points with other leaders being Jocelyn Byers with two treys and Ledford with three deuces for 6 points each. Madison Landress and Lindemuth led in assists with 2 each according to your reporter's tally.

The Lady Bulldogs continued on to defeat Lakeview Academy, the top overall finisher in regular season Region 8A play with an 11-1 record, by a 43-41



Senior Boone Moss (22) trails sophomore Will DeVries on a Towns County fast break. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

score in the semi-finals on Friday before falling by a 36-35 score to Commerce in the region championship game on Saturday. The Commerce Ladies made it to the finals by defeating host team Prince Avenue Christian School on Wednesday 52-50 in overtime and Athens Christian, the top regular season team from Sub-Region 8A South with a 10-3 record in the region, 49-45 on Friday.

While disappointed to have their season end with a first round loss, the Lady Indians will be able to look back on several top performances during the season with the most impressive perhaps being a 67-58 home court victory over the region tournament champion Commerce Lady Tigers. The Lady Tigers lost just one other game to a region opponent during a combination of regular season and tournament play with that being an early season 56-50 loss at Lakeview Academy.

And the Lady Indians came oh so close to an upset of Lakeview Academy in Gainesville where they fell by just a 47-43 score on January 30 after having fallen by a 76-51 score just thirteen days prior. And finally, the Lady Indians rebounded from a 67-34 loss at Class AA Dade County on November 24 to give the Lady Wolverines a real battle in falling by just a 53-44 score twenty two days later with the Dade Ladies using a decisive 15-6 third quarter for the win in an otherwise evenly played game.

The Dade County Ladies finished fourth in their very tough Region 6AA tournament and at press

time are scheduled to travel from Trenton in extreme Northwest Georgia to Tiger in extreme Northeast Georgia to face Rabun County on Tuesday of this week.

The Lady Wildcats edged past Union County 41-39 in the Region 8AA Championship game in Greene County on Saturday after the two teams tied for first place in their region in regular season, losing only to each other in region play. Union is scheduled at press time to host third place Darlington of Rome, a former Class A state tournament foe of the Lady Indians, on Tuesday of this week.

SCORING: Lindemuth 11, Byers 6, Ledford 6, Dyer 4, Johnson 3, Landress 3, Henson 2

Indians 46
Providence 71

The primarily very young Indians were faced with quite a challenge in the very tall and senior laden Providence Christian Storm. They entered the game with a 17-8 overall record and 9-4 in the region, finishing in second place in Sub-Region 8A South behind undefeated Athens Christian.

The Storm featured six seniors and five juniors on their roster, including four seniors and one junior who stand between 6'4" and 6'6", while the Indians used just two seniors, no juniors, five sophomores, and one freshman extensively in the game.

The Storm had been forced to rally from a 40-36 deficit during the final two minutes of the third quarter and the eight minutes fourth for a 62-51 win over the In-



Senior Madison Johnson looks on as fellow senior lets a jumper fly from the baseline vs George Walton Academy last week. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

dians on their home court in Lilburn on January 24 while playing without the services of a 6'6" senior. But they would open the game last week with a 15-0 run, aided by cold shooting and several turnovers by the Indians, and it was an uphill battle the rest of the night for the Indians although they would put together one mini run and one outstanding scoring run between the 4:18 mark of the third quarter and the 5:13 of the fourth.

The Indians first reduced the 15-0 lead to 15-6 on a field goal by Zach Davenport, two free throws by Boone Moss, and a field goal by Adam Barrett by the 2:06 mark of the first quarter but the Storm led 19-8 after one quarter, 38-16 at intermission, and 54-19 by the 4:42 mark of the third quarter before the Indians made their lengthy scoring run referenced above.

Treys by Dallas Manus and Major Moss and a pair of deuces by Boone Moss highlighted a 13-6 third quarter finish for a 60-32 deficit entering the fourth quarter but the Indians weren't done with their late game run. With all five Providence starters in the game, Boone Moss outscored the Storm 9-1 for a 61-41 Indian deficit by the 5:13 mark of the fourth quarter for an overall 22-7 Indian run before the Storm closed out the 71-46 victory with a 10-5 run of their own.

Boone Moss took scoring honors for the game for both teams with 20 points and was followed by his sophomore first cousin Major Moss with 12 and his fellow senior Dallas Manus with 6. Major Moss led in

assists with 4 and was followed by Darringer Barrett with 3 and Manus with 2, according to your reporter's tally. Providence got a total of fifty two points from the five seniors who entered the scoring column and nineteen from their juniors while the Indians got twenty six points from their two seniors and twenty from their sophomores and freshman.

SCORING: B. Moss 20, M. Moss 12, Manus 6, A. Barrett 2, D. Barrett 2, Davenport 2, DeVries 2

The Storm went on to fall by a 58-54 score to Hebron Christian of Dacula in the region semi-finals on Friday with Hebron becoming the sacrificial lamb in falling to Athens Christian in the region championship game on Saturday by an 80-47 score.

Athens Christian finished the region tournament with an overall 27-0 record and made it to the championship game by racing past George Walton Academy 88-47 on Tuesday and Lakeview Academy 90-55 on Friday.

Like the Lady Indians, the Indians can look back at this season with pride in some of their quite numerous accomplishments against a most challenging schedule. For example, their nine wins are the highest total for an Indians team since the 2005 team of current Towns County School Superintendent Darren Berong compiled a 13-16 record and made it to the Class A State Tournament.

Among their most impressive wins was a 72-71 overtime decision over the Class AAAA White County Warriors who compiled a

13-13 overall record and fell by just a 65-64 score to Hayesville, the Battle of the States Tournament and Smoky Mountain Conference regular season champions, while just missing a trip to their state tournament last week when they let a 47-37 lead entering the fourth quarter slip away in a 68-63 loss to Monroe Area.

Another impressive win for the Indians was a 76-71 decision over Hebron Christian Academy, a team which currently holds an overall 18-10 record and won nine straight games over region opponents, including two over Lakeview Academy, following the loss to the Indians until falling to Athens Christian in the region tournament championship game.

But some of the most impressive accomplishments for the Indians were how competitive they were against several highly accomplished opponents such as in two games against Class AAA Banks County, a team with a 23-5 record and second place finish to East Hall in their region in regular season and tournament play; in two games against high scoring Class AA Dade County (16-10 record), and one game each against Class AAAA Hokes Bluff (21-9 record) and Class AAA Piedmont (20-11 record after a 1-4 start) from Alabama in the Battle of the States.

Details of these games and other very competitive appearances have been covered during the season and are included in the archives of the Towns County Herald.