

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Indians hold off Social Circle for first regular season victory

By Jerry Kendall
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Staff Writer

The Towns County Indians Varsity Basketball Team evened its record at 1-1 last Tuesday night in the Towns County Gym with a hard fought 71-67 victory over now Class AA Social Circle, a long time Indians foe in Region 8-A play.

After a close first quarter, the Indians seemed to have gained the upper hand in the second and third quarters but the Redskins wouldn't go quietly and gave the Indians a battle in the fourth quarter, leaving the outcome of the game in doubt until the final seconds.

The Indians struck for a 5-0 lead on a deuce by Will de Vries and a trey by Zach Davenport by the 5:40 mark of the first quarter only to see the visiting Redskins rally for a 12-12 standoff after one quarter with five points by Major Moss leading the way for the Indians, including on a coast to coast run in the closing seconds for the tie.

The Indians followed the lead of de Vries with seven points in the second quarter when they



Towns County vs Social Circle basketball photos by Lowell Nicholson

held the Redskins to just four points in taking a 24-16 lead at intermission.

Seven Indians then put points on the scoreboard in a third quarter standoff leaving them with the eight point lead they started the quarter with, compli-

ments of a trey at the buzzer by Colton Shook. Davenport, de Vries, Moss, and Jake Pyrlik each provided four points during the third stanza with de Vries including a dunk among his points.

The Indians held a 51-44 lead by the seven-minute mark of



the fourth quarter but a 7-1 Redskins run had them within 52-51 by the 5:11 mark and they would remain within one to five points for the remainder of the game but never able to achieve a tie or lead as the Indians had an answer each time they were challenged.

Field goals by Moss and Davenport extended the 52-51 challenge, giving the Indians a 56-51 lead at 4:25, and two free throws each by Davenport and de Vries extended a 59-58 challenge to 63-58 at 1:32.

Moss then responded to a

three point Redskins play and a 63-61 score by wrapping a put-back basket and a coast to coast run and slam dunk around a Social Circle free throw for a 67-62 Indian lead at the 1:02 mark.

Moss matched a Redskins free throw at 31.2 seconds and then matched a field goal with two free throws by the 19.0 seconds mark for 68-63 and 70-65 Indian leads but the game was still in doubt until a de Vries free throw at 4.3 seconds put the game out of reach for the final score of 71-67 following two Redskins free throws at 13.5 seconds.

The Indians were led in scoring by Moss with 21 points, de Vries with 18, Davenport with 16, and Pyrlik with 6 while Moss also led in assists with 7 and was followed by de Vries with 3 and Shook with 2, according to your reporter's unofficial tally.

Kudos are extended to freshmen Trent Bradshaw and Will Travis who performed capably in the closing minutes as a result of the Indians, like the Redskins, losing three players to fouls. The Redskins were led in scoring by junior point guard Deion Head with 33 points.

Lady Indians impress in overtime loss to Class AA Social Circle

By Jerry Kendall
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Staff Writer

The Towns County Lady Indians Varsity Basketball Team came within five seconds of their first win of the season last Tuesday night before falling victim to a game tying putback basket by Social Circle Lady and an eventual 82-77 defeat in overtime.

The Lady Redskins were a long time Region 8A foe of the Lady Indians but they are now a Class AA team after an increase in enrollment. They improved their early season record to 3-1 with the win, including a close win over Class AAA East Jackson and a competitive loss to Class AAAA Monroe Area.

Although falling short of victory in the most eventful game in your reporter's memory, the Lady Indians nevertheless impressed their supporters tremendously by rebounding from not only a very difficult last half in their prior game against Lumpkin County when they managed just eight points the last half but from a very difficult start to the third quarter in this game.

After trailing by just a 38-33 score at intermission in this game, the Lady Indians saw the Lady Redskins spurt out to a pair of seventeen point leads during the first three and a half minutes of the third quarter only to rise up and rally ahead for a near victory.

Following an early 4-1 Social Circle lead, the Lady Indians rallied to lead for most of the remainder of the quarter, taking a 6-4 lead on a three point play by Madison McClure at the 5:13 mark and leading by as much as 10-4 before the Lady Skins rallied and forced a 16-16 tie on a trey at the buzzer.

Six different Lady Indians put points on the scoreboard in the quarter for the Lady Indians. Five different Lady Indians

then entered the scoring column in the second quarter when they led for nearly all of the first seven minutes but surrendered four ties and one very brief Social Circle lead before the Lady Skins finished on a 7-1 run for a 38-33 lead at intermission.

Lady Indian highlights during the quarter included a deuce for an 18-16 lead at 7:54, a trey for a 31-30 lead at 2:09, and a free throw for a 32-31 advantage at 1:26 by Madison Landress as she accounted for three of the four Towns leads achieved during the quarter.

The Lady Skins stung the Lady Indians with a 12-0 run and a 50-33 lead by the 5:51 mark of the third quarter and they added a second 17-point lead of 54-37 at 4:41 but here came the Lady Indians in a miracle 14-2 run completed in just a minute and thirty nine seconds of playing time.

A three point play by Kirsten Ledford at 4:26 triggered the run and McClure's second three point play in the game ended it at 2:47 for a 56-51 Social Circle lead and the same five points margin present at the start of the quarter.

And there was still an improbable five point margin of 60-55 entering the fourth quarter, when considering the pair of 17-point Lady Skin leads within the quarter, on two free throws by Kristen Henson at 7.8 seconds in the third quarter. McClure wound up with eight points and Ledford five among six team members entering the scoring column for the quarter.

The fourth quarter was a real battle with the Lady Indians striking for a 10-4 run and a 65-64 lead at 5:10 with Jocelyn Byers leading the way with six points, including the final three in the run.

A field goal by Henson at 4:22 and two free throws each by Savannah Dyer and McClure at 3:53 and 3:34 gave the Lady Indians leads of 67-65, 69-67, and

71-69 by the 3:34 mark.

The Lady Indians would cling to leads of between one and three points after that until the aforementioned Lady Skins putback basket with just five seconds left in regulation forced the tie and a four minute overtime period. Byers, the Lady Indians' senior scoring leader, would contribute seven points in the fourth quarter before being lost on fouls on two disputable foul calls at 4:11 and 1:16 but such is the nature of the game.

The two tired teams went more than a minute and a half at the start of the overtime period before Social Circle took the ball coast to coast for a field goal at the 2:20 mark and added another deuce at 1:07 for an 80-76 lead.

A Henson free throw at 7:4 seconds gave the Lady Indians a glimmer of hope for a steal or missed free throws and a trey for a tie but the Lady Skins put the game out of reach by an 82-77 lead with two free throws at 3.4 seconds.

Scoring leaders for the game for the Lady Indians were Jocelyn Byers and McClure with 16 points each, Ledford with 11, Landress with 10, Henson with 9, and Kristen Byers with 6 while Jocelyn Byers contributed 3 assists and McClure and Kristen Byers added 2 each, according to your reporter's unofficial tally.

In a game marked by each team losing four players on fouls and each having three others with four, more than one hundred free throws were attempted during the game.

The Lady Indians made a remarkable turnaround at the foul line following their game with Lumpkin County when they struggled with just 4 for 17 accuracy by sinking 33 of 54 attempts compared to just 22 for 52 for Social Circle.

The Lady Redskins were led in scoring by freshman Emerald Gibbs with 23 points.



Lady Indians vs Social Circle Lady Redskins pictures by Lowell Nicholson

NASCAR 2015

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

Kyle Busch is a Deserving Champion

Kyle Busch is not loved by every NASCAR fan. But that doesn't mean he didn't deserve to win this year's Sprint Cup championship.

Some are unhappy that Busch, who missed the season's first 11 races because of injuries suffered in an Xfinity race prior to the season opening Daytona 500, was even eligible for the Chase.

His critics claim that it was unfair to other drivers who ran the full schedule. They say that NASCAR shouldn't have waived the Chase requirement that a driver start every race, just for Busch.

The bottom line is that it doesn't matter what we as fans think. NASCAR always has the final say. But their decision regarding Kyle Busch can't be looked upon as an isolated incident.

Last year they suspended Kurt Busch for two races when he was charged with domestic violence. After he was exonerated by the courts, they made it possible for him to get back into the Chase.

Remember the 2013 Michael Waltrip Racing deal? In the last race before the Chase at Richmond, Clint Bowyer deliberately allowed a teammate to pass him? The move cost Jeff Gordon a shot at the Chase. So what did NASCAR do? They added Gordon as a supplemental contender.

NASCAR has rules at the beginning of the season, but they always add to, or amend those rules as it pleases them.

Meanwhile Busch will undergo off season surgery on his left foot to have the plates and screws removed so that his foot can feel normal again and the rod removed in his right leg.

"I'm going to be down for probably, they said, about four weeks with the leg," Busch said in a teleconference Tuesday. "Just having to re-go through the knee and to cut the knee open again in order to pull the rod out, is going to be the most traumatic part."

GETTING TO KNOW CHRIS BUESCHER

"Chris was on his game this year," said team owner Jack Roush. "His crew chief Scott Graves was on his game as well. They managed to win two races and they didn't give up points on days when they weren't at their best."

Buescher, in only his second season of full-time NASCAR racing, adds to his list of accomplishments that includes becoming the youngest driver to ever win an ARCA title in 2012. Buescher scored his first NASCAR win last season at Mid-Ohio and followed up his rookie-year performance with wins at Iowa and Dover this season



Kyle Busch and family

en route to the championship.

During the season Buescher never ranked lower than third in the driver championship standings. The Prosper, Texas native finished the season with zero DNFs (Did Not Finish). He did not finish outside of the top-20 in any of the 33 races on the season, completing 99.9 percent of the laps during the 2015 campaign, while leading a total of 263 laps.

"It is every bit as stressful as I thought it would be," Buescher said. "You know, it's always difficult. There is a tremendous depth of talent through the Xfinity Series right now. I think that makes it that much more special knowing that we beat some of the best guys coming up through the sport right now and able to pull it off here at the end. It's a very special, very humbling experience, but it's not easy."

"This is a very difficult thing to get to, and you know, it was a lot of hard work. A lot of time put in, a lot of after hours by the guys at the shop, and making sure that we did everything we could to be here, and when everybody is willing to do it and they have that drive and everybody is happy and works well together, it puts together an awesome team that has the will power to go do this."

"So it was hard, but we did it better than anybody else, and that's why we get to sit here right now."

Chris is the cousin of 2012 NASCAR Camping World Truck Series champion James Buescher. He began his professional racing career in 2005, driving Legends cars in Texas for Speedway Legends, winning over 100 races.

In 2008, Buescher moved to North Carolina to be mentored by NASCAR Sprint Cup Series driver David Ragan and signing as a de-

velopment driver for Roush Fenway Racing. He began competing in ARCA competition in 2010; and went on to win the series championship in 2012, becoming the only driver to compete in every lap in a season of competition in the series.

Buescher made his debut in NASCAR competition for Roush Fenway Racing in 2011, driving two races in the Nationwide Series. He returned to the series in 2013, and drove in seven races for the team, in addition to a limited ARCA schedule with Roulo Bros. Racing.

In 2014, he moved full-time to the Nationwide Series, driving the No. 60 Ford for Roush Fenway Racing. After failing to qualify at Daytona, Buescher had a solid rookie season after winning at Mid-Ohio, for his first career win.

He started off the 2015 season with a runner-up finish to teammate Ryan Reed at Daytona.

Buescher will run select Sprint Cup races in 2015 that do not conflict with his Xfinity schedule.

Weekend Television Schedule: The NASCAR Sprint Cup Awards Banquet will be held Friday, Dec. 4 in Las Vegas. It will be broadcast live on NBCSN, beginning at 8 pm ET. Drew Carey will host the show, along with musical artists Andy Grammer, Sam Hunt, Rachel Platten, and Sabrina Carpenter.

Racing Trivia Question: How many Cup championships did Richard Petty win?

Last Week's Question: Where is Martin Truex Jr.'s hometown? Answer: It is Mayetta, New Jersey.

You may contact the Racing Reporter by e-mail at: hodges@race500.com. NTDec2,2015CA

MUSA sends two to Kohls Cup Soccer Tournament



Champions of the 12& Under division at the Kohls Cup in Atlanta. Left to Right: Ethan Rouse, Dalton Allen, Kendall Conley, MJ Delatte, Austin Cornett, Paxton Meyer, Landon Kight, Josh Cornett, Max Boykin and Wilson Walker.



Champions of the 10& Under division at the Kohls Cup in Atlanta. Front Row: Matthew Ortiz, Wes Seiler, Braden Tanner and Isaih Viera. Second Row: Coach Alex Ortiz, Houston Henry, Antonio Solerio, Zuril Mancillas and Coach Luis Viera