

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports



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Gabby Arencibia sets state record for 3-pointers made



Gabby Arencibia set a Georgia High School Association record for the most 3-pointers made in a regulation game by nailing 13 treys Photo by James Reese.

By Jerry Kendall
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It's quite rare when any sports crowd is treated to a truly magnificent individual performance but that was just what was provided for those in attendance at last Tuesday's Towns County Lady Indians Varsity Basketball game on Senior Night in the Towns County Gym. Lady Indian Junior Gabby Arencibia sank thirteen 3-point field goals in just three quarters of playing time for what is believed to be a new state record as can best be determined through a search of state and national high school web sites.

According to the Georgia

Prep Country Website, Arencibia's performance breaks the record of eleven treys in one game held by Nancy Williams of Dade County since February 5, 1999 and ties the boys state record of thirteen set by Vincent Banks of South Atlanta during the 2003 season. A look at the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) web site further reveals that Arencibia tied the known girls Southeastern USA record of thirteen treys established by Heather Mayes of Fyffe, Alabama, on February 7, 1995. Mayes established the record setting total against Pisgah High School of Alabama, a Lady Indians opponent in last

season's Tip Off Classic.

The known national girls record for 3-pointers in a game is fifteen established in 1998 in Michigan and later tied by four other players. Three additional players have also made fourteen treys in one game, beginning in 1992 in California.

Not only did Arencibia sink an inordinate number of shots but she hit an outstanding percentage as well, sinking fifteen of thirty field goal attempts, including thirteen of twenty six from 3-point range. She further added four rebounds, three assists, three blocked shots, and three steals to the sharp shooting effort.

The thirteen treys are not only a statewide record but Arencibia also established a new single game school scoring record under what might be considered the modern era of full court play in girls basketball. Her forty three points eclipse the thirty seven scored by her former TCHS teammate and current Young Harris College standout Nikki Winn who scored thirty seven points on January 4, 2008, actually in the same game that Winn reached the 1,000 point total for her career.

Margie Gibson (Hooper) continues to hold the known overall Lady Indians school record of forty four points in one game established more than forty three years ago on February 2, 1968, in the old Towns County Gym against Toccoa Falls. It required every one of Gibson's points for a Lady Indian victory in that game as the

Lady Indians took a foul infested game by the inordinately high score of 82-81.

The Lady Indians were charged with thirty seven fouls compared to "just" thirty for Toccoa Falls in the game with six of twelve Lady Indians available for duty fouling out, including one during the second quarter and three more in the third. The Lady Indians sank thirty six of fifty free throw attempts in the game, including just two misses of one and one attempt, with Gibson leading the way with 24 for 29 accuracy, including 8 for 8 in the decisive fourth quarter.

Toccoa Falls provided enormous help for the Lady Indians in that game by sinking just twenty five of forty four free throw attempts, including missing fifteen one and one attempts in the years long before implementation of the two shot bonus after ten fouls by an opponent in a half. In fact, one free throw attempt was awarded after the first five fouls of an opponent in each half with all non shooting attempts beginning with the sixth of the half resulting in one and one situations. With the victory, the Lady Indians ended a five game losing streak and improved their record to 7-14 for the season.

In reaching their record setting single game point totals, Gibson and Arencibia each had a unique advantage totally outside their control not available to the other. During Gibson's career, many more free throw attempts were provided the top shooter on each team while the 3-point shot implemented years after Gibson's career ended provides additional point opportunities today as evidenced by Arencibia's performance last week.

In 1968 and through the 1970 season, each girls team employed six players with three restricted to each end of the court and playing either guard or forward. Guards were not allowed to cross the center line to shoot free throws when fouled although they could later re-enter the game at the other position.

The best free throw shooter on the team was allowed to shoot whatever number of free throws resulted from the guards being fouled. Gibson was the Lady Indians' best free throw shooter that year so she spent a lot of time at the foul line in her record setting game, sinking the aforementioned twenty four free throws along with ten field goals for the total of forty four points for the game.

Today under full court



Gabby Arencibia launches and sinks one of her state record 13 three-point shots Photo by James Reese.

rules and also under "rover" rules in effect, also with six players, during the 1971 through 1975 seasons, each player shoots their own foul shots so Arencibia, an excellent free throw shooter, only goes to the foul line when she is fouled. With Gibson's 82.8% free throw accuracy in her record setting game and Arencibia's 50% accuracy from 3-point range in hers as evidence, it doesn't require much imagination to expect that Gibson and Arencibia would have adjusted to the situation at hand and proven to be most effective if playing under the rules followed by the other many years apart.

Just two other Lady Indians are known to have scored as many as forty points in a single game with both coming under the half court rules. Peggy Berrong (Giles) scored forty one points in a season-opening 61-59 home court loss to Highlands, North Carolina, during the final year of the old rules on November 18, 1969. And Bonnie Huggins (Nicholson), the

grandmother of recent Union County stars Kayla and Blake Gowder, actually scored forty points in a 42-40 Towns victory over Rabun Gap during the 1952 season. Prolific Indians scorer Bob Bryson continues to hold the all time Towns County single game scoring record with 48 points as a sophomore in a 74-50 win over Nacoochee High School on February 1, 1955.

Your reporter considers it a true honor to have viewed history in the making and had indirect involvement in both record setting games, as score keeper during Gibson's game and as your newspaper reporter keeping a shot by shot chart during Arencibia's game. They displayed the highest of skills in reaching such noteworthy personal accomplishments and leading their teams to victory. Appreciation for the memories and congratulations are extended to both Margie and Gabby as they share the status of holding admirable scoring records in two widely diverse eras of girls high school basketball.

Indians fall in regular season finale to first place Commerce

By Jerry Kendall
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The Towns County Indians Varsity Basketball Team gave the Commerce Tigers a real battle on opening night in the Tiger brand new gym on January 7, falling by just nine points to the defending Region 8A champions. They had hopes of pulling off a victory on Senior Night in the Towns County Gym last Tuesday but it was not to be, however, as the Tigers used their visit to the mountains to clinch first place in regular season in Sub-Region 8A North with an impressive 70-41 victory.

The loss left the Indians with just a 5-20 regular season record but with the consolation of having been very competitive in all except the opening four games and this, their final game of the regular season. As of press time, the Indians were scheduled to face Prince Avenue Christian School on Monday of this week in the opening round of the Region 8A Tournament in Commerce with a chance, if victorious to face Sub-Region 8A South regular season champion George Walton Academy on Tuesday.

Wins over both Prince Avenue and George Walton would qualify the Indians not only for the semi-final and final rounds of the tournament on Friday and Saturday of this week at Athens Christian School but first round play in the Class A State Tournament next week.

Against Commerce, the Indians stayed close to the Tigers for nearly four minutes at the start of the game with a trey and a deuce by Corbin Gilfilian giving them a 3-3 tie and just a 6-5 deficit by the 5:17 mark of the first quarter. The Tigers struck for eight straight points, however, and an eventual 16-7 lead by the end of the first quarter, however, and led by as much as 25-9 on the way to a 30-16 lead at halftime.

The Indians trailed by a 46-24 score by the 2:55 mark of the third quarter before the Tigers broke the game open with a 12-2 run for a 58-26 lead near the end of the third quarter and coasted from there to the 70-41 victory. Bradley Swanson included a trey in a five point third quarter while DJ Rogers included three for four free throw shooting in a seven point fourth as last half highlights for the Indians.

Scoring leaders for the Indians were Rogers with 11 points, Swanson with 10, Gilfilian with 8, and Brandon Henderson with 6. Leading the Indians in assists were Devin Henderson, Rogers, and Swanson with 2 each according to your reporter's unofficial tally.



Corbin Gilfilian puts up a deuce in the regular season finale against Commerce Photo by James Reese.



Brett Bradshaw nails a difficult shot against Commerce Photo by James Reese.



Devin Henderson drives for two against Commerce Photo by James Reese.



DJ Rogers nails a deuce in action against Commerce Photo by James Reese.

Towns Thunder stretch stay perfect at 14-0

The Thunder is perfect. The Towns County Thunder ran their regular season record to a perfect 14-0 behind the scoring tandem of Cole Ledford and Zach Davenport.

Head Coach Brett Davenport's Thunder dropped the hammer on the Magic 44-31.

Led by Ledford and Davenport, the Thunder jumped out to an 8-0 lead to set the game's pace. The Magic's Will Travis hit a bucket at 2:05 preventing an opening quarter shutout 8-2.

From that point on, Bradshaw's Thunder managed the court as the Magic battled back to a respectable 15-6 nine point margin to close the first quarter.

The Magic didn't quit and were able to fend off the Thunder primarily due to cold shooting attempts from the charity stripe.

Despite the comeback attempt by the Magic, the Thunder took a 24-12 lead into the locker room.

At the start of the second half, the Magic appeared up to the challenge and pulled to within nine points at 24-15.

Zach Davenport turned up the intensity for the Thunder with a strong 8-point third quarter extending their lead 35-21 going into the final frame.

Travis led the Magic charge with a solid 8-point effort in the fourth quarter adding to his Magic game high 14 points. The effort wasn't enough down the stretch as Davenport added 2 more to his game high 22 points and the Thunder pulled away 44-31 preserving their

perfect regular season.

The Town Recreation Department would like to announce that the Towns boys Basketball All-Stars will host the visiting White County All-

Stars starting at 11:30 a.m., Feb. 19.

The Towns County Lady All-Stars will play the following Saturday in Clayton against Rabun County



The Thunder's Zach Davenport wins the tip against the Magic's Will Travis Photo by James Reese.



Corbin Henderson puts up two of his 8 points in the match up with the Thunder and Magic Photo by James Reese.

Basketball Individual Scoring

COMMERCE
Lady Indians (Grade)
Gabby Arencibia (11) 43
Ali Bleckley (11) 14
Ben Pong (11) 10
Jordan Moss (12) 9
Dadrian Blythe (10) 3
Crystal Bishop (12) 2
Lindsay Patton (11) 2
Eryn Cochran (9) 2
Indians (Grade)
DJ Rogers (12) 11
Bradley Swanson (12) 10

Corbin Gilfilian (12) 8
Brandon Henderson (11) 6
Brett Bradshaw (12) 2
Dakota Barrett (11) 2
Ryan Tallent (10) 2
Lady Indian JV's (Grade)
Stephanie Patton (8) 15
Kelsie Cowart (9) 9
Bailey Sutton (9) 7
McKenzi Moss (9) 6
Destiny Blythe (9) 5
Emily Anderson (10) 4
Elizabeth Turner (9) 3

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