

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports



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Last half rally lifts Lady Indians' JV past Hebron Christian

By Jerry Kendall
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The Towns County Lady Indian JV's returned to action last Saturday at home against Hebron Christian after having their Friday game at Commerce cancelled due to weather concerns. The varsity games were moved from 7 p.m. to 5 p.m. with the JV games cancelled in order for the TCHS teams and fans to get back across the mountain prior to the expected arrival of snow to the area.

Although most members of the Lady Indian JV squad were elevated to varsity status during the Battle of the States, the Hebron game was their first as a JV team since they played at Andrews on Saturday, December 18. The Lady Indians took an early 6-0 lead highlighted by four points by Stephanie Patton but Hebron rallied for a brief 7-6 lead with 2:40 left in the first quarter. A steal and layup by Davilyn Blythe got them back ahead 8-7 at 2:17 and a McKenzi Moss free throw had them ahead 9-7 before a late Lady Lions basket tied the score at 9-9 after one quarter.

Patton struck with a field goal, two free throws and a trey in less than three minutes at the start of the third quarter for a 16-9 Lady Indian lead but the Lady Lions rallied for a 20-18 advantage with 1:23 left in the first half. Elizabeth Turner responded for the Lady Indians, however, with a field goal for a tie at 1:09 and with two free throws at 1.1 seconds for a 22-20 lead at intermission that they would not relinquish.

Four Lady Indians put points on the scoreboard in the third quarter and five turned the trick in the fourth with a five point fourth quarter by Patton



Stephanie Patton heads to the basket against Hebron Photo by Lowell Nicholson.



Ben Pong looks for a deuce against Hebron.

highlighting last half action. The Lady Indians led 32-24 after three quarters and broke the game open in the fourth with an 11-2 run for a 43-26 victory. Patton led the Lady In-

dians in scoring with 19 points with other leaders being Davilyn Blythe with 7 points and Bailey Sutton with 6 while Destiny Blythe led in assists with 2.

TCMS basketball teams return from break; split with Fannin Rebels

By James Reese
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Following a snowy Christmas break, the Towns County Indians Middle School teams returned to action hosting the visiting Fannin County Rebels.

Both Indian teams finished with results that mirrored the season openers in Blue Ridge.

Victory went to the Lady Indians as they fended off a late Lady Rebel charge taking the opener 32-26. The Indians fell to the Rebels in the nightcap 38-26.

After a lengthy delay, the Lady Indians took to the home court looking for a season sweep of the Lady Rebels. And that's exactly what they did.

In the early going, it appeared that the Lady Indians picked up where they left off. Head Coach Lana Parker's Lady Indians completely shut-out the Lady Rebels in the second half of the previous meeting in Blue Ridge.

Starting with a quick opening basket from Carly Gillfilian, the Lady Indians were off and running. Misty Lindemuth put the Lady Indians up 8-0 midway through the first quarter. Lindemuth would also drop a free throw to put the Lady Indians up 11-4 to close out the opening frame.

The Lady Indians took off in the second quarter stifling a Lady Rebel rally to carry a 19-13 lead into the locker room.

Lady Rebels Head Coach Buffy Chapman and her Lady Rebels appeared determined to get back in the game, scoring an early bucket after the break. Once again Parker's girls tightened up on defense and held the Lady Rebels to one basket through the third quarter. Unable to make good on the free throws from the charity stripe led to the Lady Rebels undoing down the stretch. The Lady Indians pulled away taking the game by six 32-26.

The TCMS boys didn't fair quite as well but made definite strides of improvement compared to the previous matchup with the Rebels.

Nevertheless, they dropped a 38-26 contest that was out of hand down the stretch.

The Indians managed to hang with the Rebels throughout the first quarter finding themselves down only 9-8. The Indians managed a 16-10 lead due to timely outside shooting and took a 20-17 lead into the half.

However the Rebels showed determination and resolve throughout the third quarter taking a 28-22 lead into the final frame. The Rebels appeared too strong down the stretch taking a 38-26 victory back to Blue Ridge.



Cruz Shook takes matters into his own hands against Fannin Photo by James Reese.



Head Coach Frank Johnson tells his team that they're still in the game Photo by James Reese.



Head Coach Lana Parker gives her team the game plan during a timeout against Fannin.



Misty Lindemuth battles for the rebound against Fannin Photo by James Reese.

Indian grapplers post best ever Area Duals finish

By James Reese
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Atlanta - The Towns County Indians made their best finish ever in Area Duals as the team competed at Holy Innocents School for the right to go to State Duals.

They didn't make it to state, but the team did make some historic moments for the wrestling program.

On Friday, the Indians defeated state duals powerhouse Trion to advance to the second day of the double elimination tournament.

Early Saturday morning, the Indians lost a tough match to the Duals event No. 2 seed, Holy Innocents.

"As good as we wrestled yesterday (Friday), we wrestled that bad this morning in the first round," Coach Stowers said. "Holy Innocents is a great wrestling team and I think they'll give Gordon Lee all they can handle (in the finals)."

That loss to Holy Innocents sent the Indians into the loser's bracket with the chance to battle back to third place and a chance to compete at state.

Saturday afternoon, the Indians battled the Walker Wolverines. They lost a narrow battle and earned an early ticket back to Hiwassee.

"We didn't do some things today that we did yesterday and that's the difference between winning and losing," Coach Stowers said. "When you have young kids, especially a lot of first year kids and that's kind of what you get - inconsistency."

"We had a couple matches this round that should've gone our way that didn't," he said. "We did some bonehead moves and got pinned. You can do that and win close matches. If we wrestled Walker six times it's probably 4 to 2 our favor. I'm proud of the kids, they put forth a lot of effort. I think now we understand that if we wrestle like we're supposed to wrestle, we can beat anybody."

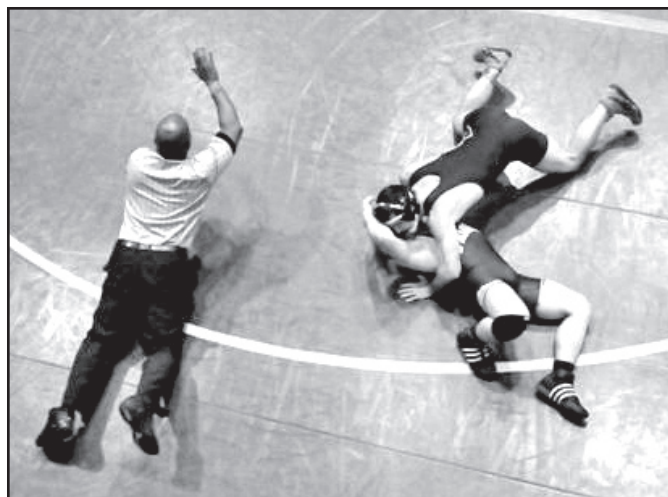
Coach Stowers had high praise for junior Zach Stroud at 145 pounds.

"Stroud had Alec Diamond from Walker in the last round and he's the two time State Champion," Coach Stowers said. "He had him on his back and almost had him stuck there but wound up getting beat by two points. Zach went 2-1; he wrestled a really good match today. He's come a long way this year."

Coach Stowers was feeling good after the first day.

"That's the best we've wrestled all year," he said. "We've got everybody in the right weight classes. Our young kids stepped up and won some matches. Even the ones that got beat didn't get pinned."

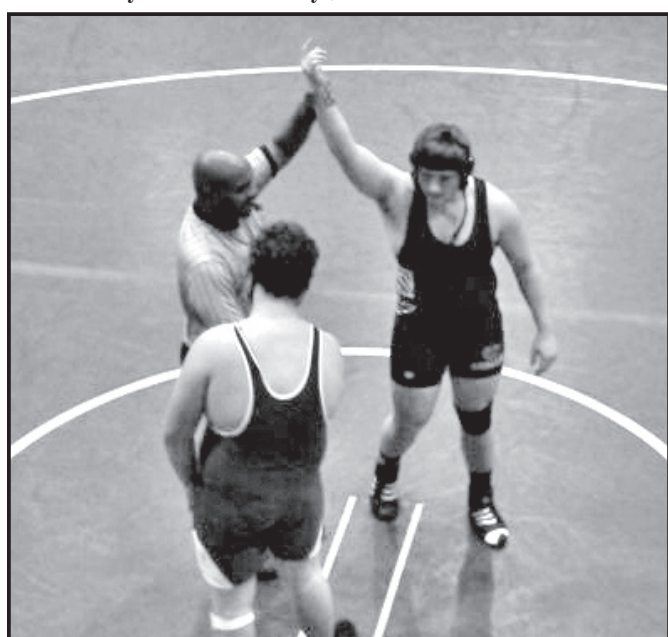
"In a duals match meet that's critical; every point counted," he said. "We got to



Tyler Hoffman gets the pin in his 160-pound matchup against Trion Photo by James Reese.



Zach Stroud works the mat to perfection against Trion in the Area Duals at Holy Innocent Photo by James Reese.



Wesley Bloodworth gets the win in his matchup against Trion on Friday Photo by James Reese.

the last match and all we had to do was not get pinned. We didn't really have to win to get a tie and we could've pulled it out in tie breaker, but the kids stepped up.

"We got to our last three wrestlers Tim Collier, Jake Cole and Zach Stroud those are the kids for us that have to win. Tyler Hoffman started us off great. Wesley Bloodworth came up with a huge win at heavyweight against a big kid," Coach Stowers said. "We wrestled as about as well could wrestle right there, that's about as good as we get. It's exciting for our kids to be able to earn a spot in the semi-finals. It's the first time (I've) ever been in the

semis, so, yes, it's good."

Coach Stowers thanked the community for helping them get to Area 3 Duals.

"I appreciate everybody in the community that helped us out - The Ridges, Community Bank & Trust, the Towns County Herald and the people who gave us money to be able to come down a day early and make sure we could get here in case the weather got real bad," Coach Stowers said. "I appreciate so much the support, not just from them but from the whole community. Our wrestling program has drawn a big crowd every time we wrestle at home and it's just great to see Towns County support our wrestling team."

A heartfelt thank you to our community and volunteers!

To our community & area merchants, who through their special efforts, thoughtfulness, sponsorship and donations have given all the children in foster homes in Towns & Union Counties a very wonderful Christmas in 2010. The children thank you! Thanks to all of our Christmas 2010 sponsors:

St. Francis Catholic Church; Sharp Memorial United Methodist; Gene Carter Jodi Williams; Bobbi Tower; Kathy & Jim Hancock; Cadence Bank of Blairsville; Janet Cornwell; United Community Bank of Hiwassee; UC Jr. Board of Directors; Carol Ann Harrison; Eastern Star & Francis Shook; Kathy McIntyre; Wylene Penland; Woods Grove Baptist Church; Gloria King; Judy Caines; Debbie Pissat; Pam Curley; Barbara Goergen; Kim Hamby; Peggy Burgess; 4H Club & Andrew Smith; Kathy Day; Shari & David Carswell; Rhonda Wilson; Sharon & Stan Kordish; Dorothy Beck; Brittany Pack; Jim Bazzinotte;

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"Christmas Room" and Larry Garrett for his great help!

Special thank you to Ruth Goode who has helped to make the "special wishes" come true this year for so many children in Foster homes in Towns and Union Counties. Appreciation and thank you to all the wonderful volunteers that work so hard each year to sponsor this terrific Program for our Foster Children. This was the 9th successful year made possible through the Towns and Union Foster Children's Enrichment Program, Inc., which is a very successful 501©3 Non-Profit Charity.

Gene & Sue Chumley; Diana & Joel Smith; Sherry & Gene Wendt; Pat & Bob Elliott; Lorena Johnson; Kathy & Jim Day; Sharon Kordish; India Trapp; Mary Jane & Richard Paolillo.

Sincere apologies to anyone who generously donated & we did not list your name! The children thank each and everyone of you!

INDIVIDUAL BASKETBALL SCORING

COMMERCE
Lady Indians (Grade)
Jordan Moss (12) 20
Gabby Arencibia (11) 11
Eryn Cochran (9) 10
Makayla Underwood (9) 8
Lindsay Patton (11) 4
Davilyn Blythe (10) 4
Emily Anderson (10) 3
Crystal Bishop (12) 2
Indians (Grade)
Bradley Swanson (12) 29
Brandon Henderson (11) 8
Devin Henderson (12) 5
DJ Rogers (12) 3
Brett Bradshaw (12) 2
HEBRON CHRISTIAN
Lady Indians (Grade)
Gabby Arencibia (11) 17
Jordan Moss (12) 16

Eryn Cochran (9) 11
Ben Pong (11) 9
Ali Bleckley (11) 5
Lindsay Patton (11) 3
Makayla Underwood (9) 3
Makayla Underwood (9) 3
Crystal Bishop (12) 2
Indians (Grade)
DJ Rogers (12) 19
Bradley Swanson (12) 16
Brandon Henderson (11) 8
Devin Henderson (12) 5
Ryan Tallent (10) 2
Lady Indian JV's (Grade)
Stephanie Patton (8) 19
Davilyn Blythe (10) 7
Bailey Sutton (9) 6
Emily Anderson (10) 4
Elizabeth Turner (9) 4
McKenzi Moss (9) 3
Indian JV's (Grade)

Grant Arencibia (8) 10
Dallas Manus (8) 6
Luke Parker (10) 3
Austin Wood (10) 3
Ryan Tallent (10) 3
Slade Davenport (9) 3
Ryan Dallen (10) 2
Garrett Bradshaw (9) 2
Brett Barrett (9) 1

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