

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Indians topple Social Circle; fall to Northwest Whitfield at Mistletoe Madness

By Jerry Kendall
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Towns County Indians Varsity Basketball Team got its second win of the season over the Class AA Social Circle Redskins in Social Circle last Tuesday, taking a hard fought 59-56 victory on the strength of a 9-3 finish during the final two minutes of the game.

The loss left the Redskins with, like the Indians, a 4-4 record for the season.

The Indians then got an especially tough draw for their opening game in the Mistletoe Madness tournament as they faced Northwest Whitfield, a team which would extend its overall record to 9-2 with the victory over the Indians, including seven wins in a row, and is tied for first place in its Region 7-AAAA with a 5-0 record.

Indians 59
Social Circle 56

Social Circle - The Indians sprang out to leads such as 8-2, 16-9 and 19-10 on the way to a 21-12 lead after one quarter with Zach Davenport using a deuce for their first two points and a trey and deuce for their last five of the quarter while Adam Barrett, Will DeVries, and Major Moss contributed four points each in between.

An early second quarter trey by Colton Shook gave the Indians a 24-14 lead but points would be hard to come by for the Indians for awhile as the Redskins rallied



Junior Adam Barrett hits the floor for a loose ball during a recent game. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

to within 24-22 on two free throws at the 2:54 mark.

Baskets by Barrett and Davenport got the Indians a bit of breathing room at 28-22 in little more than a minute of playing time but the Redskins would finish on a 4-1 run the final minute and a half for just a 29-26 deficit at intermission.

The third and fourth quarters would feature a total standoff with each team scoring fifteen points in each quarter with the Indians leading largely by three to five points but with one tie of 38-38 and occasional one point leads, including by

a 44-41 score after three quarters, until the final three minutes when the Indians would bend but not break in taking the victory.

Scoring leaders for the third quarter were Shook with a pair of treys for six points and Davenport with two deuces for four, including a coast to coast run for a field goal at the two seconds mark for the same three points Indian lead present at the start of the quarter.

Two field goals by De Vries and one by Barrett had the Indians ahead 50-46 by the five minutes mark of the fourth quarter but the Redskins responded with seven

straight points for a 53-50 lead with less than two minutes on the clock, setting the stage for the Indians' decisive late rally mentioned earlier.

DeVries struck for a trey and a 53-53 tie at the 1:42 mark and Moss sank a free throw at 1:05 for a lead the Indians would not relinquish but have challenged until the final buzzer.

Neither team would score again until DeVries found Davenport open for a three point play and some apparent breathing room with a 57-53 lead at 15.1 seconds but the Redskins struck for a trey at ten seconds and the Indian lead

was just 57-56.

The Indians handled the pressing defense well, however, with Shook assisting Moss on a field goal with just two seconds left and a Redskins timeout at 1.3 seconds didn't leave them enough time to get off a good shot with the Indians holding on for their third win of the season that has not been assured until the closing seconds.

The Indians had a well balanced scoring attack in the game with Davenport leading with 16 points and followed by DeVries with 14, Barrett and Shook with 11 each, and Moss with 7.

Leaders in assists were Moss with 5, Davenport and DeVries with 3 each, and Shook with 2.

There was incredible balance in team statistics with each team sinking sixteen deuces and 12-of-21 free throw attempts but with the Indians sinking five treys compared to four by the Redskins, accounting for the margin of victory for the Indians.

The Redskins were led in scoring by freshman Nick DeBoar, who did not play in the earlier game in Hiawasse, with 15 points and senior Zae Jackson with 14.

Indians 45
Northwest Whitfield 86

Chatsworth - The Indians got early 3-2 and 5-4 leads on a trey by Colton Shook and a put-back basket by Adam Barrett and they got within 10-9 on a second putback by Barrett.

The Bruins followed with an 11-1 run for a 21-10 lead, only

to see Zach Davenport sink a runner at eight seconds and Major Moss a trey from mid court at the buzzer for just a 21-15 first quarter Towns deficit.

The Bruins would lead by as much as 26-16 and 31-20 in second quarter action but five points by Davenport and four by Will DeVries kept the Indians within striking distance and a late trey by Shook got the Indians within 39-32 at intermission.

The Bruins would break away in the third quarter, however, by outscoring the Indians 30-6 for a 69-38 lead and an eventual 86-45 victory.

Barrett scored four of the third quarter points for the Indians and Bradley Benson sank a trey and a deuce for five in the fourth.

Barrett took the scoring lead for the Indians with 11 points for the game with other leaders being Davenport with 9, Shook with 8, and Benson with 5 while Moss led in assists with 4 and Davenport followed with 2, according to your reporter's tally.

The Towns County Lady Indians and Indians Varsity Basketball Teams ventured over to North Murray High School near Chatsworth last Saturday for first round games in the Mistletoe Madness prep tournament as the only Class A school among Class AAA through AAAAAA schools from Georgia and a couple of large schools from Tennessee. The tournament was scheduled to continue on Monday and Tuesday of this week with the Lady Indians and Indians scheduled to participate both days.

Byers comes through in clutch at Social Circle; shooters go cold vs Murray

By Jerry Kendall
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Towns County Lady Indians and Indians Varsity Basketball Teams completed the regular season portion of their season last Tuesday at Class AA Social Circle where they swept razor thin games against their former Region 8-A opponents.

The win lifted the the Lady Indians to a 2-6 overall record, including 1-1 in Region 8A while the Indians improved to 4-4 overall and 1-1 in region play.

Lady Indians 53
Social Circle 52

Social Circle - The expression of "snatch victory from the jaws of defeat" may have originally applied to military action but it certainly fit the bill for the Towns County Lady Indians in this game against Social Circle. The Lady Indians had come within five seconds of a victory over Social Circle last month in Hiawasse before a put-back basket by the Lady Redskins took the game to overtime and enabled them to get a win.

But the Lady Indians turned the tables on the Lady Redskins this time as senior captain Jocelyn Byers made not only the clutch play of this season to date but of many seasons when the Lady Redskins, with a 52-51 lead, only needed to get the ball inbounds to a teammate from under the Lady Indians' basket to pretty much assure a victory with just 2.1 seconds on the clock.

When the Lady Redskin tried to pass the ball over Byers' head and inbounds, however, she

snatched it out of the air and put up an immediate shot, drawing a foul and a trip to the foul line for two shots. Byers did what senior captains often do in pressure situations and sank both free throws with exactly one second on the clock, giving the Lady Indians a thrilling 53-52 victory.

It was quite a game leading up to the sudden Lady Indians win as they took the measure of the Class AA Lady Redskins on their home court where they saw their record fall to 5-3 with the loss to the Lady Indians.

Their two losses other than the one to the Lady Indians were by nine and two points to their Class AAAA neighborhood rival Monroe Area, a team with a 5-3 record themselves.

The Lady Indians held leads of 5-0 and 11-5 in first quarter action only to see the Lady Skins rally for a 12-12 standoff by quarter's end with Byers taking the lead for the Lady Indians with six points as four different Lady Indians put points on the scoreboard as would be the case in each of the four quarters played.

The Lady Indians seemed to be taking control of the game in second quarter action behind nine points by Kirsten Ledford and five by Madison McClure as they built as much as a 27-16 lead by the two minutes mark.

But the Lady Redskins finished the quarter on a 10-2 run, aided significantly by a striking number of deflected passes and loose balls magically winding up in the hands of Lady Redskins for easy baskets. At any rate, the Lady Indians saw their lead reduced to just 29-26 at intermission.

McClure's second trey in no more than four minutes of playing



The Towns County Lady Indians play their signature aggressive defense. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

time and two free throws by Madison Landress had the Lady Indians ahead 34-28 barely a minute into the third quarter but the Lady Skins rallied again for a 39-37 lead by the two minutes mark.

Two free throws each by Savannah Dyer and McClure gave the Lady Indians 40-39 and 42-41 leads during the final minute and a half of the quarter but the Lady Skins sank two free throws themselves at 16.7 seconds for a 43-42 lead entering the fourth quarter.

A three point play by Byers got the Lady Indians a 45-43 lead seconds into the fourth quarter and a free throw by Landress got them a 46-46 tie at the four and a half minute mark but the Lady Indians found themselves trailing 50-46 by the 3:20 mark.

They rallied, however, for a 50-50 tie on two free throws by

McClure and a Landress field goal by the 1:20 mark.

Kristin Byers matched a Social Circle free throw at 1:05 with one of her own at 49.1 seconds for a 51-51 tie but the Lady Skins followed with another free throw at 39.8 seconds for a 52-51 lead, setting the stage for Jocelyn Byers' late heroics described above.

Scoring leaders for the Lady Indians for the game were McClure with 15 points, Jocelyn Byers and Ledford with 11 each, Kristin Byers with 7, and Landress with 6 while Jocelyn Byers and McClure took the lead in assists with 3 each.

The Lady Indians enjoyed a significant advantage at the foul line as has been a pattern in most games, including in their first game at home against Social Circle when they went 33 for 54 compared to 22

for 52 for the Lady Skins.

In last week's game, the Lady Indians were 22 for 34 compared to just 11 for 27 for the Lady Skins who could possibly become a force against future opponents with better accuracy at the foul line.

Lady Indians 29
Murray County 48

Chatsworth - The Lady Indians got early leads of 2-0 and 4-2 on drives to the basket by Jocelyn Byers and Madison McClure but the points would be hard to come by for the Lady Indians for an extended period after that with often good shots just barely missing the mark. The Murray County Ladies struggled as well for much of the first quarter but used a 6-0 finish the final minute and a half for an

11-4 lead by quarter's end.

The goal continued to seem to have a lid on it during the second quarter for the Lady Indians when Murray outscored the Lady Indians 18-6 for the aforementioned 29-10 lead at intermission.

The two teams would play on even terms the remainder of the game with each team scoring six points in the third quarter and thirteen each in the fourth as Murray led 35-16 entering the fourth quarter and finished with a 48-29 victory.

Top quarterly scoring totals the last half for the Lady Indians included four in each of the two quarters by McClure and five by Madison Landress and four by Lea Neumyer in the fourth.

McClure put points on the board in all four quarters and took the scoring lead for the game with 13 points with other leaders being Landress with 5 and Kristin Byers and Neumyer with 4 each.

The Lady Indians have shown some terrific free throw shooting accuracy in several games this year, including 22 for 34 just four nights earlier at Social Circle but, as in field goal attempts, they just couldn't get the ball to go in the basket from the foul line in this game, sinking just 9 of 27 attempts.

At any rate, the Lady Indians, with just a few more shots falling in the basket in first half action whether victimized by rigid goals at the quite new and cavernous gym which seats some 2,900 fans in stadium seat comfort, could have easily been within striking distance of the Lady Indians of Murray County instead of trailing by a 29-10 score at intermission.

10th Anniversary King of the Mountain Tournament bigger than ever

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

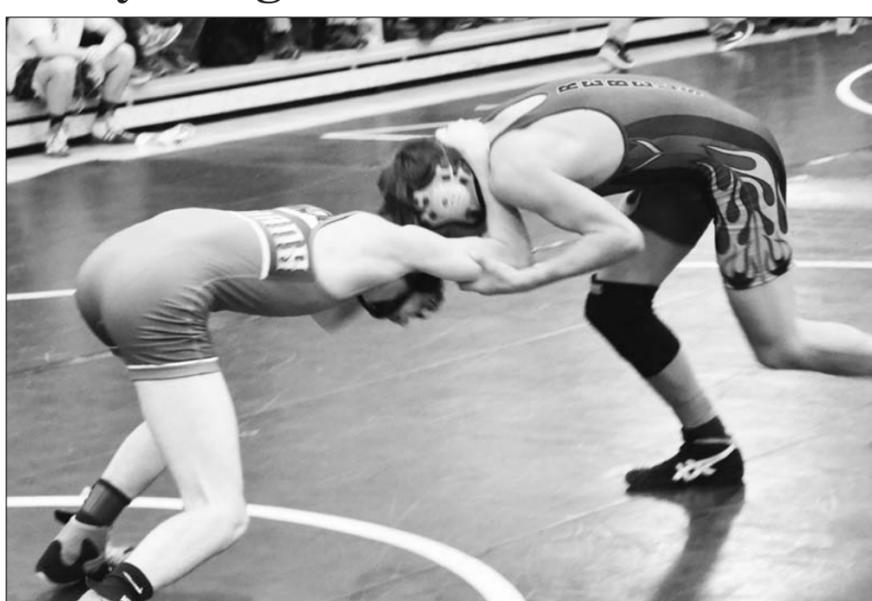
The Towns County Indians hosted the second biggest wrestling tournament in the state during the opening weekend of December, bringing nearly two dozen teams to the mat from surrounding states and areas.

This is the tournament known as King of the Mountain.

Filling the spacious Towns County Recreation and Conference Center, the two-day affair brought hundreds of people to the county, many of whom spent money to eat and stay in Towns and surrounding counties.

"I think in almost every aspect, this year was a success," said Indians Head Coach Jeff Stowers. "We were able to pull off a new venue, and the venue was a beautiful. The teams and coaches and fans and wrestlers were really impressed with the venue and liked it a lot. We were able to get the logistics taken care of and get everything there and set up, and then cleaned up and out in a reasonable amount of time."

The giant tournament also proved an athletic success, as many Indians tested their mettle and proved their might



Towns County 2015 King of the Mountain photos by Lowell Nicholson

during this 10th Anniversary King of the Mountain.

"The wrestling was really good," said Coach Stowers. "We wrestled pretty well over the weekend, finishing Fifth Place out of 20 teams. We had one Champion, two Runners-Up and two Third Places. We wrestled well as a team, had some kids win some big matches, which was good. Overall it was a success. We learned a lot, so next year will

be better."

Kaine Hoffman finished Second Place in the 120 pound weight class with a 3-1 record for the tournament.

Thomas Mitchell finished Third Place in the 126 pound weight class with a 3-1 record for the tournament.

Daulton Rogers finished First Place in the 170 pound weight class with a 4-0 perfect record for the tournament.

Russell Cox finished

Second Place in the 182 pound weight class with a 2-1 record for the tournament.

Harold Cox finished Third Place in the 195 pound weight class with a 3-1 record for the tournament.

All told, the Indians finished fifth behind Dacula, Fannin County, Franklin County and Notre Dame.

"I'm just really appreciative of the community that came out and supported us, and



(Towns County Sole Commissioner) Bill Kendall was there both days to watch," said Coach Stowers. "And thanks to the rec department for allowing us to be there and Mr. Kendall for allowing us to use that facility."

"It was just a really good weekend. Our kids competed well and wrestled really well. We got to see some top quality competition from a lot of different places, and that's always fun to do, and kind of measure

yourself against other places. You find out that, just because we're from a small town in the mountains doesn't mean a whole lot - we can compete with about anybody.

"We had a good weekend to wrestle, and we look forward to finishing up this year and making a run, hopefully, at the state tournament with some kids, and get ready to do the King of the Mountain again next year."