

# Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

www.townscountyherald.net • E-mail: tcherald@windstream.net

## Lady Indians pull away in win over Highlands, NC

By Jerry Kendall  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

The Towns County High School Lady Indians Varsity Basketball Team got their 2014-15 season off to a good start last Friday when they hosted the Highlands Lady Highlanders from the mountains of North Carolina in a preseason scrimmage game and broke a close game open the final half in taking a 56-43 victory.

The game marked the Lady Indians' first without the presence of four productive seniors from last year in the persons of Eryn Cochran, Kellsie Cowart, McKenzie Moss, and Bailey Sutton.

There were five lead changes the first quarter and five ties by the five minute mark of the second with the Lady Indians getting a lead of 17-16 they would not relinquish on a free throw by Senior Madison Johnson with 4:44 left in that second quarter.

Five different Lady Indians put points on the scoreboard in the first quarter while Johnson with five and Sophomore Madison Stroud with four led the way in the second as they led 12-10 on a basket by Sophomore Kirsten Ledford with two seconds left in the first quarter and then 23-18 at intermission.

Six different Lady Indians put points in the score book in the third quarter with Senior Karlie Albach including a trey



Seven Lady Indians scored vs Highlands. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

among seven points and seven Lady Indians scored points in the fourth with Sophomore Kristen Henson leading with four.

Scoring leaders for the game were Albach with 9 points, junior Jocelyn Byers with 8, Johnson with 7, and the quartet of Henson, sophomore Madison Landress, Ledford, and senior Misty Lindemuth

with 6 each. Landress led in assists with 5 while Henson and Johnson followed with 2 each according to your reporter's unofficial tally. All twelve Lady Indians saw action with those not mentioned above being Juniors Savannah Dyer and Brooke Smith and Sophomores Makenzie Carroll and Cadence Nichols.

## Indians impress in rousing victory over Highlands, NC

By Jerry Kendall  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

The debut game for the Towns County High School Indians Basketball Team in a preseason scrimmage last Friday against the Highlands Highlanders from the mountains of Western North Carolina brought lots of excitement to their supporters as they defended their home court in dominant style in taking a 73-33 victory.

To be sure, the strength of their opponents will reach a higher level during regular season play but the dominant manner by which the Indians disposed of the Highlanders leaves great possibilities for a special season.

The Indians returned most of their fire power from a year ago with the loss of just one senior, Garrett Bradshaw, and last year's leading scorer Trace Moss who decided to bypass his senior year of play. Indeed, no less than eight returning players saw significant varsity action last year with two former JV players and a freshman elevated from Towns County Middle School added to the mix.

The Indians brushed aside an early 2-0 deficit and a 4-4 tie the first couple of minutes of the game in springing out to a 20-4 first quarter lead and they never looked back. They held a 39-17 advantage at intermission and a 52-22 bulge after three quarters before completing the 73-33 win in the mercy rule shortened fourth quarter.



Major Moss delivers one of his two dunks. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

It was appropriate that returning senior starters Dallas Manus and Boone Moss got the Indians a 2-2 tie and a 6-4 lead with field goals but it was sophomore Major Moss who provided much of the first half fire power with nine points in the first quarter and five in the second while his fellow sophomore teammate Will de Vries contributed six of his eight first half points in the second quarter.

Top individual scoring totals the last half included five points by Manus in the third quarter and six by freshman Zach Davenport on a trey and an old fashioned three point play in the fourth.

Major Moss included two treys and two dunks among his team leading 18 points for the game with other scoring leaders being Boone Moss with 12 points, de Vries with 10, Manus with 9, sophomore Adam Barrett with 7, and Davenport with 6.

Leading in assists, according to your reporter's unofficial tally, were sophomore Darringer Barrett with 3 and Davenport, de Vries, and Major Moss with 2 each. All eleven Indians dressed for the game saw extensive and impressive action with those not mentioned above being senior Marcus Ledford, junior Jake Pyrlik, and sophomores Kobe Denton and Colton Shook.

## Wrestling gets underway with win over Class AAAAA Loganville

Indians tie Oconee County, fall to Habersham, West Hall, and Mountain View

By Shawn Jarrard  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Wrestling season has begun, and the Towns County High School Indians are ready.

The Indians attended a tournament at West Hall High School in Hall County on Saturday, Nov. 15.

Against Mountain View High School, Towns County lost 72-6, while Oconee County was a dead heat at 12-12.

Versus Habersham Central, Towns County lost a close one 42-36, whereas West Hall defeated the Indians 48-18 in the tournament.

The Indians defeated Loganville 42-36.

Wrestling Head Coach Jeff Stowers would like everyone to know that the Indians "accomplished what we set out to do."

"We got a lot of young kids matches and competed against some really good wrestling teams," said Coach Stowers. "Just the first step in a long journey to January," which will feature area and state duals.

Looking at the story behind some of the numbers, Mountain View High School, for example, is a 6A school to Towns County's Class A school.

Also, the Indians were forfeiting three weight classes all day, so they gave up 18 points before they even started to wrestle.



Head Coach Jeff Stowers and Towns County's wrestlers have been training hard in hopes of returning to State. Photos/Lowell Nicholson

"We were trying to get mat time for everybody because we knew we were missing several starters," said Coach Stowers. "The kids who we thought would win did, the ones we thought would lose did, and the others did some good things and some bad things. It gave us a snapshot of things that we need to work on to get to where we need to be."

"For me yesterday, the team scores really didn't matter. We were just trying to get better and we did - we improved every

match and hopefully that trend will continue."

Coach Stowers started coaching wrestling 21 years ago in Dawson County, where he wrestled in high school.

"I coached middle school wrestling for 10 years down there, and then came up here as the head football coach 12 years ago," said Coach Stowers. "And then they decided they wanted to start a wrestling team, so we started a wrestling program and here we are."



This is Towns County's 10th year with a wrestling program, and Stowers jumpstarted the high school program.

"We started off with five kids our first year - five really good kids," said Stowers. "One of them was older, he was a junior, and then the other ones were freshmen and one sophomore. And it's just kind of grown from there. We started a varsity program and a middle school program at the same time, and just started building from there. We've been lucky to have a

good bit of success. We've gone through some growing pains. The hard part about coaching wrestling, starting a team, is that everybody knows the same stuff.

"So, when you have two pretty good kids, they learn how to wrestle each other, but they don't get a whole lot better very quickly. You get better by wrestling people that are better than you. We got pretty good pretty quickly, but going from pretty good to outstanding has taken some time."

Time is certainly on the

Indians' side, as is the reputation of Towns County's wrestling program.

"We've got some kids now that I would consider to be outstanding," said Coach Stowers. "We've had several with a chance to wrestle in college and several be on the podium at the state tournament and those kind of things."

Looking forward, Coach Stowers is extremely optimistic about the season.

"This is the first year, really, as a group that we've got a chance to compete top to bottom from a weight class perspective," said Coach Stowers. "We should be pretty solid this year if everybody can stay healthy."

The Indians will be hosting the Melee in the Mountains Nov. 21 at 4:30 p.m. in the Towns County Middle School Gym. The King of the Mountain tournament is scheduled for Dec. 5 and Dec. 6.

## TCHS football open house on Dec. 8th

Coach Billy Barnhart, Towns County Indians Head Football Coach, would like to invite all 8th & 9th grade boys interested in playing football next year and their parents to an Open House on Monday, December 8th at 6:30 p.m. in the TCHS Cafeteria.

## Towns County Youth Football League banquet photos

Photos by Lowell Nicholson

