

Towns County Sports

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Record setting Arencibia performance propels Lady Indians past Commerce

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The Towns County Lady Indians Varsity Basketball Team completed their 2011 regular season last Tuesday with an electrifying 85-40 victory over Region 8A North foe Commerce on Senior Night in the Towns County Gym. A record setting, shooting exhibition by Junior Gabby Arencibia highlighted the game with additional details of her performance included in a related article.

The victory completed regular season play for the Lady Indians who improved their overall record to 23-1, including 12-0 in Region 8A, and they are state ranked in Class A in two different polls. They remain in fifth place in the Georgia Prep Country Coaches Poll and in seventh in the Atlanta Journal and Constitution sports writers poll as post season play begins.

As of press time, the Lady Indians were scheduled to face either Athens Academy or Social Circle at Commerce High School in the quarter finals of the Region 8A Tournament on Tuesday night of this week with a trip to the state tournament on the line. If victorious in that game, they will play in the Region Semi Finals on Friday of this week and then in either the championship or consolation game on Saturday with both games at Athens Christian School.

The Lady Indians dominated Commerce on opening night in the Lady Tigers' beautiful new gym on January 7, leading 16-1, 19-5, and 52-14 at the quarter breaks in taking a 62-18 victory. The Lady Tigers quickly showed last week, however, that they were vastly improved since that game forcing 2-2 and 6-6 ties before the Lady Indians used a 10-0 run for a 16-6 lead at the 1:11 mark of the first quarter and an eventual 18-10 lead after one quarter.

Two driving lay ups by Ali Bleckley gave the Lady Indians 2-0 and 4-2 leads just over a minute into the game and the first of two treys by Arencibia in a minute and five seconds

got them a 9-6 lead at 2:34 they would never relinquish but have challenged for awhile by the Lady Tigers. Jordan Moss used three inside deuces to match Arencibia's pair of treys for six first quarter points for each.

The Lady Tigers sank a trey just nine seconds into the second quarter for just an 18-13 deficit but Arencibia struck for three treys between the 7:07 and 6:03 marks for a 27-13 Lady Indian lead. Bleckley then wrapped two pairs of free throws around a Commerce field goal for a 31-15 Towns lead with 5:19 on the clock.

The Lady Indians continued their run when Arencibia matched a quick Commerce trey with one of her own and a free throw by Dadrian Blythe and a trey by Ben Pong seemed to have the Lady Indians in total control with a 38-18 lead at 3:09. The Lady Indians cooled off a bit the remainder of the quarter, however, as the Lady Tigers scored six straight points for a 38-24 score and followed Arencibia's fifth trey of the stanza with a deuce for a bit less imposing 41-26 Towns lead at intermission.

Perhaps the most explosive quarter of play ever for the Lady Indians was on the horizon, however, as they erupted for a 37-10 run for a 78-36 lead after three quarters. Arencibia continued her assault and battery against the Tigers with twenty two points on six treys and two layups following Lady Indian steals. Five other Lady Indians put points on the scoreboard in the quarter with Pong including her second trey in her five point production before they closed out an 85-40 victory in a mercy rule shortened fourth quarter.

All eleven Lady Indians dressed for the game saw lots of action but most of the scoring on this night came from the quartet of Arencibia, Bleckley, Pong, and Moss. In support of Arencibia's 43 points for the game were 14 for Bleckley, 10 for Pong, and 9 for Moss. Leading in assists were the freshman duo of Makayla Underwood and Eryn Cochran with 8 and 6 respectively, Arencibia with 3, and Kindle Moss with 2.



Jordan Moss adds a deuce in the regular season finale win over Commerce Photo by James Reese.



Eryn Cochran makes a beautiful pass in the Lady Indians' win over Commerce Photo by James Reese.



Crystal Bishop puts up a deuce against Commerce Photo by James Reese.

Lady Indians' JV's complete outstanding season with romp over Commerce

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The Towns County Lady Indian JV's Basketball Team completed a most impressive season last Tuesday with a dominating home court victory over the Commerce Lady Tigers. The victory extended the Lady Indians' season record to 11-2 and when considering that the Towns County Middle School Lady Indians recently completed an 11-3 season, the future continues to look very bright for Lady Indians Basketball. The two JV losses were to Union County with the Panthers pulling away late for a 35-27 win in the Towns County Gym and winning by just a 39-36 score at Union.

Against Commerce, the Lady Indians took an early 7-0 lead and then used a lengthy 24-0 run after the Lady Tigers

closed to within 12-9 for a 36-9 lead and an eventual 49-20 victory. A steal and field goal and then a trey by Stephanie Patton put the Lady Indians ahead 5-0 with four different Lady Indians adding points to the scoreboard for a 12-4 lead and later the aforementioned 12-9 advantage.

Beginning at the 3:52 mark of the second quarter, two free throws by Emily Anderson triggered the twenty four point run which ended at exactly the five minute mark of the third quarter. Patton scored eight points and Kellsie Cowart seven while Anderson added a field goal for four points during the extended run.

The Lady Indians continued to extend their lead to as much as 47-11 by the three and a half mark of the fourth quarter before the Lady Tigers scored

a 9-0 run for a 47-20 score near game's end. A late Elizabeth Turner basket set the final score at 49-20.

Patton led the Lady Indians in scoring for the game with

15 points with other leaders being Cowart with 9 points, Bailey Sutton with 7, McKenzi Moss with 6, and Destiney Blythe with 5. Leading in assists were Moss and Patton with 2 each.



Emily Anderson puts up a deuce against Commerce Photo by Lowell Nicholson.



Kellsie Cowart scores two of her 9 points in the Lady Indians' Junior Varsity win over Commerce Photo by Lowell Nicholson.



Stephanie Patton waits for two of her game high 15 points to fall Photo by Lowell Nicholson.

Recreation basketball tournaments to begin this weekend

The Towns County Recreation Department's Boys and Girls All-Star teams are ready to enter the Georgia Recreation and Park 7th District Basketball Tournaments. Play will begin this weekend, Saturday, February 19 at 11 AM for our 12 & Under Boys playing White County hosted by Banks County Recreation Department. The following week, February 24, 25, and 26, all teams will see action.

Our 10 & Under Boys begin on Friday, February 25 at 6 PM, playing Commerce, hosted by Jefferson Recreation Department.

Our 10 & Under Girls

begin on Friday, February 25 at 6 PM, playing Union County, hosted by Dawson County Recreation Department.

Our 12 & Under Girls begin on Friday, February 25 at 6 PM, playing White County, hosted by Rabun County Recreation Department.

Congratulations to all our teams for a successful season and we wish our players representing Towns County in the District Tournaments a rewarding and wonderful experience.

For additional information about these tournaments you may call the Towns County Recreation Department at 706-896-2600. TFFeb16J1SH

Big second-half surge lifts King past YHC

Former Towns County star Nikki Winn scored 7 points against King.

Young Harris - The Young Harris College women's basketball team couldn't slow down King College in the second half as the Mountain Lions fell, 60-49, during Cancer Awareness Day on Saturday at the Valley of Doom.

"That was an example of losing in a total effort," Young Harris head coach Brenda Paul said. "They (King College) stepped up in the second half, and we folded."

LaDondra Johnson led Young Harris (8-13) with 12 points and 10 rebounds - her third double-double of the season, while Nikki Winn and Lauren Smith had seven points each as the Mountain Lions shot 32 percent (16-of-49).

Young Harris raced out to a 20-9 lead with 4:42 remaining in

the opening half and took a 29-21 advantage into the break.

King opened the second half on a 29-9 run to take a 50-36 lead with 4:54 remaining. Young Harris couldn't recover from the big run in the final four minutes.

Ashley Deans led three Lady Tornado players in double figures with 14 points. Derika Mooney had 13 points and nine boards, while Brianna Kelley finished with 10 points as King (9-15) were 25-of-56 shooting for 45 percent.

The Mountain Lions take to the road and looks for the series sweep against Reinhardt University on Monday, Feb. 14. Young Harris defeated the Lady Eagles, 77-55, on Jan. 17. Tip-off is set for 6 p.m., in Waleksa.

2011 baseball and softball registration

The Towns County Recreation Department will be holding registration for softball and baseball for ages 8 thru 14 beginning on February 12 thru February 26. The cost for registration will be \$45. Sign ups will be held at

the Towns County Recreation Department. Hours of operation are Monday thru Friday 9 AM until 9 PM and Saturday from 9 AM until 7 PM. If you have any questions please call the Recreation Department at 706-896-2600. TFFeb16J1SH