

Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports



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January 6, 2009

www.townscountyherald.net

Hiawassee, Georgia

Murphy Bulldogs coast to third place BOS win

Indians take fourth place in Battle of the States
By Jim Bryant
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It was ugly from the start. It did not get any better, as the Murphy, NC Bulldogs took the tip and blasted their way to a 10-2 lead following two "3s" via air mail. The Dogs utilized exceptional quickness, boards domination at both ends of the floor and hot hoops to take a 16-2 lead over the TCHS boy's team. The Indian offense was as cold as the other side of the pillow as the Bulldogs moved to a 34-6 lead at the end of the first quarter. A couple of minutes into the second, Ethan Burch got a rebound put-back to make it 34-8. Burch then found DJ Rogers breaking across the paint inside to make it a 38-10 game as the Tribe finally got the lid off the hoop. Brandon Henderson and Ryan Tallent slid in a couple of hoops inside to make it 38-14. After a slap-away by Devin Henderson, he snatched up the loose ball and out-legged the Dogs to the glass to go 46-16. The Dogs were giving the Indians a clinic on rebounding and fast breaks as the Tribe tried platoon substituting. At the break the visitors had a thirty point lead, 50-20.

Brandon Henderson opened the third for the Indians with a couple from



Bradley Swanson goes low and a Bulldog goes over the top in action under the goal.

the charity stripe and was followed with a jumper by Devin Henderson, 54-24. Ethan Burch found the hole for a couple of "Js" inside the arc then stepped outside and looped in a long trey to make it 62-37 to bring the third to an end. Brandon Henderson beat the Dog defender to the glass for a couple of consecutive, 62-41. In the time-shortened fourth, the entire Indian bench was cleared so that all the Tribe received floor time in the 70-41 loss to the Murphy, NC Bulldogs. The win gave the Dogs a third place trophy and the Tribe finished in fourth place. In the championship

game Southside, AL took the First Place trophy 57-47 over Runner-Up Hayesville, NC. For full game photo coverage go to: jlbphotography.photorelect.com

Receiving All-Tournament Team honors were: John Bleckley (Towns County); Zach Lovingood (Murphy); Brandon Brooks (Hayesville); Justin Gonyea (Hayesville); Luke Silvers (Polk County); Seth Merritt (Union County); Trey Saxton (Hebron); Jordan Farmer (Fannin County); Ricky Ray Clayton (Southside); All-Tournament MVP Muggsy Howard (Southside).

Photo by Jim/Lisa Bryant

Indians stun Polk County with come from behind win in BOS opener

By Jerry Kendall

The Towns County Indians varsity basketball team gave themselves and their follows a big time moment to remember last Monday in the opening round of the Battle of the States Tournament in the Towns County Gym. After a strong first quarter, the Indians saw Polk County take a 35-25 lead at intermission and then seemingly invincible leads of 53-35 and then 55-37 with just 1:32 on the clock in the third quarter. The best for the Indians was yet to come, however, as they came charging from behind for the improbable victory.

But first things first. The first quarter was a real battle with an early 6-2 Polk lead being the biggest margin of the quarter and the Indians finishing with an 18-16 lead. Bradley Swanson provided most of the offensive punch in the quarter, including a pair of treys in a twelve point performance. The second quarter and most of the third didn't go as well for the Indians, however, as Polk "won" the second by a 19-7 margin for the aforementioned 35-25 lead at intermission. The Indians rallied from as much as a 43-29 deficit to within 43-35 just past the mid point of the third quarter but fell back again to the previously mentioned eighteen point deficits.

Treys by Bradley Swanson and John Bleckley and a steal and coast to coast run for two by Bleckley between the 1:15 and forty second marks had them within 55-45 but the Wildcats countered with a drive for two and a 57-45 lead at quarter's end. The Indians continued to show strong signs of life with baskets by Brandon Henderson and Devin Henderson getting them within 57-49 barely half a minute into the fourth quarter but they found themselves trailing 65-51 by the 5:52 mark. Heroics galore were on the horizon, however, as the Indians were about to make their move, beginning at the 5:29 mark.

A three point play by Swanson and a basket by DJ Rogers for a 65-57 score were interrupted by a Polk County field goal at 4:48 for a ten point margin but the Indians were far from finished. A steal and field goal by Devin Henderson and a pair of treys by Swanson wrapped around a Rogers deuce between just



John Bleckley stops and pops as a Polk County, TN Wildcat goes from the block.

the 4:28 ad 2:34 marks had the two teams even at 67-67.

A Wildcat basket at 1:23 got them back ahead 69-67 and it often deflates a team that has come from so far behind to see the tie taken away but Rogers sank two pressure free throws at 1:05 for a 69-69 standoff. Again the Wildcats put pressure on the Indians with a trey at the fifty seven second mark but Swanson nailed his third trey of the quarter just twelve seconds later for a 72-72 tie that would send the game into overtime when neither team could add additional points.

Great drama continued in the fourth quarter with Devin Henderson getting the Indians ahead with a trey with 2:58 remaining in the four minute overtime. Brandon Henderson matched a Polk deuce with the Indians holding a three point lead but the Wildcats got even at 2:03 with a trey for a 77-77 score.

Brandon Henderson not only made an excellent save in preventing the ball from going out of bounds at the fifty seven second mark but got it to Bleckley for a field goal and a 79-77 lead the Indians would not relinquish. The Wildcats couldn't dent the scoreboard again and

could only watch helplessly as three different Indians sank five of six free throw attempts the final 44.7 seconds for a resounding 84-77 Indian triumph.

The victory by the Indians set the stage for a match with the Hayesville Yellow Jackets who took an opening round win over Fannin County. The Wildcats would rebound from the loss to the Indians to post an overtime win over Fannin and a close win over Union County for a fifth place finish in the tournament.

The Indians had heroes galore in the Polk County victory with eight players seeing action and all contributing to the victory, including by entering the scoring column. Scoring leaders were Swanson with a whopping 31 points, Rogers with 13, Bleckley with 12, Devin Henderson with 11, and Brandon Henderson with 10. Assists leaders were Bleckley with 5, Brandon and Devin Henderson with 4 each, and Rogers with 3. Sophomore Rylan Albach missed the game due to a sprained ankle but the Indians got some good minutes from Freshmen Ryan Tallent and Donald Lindemuth.

Photo by Jim/Lisa Bryant

Wild Kittens hold off Indians for girls BOS championship

Polk County takes trophy, Lady Indians settle for 2nd
By Jim Bryant

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It was the sixteenth outing for the TCHS Battle of the States Tournament and the girl's championship game provided the excitement as the Towns County Lady Indians and the Polk County, TN Wild Kittens battled for top honors. The Kittens took the tip and after a couple of missed shots on each end of the floor, took a 2-0 lead over the Indians. A couple of charity shots by Jordan Moss and a drive in the paint by Missy Conrad made it 4-2, Indians. Despite blocks by Ali Bleckley and Gabby Arencibia, the W'Kittens took an 8-6 lead after two inbounds steals and conversions. The Cats made their living in the first off thievery and muscled their way in the paint to a 13-6 lead after one quarter. Starting the second, Gabby Arencibia looped in a long shot outside the arc and Conrad followed down the center of the pint, 15-11. The Cats consumed much of the clock as they patiently set up each play. Again, it was Arencibia outside for a "3" to go 19-16. A steal by Brittany Walls and a glass by Jordan Moss made it 19-18. At 1:40 the Tribe took a 20-19 lead when Arencibia picked up the ball during a floor scramble and holed it. A fast break by Moss gave the Indians a 22-19 lead at the half.

The third started with a blocked shot by Arencibia and a shot by Moss to move the game to 27-25, after the Kittens answer with a "3." Another inbounds steal by the Cats made it 29-27, Indians. At 4:10 the Kittens knotted the score at 31-31. After a Moss Jumper, the Kittens sealed with a "3" to stay ahead, 35-33. The wheel came off the



Gabby Arencibia gets the ball in the paint as Jordan Moss and a Wild Kitten hit the deck.

wagon late in the third when a traveling call, and a couple of steals by the Cats led to another "3" and a 42-33 lead. Both inside and outside, the Kittens took control of the game as they scooped up loose balls and converted off their spread offense, 47-37 after three quarters. After a backcourt violation the Cats dropped in another trey, 57-37 as the visitors pulled away in the fourth. After a Moss in the middle and a "pull-J" by Conrad, the score was 52-43. The Kittens sealed the game following a couple of consecutive inbounds steals

to take the championship win, 68-53. For full photo game coverage go to: jlbphotography.photorelect.com

Receiving All-Tournament honors were: Jordan Moss (Towns County); Missy Conrad (Towns County); Hollie Cerman (Polk County); Sara Wilson (Polk County); Alex Rogers (Polk County); Brittany Pennington (Hokes Bluff); Alek Ingram (Hayesville); Jailisa Tucker (Hebron); Holli Abernathy (Union County); Kaileigh Satterfield (Fannin County).

Photo by Jim/Lisa Bryant

Start the year fine-free at the Library

With the crush of holiday responsibilities and the tough times many families are facing, the libraries of the Mountain Regional Library System are giving all their users the chance to start 2010 off with a clean slate!

New PINES policy will require that all library card accounts be free of fines or fees to be renewed. Library cards must be renewed every two years. The fines amnesty will give all library users the chance to clear their accounts in preparation for the change in policy.

For the entire month of January 2010, simply return your library materials and fines for those that are returned after the due date will be forgiven. For older overdue fines on items returned earlier, you

may pay each \$1 in fines with one can of food with an unexpired use-by date for the local Food Pantry. If you owe \$5, bring five cans of food to pay your account. You can pay your old overdue fines and help someone in need at the same time! Of course, if you owe for a lost item or for damages to library materials, those will have to be paid. Those funds are used to replace the lost or damaged items.

Help yourself to the opportunity to clear your library fines and help to restock the local Food Pantry after the holidays. All canned food items will go to the food pantry in the county where it is collected.

For more information, please call your local library - Mountain Regional Library - 706-379-3732, Fannin County Public Library 706-632-5263, Towns County Public Library - 706-896-6169, Union County Public Library 706-745-7491. NTJan06.7.A4/SH

Basketball Individual Scoring

Murphy	
Lady Indians (Grade)	
Jordan Moss (11)	25
Gabby Arencibia (10)	15
Lindsay Patton (10)	10
Ali Bleckley (10)	9
Melissa Conrad (12)	8
Kerri Abernathy (12)	4
Heather Hamilton (12)	2
Sheena Kendall (12)	1
Brittany Walls (11)	1
Polk County	
Indians (Grade)	
Bradley Swanson (11)	31
DJ Rogers (11)	13
John Bleckley (12)	12
Devin Henderson (11)	11
Brandon Henderson (10)	10
Ryan Tallent (9)	3
Ethan Burch (12)	2
Donald Lindemuth (9)	2
Fannin County	
Lady Indians (Grade)	
Gabby Arencibia (10)	24
Melissa Conrad (12)	21
Jordan Moss (11)	11
Ali Bleckley (10)	8
Kerri Abernathy (12)	2
Lindsay Patton (10)	2
Hayesville	
Indians (Grade)	
John Bleckley (12)	21
Bradley Swanson (11)	14
Brandon Henderson (10)	12
DJ Rogers (11)	5

Kennel Club monthly meeting

Hiwassee River Valley Kennel Club meetings are held at 7 p.m. the first Monday of each month at Brother's Restaurant on Hwy 64 in Murphy, NC. We invite all those interested in pure bred dogs and canine activities to attend. Call President Kit Miracle at 706-492-5253 or Peggy Moorman at 828-835-1082 for details.

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ICL announces courses for winter term

The Institute for Continuing Learning (ICL) at Young Harris College has scheduled an exciting lineup of classes for the winter term beginning the week of January 18. One of the highlights will be a series of seminars on Internet Security and Identity Theft on three successive Saturdays - Jan. 23, Jan. 30 & Feb. 6 - at 1 p.m. in the Wilson Lecture Hall in the Goolsby Building on the campus of the college. There is no charge for these seminars and pre-registration is not required.

Winter classes include: Pat Tomczyk's Yoga on Mon-

days at 10 a.m.; Alex Peers' Beginning Digital Photography on Mondays at 1 p.m.; Sheila Rodgers and Jill Long's Health Care And Consumerism on Mondays at 3:15 p.m.; Dr. Charline Sacks' French For Travelers on Tuesdays at 10 a.m.; Julia Beeman's Kaleidoscope: Soul Searching With C.G. Jung on Tuesdays at 10 a.m.; Jennifer Cordier's Organic Gardening For The Backyard Gardener on Tuesdays at 1 p.m.; Dr. John Kay & Bob Ramay's Science And Religion: Both/And Or Either/Or? on Tuesdays at 3:15 p.m.; Barbara Lewis' Level 3

Bridge on Wednesdays at 10 a.m.; Dr. James Hale's Nonsensical Nostrums, Pharmaceutical Frauds, And Medical Messiahs on Wednesdays at 1 p.m.; Joseph Turbeville's Lost Design Secrets Of The Great Pyramid Of Egypt on Wednesdays at 1 p.m.; Dr. Leon Lee's Surprised By Joy: A Look At The Poems Of William Wordsworth on Wednesdays at 3:15 p.m.; Ben Kennedy's Age Of Enlightenment on Thursdays at 1 p.m.; Dr. Bettie Sellers What Makes A Poem? on Thursday at 1 p.m. Dr. Roberta Rankin's (ST) Ages Of Theatre on Thursdays at 3:15

p.m.; Barbara Terrell's The Natural Way To Draw on Fridays at 3 p.m.

You can obtain more detail on all the classes and download a registration form at www.iclyhc.org. Contact Bob Langenbacher in Young Harris (706-379-2660) or e-mail icl@yhc.edu for additional information. ICL is a not-for-profit organization with excess operating moneys going toward scholarships for students at YHC. In its 19th year of operation, the Institute offers a wide range of educational opportunities for adults of all ages. NTJan06.7.A1/SH

NTJan06.7.A3/SH