

# Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports



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Hiawassee, Georgia

## Potent scoring runs propel Lady Indians past Murphy in BOS opener

By Jerry Kendall

The Towns County Lady Indians varsity basketball team got off to a rousing start last Monday in the opening round of the 2009 Battle of the States Tournament in the Towns County Gym. A 75-61 victory over Murphy qualified them for the semi-finals on Tuesday night against Fannin County, a winner on Monday over Hokes Bluff, Alabama, a top twenty Class AAAA team in their state with an 11-4 record entering the tournament.

After a tight battle the first three and a half minutes of the game with Murphy holding three leads and one tie, a drive for two points by Melissa Conrad got them ahead 7-6 at the 4:26 mark of the first quarter. Beginning with the Conrad basket, the Lady Indians finished the quarter on a 15-5 run for a 20-11 lead which became 41-25 at intermission but not without a stiff challenge from Murphy during the first three and a half minutes of the second quarter.

The Lady Bulldogs scored the first ten points of the quarter for a 21-20 lead by the 5:22 mark. A Gabby Arencibia trey got the Lady Indians back ahead 23-21 just fifteen seconds later with Murphy responding with a deuce for their last tie of 23-23 at 4:51. As in the first quarter, the Lady Indians finished on a tear, going on an 18-2 run for a 41-25 lead at intermission. Jordan Moss had a red hot scoring hand in leading the first half charge with six

first-quarter points and eleven more in the second, including two free throws at the 4:32 mark in triggering the dominate quarter ending run.

The Lady Indians led by no fewer than fifteen points and as many as twenty five in the third quarter and held a gaudy 62-40 lead at quarter's end. Sophomores Gabby Arencibia and Ali Bleckley led the third quarter success for the Lady Indians with eight and seven points respectively.

The fourth quarter proved to be a challenge for the Lady Indians, however, as the Lady Bulldogs repeated their early first and second quarter successes with a 19-2 run for just a 64-59 deficit by the three minute mark. Sophomore Lindsay Patton ended the Lady Bulldog run with two free throws at 2:57, the start of an 11-2 finish by the Lady Indians for a 75-61 victory. The Lady Indians sank an outstanding eleven of fourteen free throw attempts for all the points in the run with Patton and Moss each sinking five of six attempts.

Moss finished with a game high 25 points but with plenty of help with other leaders being Arencibia with 15, Patton with 10, Bleckley with 9, and Conrad with 8. Leading in assists were Heather Hamilton and Moss with 3 each.

The late Murphy rally seemingly triggered a turnaround for the young Lady Bulldogs who entered the tournament with just a 5-4 record but turned in impressive



Kerri Abernathy scrambles on the floor as three Murphy, NC Bulldogs defend.

performances the remainder of the tournament with victories over Hokes Bluff and

Hebron Christian for a fifth place finish.

Photo by Jim/Lisa Bryant



by Jim Bryant

### Battle of the States Basketball Tournament

Day 1

(G) Towns County 75  
(G) Fannin County 56  
(G) Hayesville, NC 32  
(G) Union County 59  
(B) Towns County 84  
(B) Fannin County 53  
(B) Union County 43  
(B) Murphy, NC 78

Murphy, NC 61  
Hokes Bluff, AL 49  
Polk County, TN 97  
Hebron Academy 41  
Polk County, TN 77 (OT)  
Hayesville, NC 69  
Southside, AL 60  
Hebron Academy 59

Day 2

(G) Towns County 68  
(G) Polk County, TN 63  
(G) Hayesville, NC 56  
(G) Hokes Bluff, AL 47  
(B) Towns County 52  
(B) Fannin County 54  
(B) Union County 66  
(B) Southside, AL 69

Fannin County 67 (OT)  
Union County 39  
Hebron Academy 64  
Murphy, NC 55  
Hayesville, NC 69  
Polk County, TN 57 (OT)  
Hebron Academy 54  
Murphy, NC 62

Day 3

2nd(G) Towns County 53  
4th(G) Union County 43  
6th(G) Hebron Academy 42  
7th(G) Hokes Bluff, AL 65  
4th(B) Towns County 41  
2nd(B) Hayesville, NC 48  
5th(B) Polk County, TN 62  
8th(B) Hebron Academy 6

1st Polk County, TN 68  
3rd Fannin County 58  
5th Murphy, NC 70  
8th Hayesville, NC 45  
3rd Murphy, NC 70  
1st Southside, AL 57  
6th Union County 54  
7th Fannin County 74

### Prep Girls Basketball

Athens Academy 25  
Heritage 32  
Banks County 47  
East Hall 52  
North Hall 42

Paideia 40  
Paideia 35  
Walker 54  
Shiloh 45  
West Hall 20

### Prep Boys Basketball

Social Circle 40  
Paideia 65  
Paideia 80  
Gainesville 61  
North Hall 63

North Oconee 51  
Woodward Academy 71  
Lovett Academy 77  
Sprayberry 68  
West Hall 41

### Pickens Basketball Classic

(B) Jefferson 68  
(B) Jefferson 69  
(B) Jefferson 64  
(B) Buford 62

North Paulding 53  
Kell 62  
Dalton 75  
Duluth 52

## Lady Indians win squeaker over Fannin County in Battle of the States Semi-Finals

By Jerry Kendall

The Towns County Lady Indians varsity basketball played host to Class AA Fannin County in the semi-final round of the Battle of the States last Tuesday. The Lady Rebels, surprisingly unranked in Class AA with a 10-1 record as they entered the game, were no doubt anxious for revenge after the Lady Indians had handed them a stunning loss in last year's tournament semi-finals. The Lady Rebels boasted back to back victories over Class AA State Ranked North Oconee and Class AAA North Hall, impressive champions of the recent Lanierland Classic in Hall County. Their lone loss had been at the hands of state ranked Pickens in Class AAA.

Other than 4-4 and 6-6 standoffs, the Lady Indians had a dominant first quarter, using a 14-5 run during the final five and a half minutes for a 20-9 lead which became 20-11 at quarter's end. The Lady Indians also had much success during the middle portion of the second quarter but had to settle for just a 35-32 lead at intermission as a result of the Lady Rebels scoring the first six and last four points of the quarter. The Lady Indians used the scoring punch of Gabby Arencibia with fifteen first half points, Melissa Conrad with eight, and Jordan Moss with seven in more than holding their own against the Lady Rebels.

The Lady Indians maintained leads of between one and four points during the third quarter until the Lady Rebels got their first tie at 44-44 since the first



Jordan Moss drives the hoop against a screaming Fannin Rebel in 68-67 OT torney win.

three minutes of the game. The first two field goals of the fourth quarter had the Lady Rebels ahead 48-44 but the remainder of the game would be a real battle with three lead changes and four ties, including by a 59-59 score at the end of regulation.

Among numerous heroes the last quarter for the Lady Indians were a trey by Arencibia at 5:28 for a 50-48 Towns lead, a three point play by Conrad at 4:36 for a 53-53 standoff, a trey by Ali Bleckley at 2:55 for a 56-56 stalemate, and another three point play at 1:49 by Conrad for a 59-58 Lady Indian lead. The Lady Rebels followed that play by sinking the second of two free throw attempts at 1:09 for the aforementioned 59-59 tie and neither team could dent the scoreboard after that, setting the stage for a four minute overtime.

The heroics continued for the Lady Indians during the overtime period with four members of the team entering the scoring column. Highlights were two free

throws by Bleckley for a 62-61 lead at 3:25 and Conrad field goals for a 64-64 tie at 2:22 and a 67-66 lead with just nineteen seconds on the clock.

The Lady Rebels had their chances the final 37.7 seconds of the game but failed to connect on a one and one free throw attempt while holding a 66-65 lead and then sinking just the second of two attempts at the 8.5 mark for a 67-67 tie. They then came up with a steal but missed a layup as the final seconds ticked off the clock and fouled Moss on the rebound. Moss stepped to the foul line and was perfect on her first of two attempts, giving the Lady Indians a heart stopping 68-67 victory. This was the second time this season for Moss to give the Lady Indians a late one point victory on a free throw after pulling the trick with 5.6 seconds left against Union County on December 4.

The hard fought victory propelled the Lady Indians into the tournament finals on Wednesday against the powerful Polk County (Tennessee) Wildkittens who entered the tournament with a 10-1 record and destroyed Hayesville and Union County in the first two rounds. Scoring leaders for the Lady Indians against Fannin were Arencibia with 24 points, Conrad with 21, Moss with 11, and Bleckley with 8. Leading in assists were Arencibia with 4 and Bleckley and Conrad with 3 each.

Photo by Jim/Lisa Bryant

## Late scoring surge sends Hayesville past Indians in second round Battle of the States action

By Jerry Kendall

A roaring comeback victory by the Towns County Indians Varsity Basketball Team over Polk County, Tennessee, in the opening round of the Battle of the States Tournament last week sent the Indians into battle with the Hayesville Yellow Jackets on Tuesday. The Yellow Jackets entered the game with a 7-2 record following a tournament opening win over Class AA Fannin County.

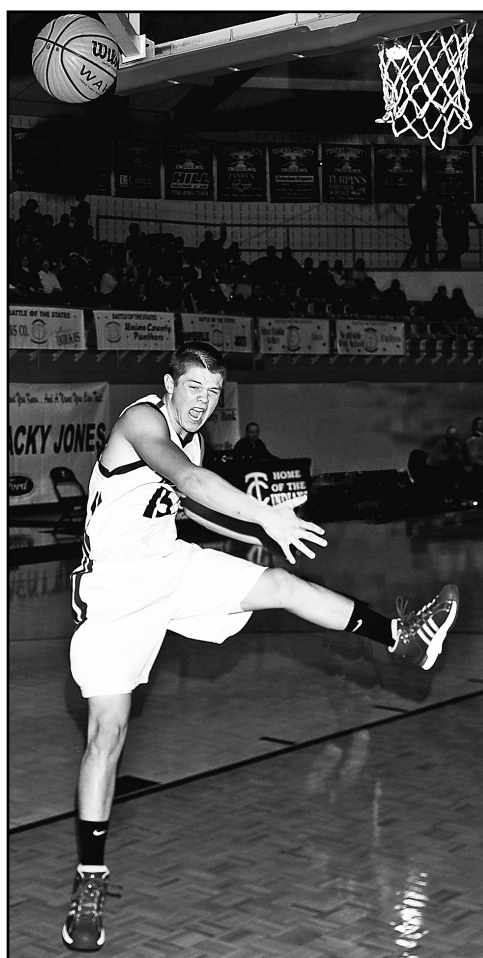
The Indians got off to a flying start against Hayesville, charging out to a 14-4 lead by the 2:26 mark of the first quarter, only to see the Yellow Jackets rally with the final fourteen points of the stanza for a 16-14 lead. John Bleckley and Bradley Swanson each included a trey as each scored seven points in the quarter.

The second quarter was a real shootout with the Yellow Jackets holding two early five-point leads but there being four ties and four lead changes after that with Hayesville leading 36-33 at intermission on a trey as time expired. Bleckley and Swanson continued their two man wrecking crew roles with nine and seven points respectively.

The third quarter saw Brandon Henderson reduce a 40-33 Yellow Jacket lead with a three point play at the 4:35 mark and the powerful sophomore provided a second three point play followed by a trey by Bleckley as the Indians reduced a 45-36 lead to 45-42 with just 2:26 on the clock. The Yellow Jackets answered with the final eleven points of the quarter, however, for a 56-42 lead and the two teams played on virtually

even terms in the fourth quarter with the exception of four Yellow Jacket free throws at the end extending the final Hayesville margin of victory to 69-52.

The Yellow Jackets received a couple of notable breaks during the game. The first came late in the second quarter when a Hayesville pass was inadvertently deflected up and into the basket for a 31-29 Yellow Jacket lead. The second break came late in the third quarter with the Yellow Jackets



Devin Henderson shows the strain of letting the ball get away during drive for the hoop

holding a 49-42 lead and the Indians being charged with a disputable offensive foul call, eventually resulting in two technical fouls. The Yellow Jackets sank four free throws for a 53-42 lead and then used the possession they would have already had on the offensive foul call to end the quarter with a three point play for a suddenly prominent 56-42 advantage.

The loss sent the Indians into the third place game with Murphy, the fifth ranked Class A team in North Carolina, on Wednesday. The

Yellow Jackets, on the other hand, qualified for the championship game on Wednesday against Southside High School of Gadsden, Alabama, where they battled down to the wire, trailing by just four points late in the game before Southside widened the gap a bit at the end.

Point producers for the Indians were Bleckley with 21 points, Swanson with 14, Henderson with 12, and DJ Rogers with 5. Leaders in assist were Devin Henderson and Swanson with 4 each.

Photo by Jim/Lisa Bryant

## Licklog Players musical audition

Auditions will be held on Jan. 9 and 11 for the Licklog Players' season opener, Hot 'N Cole, a rollicking musical tribute to America's foremost composer of the 1940s, Cole Porter.

The popular musical will be directed by Laurel Adams, who is seeking three men and three women for character roles ranging in age from 20-50. Performers must have

the ability to move fairly well (dance training is not necessary, but will be helpful). Good vocal ability is a must as there are 52 songs in this Pop/Blues musical review. There is also dialogue, mainly consisting of biographical material on Porter's life.

Auditions will be held at the Peacock Playhouse on Sat., Jan. 9, from 10 AM to 2 PM and on Mon., Jan. 11 from

6:30 to 9 PM. Rehearsals will begin on Jan. 12, and the show will open on Feb. 19 for two consecutive weekends.

Those interested should plan to read one of the show monologues, dance a bit, and sing (personal sheet music is permitted). Music from the score and a pianist will be available. For further information, call Laurel Adams at 828-389-0563. NTUJan6.A2JSH

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