

Towns County Sports

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Lady Indians overwhelmed at Banks, rebound for win at Lumpkin

By Jerry Kendall
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

A trip to Homer to face Class AAA Banks County turned out to be a very difficult assignment for the Class A Towns County Lady Indians Varsity Basketball Team last Tuesday, but they rallied from the difficult performance for a last half come-from-behind victory at Class AAA Lumpkin County in Dahlonega on Friday.

**Lady Indians 20
Banks County 68**

Homer - In the Banks County game, the Lady Indians faced a senior laden squad highlighted by the presence of 6'6" star Kaitlyn Duncan, who has committed to attend Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina, on a basketball scholarship next year.

The Lady Leopards had an outstanding 18-8 record a year ago with most of the losses coming by close margins to outstanding opponents such as by a 47-45 score to Buford and a 55-51 score to Dawson County.

Duncan actually got off to a bit of a difficult start with two fouls and two turnovers barely two and a half minutes into the game.

With Duncan leaving the game, the Lady Leopards did manage an 8-0 lead, largely on the strength of a pair of treys by the 4:18 mark of the first quarter but they scored just two points the remainder of the quarter with the Lady Indians reducing the margin a bit to within 10-4 by quarter's end after a late drive for two points by Jocelyn Byers.

The remainder of the



Madison Landress for two at Lumpkin. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

game proved very difficult for the Lady Indians, however, as they struggled with turnovers against the aggressive full court pressure of the Lady Leopards.

The aggressive play resulted in numerous fouls by the Lady Leopards but the Lady Indians couldn't take advantage at the foul line where they sank just eight of twenty six attempts as the Lady Leopards raced away for a 31-10 lead by intermission and took a 68-20 victory.

Kristen Henson took the scoring lead for the Lady Indians with 7 points with all coming the last half while Misty Lindemuth was second in scoring with 4 points with all of her points coming in the first half. Lindemuth led in assists with

2 according to your reporter's unofficial total.

**Lady Indians 46
Lumpkin County 40**

Dahlonega - The Lady Indians led by margins of one and two points for most of the first quarter, including by a 7-6 score at quarter's end with four different Lady Indians putting points on the scoreboard.

Savannah Dyer, who contributed six points in the second quarter, gave the Lady Indians a 9-6 lead with a field goal just eight seconds into the second quarter but turnovers proved costly for an extended period after that as Lumpkin County used a trey for a 9-9 tie at 7:29 of the second quarter. That would springboard the



Coach Jim Melton and his Lady Indians at Banks County. Despite suffering a one-sided loss to the Lady Leopards, Towns responded with a win over Lumpkin, another AAA school. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

home team to a 14-7 run during the remainder of the quarter for as much as a 20-14 lead, which became 20-16 at intermission after two late Lady Indian free throws by Madison Stroud.

The third quarter proved to be pretty much a standoff for the first five and a half minutes with Lumpkin holding a 30-25 advantage by the 2:46 mark before the Lady Indians pretty much took control of the game.

A Madison Johnson put back at 2:29 triggered an 8-0 Towns run the remainder of the quarter with a coast-to-coast run by Madison Landress, a drive for two points by Misty Lindemuth for a 31-30 Lady Indian lead, and a Jocelyn Byers basket off a fast break pass from Karlie Albach following

as they led 33-30 entering the fourth quarter.

The Lady Indians extended their lead to 38-30 with the first five points of the fourth quarter but Lumpkin used a deuce, two free throws and a trey in a 7-2 run to cut the margin to just 40-37 with 2:55 on the clock.

The Lady Indians had an answer, however, as a field goal by Dyer, who scored four points in the third quarter and five in the fourth, got the Lady Indians ahead 42-37 at 2:15 and one-for-two free throw shooting by Lindemuth and three-for-four accuracy at the foul line by Landress had the Lady Indians in good shape with a 46-37 lead with 27.6 seconds remaining.

The Lumpkin ladies bounced back with a trey with

eight seconds left for a 46-40 score and that was how the game ended, with the Lady Indians claiming their first regular season victory.

Dyer included seven-for-eight free throw shooting among her team leading 15 points for the game with other scoring leaders being Landress and Lindemuth with 7 points each, Byers with 6, and Johnson with 5.

Your reporter tallied assists by six different Lady Indians with Albach leading with 2. After struggling mightily at the foul line at Banks County, the Lady Indians sank an excellent 15-of-23 at Lumpkin County.

On Monday, the Lady Indians traveled to Class AA's Dade County. No results were available as of press time.

Indians play great game in loss at Banks, struggle in loss at Lumpkin

By Jerry Kendall
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Staff Writer

The Towns County Indians Varsity Basketball Team could hardly have played better in a close loss not decided until the final seconds of the game at Banks County High School in Homer last Tuesday.

At Lumpkin County, a strong start and a torrid finish were not enough to overcome a lengthy and difficult portion in between which saw the Lumpkin County Indians hold a commanding advantage in coming away with a victory in a game that Towns feels they could have won.

**Indians 57
Banks County 62**

Homer - At Banks County, the Class A Indians found themselves not only with a rather youthful roster themselves but facing a Class AAA Leopard squad loaded with seniors and juniors compared to three seniors, one junior, six sophomores, and one freshman for the Indians.

Further, the Leopards returned four starters from last year's then youthful team which finished with a 13-13 record after losing their first six games and high hopes for an excellent year in Class AAA. Included among the starters are 6'7", 235 pounds senior Austin Venable and 6'6" junior Zac Orr.

When Venable drove the baseline and made a reverse dunk just 18 seconds into the game, the mostly youthful Indians could have wondered if they had stepped into a bit too deep a situation to handle but they struck for a 12-5 run and a 12-7 advantage, highlighted by a pair of Boone Moss baskets and a trey and deuce by Marcus Ledford less than three minutes into the game.

Here came the Leopards, however, as they answered with a 13-1 run for a 20-13 lead which became 20-15 after one quarter after a late put back basket by Boone Moss. The Indians seemed to regain command of the game on their own 13-3 run by the 2:18 mark of the second quarter for a 28-23 lead with Major Moss contributing a trey and a deuce and Boone Moss and Adam Barrett two deuces each.

But the Leopards struck for three straight baskets for a 29-28 lead with forty six seconds on the clock. Barrett nailed a trey with eleven seconds left for what turned out to be a brief 31-29 Indian lead as the Leopards matched Barrett's trey with one



Head Coach Duncan Weekley and his Indians squad played Banks County tight. Many consider Banks and East Hall as the teams to beat in Region 7-AAA. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

of their own as the first half came to an end with the Leopards leading 32-31.

The Leopards had ended the second quarter on a 9-3 run and when they opened the third with a similar 9-2 run for their biggest lead of 41-33 with 4:21 on the clock, they may have had visions of breaking the game wide open but the Indians came alive, scoring nine points the final 4:08 of the quarter.

The run began and ended on drives for two points by Will de Vries and Zach Davenport with a trey by Dallas Manus and two free throws by Major Moss included in between.

Unfortunately, the Leopards sank two treys during the Indian run so they just made a modest gain to within 47-42 entering the fourth quarter.

The Indians continued their good work, however, with a free throw by Major Moss, two charity tosses by Davenport, and Barrett's second trey of the game giving them a 48-47 lead less than a minute and a half into the fourth quarter.

Boone Moss then used two free throws at 6:04 and a field goal at 4:19 to match Leopard field goals for a 52-51 Indian lead at 4:19 but the Leopards followed with four free throws and a trey and seemed to have gained the upper hand with a 58-52 lead with 1:24 on the clock.

The Indians again rallied, however, as Manus wrapped a trey and Major Moss two free throws around a single free throw by the Leopards with the Indians knocking on the door with just a 59-57 deficit with 20.1 seconds on the clock.

The Leopards were able to protect their lead, however, with two free throws at 17.2 seconds and another at 10.3 in holding on for a hard fought 62-57 win.

When the smoke had cleared, one would be hard pressed to have seen a better played game by both teams in the regular season opener for both teams and the game was well called in your reporter's view.

The two teams tied with 13 deuces each with the difference in the game being the Leopards sinking eight treys to seven by the Indians and going 12-for-17 at the foul line compared to an excellent ten for twelve for the Indians.

Scoring leaders for the Indians were Boone Moss with 14 points, Adam Barrett with 13, Manus with 9, Major Moss with 8, and Ledford with 5.

Boone Moss and Barrett easily got the best of the scoring battle between the post players as they combined for twenty seven points compared to a total of just 13 for the taller pair of Leopards.

Seven different Indians contributed at least one assist, according to your reporter's unofficial total with leaders being Major Moss with 4 and the trio of de Vries, Manus, and Boone Moss with 2 each.

**Indians 59
Lumpkin County 69**

Dahlonega - The Towns County Indians appeared to be off and running for a third straight impressive performance back to their scrimmage game win over Highlands when they took a 7-0 lead by the 6:20 mark and an 11-4 advantage by 4:15 on the heroics of seniors Boone Moss with six inside points and Dallas Manus with a coast to coast run and a trey for five points.

The game took an increasingly downward turn for the

Indians after that, however, as the Lumpkin Indians rallied for a 17-15 lead after one quarter despite a pair of baskets by Adam Barrett.

The Indians got a 17-17 tie on a drive for two points by Will de Vries and their last two leads of 19-17 and 21-19 on a field goal by Boone Moss and a nifty drive and reverse layup by freshman Zach Davenport by the 5:41 mark of the second quarter.

Lumpkin struck for 15 straight points after that, however, for a 34-21 lead with 1:41 left in the quarter.

The Blue and White managed to reduce that lead to single digits to keep the game still very much within reach at 36-27 the final 1:19 of the half on an old fashioned three point play by Marcus Ledford and a late trey by Kobe Denton but the third quarter would belong to Lumpkin.

The home standing Indians struck for sixteen straight points at the start of the quarter on the way to a 52-30 bulge entering the fourth quarter.

The two teams then played on pretty much even terms for nearly half of the fourth quarter with Lumpkin leading 62-37 by the 4:39 mark but here came the Towns Indians after that, salvaging some respect and perhaps a boost for upcoming games.

In the final 4:17 of the game, the Indians sank five treys—two by Darringer Barrett and one each by Manus, Davenport, and Adam Barrett as they finished on a 22-7 run which got them very briefly to within single digits at 68-59 in a 69-59 loss.

Overall, the Indians outscored Lumpkin 29-17 the final quarter, scoring just one less point in the final eight minutes



Senior Boone Moss goes up strong in the paint at Lumpkin County last Friday night. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

than they had in the prior twenty four.

When all was said and done the Indians had outscored Lumpkin 50-36 during the combined first 10:19 and the last eight minutes of the game but Lumpkin held a lopsided 33-9 advantage during the 13:41 in between in deciding the game.

Scoring leaders for the Indians for the game were Boone Moss with 15 points, Manus with 13, Adam Barrett with 10, Darringer Barrett with 8, and

Davenport with 5. Assists leaders were Major Moss with 4 and the quartet of Darringer Barrett, de Vries, Manus, and Boone Moss with 2 each, according to your reporter's unofficial tally.

A puzzling team statistic involved free throw shooting for the Indians during the week as they sank an excellent 10-of-12 attempts at Banks County on Tuesday but just 9-of-27 at Lumpkin County on Friday.

JV Indians drop two

By Jerry Kendall
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

With five sophomores and a freshmen playing vital roles for the Towns County High School Varsity Basketball Team, it leaves the JV's a bit short on size and experience for this year but they showed some individual promise during their opening games last week on the road against two Class AAA schools, Banks County in Homer on Tuesday and Lumpkin County in Dahlonega on Friday.

Junior Jake Pyrlík, sophomore Kobe Denton, and freshman Zach Davenport saw double duty action down from the varsity in one quarter each at Banks County but Pyrlík and Davenport did not play with the JV's at Lumpkin.

At Banks County, the Indians took two first quarter leads of 4-0 on two free throws by Davenport and a field goal by sophomore Colton Shook and an 8-7 advantage by the 2:04 mark on back to back field goals by Davenport and freshman Cole Ledford but the home standing Leopards edged out to a 13-9 lead by quarter's end and pulled away for 27-16 and 41-24 leads at the second and third quarter breaks

in taking a 53-32 victory. Ledford included a trey in a five point second quarter and two treys in an eight point fourth in taking scoring honors for the game with 15 points while Shook included two treys among his 10 points for the game. Leading in assists, according to your reporter's unofficial tally were Davenport and Shook with 2 each.

At Lumpkin County, the home standing Indians opened the game with an 8-0 run by the 2:24 mark of the first quarter but the Towns Indians struck for a 9-2 run by the 5:35 mark of the second quarter for just a 10-9 deficit on the strength of baskets by freshmen Evan Berrong and Cason Shook late in the first quarter and a trey by junior Kevin Reardon and a deuce by Cole Ledford in the second. Lumpkin took control after that, however, in breaking away for a 23-12 lead by half-time and a 37-18 advantage after three quarters in taking a 57-31 victory.

Scoring leaders for the game for the Indians were Colton Shook with 10 points and Berrong with 8 as five different Indians contributed 1 assist each. JV team members not mentioned above are sophomore Andrew Rogers and freshman Chase Williams.