

Towns County Sports

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Indians get big Region win over Hebron, fall to highly regarded Banks, Lakeview

By Jerry Kendall
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Staff Writer

It was a mixture of the great, good, and not so good for the Towns County Indians Basketball Team last week as they won perhaps their best played and most enjoyable game of the season over Hebron Christian Academy on Friday, but fell short in a rousing comeback against Banks County on Tuesday, and took a hard fall against Lakeview Academy on Saturday.

Indians 62
Banks County 74

The Indians battled Banks County of Homer to the final seconds in just a 62-57 loss on opening night in Homer back in November, and were near a similar result or a possible win, trailing by just five points near the end of the game last Tuesday before a lucky bounce of the basketball triggered a closing volley of points by the Leopards who took a 74-62 victory.

The Class AAA Leopards extended their overall record to 17-3 and 6-1 in their region by week's end with the only loss in the region being in overtime to long time power East Hall of Gainesville.

Their Region 7-AAA wins on Friday and Saturday were by 29 points at home over West Hall on Friday and by 22 on Saturday at Fannin County where the Rebels had defeated Union County 62-59 for their 10th win of the season the night before.

The Banks game included not only some free throw struggles by the Indians, who went just 7-for-17 at the foul line but two very distinct turning points which were crucial to the Leopards winning the game.

The first turning point lasted nearly four minutes and employed the skills of the high flying Leopards while the second lasted just an instant with lady luck smiling on the Leopards while punching the Indians in the face.



Sophomore Adam Barrett isn't afraid to go up strong into the teeth of the Banks County defense. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Six different Indians put points on the scoreboard in the first quarter when they held three different leads of five points, including by an 11-6 score by the 2:03 mark but the first of the two turning points was about to begin.

Two Leopards who did not start the game suddenly struck for six treys between the 1:46 mark of the first quarter and the 5:58 mark of the second for a 20-4 run and a 26-15 Banks lead which they extended with the swing in momentum to as much as 39-22 by the 1:29 mark and an eventual 43-27 lead at intermission.

Scoring leaders for the Indians in the second quarter were Will DeVries with five points and Zach Davenport with four. The Indians would rally in the last half with heroics by several team members being prominent as they closed to within 58-48 by the end of the third quarter with Dallas Manus including two treys among 10 points and Adam Barrett and Davenport each including a three point play in contributing five points each.

The fourth quarter saw DeVries take matters into his own hands the first half of the quarter, opening with a free throw and two

field goals for just a 58-53 Towns deficit by the 6:22 mark and adding a third field goal for a 60-55 score at 5:48.

After the Leopards responded with a pair of field goals, de Vries sank a free throw and then Manus a trey at 3:43 for the third time for the Indians to pull within five points in the fourth quarter and needing a defensive stop.

They appeared to have it at the 3:24 mark when a 3-point attempt by the Leopards was well off target but the Indians were victimized by the second turning point mentioned earlier when the ball caromed high off the rim and fell into the basket, a quite rare occasion for such a high bounce on a 3-point attempt.

The bounce of the ball is part of the game but in this case, it was a most unkind and deflating break for the Indians as they now had a late-in-the game eight point deficit instead of an easily within range five and the good potential for an Indian rebound and a chance to cut the lead to three or even two points with a trey.

As at the time of the first turning point, the Leopards used their good fortune in regaining the momentum to score seven



Dallas Manus fires away vs Lakeview. The senior guard was Towns' most consistent scorer last week with 20, 20, and 12. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

additional points for a 74-59 lead before Manus sank a trey as time expired for the final score of 74-62. The lucky bounce trey by the Leopards ended an overall extended 37-25 Indian run back to the 1:13 mark of the second quarter.

Manus included four treys among his team leading 20 points with other scoring leaders being Boone Moss with 15 points, Davenport with 11, and Adam Barrett with 10.

Davenport took the lead in assists with 5 and was followed by Boone Moss with 3 and Kobe Denton and Major Moss with 2 each.

The Leopards feature the imposing presence of 6'7", 235 pound senior Austin Venable and 6'6", 210 pound junior Zac Orr who reversed their fortunes in this game with 17 and 14 points after combining for just 13 in the earlier game against the Indians.

SCORING: Manus 20, DeVries 15, Davenport 11, A. Barrett 10, B. Moss 3, M. Moss 3

Indians 76
Hebron Christian 71

In the Hebron Christian game, the Indians trailed for most

of the first quarter, including by an 18-11 margin by the three minute mark and 26-17 by the ten seconds mark despite seven points by Kobe Denton and six by Will DeVries for the Indians. But a field goal by Dallas Manus at the buzzer for a 26-19 score turned out to be the start of something big for the Indians.

They opened the second quarter on a 14-0 run which became a 20-3 surge back to Manus' shot at the first quarter buzzer for a 37-29 lead by the 2:29 mark of the second quarter and held a 40-34 lead at intermission.

Manus included a pair of treys among ten points and Boone Moss added seven points in highlighting second quarter scoring with Zach Davenport and Major Moss contributing three assists each.

The Indians appeared to be in control of the game by the one minute mark of the third quarter as nine points by Boone Moss and two late treys by Manus had them ahead 57-46 but the Lions struck for two treys the final forty two seconds for just a 57-52 Towns lead entering the fourth quarter.

The Indians would bend but not break early in the fourth quarter when the Lions sank an-

other trey and a deuce for a 5-1 run and just a 58-57 Indian lead with 7:07 on the clock. But the Indians responded with a 9-0 run of their own, highlighted by three field goals, including a three point play by Boone Moss and a steal and dunk by Major Moss for a 67-57 Indian lead with 5:12 on the clock.

The Lions would not go quietly, however, as they would strike for a three point play, three more treys giving them ten for the game, and an additional field goal for a 14-7 run and to within 74-71 between the 5:02 and 50-second mark. But Major Moss would sink a free throw at 27.1 seconds and another at 6.4 for a hard fought and thrilling 76-71 Indian victory. Boone Moss wound up with eleven points in the fourth quarter and Major Moss with seven.

The Indians have been fortunate to have capable scoring contributions from no less than ten members of the team this season but against Hebron, it was largely the Boone and Dallas show as in seniors Boone Moss and Dallas Manus as they poured in 29 and 20 points respectively in leading the victory but with capable scoring support with other leaders being Major Moss with 9 points and Denton and DeVries with 7 each.

Your reporter tallied a stunning 21 assists for the Indians for the game with Major Moss leading with a whopping 12 and followed by Davenport with 5 and de Vries and Manus with 2 each. With the loss the Lions saw their overall record fall to 9-8 and their region record to 3-3.

SCORING: B. Moss 29, Manus 20, M. Moss 9, Denton 7, DeVries 7, A. Barrett 2, Davenport 2

Indians 47
Lakeview Academy 77

Following the exhilaration of the Indians' thrilling win over Hebron Christian the night before, their matchup with the Lakeview Academy Lions proved to be difficult for them throughout the game with the exception of the third quarter when they would

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Lady Indians squeak past Hebron, fall to Banks County and Lakeview

By Jerry Kendall
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The Towns County Lady Indians saw a big lead slip away but found a way to win at the end as they took a home court 41-39 Region 8-A victory over Hebron Christian on Friday of last week after falling at home to Class AAA Banks County on Tuesday and they then fell to Region 8-A leader Lakeview Academy on Saturday.

The Lady Indians completed the week with an overall 5-13 record, including 2-4 in the region.

Lady Indians 42
Banks County 67

After being overwhelmed by the Banks County Lady Leopards by a 68-20 score on opening night in Homer back in mid November, the Lady Indians played much more competitively last Tuesday in the return engagement.

Towns County remained in striking distance for the first 10 minutes of the game, outscoring the Banks County ladies by a point in the third quarter before falling by a 67-42 score.

The potent Class AAA Lady Leopards completed the week's play with an overall record of 17-3, including 5-2 in Region 7-AAA where they are in second place behind undefeated and top ranked Dawson County.

Their only three losses have been to Union County in Phillips Arena in Atlanta and on the road to region foes Dawson County and Fannin County.

Jocelyn Byers got the Lady Indians a quick 2-0 lead and to within 7-5 on a trey and then followed a Karlie Albach trey for just a 9-8 deficit with a deuce for just a 12-10 deficit near the end of the first quarter with the Lady Leopards leading 14-10 by quarter's end.

Back to back deuces by Albach and Savannah Dyer matched two early field goals by Banks for just an 18-14 deficit by the 5:33 mark of the second quarter.



Misty Lindemuth goes up strong vs Banks County. The senior would later score 15 to lead her team vs Lakeview. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

would finish the quarter on a 17-5 run, with Madison Johnson providing the Lady Indian points with two putback baskets including on a three point play on the second, for a 35-19 Banks lead at intermission.

Johnson continued her good work with two early baskets in the third quarter and Byers also sank back to back baskets with a trey and deuce in getting the Lady Indians within 39-29 with 2:36 left, a quarter which saw the Lady Indians outscore the Lady Leopards 14-13 for a 48-33 Banks lead entering the fourth quarter.

The Lady Leopards opened the fourth quarter on a 9-3 run on three treys in barely more than two minutes, however, as they took a 67-42 victory despite seven points in the quarter by Johnson.

Scoring leaders for the Lady Indians for the game were Johnson with 16 points, Byers with 12, and Albach with five.

Albach and Misty Lindemuth led in assists with three each and were followed by Kristen Henson and Madison Landress with two each.

Henson 4, Landress 1

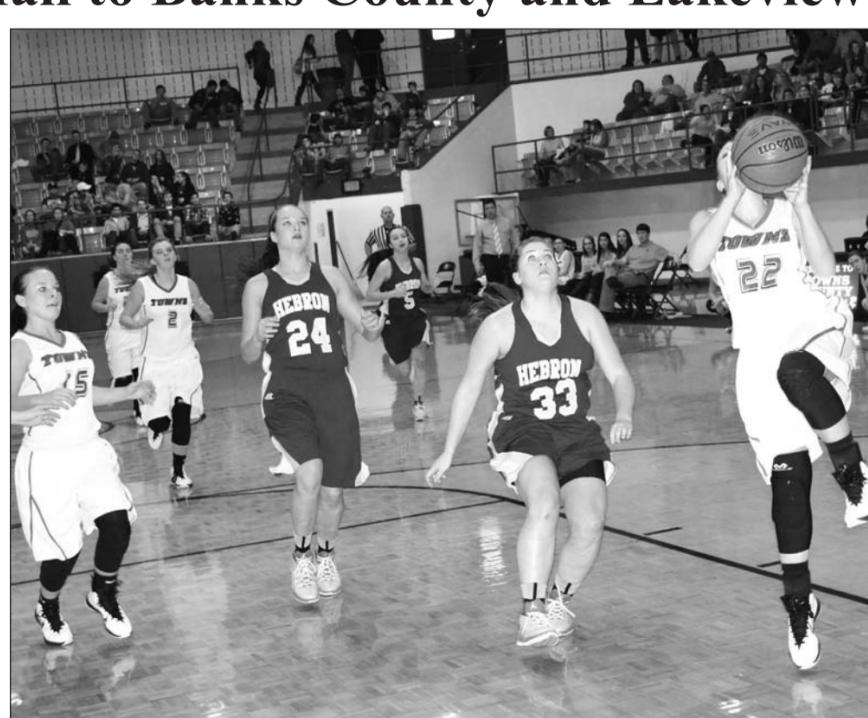
Lady Indians 41
Hebron Christian 39

The Lady Indians appeared during the first half and into the third quarter to have their game well in hand against Hebron Christian Academy of Dacula, holding leads of 15-4 and 21-10 at the first two quarter breaks and a 25-10 advantage less than a minute and a half into the third.

But here came the Lady Lions as they used three straight treys in concluding a 13-0 run in barely over three minutes of playing time for just a 25-23 deficit at the 2:04 mark.

The Lady Indians would rally a bit after that, leading 28-25 after three quarters and by five points on three occasions the first half of the fourth quarter.

The Lady Lions would strike for a 6-1 run between the 3:39 and 2:46 marks of the fourth quarter, however, for a 35-35 tie, the first time for the Lady Indians to not have a lead since a Jocelyn Byers trey got them ahead 3-0 at the 6:51 mark of the first quarter.



Senior Karlie Albach (22) with a lay up vs Hebron. Along with Jocelyn Byers, Albach led the Lady Indians with 10 points in the contest. She would chip in 14 vs Lakeview the next day. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

A Misty Lindemuth free throw at the 2:11 mark, a field goal by Byers, and a free throw by Karlie Albach had the Lady Indians back ahead 39-35 by the 1:02 mark, but two field goals by the Lady Lions forced a second tie, this time of 39-39, with 40 seconds remaining on the clock.

But Byers drove the lane for a field goal with eighteen seconds left for a 41-39 lead and the Lady Indian victory when a late field goal attempt by Hebron for a tie missed the mark with three seconds remaining and Byers claimed the rebound in preserving the win.

Two treys by Byers and four for four free throw shooting by Madison Johnson highlighted first quarter action for the Lady Indians while a field goal and two free throws by Albach for four points in the second quarter and the two field goals by Byers in the fourth were the top individual contributions by quarter.

Kirsten Ledford contributed mightily to the win by sinking seven of eight free throw attempts during the final three quarters, including three of four in the decisive fourth quarter when the Lady

Indians otherwise struggled at the charity stripe. The Lady Indians were led in scoring by Albach and Byers with 10 points each and Ledford with 7 while Madison Landress led in assists with 2.

The Hebron Ladies saw their overall record fall to 7-10 with the loss, including 3-3 in region play.

SCORING: Albach 10, Byers 10, Ledford 7, Johnson 4, Landress 4, Lindemuth 3, Stroud 3

Lady Indians 51
Lakeview Academy 76

The Lady Indians hung within striking distance of the Region 8A leading Lakeview Academy Lady Lions for the first eight and a half minutes on Saturday before being victimized by a lengthy scoring run by the visitors from Gainesville.

A trey by Karlie Albach and a field goal by Jocelyn Byers had the Lady Indians within 4-3 and then 6-5 during the first two minutes of the game and the Lady Indians would strike for a 7-0 run on a trey and field goal by Byers the final minute and a half of

the first quarter and a Misty Lindemuth field goal less than half a minute into the second for just a 22-18 deficit. Lindemuth had scored five points on two free throws and a trey during the middle portions of the first quarter.

The Lady Lions went on a 20-3 run after that, however, for a 42-21 lead at intermission and they held a 59-32 lead after three quarters in taking a 76-51 victory.

Lady Indian highlights the last half included three treys by Albach among five points in the third quarter and six in the fourth while five for six free throw shooting was included among seven points for Kirsten Ledford in the fourth.

Scoring leaders for the game were Lindemuth with 15 points, Albach with 14, Byers with 12, and Ledford with 7. Lindemuth also led in assists with 4 with other leaders being Madison Landress with 3, and Albach with 2.

The Lady Lions improved their record to 11-6 overall and 7-0 in the region with the win.

SCORING: Lindemuth 15, Albach 14, Byers 12, Ledford 7, Dyer 2, Landress 1