

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Lady Indian JV's impress in season opening loss to White County

By Jerry Kendall
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There were a lot of things to like in the Class A Towns County Lady Indian JV's opening game of the season last Tuesday as the ultra young team held their own for more than three quarters against the visiting Class AAAA White County Lady Warriors before falling by a 41-24 score. With no freshmen on the Lady Indians' roster this year and sophomores playing primary roles with the Lady Indian Varsity, they used the services of sophomores Makenzie Carroll, Kirsten Ledford, and Cadence Nichols and eighth graders Kristen Byers, Lexie Ledford, Lea Neumyer, Erica Spano, and Maddie Thomas in facing the Lady Warriors.



The first JV game usually poses quite a challenge for someone previously playing at the middle school and recreation levels but the challenge becomes even greater while still in middle school and facing all high school age players from a Class AAAA school who were well into their season. The Lady Indians found themselves on the short end of the battle throughout the game but proved themselves persistent and successful in challenging their mostly older opponents in reducing deficits of as much as 10-2 in the first quarter, 15-5 in the second, and 24-16 in the third in making things uncomfortable for the Lady Warriors until a 13-0 finish gave White County a 41-24

victory. Five different Lady Indians put points on the scoreboard with the quarterly scoring highlight being nine points, with a trey and two-for-two free throw shooting included, by Thomas in the third. The Lady Indians reduced a 17-8 deficit late in the second quarter to just 17-16 on a late second quarter basket by Carroll and a 6-0 run at the start of the third on a free throw and field goal by Kirsten Ledford and the aforementioned trey by Thomas. And then Thomas out-scored the Lady Warriors 6-2 between the 2:58 and 46-second mark of the third quarter for just a 26-22 deficit which became 28-22 entering the fourth quarter. A steal and basket by Neumyer at the 6:40 mark of the fourth quarter again had the Lady Indians within four at 28-24 but the Lady Warriors embarked on their game finishing 13-0 run in putting the game out of reach by the 41-24 score. Thomas led the Lady Indians in scoring for the game with 11 points and was followed by Kirsten Ledford with 6 and Spano with 3 on a trey in the second quarter while Carroll led in assists with 2.

SCORING: Thomas 11, Ledford 6, Spano 3, Carroll 2, Neumyer 2

TCMS Indians owns the competition at First Annual Holiday Hoops Invitational

By Shawn Jarrard
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Towns County's First Annual Holiday Hoops Invitational kicked off on Friday, Dec. 12, and Saturday, Dec. 13, as the Towns County Middle School Indians battled their way to a championship to end the tournament.



"We're hoping to duplicate Battle of the States for the high school, but at the middle school level," said Towns County Middle School Principal Dr. Darren Berbrong. "We're looking to have eight teams next year." Tallulah Falls, Woody Gap, Banks County and Towns County all play their hearts out during the tournament. The Indians' first matchup came against the Woody Gap Falcons late in the evening Friday. Woody Gap scored first, a 3-pointer, but that's all they would score in the first quarter. Towns County soon took the lead, and it was a lead they would keep for the rest of the game.

The final score was a convincing 46-12 victory over Woody Gap. MegAnn Bradley worked with the cheerleaders on a cheer and dance routine for the boys' basketball halftime show as part of her senior project, and the middle school cheerleaders lent plenty of cheer to the winning players. Hayden McClure scored four points, Trent Bradshaw scored five points, Dylan Shook hit a 3-pointer, Brett Denton scored 9 points, Kolby Moss scored 4 points, Andrew Griffin scored 2 points, Dakota Edge scored 2 points, Walker Winn scored 8

points and Will Travis tossed in 9 points. Game two had the Indians facing Class AAA school Banks County, and the game was a close one. The game was tied 6-6 after the first quarter, but the Indians took the lead after that and never looked back. The final score was 50-38, and the Towns County Indians found themselves victors at the first ever Holiday Hoops Invitational. High scorers for the game were Bradshaw with 15 points, including three 3-pointers and Travis, who scored 17 points in the second game. Heading into the tournament, the Indians were looking at a losing season. Previously, the team had lost to Tallulah Falls and Athens Christian. With two wins under their belts in two days of tournament play, the Indians are 2-2 and looking forward to the rest of the season. "They've been working really hard to elevate their game, because we lost a couple of early tough ones," said Head Coach Darryl McClure. "They rebounded well, they kept their turnovers down. They were really good in the press. We had a lot of transition baskets, and we kept the pressure on." Coach McClure and his In-

TCMS Lady Indians reach Championship Game at Holiday Hoops Invitational

By Shawn Jarrard
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The Towns County Middle School Lady Indians took second place at the First Annual Holiday Hoops Invitational hosted at Towns County Schools on Friday, Dec. 12, and Saturday, Dec. 13. Going into the tournament, the Lady Indians were undefeated. The first game of the tournament was against Woody Gap, and the tiny six-girl team of Lady Falcons couldn't gain a foothold. The Lady Indians won handily, 44-11, and Towns County had made its way into the winners' bracket to play against Banks County on Saturday.

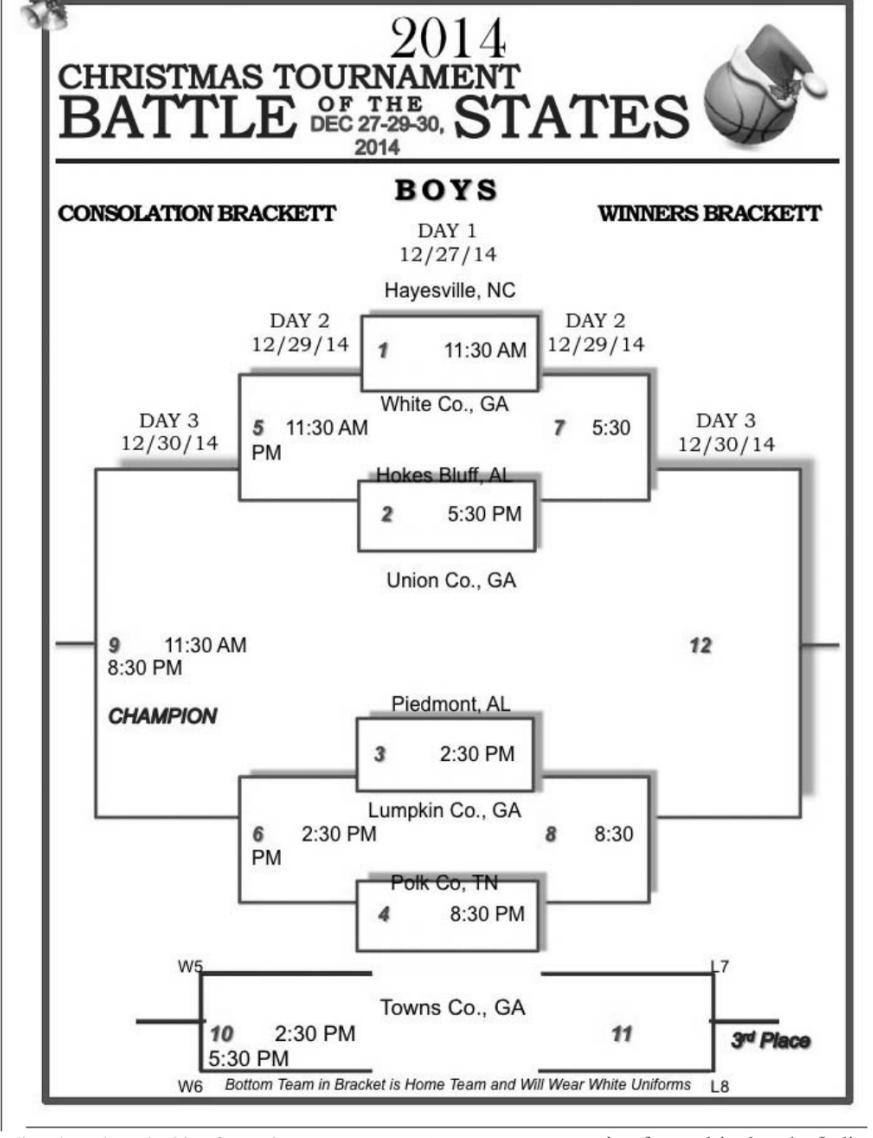
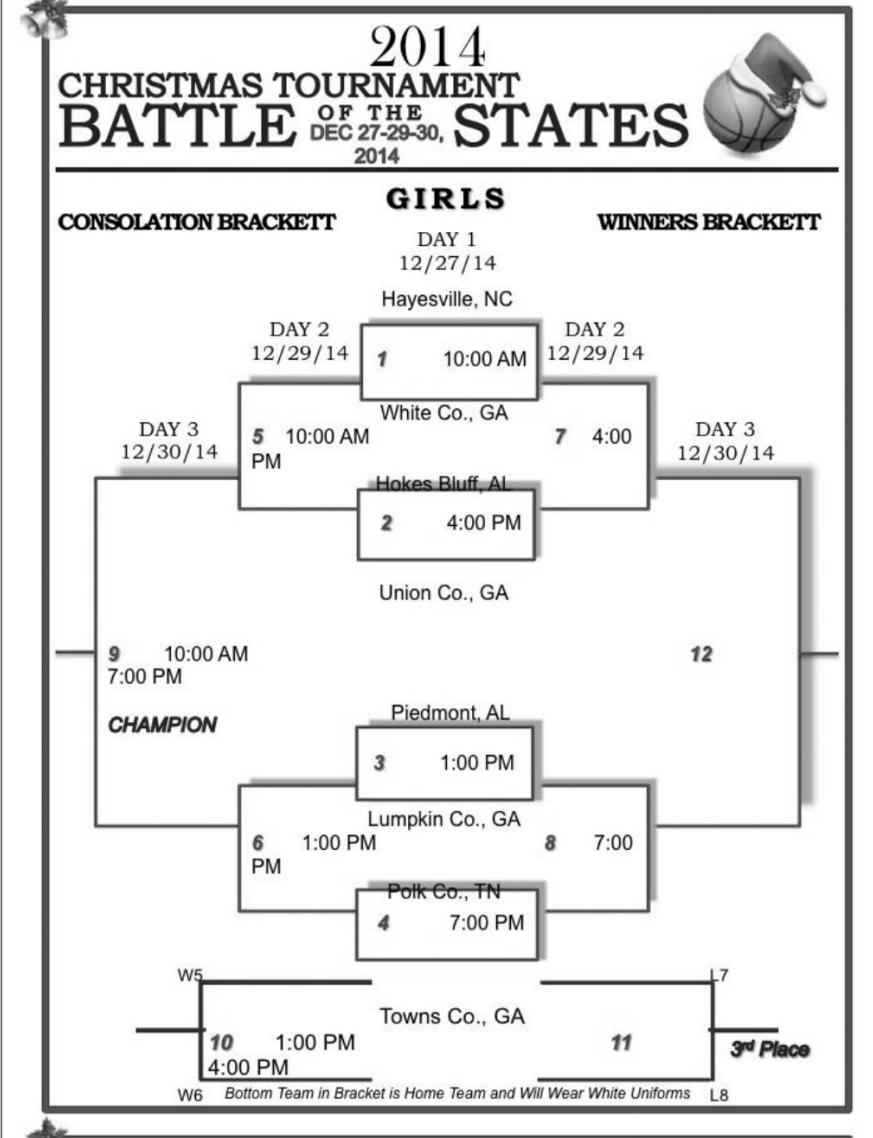


Against Woody Gap, Kaitlyn Davis hit a 2-pointer, Shelby Turner scored 6 points, Sophia Shook scored 4 points with a pair of layups, Kennedy Henson scored 3 points, Kristen Byers scored 5 points, Lexi Ledford scored 4 points, Journey Hunter made a 2-point basket, Kenzlee Denton scored 4 points, Alexis Bradley

scored 2 points and Maddie Thomas led the team with 12 points. Banks County proved a tougher - and taller - opponent, giving the Lady Indians a run for their money in a 52-29 loss. Again, Thomas led the team in scoring with 15 points, followed by sixth-grader Henson, who put

up 6 points. The majority of the Lady Indians roster is made up of sixth- and seventh-graders, and Banks County was simply able to catch more rebounds due to their height advantage. "We had a hard time defending their size," said Coach Floyd.

2014 Battle of the States tournament brackets



dians have been looking for a win since play started in November, and coming home for the first time this season seemed to have made a difference. "All in all, I'm proud of them, and I'm not disappointed in any one of them," said Coach McClure. "From bottom to top, those

guys that didn't get in were over there supporting. That's important in a team, that they realize that they could have probably gone in and done better. But to make a change in a close game is a risky thing for a coach, especially when it's going pretty good." The important thing mov-

ing forward is that the Indians have proven to themselves that they have what it takes to win, which bodes well for the rest of the season. "They believe now," said Coach McClure. "They know what they can do and they believe, and so let's just see how far we go."

girls, our hustle was good," said Coach Floyd. "We knew we had to block out and rebound better. That was the biggest difference. And we had to limit our turnovers, and we didn't do either one of those today. But I'm very proud that we never quit in that game. We were down by 16 points after the first quarter, and we lost by 23 without (Banks' coach) subbing in and out, so it wasn't like we did it against their second string." And where they executed well against Woody Gap, the girls' basketball team found themselves struggling against the Class AAA school.

This is the girls' first loss of the season, and the community should be proud of its Lady Indians, who never stopped playing their hardest, from buzzer to buzzer. "I just want to invite the community out to come watch the boys and girls both play," said Coach Floyd. "It may be middle school basketball, but they're exciting. I'll speak just for the girls here, they work hard at practice, we're a very energetic bunch, and I love how they play defense. I think that's our biggest asset. Today, we just ran into a buzz saw." Coach Floyd looks for the elements of his team's leadership to carry forward a winning tradition for the rest of the season.

"They had a hard time with our pressure yesterday, like we had a hard time with Banks' pressure today," said Coach Floyd. "I like to win, but I would rather play Banks because we need to play that kind of competition at least once every couple of weeks just to gauge ourselves, see where we're at. Yesterday, we were the better team, and we put a lot of pressure on it, and today, Banks County was the better team."

"I think that our eighth-graders - Kenzlee Denton, Kristen Byers, Erika Spano, Lexi Ledford, Lea Neumyer - I think that our eighth-graders, along with Maddie Thomas, they are a good example of leading our younger girls in a positive and a right direction. It starts with their attitude, it starts with hustle, and we'll get better," said Coach Floyd.