

# Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports



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## Indians roll to one win, rally for a close victory, fall in a third



Ken Hamilton talks it over with the Indians during a timeout. Photo by James Reese.

By Jerry Kendall  
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Last week might be described as one of agony and ecstasy for the Towns County Indians Varsity Basketball Team but with the pleasure being twice the amount of ecstasy as they took Region 8A victories in two of three games played. They raced past Tallulah Falls at home on Tuesday, were overwhelmed at Lakeview Academy on Friday, but rebounded for a resounding come from behind victory over Riverside Military Academy at their annual homecoming celebration on Saturday. The week's work extended the Indians' overall record to 4-20, including 3-9 in the region.

The Region 8A Tournament is scheduled to be played next week with play in and opening round games to be held at George Walton Academy in Monroe on Monday through Wednesday and the semi finals and finals to be held at Lakeview Academy on Friday and Saturday. Pairings for the tournament will not be determined until long after the press deadline for this week's newspaper so those wishing to attend will need to check with the school, players, coaches, or other fans for the days and times the Lady Indians and Indians will see their first action.

### INDIANS VERSUS TALLULAH FALLS

The Indians struggled to a 16-10 halftime deficit at Tallulah Falls back in December before charging from behind for a 44-27 victory. It didn't require near this amount of time to get cranked up last Tuesday, however, as they charged out to a 13-0 lead in just four and a half minutes and never looked back in leading 26-5, 36-11, and



Dallas Manus gets the glad hand from his teammates against Tallulah Falls. Photo by James Reese.

a way to roll or bounce off the rim instead of in it while it seemed at times, whether real or imagined, that the Lions just had to get the ball above the rim to make a basket. The shooting woes even carried over to the foul line where the Indians had enjoyed quite good success in recent games but sank only four of fifteen attempts in this game.

Those are just the breaks of basketball however and, along with the primary difficulty of turnovers against the Lions' suffocating pressure defense, contributed heavily to the Indians not being able to keep the game more competitive. The Indians were never able to take a lead in the game but actually kept it close until well past the mid point of the first quarter. A free throw and field goal by Brandon Henderson got them a 3-3 tie at 6:18 and a field goal by the big senior at 5:28 forced a 5-5 standoff.

A baseline drive and jump shot by Ryan Tallent then gave them a third tie of 7-7 at 3:55 but a 13-2 closing run had the Lions in front 20-9 after one quarter and on their way to a 45-21 lead at intermission. Boone Moss scored four of the Indians' final five points of the first half and Jordan Jacobs four of six in the third quarter as the Lions led 74-18 after three quarters and took an 83-21 victory.

Henderson and Tallent led the Indians in scoring for the game with 5 points each while Dallas Manus led in assists with 3.

### INDIANS VERSUS RIVERSIDE MILITARY ACADEMY

After letting a fourth quarter lead slip away in losing a 51-43 game to stall minded Riverside Military Academy

in Gainesville back in December, the Indians were hoping to avenge that defeat on their home court last Saturday. That possibility was complicated a bit, however, by the fact that the Eagles had two players not participating in that earlier game who would combine for twenty seven points in this game.

The Indians rallied from an early 4-0 deficit exactly a minute into the game for an 8-0 run on a pair of treys by Dallas Manus wrapped around a deuce by Brandon Henderson for an 8-4 lead they would hold until the 2:25 mark of the first quarter. A Riverside trey at that point gave the Eagles a lead they would hold until the final minute and a half of the game. Manus with six points and Henderson and Ryan Tallent with five each accounted for all of the Indians' first quarter points as they trailed by just a 17-16 margin after one quarter.

The Eagles appeared to be taking control of the game with a 13-2 run at the start of the second quarter for a 30-18 lead by the 5:23 mark but the duo of Grant Arencibia and Garrett Bradshaw brought them back. Three treys by Arencibia between the 5:11 and 2:05 marks with a deuce and old fashioned three point play by Bradshaw also included had them within 34-32 but the Eagles used a 4-1 finish in rebuilding their lead to 38-33 by intermission.

The Eagles again appeared to be taking control of the game in the third quarter, building a 54-43 advantage despite six straight Indian points by Rylan Albach before a late three point play by Arencibia reduced the lead to 54-46 entering the fourth quarter. The Indians gradually reduced the



Senior Night against Tallulah Falls. Photo by James Reese.

Riverside lead during the fourth quarter behind three baskets by Tallent and two by Henderson with each using a field goal in getting the Indians to within 56-54 and then 58-56 by the 2:34 mark.

Neither team could put points on the score board for more than a minute after that until Arencibia nailed a trey at 1:22 for a sudden 59-58 Towns lead, their first since the 2:25 mark of the first quarter. It was a real battle after that with the Arencibia trey being the first of five lead changes in just a minute and six seconds of playing time.

Two Eagle free throws at 1:04 got them back ahead 60-59 but a Henderson basket thirteen seconds later had the Indians back in front 61-60. The Eagles again took the lead by a 62-61 margin on a field goal at thirty seven seconds and regained possession but missed two free throws for a potential two or three point lead at 27.9 seconds.

Henderson made them pay by sinking his fourth field goal of the quarter at sixteen seconds for a 63-62 Indian lead and then sinking two free throws, giving him ten points in the quarter, at 6.1 seconds following an Eagle turnover for a

65-62 Towns lead. A late Eagle 3-point attempt for a tie missed the mark and Tallent grabbed the rebound with time running out on the Eagles as the Indians prevailed in a thriller 65-62.

The Indians got excellent scoring balance from Arencibia and Henderson with 15 points each, Tallent with 13, Albach and Manus with 8 each, and Bradshaw with 6. Assists leaders were Albach with 8 and Manus with 3. It was quite a going away party for Henderson and Albach as the seniors closed out their home court careers with excellent personal production and a thrilling victory for their team. Much appreciation is extended to your reporter's son, Kevin, for recording the play by play notes for this game as your reporter filled in as scorekeeper.

Freshman Trace Moss received a promotion to the varsity for this game after outstanding play in the last several JV games. With injuries to senior Dakota Barrett and sophomore Brett Barrett keeping them out of action and increasing recent varsity duty for the sophomores and freshmen, the scheduled JV games against Lakeview and Riverside last week and Commerce this week have been canceled.

## Lady Indian JV's complete season with a victory and 9-game winning streak

By Jerry Kendall  
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It was business as usual for the Towns County Lady Indian JV's Basketball Team last week as they completed their season with a 32-18 conquest of the Lakeview Academy Lady Lions in Gainesville. The victory was their ninth in a row as they improved their season record to 11-2.

The start of the game actually wasn't very promising for the Lady Indians who had dominated the Lady Lions with a 38-15 home victory back in December. The Lady Lions took a steal coast to coast for a three point play and then banked in a 3-pointer for a 6-0 lead just over a minute and a half into the first quarter.

That would be the Lady Lions' last points of the quarter, however, and a Madison Johnson free throw and a McKenzie Moss trey during the final two minutes of the quarter had the Lady Indians within 6-4. The tide began to turn following a quick Lakeview basket for an 8-4 lead as a Destiny Blythe trey at the 6:15 mark triggered a 16-4 Lady Indians run giving them a 22-12 lead at intermission.

Misty Lindemuth had gotten the Lady Indians ahead 9-8, for good as it turned out, on a basket at the 5:45 mark and completed a ten point second quarter with Moss adding a second trey and a free throw. Johnson scored the first four points of the third quarter as the Lady Indians opened with an 8-0 run for a 30-12 lead with 2:30 still on the clock. The scoring pace abruptly stopped for the Lady Indians after that but they led 30-14 entering the fourth quarter and coasted to a 32-18 victory.

Lindemuth led the Lady Indians in scoring for the game with 12 points with other leaders being Moss with 8 and Blythe and Johnson with 5 each while Karlie Albach and Alyssa Pyle led in assists with 2 each.



Destiny Blythe and Madison Johnson fight for rebound position. Photo by Lowell Nicholson.



Madison Johnson lifts a jumper against Lakeview. Photo by Lowell Nicholson.



Misty Lindemuth puts up a layup against Lakeview. Photo by Lowell Nicholson.

## Lady Indians rack up region wins upend Tallulah Falls; Lakeview Academy

By Jerry Kendall  
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The Towns County Lady Indians Varsity Basketball Team took two more steps toward an undefeated regular season in Region 8A last week with decisive victories over Tallulah Falls at home and Lakeview Academy in Gainesville. The victories extended their overall season record to 18-6, including 11-0 in the region with a single region game left to be played, on Tuesday night of this week in Commerce.

The Region 8A Tournament is scheduled to be played next week with play in and opening round games to be held at George Walton Academy in Monroe on Monday through Wednesday and the semi finals and finals to be held at Lakeview Academy on Friday and Saturday. Pairings for the tournament will not be determined until long after the press deadline for this week's newspaper so those wishing to attend will need to check with the school, players, coaches, or other fans for the days and times the Lady Indians and Indians will see their first action.

### LADY INDIANS VERSUS TALLULAH FALLS

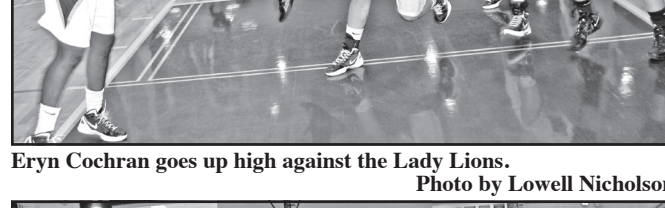
After quite a battle for more than four minutes at the start of their game at Tallulah Falls back in December, the Lady Indians broke away for a 74-20 victory. Last Tuesday they took control from the beginning, however, as they sprang out in less than three minutes to a 10-1 lead which became 30-4 by the end of the first quarter and 34-4 less than a minute into the second.

It never got much better than that for the visiting Lady Indians of Tallulah Falls as the Towns County tribe of Indians led 43-9 at intermission and 53-11 after three quarters in taking a 71-16 victory. Ten of eleven Lady Indians seeing action in the game entered the scoring column with ten points by Ali Bleckley and six each by sisters Lindsay and Stephanie Patton in the first being the top individual quarterly totals for the game.

Scoring leaders for the game for the Lady Indians were Bleckley with 15 points, Stephanie Patton with 11, Gabby Arencibia with 10, Emily Anderson and Lindsay Patton with 8 each, Eryn Cochran



Eryn Cochran goes up high against the Lady Lions. Photo by Lowell Nicholson.



Ali Bleckley launches a jumper against Lakeview. Photo by Lowell Nicholson.

with 7, and Kellsie Cowart with 6. Nine different Lady Indians contributed at least one assist, according to your reporter's unofficial tally, with leaders being Arencibia, Cochran, and Lindsay Patton with 3 each and Bleckley and Bailey Sutton with 2 each.

### LADY INDIANS AT LAKEVIEW ACADEMY

It was with perhaps a bit of wonder as the Lady Indians approached their game at Lakeview Academy last Friday. They had taken a 50-point victory over the Lady Lions on their home court in December but notice was probably taken that the Lady Lions had come away with a 40-38 home court victory over George Walton Academy just a few nights before the Lady Indians had a quite tough battle in taking a 55-45 victory at George Walton.

The Lady Indians showed they were up to the task on this evening, however, as they exploded out to a 9-0 lead less than three minutes into the game and held a 23-4 lead after one quarter. Eight points by

Eryn Cochran and 6 by Stephanie Patton led the first quarter onslaught but the Lady Indians were as cold for nearly half of the second quarter as they were hot in the first.

The normally excellent free throw shooting Lady Indians sank just three of eight free throw attempts as the Lady Lions closed slightly to within 26-10 before Stephanie Patton and Gabby Arencibia at the 4:02 and 3:07 marks got them back on track with treys for a 32-11 lead which became 36-18 at halftime. Eight different Lady Indians put points on the score board the last half as they led 53-29 after three quarters and coasted to a 72-40 victory.

Arencibia led the Lady Indians in scoring for the game with 17 points with four of her teammates also in double figures, namely Stephanie Patton with 16, Ali Bleckley with 11, and Dadrion Blythe and Cochran with 10 each. Leading in assists were Bleckley and Cochran with 4 each, Stephanie Patton with 3, and Lindsay Patton with 2.

## Mountain United Soccer registration

The Mountain United Soccer Association is getting ready for Spring Soccer. Registrations are now being accepted. Registration forms were mailed to past members registered from the previous season. You can also get forms at www.mountain-soccer.org.

The Fall 2011 season was a big success. Over 250 players were registered. Younger teams played in Blairsville, Hiwassee, and Blue

Ridge. The older age groups competed throughout Georgia. Cott Beverage is our community host for the soccer fields. The league is grateful for their commitment and support for the youth in our community. The fields have been located at Cott Beverage since 1998.

The Spring 2012 season will begin in March. Anyone who is interested in playing needs to get a registration form in as soon as possible, in

some cases space is limited.

The league is a volunteer run organization and is also a 501(c)3 non profit. Any and all donations are directed to the youth players to make it possible. Field Sponsors, Sign Sponsors, and Team Sponsors are always needed. If you are interested in being a sponsor, please contact the Association.

For more info contact the league at 706-745-7865 or www.mountain-soccer.org.