

# Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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## Basketball: A look at team scoring difficulties in individual games

By Jerry Kendall  
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In view of the Lady Indians and Indians combining for just 45 points in 64 minutes of playing time last Saturday night at Athens Christian School in Athens and interest in the past in looks down memory lane, your reporter decided to address the likelihood of one or both Towns teams facing such struggles while showing a capability of putting large numbers of points on the scoreboard.

That capability has certainly been present on at least one occasion for both teams this year with the Lady Indians scoring sixty seven points in an overtime loss to a quite good Social Circle team and the Indians putting eighty three points on the scoreboard in an eighteen points win over a similarly capable Athens Academy team.

The reality is that this is not a very common occurrence and especially for both teams to have such difficulty the same day but one game for each team comes to your reporter's mind after having viewed one of the games and heard on several occasions of the other.

Of course, there are varying circumstances present during any such contest.

The Lady Indians game that comes to mind is an 85-22 loss at Greater Atlanta Christian very early in the 2001 season.

With Candice Blythe and Brandy McNabb lost to graduation and playing at Truett McConnell College along with their fellow senior Kandace Raymond being missing from the previous year's state Class A Final Four team, the Lady Indians weren't quite ready for the full court pressure, size, and athleticism of the GAC team.

The Lady Spartans quite frankly ran the score up on the Lady Indians in the fourth quarter, using full court pressure to advantage in outscoring the Lady Indians 36-2 in extending an already one sided 49-20 lead entering the quarter.

Your reporter was actually pretty skeptical when Lady Indians head coach Jim Melton mentioned after the game that he thought the Lady Indians could beat GAC but the remainder of the season made Melton's comment seem more and more reasonable.

If memory serves correctly, that GAC loss was the only one on the road for



Jerry Kendall

the Lady Indians to a Region 8-AA opponent.

That is no typo as this was the first of two years for the Lady Indians and Indians to play "up" in Class AA to maintain long time rivalries and avoid long trips to metro Atlanta to face such schools in Class A as Buford and Wesleyan although having to accept the presence of two Class AA powers in the region in East Hall and GAC.

Again, if memory serves correctly, the Lady Indians won at Dawson County, East Hall, Lumpkin County, Rabun County, Union County, and White County that year with the Lady Indians using a 43-14 scoring run in propelling themselves past a 24-8 deficit early in the second quarter with the significance being that the Lady Panthers reached the state championship game that year, finishing second in the state to Greater Atlanta Christian.

This brings us back to a rematch with GAC in the semi finals of the Region 8-AA Tournament held at White County.

The Lady Indians were able by this time to more than hold their own against the GAC full court press and they used a 1-3-1 defense to pretty much control the GAC front-line players who stood 6'4", 6'2", and 6' with the Lady Indians' tallest player being the 5'9" Olivia Swanson.

In a stunning development, the Lady Indians held a 33-28 lead over GAC after three quarters and if they had gotten the call on what appeared to have been a charging violation by future four year University of Georgia and WNBA point guard star Sherrill Baker early in the fourth quarter, they may have pulled off an upset of major proportions.

GAC got the benefit of a blocking call, however, with

Baker completing a three point play for a 33-33 tie instead of having her fourth foul and likely headed to the bench for awhile with the Lady Indians still ahead by a 33-30 score.

But the three point play triggered a late rally by GAC, with heavy involvement by Baker, for a 53-38 victory.

There is much less information available about the Indians' game of great scoring difficulty being addressed during the 1960 season but sufficient to see quite a contrast with similarities to last week's game at Athens Christian.

The Indians of 1960 were a potent offensive team which finished with a 15-6 record, including at least one win over every high school opponent they faced and the only exception of getting a win over an opponent being a loss in their only game against the Young Harris College JV's by a 39-37 score.

It is still hard to imagine how the Indians would lose an early season 28-20 decision at Hiwassee Dam BETWEEN a 68-44 win over Lumpkin County and a 65-34 win over Union County and it becomes even more curious when considering that the Indians followed up the low scoring loss at Hiwassee Dam on November 20 with a more conventional 71-59 win over the Eagles in a rematch on December 1.

Charles Nicholson, who attends most Lady Indian and Indian home games, including the Union County game last Friday, was a starter on the 1960 team and he doesn't recall anything out of the ordinary, such as missing players for some reason, and thinks they just had a difficult game as apparently did Hiwassee Dam in view of their scoring far fewer points than in the rematch.

Well, there are probably a number of other games through the years when capable teams struggled to put points on the scoreboard but these are two examples of excellent teams having this difficulty as the Indians of 1960 wound up with a 15-6 record and the Lady Indians of 2001 finished with an 18-9 record and a trip to the state tournament.

So the games at Athens Christian were just one each for the two TCHS teams and they can look now to the future for better results in future games. And maybe a look down memory lane at these two outstanding Towns County teams of the past is of interest to readers.



Coach Jim Melton and the Lady Indians at Commerce during the 2011-12 season when Coach Melton was on the verge of breaking the Towns County coaching wins record. Since taking over as Head Coach in the late 1990's, Coach Melton has been on the sidelines for the most successful Lady Indians teams in school history. One year earlier at Commerce, Towns' Gabby Arencibia had no scoring difficulties as she hit 13 treys - breaking the state's single game 3-point record.

### Bowling scores

Monday Night Men: Ernest Rice 245, Mickey Whatley 204, 230, Joe Teague 244, Derrick Rice 253, 206, Mel White 206, Doug Tanner 231, 203, 208, Ken Clark 227, Jay Burrell 268, Ray Everett 209, Taz Matetzschk 225, BJ Gilbert 247, 227, 258, Series 732, Greg Whittenburg 218, 211.

Monday Night Ladies: Dee Tyler 200, Joyce Trenton 188, Monita Rodgers 192, Inez Bergstrom 170.

Young At Heart: Bruce Burnett 203, Bart Rodgers 202, 202, Stanley Tyler 213, Bob Landis 203, 227, 215, Ron Wingate 209.

Thursday Night Fun:

Tim McVay 214, Doug Roberts 256, 236, Stanley Tyler 265, Roy Johnson 217, Joe Chubberly 219, Bonnell Thomas 211, 257, Bob Bischoff 205, Bonnie Magar 170. NTDec16ZJCA



On Saturday, December 19, 2015 at 1 p.m. at Mike Colwell Memorial Stadium (Union County High

School Football Field), local area FCA will be putting on an All-Star Game for 10 of North Georgia's high school teams.

The East-West Classic will feature a team from the East made up of seniors from Union County, Towns County, Fannin County, Gilmer County, and Pickens County against a team from the West made up of seniors from Lumpkin County, Stephens County, Rabun County, Rabun Gap, Habersham, and White County.

There will be a \$5 charge at the gate for tickets. For more information visit 515fca.org and click the link for the East-West Classic. NTDec16ZJCA

## NASCAR 2015

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

### Scott Replaces Hornish at RPM

Brian Scott's family has bought him a Sprint Cup ride with Richard Petty Motorsports.

Scott the former Truck and Xfinity Series driver will replace Sam Hornish next year in the No. 9 RPM Ford.

Scott, 27, has competed fulltime in the Xfinity Series the past six seasons, the last three with Richard Childress Racing. In 208 starts, Scott has 20 top-five and 77 top-10 finishes and won five poles. His best finish in the series standings was fourth in 2014.

He will join Aric Almirola in the RPM Sprint Cup Series lineup. The 2016 season will mark Scott's first full-time Sprint Cup Series schedule, where he will have the opportunity to compete for the Rookie of the Year. Scott will make his debut at the Goodyear tire test at Homestead-Miami Speedway Monday, December 14.

"I am thrilled to go Sprint Cup Series racing full time next year and to do it with such an iconic team," said Scott. "When you think NASCAR racing, you think Petty. I'm glad to now be a part of that legacy. I had a lot of fun competing in the Xfinity Series for the last seven years, and I'm excited to take the next step. I ran some races in the Sprint Cup Series the last few years and learned a lot. I feel like we are in a good position to compete for the Rookie of the Year next year and continue the consistency that RPM built over the last few years."

It might be worth mentioning that Scott was able to oust Hornish from his driving position not because of superior driving skills, but because he brought a sponsor with him.

You see, Scott's family owns a big share of Albertson's grocery supermarket chain.

It's something like a self-sponsorship deal.

Not taking anything away from Brian Scott's driving skills, but this is a perfect example of the type money game that exists in NASCAR. Big money sponsors are hard to come by. All the teams will tell you, that if you've got a sponsor or can bring the money, they'll provide you with a ride.

The best driver does not always get the best ride.

### BUESCHER TO DRIVE NO. 34 CUP CAR

Roush Fenway Racing has announced an enhanced technical alliance with Front Row Motorsports that will include engineering, equipment and driver support in 2016. As a key part of the deal, Xfinity Series Champion and Roush Fenway driver Chris Buescher will drive the No. 34 Sprint Cup Ford.

Buescher, in only his second season of full-time NASCAR racing in 2015, won

the Xfinity Championship and added to his list of accomplishments that already included becoming the youngest driver to ever win an ARCA title in 2012.

He 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 en route to the championship. Buescher never ranked lower than third in the driver championship standings, and the Prosper, Texas native completed the season with zero DNFs (Did Not Finish). He finished inside of the top-20 in all 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.

### UPDATE ON KEVIN SWINDELL

Kevin Swindell talked about his day-to-day physical therapy and progress while recovering from a World of Outlaws sprint car crash at Knoxville, Iowa in August, 2015. He has undergone several neck and spinal cord surgeries since then.

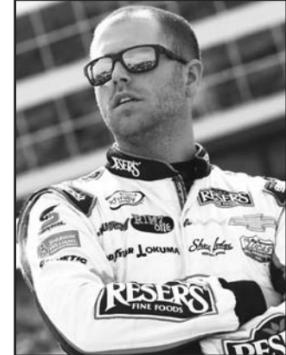
"You could say I'm semi-paralyzed from the waist down," Swindell said. "I can voluntarily kick both legs outward to a straight position. I can also lock out my knees enough to stand with a walker. I haven't gotten any movement back in my ankles or feet to this point, but the doctors and therapists say that the upper leg comes back before the lower. Right now I go to therapy for two hours, three days a week. I also just added an extra hour on Tuesdays and Thursdays to try and get as much as I can. I spend 30 minutes or so standing with the help of my therapist."

In addition to the physical therapy the 26 year-old receives electrical shock therapy.

"They place electrode pads on each muscle group of my legs," he continued. "This helps them contract to strengthen them. It also serves as a method to try to activate the nerves, and encourage them to wake up. I can't say this doesn't suck, because it does."

"Though with the help of my fiancé, family, and a lot of great friends there hasn't been much that I haven't been able to do just three and a half months after breaking my back in two places and going through 16 hours of surgery.

"I'm really looking forward to heading to PRI in Indianapolis this week. I'm hoping to spend some time meeting with people to discuss how we can prevent what happened to me from happening to others. We've spent a lot of time worrying about our necks in sprint cars. It's time to think about our lower back and realize that



Brian Scott at Texas Motor Speedway in 2015.

the driver is truly the only thing there is to give when a car lands flat on the frame the way I did. I had every piece of equipment to the newest standards you can get. From a HANS device connected to the best Arai helmet to a full containment Butler-built seat with an insert under me. I had everything. Yet one of the softest flips I've probably ever taken is the only one that's ever hurt me."

Swindell has competed primarily in USAC and WoO competition. He has won 77 races in various dirt racing series including the Chili Bowl Nationals. But he has also run 30 NASCAR races during the past five years.

He made his NASCAR Xfinity Series debut at New Hampshire driving for Baker Curb Racing. He also ran two more events that year but had DNF's in those as well.

In 2011, Swindell drove the No. 16 Ford for Roush Fenway Racing in the Nationwide race at Dover filling in for Trevor Bayne. He qualified an impressive 5th and ran very well until being taken out nearly halfway in a controversial incident with Alex Kennedy. After an accident, Kennedy pulled across the racetrack while attempting to rejoin the field, leaving Swindell with nowhere to go and triggering a major accident.

In 2012, he ran 8 ARCA Racing Series events and won his first career ARCA victory at Chicagoland Speedway, leading every single lap from the pole. He finished a career best 22nd in points that season. He also ran two Xfinity Series events with Biagi-DenBeste Racing late in the season, finishing ninth at Texas Motor Speedway, his first career top-ten finish, and finishing 21st in the season finale at Homestead-Miami Speedway.

**Racing Trivia Question:** Which Cup team does Jamie McMurray drive for?

**Last Week's Question:** How many Cup championships did Richard Petty win? Answer: Seven.

You may contact the Racing Reporter by e-mail at: hodges@race500.com. NTDec16Z19/CA