

# Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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## Indians sweep past Greene, Lincoln, finish as regular season region champs

By Jerry Kendall  
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The Towns County High School Indians varsity basketball team took their show on the road last week and took a resounding victory at Greene County on Monday and a hard fought victory at Lincoln County on Wednesday in clinching the regular season Region 8A Public Championship.

They had already clinched a trip to the state tournament when assuring finishing as one of the top two teams in regular season region play and they are participating in the region tournament at Commerce High School on Thursday and Friday of this week, not only in search of a region tournament championship but for seeding in the state tournament.



Junior Collin Crowder glides to the hoop for a layup during Towns County's region victory at Greene County. Photo by Lowell Nicholson

The Indians completed regular season play with an 18-3 overall record, including 11-1 in region play with Social Circle right behind with a 10-2 region record. These top two teams received byes into the region semifinals and automatic qualification for the state tournament with the Indians to face the winner of a Tuesday game between Commerce and Washington-Wilkes, who tied for fourth place in regular season region play with 5-7 records, at 8:30 pm on Thursday of this week. The winners of the two semifinal games will meet at 8:30 on Friday in the championship game and the losers of the two games will face each other at 5:30 on Friday for third place and seeding in the state tournament.

Fans planning to attend the region tournament need to be aware that they will be allowed to attend only the games played by their schools due to Covid limitations with separate admissions of \$7 charged for each game when a school has both teams playing the

same day. Tickets will be available for purchase at a GOFAN Internet website but the link will change per game with the best source of information being our school's sports website at www.townscountyathletics.com.

**Indians 86, Greene County 48** – After a basket just eleven seconds into the game by junior Jake McTaggart for a 2-0 Towns lead was matched by Greene County, junior Collin Crowder struck for six straight points and McTaggart added a trey between the 7:07 and 4:57 marks of the first quarter for an 11-2 Indians lead and they were on their way to a dominant victory.

By the end of the quarter, Crowder had eight points and McTaggart seven along with four by senior Kolby Moss and two by senior Aidan Berrong for a 21-8 Indians lead. A lot of games this year have featured impressive scoring runs by Indians opponents but that would not be the case in this game as they led 42-20 at halftime and

68-33 after three quarters on the way to an 86-48 victory.

Ten different Indians would put points on the scoreboard during the game with six each by Berrong and Moss and a trey by Crowder highlighting second quarter action. The third quarter saw Berrong, McTaggart, and Moss lead seven team members in the scoring column with six points each and the fourth quarter saw senior Luis Quijada contribute six points on two treys and senior Liam King three points on a trey as six team members entered the scoring column.

Scoring leaders for the game were Crowder with 19 points, Moss with 18, Berrong and McTaggart with 13 each, senior Hayden McClure and Quijada with 6 each, and senior Colton Day with 4 while leaders in assists were senior Kabe Ellis with 7, Berrong with 5, McClure and junior Kyle Oakes with 3 each, and McTaggart with 2. Leading in rebounds were Crowder and McTaggart with 10

each, McClure and Moss with 6 each, and Berrong with 3 while McClure led in steals with 2 and Moss had 1 blocked shot. Scoring leaders for Greene County were senior Jaquavious Peck with 9 points and juniors Evan Andrews and D J Walker with 8 each.

The ease of the victory by the Indians was actually quite astonishing when considering that Commerce fell by just two points on the Indians' home court the prior week and then fell by four points at Greene County just three days later. Perhaps this game can be described quite accurately by a phrase from a Jerry Reed song of the past not about basketball which stated "when you're hot, you're hot, and when you're not, you're not," with the first portion fitting the Indians and the second the Tigers on this particular night.

**Indians 58, Lincoln County 52** – Either team could have charged out to a significant lead in first quarter action if not for the presence of ice cold shooting by

both teams. Early game fatigue may have been a factor for both teams as this was the eighth game in 13 days for Lincoln County although their fourth in a row at home and with just three road trips of much shorter distance than the Indians who were playing their third road game in six days and with bus rides of between the 120 and 140 miles ranges each way.

At any rate, the Indians missed their first eight shots and sank just three of fifteen attempts in the first quarter with the Red Devils striking first, sinking a deuce for their first basket on their fifth shot of the game for a 2-0 lead at the 5:13 mark. They added a long deuce at 4:38 for a 4-0 lead but with that being their final points of the quarter.

The Indians finished the quarter on a 7-0 mini run using a putback basket by junior Jake McTaggart at the 4:18 mark, a trey by senior Kabe Ellis at 3:42 for a 5-4 Indians lead, and a jumper by junior Collin Crowder for a 7-4

advantage at quarter's end. The Indians would actually hold the lead achieved on the Ellis trey until the end of the game with the exception of four ties although not an easy win by any means as the Red Devils hung tough until the final moments of the game.

Early second quarter action saw McTaggart break the first of two ties mentioned by matching a Lincoln deuce at the 6:51 mark for a 9-7 lead and more than matching a deuce with a trey for a 12-9 advantage at the 6:07 mark. The Indians maintained leads of between one and five points until Ellis sank a trey at the seventeen seconds mark for a 26-20 Towns advantage at intermission. Highlights of second quarter play for the Indians were McTaggart's total of seven points, four by Crowder, and the first of three treys by senior Kolby Moss.

The Red Devils opened the third quarter, however, with a 10-4 scoring run for a third tie of 30-30 at the 3:55 mark with a trey by Moss just eight seconds later getting the Indians a 33-30 lead and senior Aidan Berrong followed a free throw and deuce for a final 33-33 tie with a pair of field goals for a 37-33 Indians lead they would hold although seriously threatened until the end of the game. Just as Ellis had done near the end of the second quarter, Moss sank a trey with six seconds left for a 41-37 Indians lead entering the fourth quarter.

Berrong and McTaggart matched early Lincoln baskets for a 45-41 Towns lead at the 5:53 mark of the fourth quarter with the Indians responding to a third Devils basket with six straight points on deuces by Crowder, McTaggart, and Moss for a 51-43 Towns advantage at the 3:48 mark. But drama remained as the Devils edged to within 51-47 at 3:25 with

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## Lady Indians take easy wins at Greene and Lincoln, finish third in region

By Jerry Kendall  
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The Towns County High School Lady Indians varsity basketball team took decisive victories at Greene County and Lincoln County last week as they completed regular season play with an overall 9-11 record and 8-4 for third place in Region 8A Public regular season play behind Lake Oconee Academy and Commerce.

Lake Oconee completed regular season play last week with a perfect 21-0 overall record, including 12-0 in region play, and the top ranked Class A Public girls team in the state by the Atlanta Journal and Constitution. Commerce completed regular season play with a 15-9 overall record, including 10-2 in region play but just barely ahead of the Lady Indians when considering that they took wins by scores of just 39-37 in Commerce and 36-33 in the TCHS gym. It's interesting to consider that a total of just seven points scored during sixty four minutes of playing time in the two games could have switched the regular season finish in region play for the two teams.



Kennedi Henson drives inside at Greene. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

be against the winner of a playin game on Monday between Lincoln County and Washington-Wilkes. These two teams tied for sixth place in the region with 1-11 records with each win actually being a forfeit by the other due to Covid issues at their schools.

The winner of the Tuesday game will advance to the Region semifinals and also the Class A Public state tournament with the semifinal game being against Commerce and the winner of the game moving on to the championship game on Friday at 7:00 pm. The loser of this game will face the loser of the other semifinal game at 4:00 pm on Friday for third place in the tournament and for seeding purposes for the state tournament.

Fans planning to attend the region tournament need to be aware that they will be allowed to attend only the games played by their schools due to Covid limitations with separate admissions of \$7.00 charged for each game when a school has both teams playing the same day. Tickets will be avail-

able for purchase at a GOFAN Internet website but the link will change per game with the best source of information being our school's sports website at www.townscountyathletics.com.

**Lady Indians 56, Greene County 42** – The homestanding Lady Tigers from Greene County struck for a trey and a 3-0 lead less than a minute into the first quarter of the game last Monday but the Lady Indians responded with a trey by senior Jayce Young and three deuces by senior Kennedi Henson for a 9-4 lead at the 4:21 mark.

A second Greene County trey got them within 9-7 at the 3:55 mark but the Lady Indians embarked on an extended 29-4 scoring run in holding a 20-9 advantage after one quarter and a 38-11 bulge at the 1:35 mark of the second quarter with the score being 38-13 at intermission. This scoring run was highlighted by ten points by senior Vanessa Floyd, seven by Henson, five by Young with a second trey included, and three on a trey by sophomore



Towns looks for an open shot at Greene. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Tabitha Barnes.

Henson highlighted the first half of third quarter action by using an old fashioned three point play and two additional deuces to reach the 1,000 career scoring total at the 4:19 mark as the Lady Indians held a 51-13 lead with a separate article addressing Henson's most noteworthy accomplishment.

Mostly JV members seeing their first extensive varsity action played much of the remainder of the game with the Lady Tigers taking a not unusual advantage of their inexperience in completing the game on a 29-5 scoring run interrupted by three points on a deuce and free throw by freshman Laura Mauldin and a deuce for her first varsity points by freshman Maycee Garrison.

The Lady Indians were led in scoring by Henson with 20 points, Floyd with 14, Young with 10, and Barnes and Laura Mauldin with 3 each while Floyd led in assists with 5. Leaders in rebounds were Henson with 9, Floyd with 6, senior Jayce Young with 5, and Laura Mauldin with 4 while lead-

ers in steals were Henson with 4 and senior Abby Mauldin, sophomore Sarah Shook, and junior Emily Vargas with 3 each.

The Lady Tigers were led in scoring by senior Erien Jones with 27 points. It would be easy to become discouraged by the Lady Tigers' late scoring run against the younger Lady Indians but seven of twelve players on the Greene County roster are seniors with Jones scoring fourteen of her twenty seven points in the fourth quarter.

**Lady Indians 55, Lincoln County 22** – It was a mismatch from the start for the Lady Indians at Lincoln County on Wednesday although a rather slow takeoff for the Lady Indians who had traveled some 135 miles on a school bus for the game.

Senior Vanessa Floyd got the Lady Indians off to a 2-0 lead on two free throws just seven seconds into the game but it would be the 4:37 and 3:23 marks of the first quarter before baskets by Floyd would give them a bit of breathing room with a 6-0 lead.

The Lady Indians would go on a rousing scoring run after that in building a 16-1 lead by quarter's end and 33-5 dominance at intermission. The trio of Floyd with seventeen points and senior Kennedi Henson and sophomore Sarah Shook with seven points each provided nearly all of the scoring punch with freshman Laura Mauldin contributing a deuce for two points. Floyd, Henson, and Shook each included a trey along with four for four free throw shooting by Henson and two for two at the foul line by both Henson and Shook during the run.

The scoring pace would slow down considerably in the third quarter with highlights being Mauldin's second basket and the first varsity points on a field goal by freshman Zoe Phillips. JV players saw quite a bit of action during this quarter with significantly better success than at Greene County as the Lady Indians led 38-13 entering the fourth quarter when they Lady Indians closed out a 55-22 victory.

Scoring leaders for the game for the Lady Indians were Floyd with 26 points, Henson with 12, Shook with 7, and Laura Mauldin with 4 while assists leaders were Henson and senior Jayce Young with 4 each and Laura Mauldin with 2.

Leaders in rebounds were Floyd with 6 and Henson and sophomore Sarah Shook with 4 each while leaders in steals were Young with 4 and Henson and Floyd with 3 each.

Sophomore Janai Mickens and freshman Shamiyah Johnson led the Lady Red Devils in scoring with 5 points each as they closed out their season with a 57-20 loss at Class AA Oglethorpe County on Saturday and finished regular season play with an overall 4-17 record.