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Towns County Indians have a tough week in falling to three defeats

By Jerry Kendall
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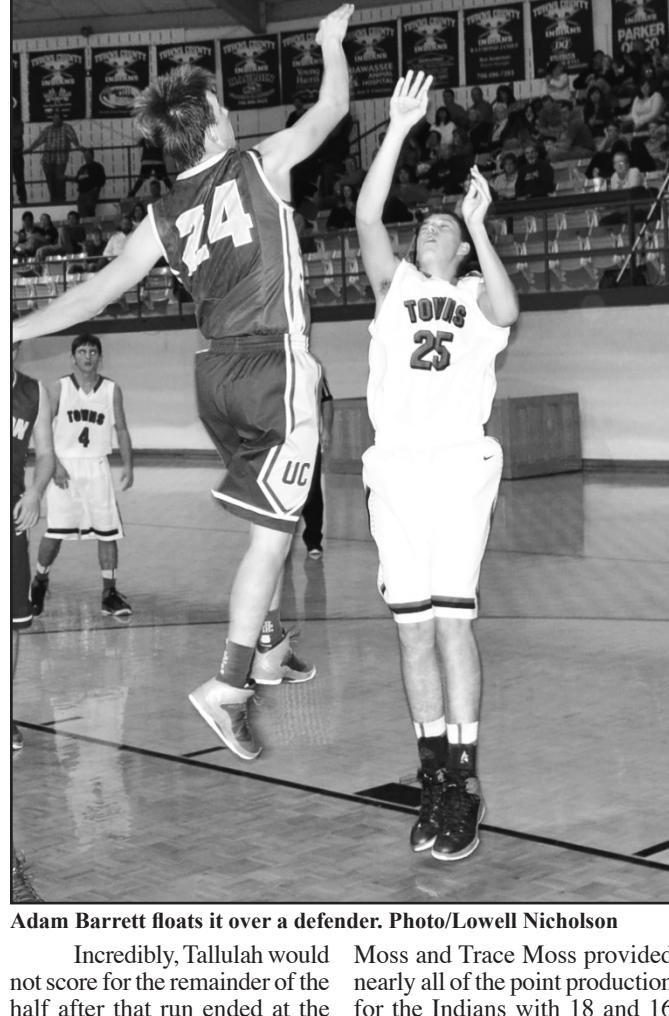
It was a difficult week for the Towns County Indians as they fell to a vastly improved Tallulah Falls team on the road last Tuesday, to a lightning quick Lakeview Academy in Gainesville on Friday, and at home to Class AA rival Union County on Saturday. The three losses leave the Indians still looking for their first victory with an 0-4 record, including 0-2 in Sub-Region 8-A North.

Indians 40
Tallulah Falls 64

For several prior years, the Indians have looked toward Tallulah Falls for a good chance at a victory and they led for awhile early in the game and stayed right on the heels played the home standing tribe of Indians for nearly three quarters before Tallulah pulled away for a 64-40 victory. Tallulah improved to a 4-0 record with the win although falling to Pinecrest Academy and Yeshiva by week's end.

Tallulah slightly got the best of impressive scoring runs by both teams in first half action in taking a 24-21 lead to the dressing room at intermission. Tallulah struck for a deuce and an inadvertent bank shot for a trey and a 5-0 lead a minute and a half into the game only to see the Towns Indians rise up for a 13-1 run between the 6:18 and 1:13 marks for a 13-6 lead.

Three baskets by Boone Moss led the Towns run which ended on a steal near mid court by Will Devries who took the ball to the basket for the 13-6 lead. It was then Tallulah's turn for a dominant run, however, as they scored the final four points of the second quarter for just a 13-10 deficit and extended the run with an overall 18-3 advantage interrupted only by a trey by Trace Moss for a 24-16 lead. The trey by Moss gave the Indians what would be their final lead of 16-14 at the 6:08 mark.



Adam Barrett floats it over a defender. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Incredibly, Tallulah would not score for the remainder of the half after that run ended at the 4:15 mark. The Towns Indians, however, continued their ice cold shooting until the final 1:45 of the second quarter when they scored five points for the aforementioned 24-21 deficit.

Field goals by Trace Moss at the 6:40 and 3:43 marks of the third quarter got the Indians to within 24-23 and then 30-28 but Tallulah scored the next eight points for a 38-28 lead which became 38-30 on Trace's third basket of the quarter. After Tallulah struck for a traditional three point play and a trey during the first minute of the fourth quarter for a 44-30 lead, the Indians could never get closer than that fourteen point deficit despite an eight point quarter by Boone Moss. Tallulah finished on a 10-3 run the final 2:24 for the 64-40 victory.

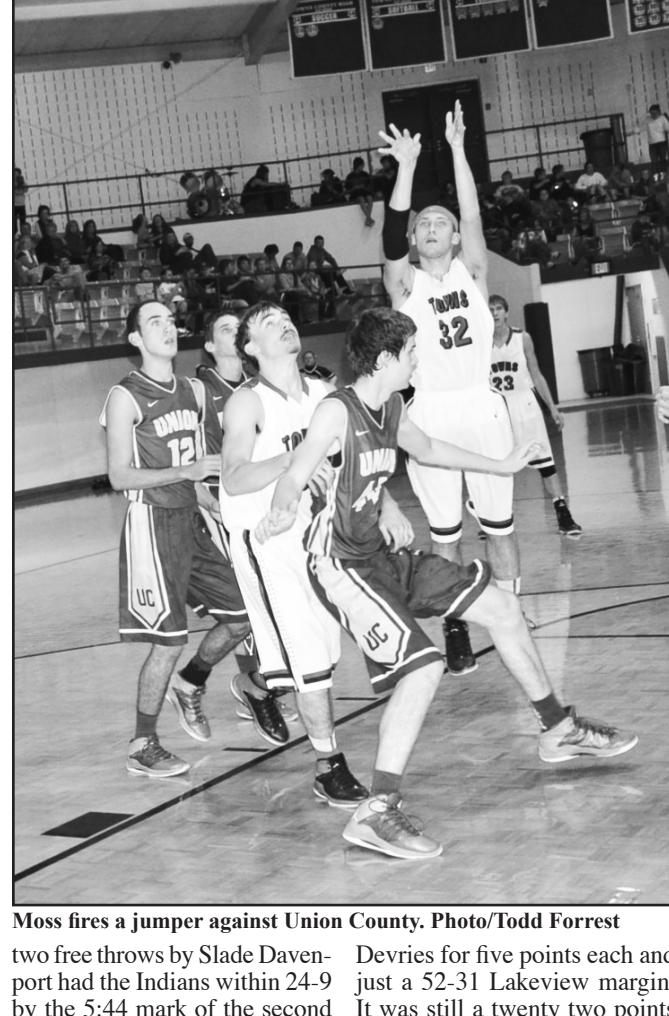
The duo of Boone

Moss and Trace Moss provided nearly all of the point production for the Indians with 18 and 16 points respectively while Major Moss led in assists with 3 and Slade Davenport and Boone Moss added 2 each.

Indians 40
Lakeview Academy 66

It was a game of two halves at Lakeview Academy on Friday as the Indians were stung by the incredibly quick and deep Lions in falling to 19-4 and 36-10 deficits at the first two quarter breaks but with the two teams playing on even terms the entire last half. Trace Moss actually got the Indians a 2-0 lead with a putback less than half a minute into the game but a long deuce by Moss midway through the quarter turned out to be the only other Indian points of the quarter.

A trey by Trace Moss and



Moss fires a jumper against Union County. Photo/Todd Forrest

two free throws by Slade Davenport had the Indians within 24-9 by the 5:44 mark of the second quarter but the Lions finished on a 12-1 run for the aforementioned 36-10 lead. The Indians missed opportunities to reduce the margin between the 7:18 and 2:44 marks when the Lions managed just a single trey as their only points but the Indians managed to sink just three of ten free throw attempts with two misses being one and ones during the Lions scoring drought.

The two teams then scored fourteen points each in the third quarter and sixteen each in the fourth for a total last half standoff. The Lions had their biggest lead of 49-20 by the 1:36 mark of the third quarter but the Indians embarked on an 11-3 run between the 1:14 mark of the third quarter and 5:52 of the fourth which was highlighted by a deuce and a trey each by Freshmen Major Moss and Will

Devries for five points each and just a 52-31 Lakeview margin. It was still a twenty two points margin until the Lions scored six of the last eight points the final 1:06 of the game to set the final score at 66-40. Last half scoring highlights in addition to those by Devries and Major Moss included nine points in the third quarter by Boone Moss and five in the fourth by Trace Moss.

Both teams used a lot of players in the game with the Lions featuring eight seniors, four juniors, two sophomores, and five freshmen on their Max-Preps.com varsity roster and the Indians two seniors, three juniors, one sophomore, and six freshmen on theirs.

Of course, one of the Towns juniors is point guard Dallas Manus, their leading scorer as a freshman and sophomore, who is sidelined with an injury, and their sophomore is Jake Pyrluk, who was elevated to varsity play from the

JV's for this game and did not make his varsity debut until the following night against Union County.

Scoring leaders for the Indians for the game were Junior Trace Moss with 14 points, Junior Boone Moss with 9, Senior Slade Davenport with 6, and Freshmen Will Devries and Major Moss with 5 each. Other statistical leaders for the Indians were Boone Moss and Major Moss with 4 assists each while Boone Moss led with 8 rebounds and was followed by Devries and Major Moss with 6 each. The Lions were led in scoring by Seniors JB Britt, who scored twelve of his 15 points the first half, and Kirk Schneider, who scored ten of his 11 in the fourth quarter.

Indians 25
Union County 51

The first half of the Indians' game against Union County turned out to be similar in results to the game of one night earlier when they fell to 13-6 and 28-11 deficits at the first two quarter breaks but they couldn't duplicate the last half heroics present at Lakeview Academy as they trailed 45-22 after three quarters and fell by a 51-25 score. The Panthers improved to a 3-1 early season record with their victory.

Field goals by Slade Davenport gave the Indians an early 2-1 lead and got them within 8-4 and a Will Devries drive for two had them within 10-6 with 1:20 left in the first quarter but a Panthers trey as time expired started an 18-5 run for the 28-11 lead at intermission. The Indians could mount no real challenge to the Panthers the last half despite a five points third quarter by Boone Moss.

Davenport led the Indians in scoring for the game with 8 points with other leaders being Devries and Boone Moss with 5 each. Davenport led in assists with 2 and in rebounds with 7 while other rebounding leaders were Boone Moss with 6 and Garrett Bradshaw with 4.

NASCAR 2013

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

Car number 3 returns in 2014

Unofficial top-10: Erik Jones finished second, followed by Grant Enfinger, Austin Theriault, Hunter Robbins, John Hunter Nemechek, David Rogers, Kyle Benjamin, Ross Kerseth, and Derek Thorn.

BURTON HAS LANDED ON HIS FEET

It looked bad for Jeff Burton, who was released from Richard Childress Racing after the end of last season, but the good news is, he has landed on his feet.

Burton will assume double duties throughout the 2014 season. He will test and race from 6-14 races for Michael Waltrip Racing, while also contributing to NASCAR programming on NBC. When NBC's coverage of Cup and Nationwide racing begins in 2015, Burton will serve as a full-time analyst on NBC.

"This is an exciting new challenge and I am thrilled to be joining the NBC Sports family," said Burton. "I will prepare for each race as if I were driving in it, and I look forward to sharing my experience, views and insights with all the dedicated and passionate NASCAR fans."

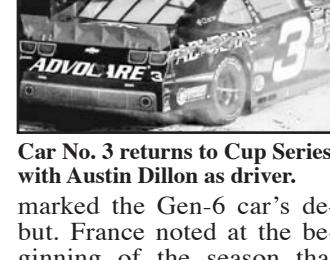
TIGHTER COMPETITION IN NASCAR RACES

NASCAR Chairman Brian France said one of the organization's 2014 goals is to improve the quality of racing.

"We're after some interesting changes to the rules packages," he said. "You've heard me say this for a while now, and we'll be validating some of our beliefs, a prior test and other things, and I'm liking what I'm seeing. It's tightening up competition, and that's hallmark. We wake up every day and try to do that."

"The 43 teams probably do just the opposite. They try to get up in the morning, look at our rules package and want to lead every lap and gain the system. That's how it works, right? So we're trying to figure that out in a bigger, smarter way, and hopefully we will accomplish that."

This past season



Car No. 3 returns to Cup Series with Austin Dillon as driver.

marked the Gen-6 car's debut. France noted at the beginning of the season that officials would measure the car's success on a variety of areas, including lead changes, how well it races and how drivers feel about it.

Lead changes were up slightly in 2013 from 2012. There were 700 lead changes this past season and 679 in 2012. That's less than one more lead change per race in 2013.

"The number one thing we had to judge in the Gen-6 car was acceptance by the manufacturers, the teams and the drivers," France continued. "That's the number one thing. And then obviously we want to get more lead changes and we want to get closer, tighter competition."

JOHNSON HONORED FOR SIXTH CHAMPIONSHIP

Jimmie Johnson was honored for his sixth NASCAR Sprint Cup Series championship celebration last Friday night in Las Vegas.

Johnson and the No. 48 Hendrick Motorsports Lowe's Chevrolet team's streak of five titles ended in 2011 and they missed the title a year ago.

"The streak, when it was alive, I didn't realize how much pressure we were carrying on our shoulders. We almost didn't get to enjoy the moment," he said. "We were looking ahead to see what the next year would be."

"This (year) is almost a starting over. We're just enjoying it for what it is."

The two seasons away from the head table provided some of the impetus for what Johnson calls "a kick-butty race" in which he won six races. Two victories during

the Chase were keys to Johnson emerging victorious from a dramatic and tension-filled battle with 2003 NASCAR Sprint Cup champion Matt Kenseth.

Johnson is one championship away from matching the seven NASCAR Sprint Cup titles won by NASCAR Hall of Famers Richard Petty and Dale Earnhardt.

Tony Stewart was honored by the National Motor Sports Press Association (NMPA) as a fierce competitor, championship team owner and race track promoter.

The NMPA Myers Brothers Award is presented in the names of pioneer NASCAR competitors Billy and Bobby Myers. Past recipients are a virtual who's-who of the industry – drivers, owners, track operators, sponsors and members of the media – and include nearly every current member of the NASCAR Hall of Fame.

Stewart was cited for a longtime body of work – and specifically for his role in taking NASCAR back to its roots. He and his staff at Eldora Speedway in Rossburg, Ohio, produced the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series "Mudsummer Classic," the first national points race on a dirt surface in more than four decades.

Stewart's 2013 season was cut short by a broken leg suffered in a sprint car accident in early August. He crossed the stage on Thursday without the aid of crutches to accept his award and should be ready to battle for his fourth Cup title when the 2014 season opens with February's Daytona 500.

"It was hard sitting on the sidelines watching," he said. "It's given me a different perspective."

Racing Trivia Question: Joe Gibbs has been successful as a NASCAR car owner. What other sport has he excelled in?

Last Week's Question: What is the maximum number of cars that start Cup and Nationwide races? **Answer:** Each race is limited to 43 cars.

You may e-mail any questions to the Racing Reporter at: hodges@race500.com.

Tough Weekend... continued from 8A

Johnson with two free throws and more than matched a Patton basket with a trey for a 32-31 lead with 2:33 on the clock.

But the Lady Indians again took the lead on a fast break basket by Bailey Sutton and added a putback by Cowart for a 35-32 advantage entering the fourth quarter.

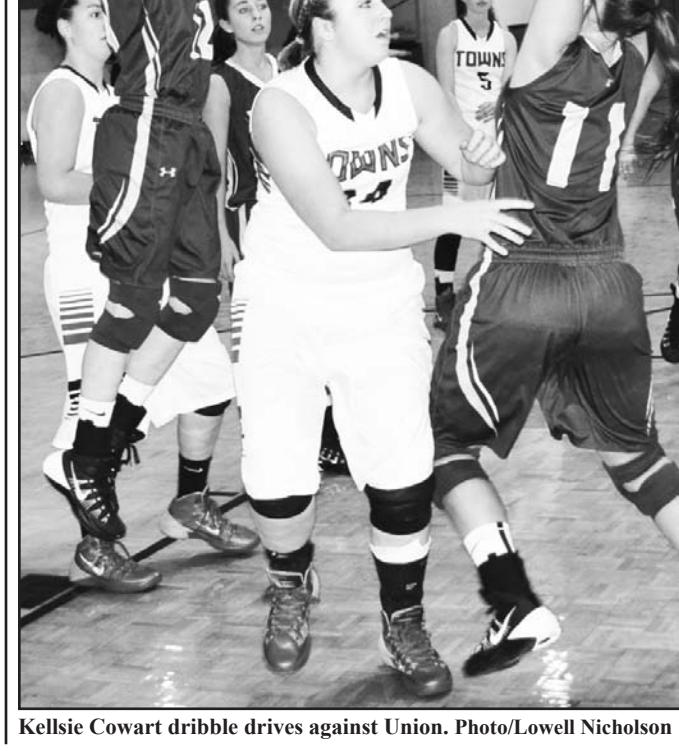
But the Lady Panthers stung the Lady Indians with three treys, just as Lakeview Academy had done in the third quarter the night prior in extending a lead. This time the Lady Panthers struck for the three treys in a 9-2 run for a 41-37 lead at the mid point of the fourth quarter and it was again catchup time for the Lady Indians.

A Sutton basket got the Lady Indians within 41-39 at 3:44 and baskets by Patton at 1:15 and then thirty three seconds had them within 45-41 and 47-43. The Lady Panthers missed a one and one free throw attempt at 31.9 with the Lady Indians following by missing a trey for a one point game and the Lady Panthers extended the final margin to 49-43 on two for four free throw shooting the final 13.2

seconds of the game.

The Lady Panthers have gained a reputation of often living and occasionally dying by the 3-point basket and they thrived on it on this night, sinking ten treys and just five deuces along with nine for sixteen free throw shooting. The Lady Indians also sank fifteen field goals but just one from 3-point range on this evening and slightly outdid the Lady Panthers' nine for sixteen shooting at the foul line with twelve for seventeen accuracy in coming just short of victory. The Class AA Lady Panthers extended their early season record to 4-0 with the victory after having taken two prior decisive wins over Andrews and one over Class AAA Lumpkin County.

The Lady Indians were led in scoring for the game by Patton with 18 points and Cowart with 10 while and Cowart and Patton tied for the lead in assists with 2 each and in steals with 3 each. Leaders in rebounds were Patton with 11, Cowart and Misty Lindemuth with 6 each, and Madison Johnson with 5.



Kellsie Cowart dribble drives against Union. Photo/Lowell Nicholson