

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

www.townscountyherald.net • E-mail: tcherald@windstream.net

Lady Indians get two important region wins, fall to state-ranked Rabun

By Jerry Kendall
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Towns County Lady Indians varsity basketball team was on the road last week for important Region 8A games at Social Circle on Tuesday and at Washington-Wilkes on Friday, and they came away with victories in both games to extend their region record to 6-2. They are in third place in the region behind Lake Oconee Academy with a 5-0 record and Commerce at 5-1. The Lady Indians returned home on Saturday and fell to state-ranked Class 2A Rabun County, completing the week with a 7-9 overall record against a very challenging schedule that has been addressed in previous articles.

Commerce took an earlier 39-37 region victory over the Lady Indians in Commerce and will pay the Lady Indians a visit on Tuesday of this week with second place on the line. The Lady Indians then travel to Lake Oconee Academy in Greensboro on Friday to face the Atlanta Journal and Constitution's top-ranked Class A Public team in the state, and they play again in Greensboro against region foe Greene County on Saturday.

Regular season play will come to an end next week when the Lady Indians host Rabun Gap in a non-region game on Wednesday and travel to Lincoln County on Friday for their final regular season game, with the Region 8A Tournament to be held the next week at Commerce High School.

An interesting note learned too late for last week's newspaper is the status of Rockmart senior Keyarah Berry, who is considered the 42nd ranked guard and the 90th ranked overall high school female basketball player in the entire nation. As reported last week, she was averaging 34.1 points per game entering her team's game at TCHS and managed just seven points in

the first three quarters against the Lady Indians before striking for 19 in the fourth for 26 in the game.

Lady Indians 36, Social Circle 30 – This basketball season for the Lady Indians and Indians has been marked by strong scoring runs and defensive battles, but perhaps none with both features by both teams to the extent seen in last Tuesday's game between the Lady Indians and Social Circle.

The first quarter featured cold shooting and costly turnovers, with Social Circle holding an 8-5 lead at quarter's end, with an early trey by senior Kennedy Henson getting the Lady Indians a 3-2 lead and a deuce by Henson getting them within 6-5 at exactly the midpoint of the quarter.

All of that changed in the second quarter, however, as the Lady Indians used field goals by sophomores Tabitha Barnes and Sarah Shook for a 9-8 Lady Indians lead less than a minute into the quarter that they would not relinquish, and Henson added a trey at the 6:26 mark for a 12-8 Towns lead.

The homestanding Lady Redskins sank a basket at the 6:12 mark for just a 12-10 deficit, but the Lady Indians finished the quarter on a 14-0 scoring run for a bulging 26-10 lead at intermission and the appearance of an easy victory with seven Lady Indians putting points on the scoreboard in the quarter.

Scoring leaders for the Lady Indians were Henson and senior Jayce Young with five points each on a trey and a deuce and freshman Laura Mauldin with two deuces for four points.

The easy victory would not occur, however, as the Lady Redskins turned the direction of the game around by outscoring the Lady Indians 12-3 in the third quarter with the only interruption to their scoring run being a trey by Henson for a

29-19 Towns lead that became 29-22 entering the fourth quarter.

Senior Vanessa Floyd wrapped a pair of free throws and a deuce around three Social Circle free throws and senior Abby Mauldin added a free throw for a 34-25 Lady Indians lead at the 2:58 mark of the fourth quarter, but the Lady Redskins sank a free throw and two deuces to pull within 34-30 at the minute and a half mark.

Floyd got the Lady Indians some breathing room with a drive for the basket for a field goal and a 36-30 lead at 1:10, which became the final score when neither team could put points on the scoreboard the remainder of the game.

Scoring leaders for the Lady Indians were Henson with 13 points, Floyd with 8, Young with 5, and Laura Mauldin with 4, with leaders in assists being Floyd with 6, Henson with 3, and Young with 2. Leading rebounders were Henson with 6, Laura Mauldin and Young with 5 each, and Floyd and Abby Mauldin with 3 each, while leaders in steals were Henson with 10, Floyd with 5, and Abby Mauldin and Young with 3 each.

The Lady Redskins were led in scoring by junior Taylor Favors with 10 points and senior Tara Poole with 8. Social Circle completed the week with just a 4-9 record but with four of the losses being by eight or fewer points, including by eight and six to the Lady Indians. Further, four losses have been to much larger schools ranging from Class 3A to 6A in their geographical area.

Lady Indians 58, Washington-Wilkes 34 – Following a totally inept performance in a 53-11 loss during a visit to Towns County just 13 days prior, perhaps due at least in part to the effect of a 125 miles bus trip and crossing the Unicoi Mountain, the Lady Tigers of Washington-Wilkes were much more competitive at the start of



Junior Lady Indian Emily Vargas and freshman teammate Laura Mauldin defend the pass against the Lady Wildcats Saturday.
Photo/Lowell Nicholson

the first and third quarters last Friday on their home court.

The Lady Tigers opened the game with an old-fashioned 3-point play for a 3-0 lead, with a trey by senior Vanessa Floyd giving the Lady Indians a 4-3 lead at the 5:57 mark of the first quarter, a 3-point play by Floyd giving the Lady Indians a 7-5 lead at 4:35, and a trey by sophomore Tabitha Barnes getting a 10-7 lead the Lady Indians would not relinquish but have challenged in an aforementioned brief rally by the Lady Tigers.

The trey by Barnes was the start of a 16-1 run the remainder of the first quarter by the Lady Indians, with Floyd adding four points on two deuces and a total of 11 points in the quarter, with Barnes adding a deuce and a second trey for eight points and senior Kennedy Henson providing four points on a field goal and two free throws.

The second quarter saw Floyd continue her strong half by including a trey among seven points and Henson four as the Lady Tigers slightly re-

duced the 15-point lead to 34-21 at halftime. The Lady Tigers then used a 7-2 third quarter start to reduce the Towns lead to eight points at 36-28 and got within eight on two additional occasions by the midpoint of the quarter.

The Lady Indians regained control of the game after that, however, as they used an 8-0 quarter-ending run in extending a 40-32 lead to 48-32 on the way to a 58-34 victory. Floyd added eight points and Henson six, with sophomore Sarah Shook contributing four in last-half action for the Lady Indians.

Floyd took the scoring lead for the Lady Indians with 26 points, with other leaders being Henson with 14, Barnes with 9, Shook with 4, and junior Emily Vargas with 3, while leaders in assists were Shook with 4, Floyd and Mauldin with 3 each, and Young with 2. Leaders in rebounds were Henson with 8, Shook with 5, Young with 4, and Floyd with 3, while leaders in steals were Henson with 5 and Barnes, Floyd, and Shook with 3 each.

Senior Vernesia Lester led Washington-Wilkes in scoring with 10 points. The Lady Tigers have struggled to just a 1-9 record at week's end but with competitive losses by three points in one game, five in two games, and nine in another.

Rabun County 68, Lady Indians 44 – There could probably have not been a more unfortunate date to face the aggressive full-court pressure of the visiting Rabun County Lady Wildcats than the night following a round trip of 250 miles on a school bus for a game at Washington-Wilkes. But that was the situation the Lady Indians found themselves in last Saturday night, and on top of that, the Lady Cats did not play on Friday night so were no doubt raring to go.

A basket by senior Abby Mauldin got the Lady Indians a 2-0 lead exactly a minute into the game, and a trey by senior Jayce Young had them ahead 5-2 at the 5:57 mark. The Lady Cats struck for a 9-0 scoring run, however, for an 11-5

See Lady Indians, Page 3B

Indians fall at Social Circle, rebound for two decisive victories



Indian junior Jake McTaggart goes for points amid pressure at the basket at Washington-Wilkes Friday.
Photo/Lowell Nicholson

By Jerry Kendall
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Towns County High School Indians varsity basketball team saw its six-game Region 8A winning streak come to an end at Social Circle last Tuesday but rebounded at region foe Washington-Wilkes on Friday and at home on Saturday against Rabun County for impressive victories.

The Indians completed the week with an overall record of 14-3 and a regular season region record of 7-1. This record has the Indians in first place in the region with five region games remaining. They

are followed in the standing by Social Circle with a 5-2 record, Commerce at 5-3, and Lincoln County at 3-2.

Towns County hosts Commerce this Tuesday, travels to Greensboro for games against Lake Oconee Academy on Friday and against Greene County on Saturday before returning home for a non-region game against Rabun Gap next Wednesday and then to Lincoln County to complete regular season play against Lincoln County on Friday. The Region 8A Public Tournament will be held the following week at Commerce.

Social Circle 74, Indi-

ans 64 – In a low-scoring event in the early going, the Indians took leads of 4-2 on a field goal by senior Kolby Moss and 6-4 and 8-6 on baskets by junior Jake McTaggart, with this lead holding up until the 2:33 mark of the second quarter when the homestanding Redskins tied the score as part of a 10-2 second quarter finish, changing a 26-21 Indians lead to a 31-28 deficit at intermission.

First half Indian highlights included eight first quarter points and five in the second by Moss, and five points in the first quarter by senior Kabe Ellis, who included the only trey the Indians would sink until

finding the range for three in the final minute of the game.

On the other hand, the Redskins included three treys in the first quarter and two in the second in accounting for 15 of their 31 first half points. And they would continue the good fortune from 3-point range with three more in the third quarter and two more by the midpoint of the fourth in accounting for 30 of 56 points by that time.

The Redskins on three occasions in the third quarter and early in the fourth would appear to be taking control of the game but with the Indians issuing a challenge each of these times. An 8-2 start had Social Circle leading 39-30 at the 6:17 mark of the third quarter, but McTaggart's second and third deuces of the quarter wrapped around a deuce by Moss got the Indians within 39-36. A following 8-0 run by the Redskins was partially overcome by quarter closing deuces by McTaggart and junior Collin Crowder for a 47-40 Indians deficit entering the fourth quarter.

After a Redskins trey had them ahead 50-40 at the 7:15 mark of the fourth quarter, a field goal and free throw by Crowder and two free throws by Moss had the Indians well within striking distance at 50-45 at the 5:21 mark, but the Redskins used 14 free throws in 20 attempts in a 21-10 scoring run for a 71-55 lead at the 1:10 mark.

The Indians would use a trey by Ellis and two by senior Aidan Berrong in a 9-3 run the

final 48 seconds in reducing the final Social Circle margin of victory to 74-64 as they ran out of time for additional heroics such as when a 13-5 finish left them just one point short of victory against Anderson Christian Academy.

Moss led in scoring for the Indians with 24 points and was followed by McTaggart with 13, Ellis with 12, Berrong with 8, and Crowder with 7, while leaders in assists were Crowder with 4 and Berrong with 2. Leading in rebounds were Moss with 8, McTaggart with 7, Crowder with 6, and Ellis with 3.

Social Circle completed the week with an overall record of 10-8 against a quite challenging non-region schedule featuring nine games against significantly larger schools with a 5-2 region record good for second place behind the first place Indians.

Indians 65, Washington-Wilkes 47 – At Washington-Wilkes, cold shooting by the Indians in the first quarter resulted in the Tigers holding leads for much of the first half before the Indians seized control of the game, beginning at the 3:13 mark of the second quarter, in taking a 65-47 victory.

The homestanding Tigers quickly overcame a 2-0 Indians lead on a basket just 10 seconds into the game by senior Kolby Moss and a brief 8-7 Indians lead on a deuce by Moss at the 2:49 mark of the first quarter in otherwise holding leads of between one and six points until

nearly three minutes into the second quarter.

After the Tigers sank a basket 13 seconds into the second quarter for a 16-11 lead, the Indians came alive with two free throws by juniors Jake McTaggart and Collin Crowder sandwiched around a Moss field goal getting the Indians a 17-16 lead at the 5:12 mark.

The Tigers then sandwiched a deuce and a trey of their own around a McTaggart basket for a 21-19 lead at the 3:27 mark, but the Indians struck for a 12-3 finish in the second quarter for a 31-24 lead at intermission. McTaggart got a 21-21 tie with a field goal at 3:13 and Crowder got a 23-21 lead on a basket with 2:38 left that the Indians would not relinquish, with Moss and McTaggart each scoring four points on deuces in completing the late quarter scoring run.

The trio of McTaggart, Moss, and Crowder provided all of the second quarter points for the Indians, with McTaggart scoring 12, Moss six, and Crowder four, but the Indians weren't done at intermission as the explosive rally continued until the midpoint of the third quarter.

Senior Aidan Berrong struck for a trey at the 7:38 mark of that third quarter and the Indians were on their way to an 11-0 quarter-opening run and overall 23-3 run back to the second quarter for a 42-24 lead at the 4:11 mark of the third quarter.

See Indians, Page 3B