

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Baldwin, Kyle Davis third as Indians finish ninth at KOM

By Todd Forrest
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The 2013 edition of Towns County High School's King of the Mountain was another hit for the kids involved, as well as the community, and the local wrestling scene.

The Indians finished ninth overall, just a half point shy of eighth place Cherokee, NC and a point shy of seventh place Fannin County.

Individually, senior Vonya Baldwin took home bronze in the 138-pound division with a 5-1 record. Junior Kyle Davis also took picked up bronze at 195 pounds.

Baldwin took his first match by forfeit but fell to Dacula's Pablo Correa in the second round.

He wouldn't lose again.

He defeated Hayesville's Kyle Graves by fall. Stephens County's Jake Murray was the next victim in his path as he also went down by fall. Dawson County's Harrison Adams forfeited, sending Baldwin to the third place match against White County's Caleb Cooper. When the smoke cleared, Baldwin was left standing with his arm raised in the air before collecting his hardware.

"Vonya lost a tough match (on Friday night) to a kid that I think that if they wrestled 10 times it would be 5-5-5," Towns County Head Coach Jeff Stowers said. "But he came back and wrestled well. Sometimes the older kids tend not to respond but he came back with a vengeance and wrestled real well."

As for Davis, he defeated Union County's Tusla Queen by fall before falling to eventual champion, Gavin Brown of Dawson County.

He took care of business against Murphy, NC's Austin Sheffield and White County's Micah Wheeler to wrap up his third place performance.

"Kyle wrestled out of his mind, really all weekend with the exception of one match," Coach Stowers said. "The kid that he beat in the third place match pinned him on Tuesday so for him to come back and wrestle real well was a big thing."

Freshman Nick Shook placed fourth in the 152-pound division after falling to A.C. McDermid of Franklin, NC. But he would battle back with wins over Dacula's DeMarco McInnis, Rabun County's Alex Ortega, and Fannin County's Barrett Webb – both by deci-



Towns County Wrestling's KOM placers from left to right: Nick Shook (4th), Coach Jeff Stowers, Kyle Davis (3rd), and Vonya Baldwin (3rd). Photo/Todd Forrest

sion. Unfortunately, he would meet McDermid again with third place on the line and Franklin NC came away with the win once again.

"Nick showed a lot of promise as a middle school wrestler and has won some tough matches in high school," Coach Stowers said. "We thought we were going to have three or four place, so getting three is no surprise, but I would have hoped to have one in the finals."

Other Indians who took the mat were sophomore Thomas Mitchell, who picked up a win at 113 pounds. Junior Tyler Davis defeated Andrews NC's Sean Lipes and Washington-Wilkes' Keithaniel Smith but fell to Fannin County's Matthew Seabolt.

Freshman Russell Cox knocked off Murphy NC's Alec Trias and Hayesville's Chad Mann at 145 pounds. He just missed out on a shot at third when he fell to Dawson County's Cody Greer.

Senior Austin Stephens was victorious in his first two matches against Pickens County's Cole Milsap and Washington-Wilkes' Hunter Brock.

He would eventually succumb to Rabun County's Drew Beck and Stephens County's Blake Peebles to just miss out on placing.

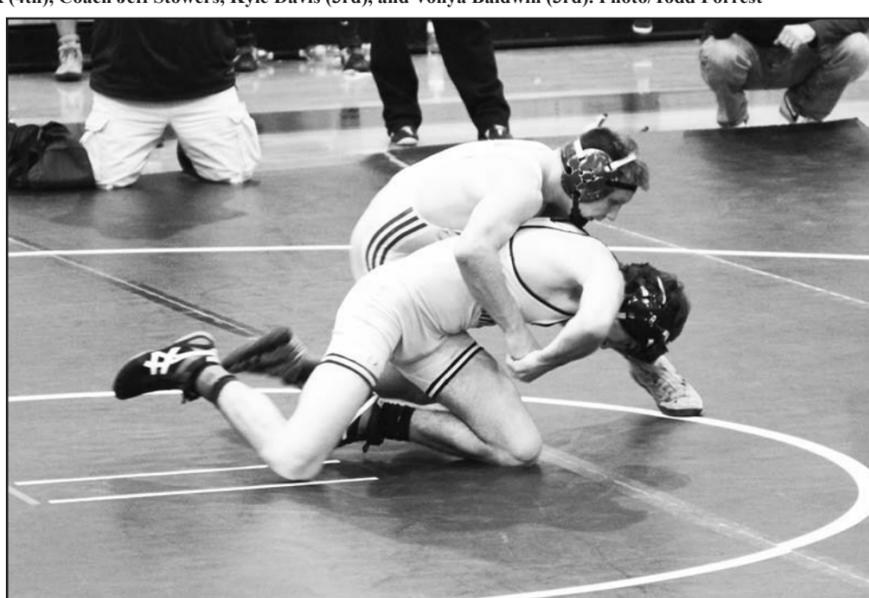
Freshman Peyton Smith had two matches at 120 pounds, as did Carson Mercer

at 126 pounds. Freshman Gavin Langelier saw action at 170 pounds, Morgan Gay at 182 pounds, and senior John Davis at 220 pounds.

"Overall we wrestled pretty well but made some young kid mistakes," Coach Stowers said. "We had some matches that we should have won, but we lost, but we got what we expected. We wanted to finish in the Top 10 and we did. We were right in the mix and we're missing two starters. Aaron Carter is out of town and Daulton Rogers is injured, so I figure combined that's 10 points, and if we get those 10 points we're in the Top 5. We're never satisfied but pleased with the effort put forth."

Defending State Champion Banks County took first place overall by 152 points over second place White County and third place Dawson County but that isn't normally how the King of the Mountain unfolds. Yet, overall, the competition was pretty evenly matched behind the Leopards, giving the Indians a barometer on where they stand before the post-season.

"When we first started we wanted a tournament with good competition but with nobody that would come in here and just kill everybody," Coach Stowers said. "Now obviously this year, Banks County is coming off their State title year and they are



Towns County senior Vonya Baldwin finished in third in the 138-pound division at the 2013 KOM.

loaded, but they've been coming for several years. But nobody usually just comes in and rolls through. Two through four are within 25 points of each other, and then five through nine are within five though nine are within the 20, so it's a really competitive tournament. But the main thing is mat time. We're just trying to get our kids mat time before the Area Duals and try to do well down there. We've obviously got some kids who are dinged up and we need to get them healthy, get people in the right weight class and

all those things that you do in November and December to make your run in January and February."

As for the future, Coach Stowers is looking to expand from 21 to 32 teams for the 2014 King of the Mountain and had plenty of praise to go around from the 2013 tourney.

"I'm thankful for all of the people that came out and the fans that showed up and supported their teams, all the businesses who were able to help us out and donate some

things, the teams that came and the parents that came. They were all hospitable," he said. "It's not very often that you can get 20 teams to come up here to the mountains. We're going to try our best to go to 32 teams next year and were making preparations for that to take place already. We want to make this thing bigger and better. It's all about helping wrestling grow in this area. I want to see Towns County successful. Obviously, but I also want to see wrestling be successful in this area."

Lady Indians get easy win at Tallulah Falls; lose two close ones

By Jerry Kendall
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Towns County Lady Indians Varsity Basketball Team extended their record to 4-0 last Tuesday with a one sided win at Tallulah Falls but found themselves unable to overcome late leads by their opponents in close losses at Lakeview Academy on Friday and at home to Union County on Saturday. The week's work leaves the Lady Indians with a 4-2 overall record, including 1-1 in Sub-Region 8A North as Tallulah and Lakeview are included in the Sub-Region.

**Lady Indians 74
Tallulah Falls 26**

The Lady Indians missed their first six field goal attempts and endured cold shooting throughout most of the first quarter at Tallulah Falls on Tuesday but still took a 3-0 lead on three for four free throw shooting by Kelsie Cowart by the 6:42 mark and added five additional points before Tallulah could enter the scoreboard and coasted to a 74-26 victory.

Their leads were 18-6, 40-10, and 63-16 at the quarter breaks.

Six Lady Indians entered the scoring column in the first quarter and another by half time with Stephanie Patton including four treys among her team leading sixteen points in first half action.



Stephanie Patton with a jumper vs Union. Photo/Lowell Nicholson not taking a shot at the basket in the game.

**Lady Indians 52
Lakeview Academy 56**

At Lakeview Academy in Gainesville on Friday, the Lady Indians took early leads of 3-0 and 8-2 on a pair of treys and a deuce by Stephanie Patton by the 3:22 mark of the first quarter but the Lady Lions rallied for an 11-9 lead by quarter's end and extended a 15-14 lead midway through the first quarter to as much as 24-16 by the two minute mark.

The Lady Indians responded with a 7-2 finish the final 1:46, however, for just a 26-23 deficit at intermission. Patton completed a fifteen points first half with a trey with two seconds on the clock to get the Lady Indians within the



Bailey Sutton scores two late the third quarter. Photo/Lowell Nicholson three points margin. But the Lady Lions sank three treys in the first two and a half minutes of the third quarter for a 35-27 lead, putting the Lady Indians back in the task of catch up.

The two teams pretty much matched each other in points the remainder of the quarter for a 44-34 Lakeview lead entering the fourth quarter. The Lady Indians quickly cut the Lady Lions lead in half on two free throws by Patton and a trey by Jocelyn Byers for a 44-39 Lakeview lead at 6:18 and Kelsie Cowart matched a Lady Lions deuce at 5:50 for a 46-41 score.

The Lady Lions then used a 9-2 scoring run for their biggest lead of 54-44 at the 1:04 mark but the Lady Indians did not go quietly. A Cowart field goal at fifty four seconds, a free throw by Cowart at 42.6 seconds, and

Johnson led in assists with 2 and rebounds with 9 with other leaders in rebounds being Byers with 6 and Bailey Sutton with 3. Leading in steals were Patton with 5 and Byers with 4.

**Lady Indians 43
Union County 49**

The Lady Indians squared off against neighborhood rival Union County on Saturday with both teams missing key seniors, the Lady Indians their much awarded point guard Eryn Cochran and the Lady Panthers the 2013 Region 8AA Player of the year Lauren Zollinger.

Both are out of action for an extended period of time due to injury.

In a real defensive battle at the start, the Lady Indians used a 7-2 run between the 5:41 mark and 2:57 of the first quarter for a 7-3 lead but the Lady Panthers responded by including two treys in a 10-2 run for a 13-9 advantage by the 2:02 mark. Stephanie Patton completed a nine point first quarter with two free throws and a trey the final 1:16, however, for a 14-13 Towns lead after one quarter.

The Lady Indians then opened the second quarter with the first five points for a 19-13 lead at 3:39 on a drive for two by Misty Lindemuth and more than offset two Union treys the final 2:13 of the quarter for a 26-19 lead at intermission with five lady Indians putting points on the scoreboard and Kelsie Cowart leading with four.

Two treys and a deuce gave the Lady Panthers a 27-27 tie by the 7:03 mark of the third quarter and Union matched a deuce by Madison

Leading scorers for the game were Patton with 27 points, Byers with 10, and Cowart with 9 while Madison

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