

# Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports



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## Lady Indians Season Comes To An End With Loss To Pace Academy

### Sizzling early and late shooting decisive for Pace

The expression that all good things must come to an end was an unfortunate fit for the Towns County Lady Indians Varsity Basketball Team last Tuesday in the Towns County Gym in the Sweet Sixteen round of the Georgia Class A State Tournament. The Pace Academy Lady Knights of Atlanta used a red hot shooting start and a sizzling finish in taking a 69-54 victory, ending a record setting season for the Lady Indians.

The Lady Indians completed their season with a marvelous 27-2 record, the best winning percentage in school history and just one victory short of the single season school record for wins set during the Lady Indians' trip to the State

Final Four in 2008. This year's winning percentage of 93.1% eclipsed the 87.5% established by the Lady Indians during the 1972 season and matched by the 2008 squad. Also, the 103-19 overall record for the past four years easily surpassed the 96-17 record for the four year period through the 2010 season.

The current season included two lengthy winning streaks as the Lady Indians started the season with eleven straight wins and then won sixteen straight games between their first loss to Gordon Lee in the Battle of the States Championship Game and the loss to Pace. Further, a really big deal was the Lady Indians winning their second Region 8A Tournament Championship in

the last three years with just one such championship prior to that way back in 1977. Among many additional accomplishments for the Lady Indians this year were three wins over Union County and two over Hayesville, their neighborhood rivals, and a perfect 16-0 record in all games played against opponents in Region 8A.

The eighth ranked Pace Academy Girls entered the game with an excellent 24-5 record with four of the losses being to higher ranked Class A teams, one each to top ranked Wesleyan and second ranked Southwest Atlanta Christian and two at the hands of third ranked St. Francis. They were the third seed from Region 5A behind Wesleyan and St. Francis and just ahead of Holy Innocents. They avenged one of their losses in the first round of the state tournament with a 60-54 win at Southwest Atlanta and followed up their win over the fourth ranked Lady Indians by avenging another with a 63-60 double overtime victory over St. Francis on Saturday of last week. That victory qualified them for the state final four being held in Macon this week.

In a game that would be marked by three distinct scoring runs, two by the Lady Knights and one by the Lady Indians, astounding shooting accuracy at the start and end of the game by the Lady Knights would overcome Towns County dominance during the mid portions of the game for a 69-54 victory. Pace seemingly couldn't miss while Towns shots usually finding a way into the basket would not fall as the Lady Knights sank thirteen of their first twenty shots in building a 20-8 lead after one quarter and a 27-8 advantage by the 6:21 mark of the second.

To the Lady Indians and their followers, it appeared that the Lady Knights might never cool off but cool off they did after that initial run, sinking just seven of their next twenty six shots as the Lady Indians gradually at first and then in a flurry rallied for a 37-17 run and a 45-44 lead by the 6:10 mark of the third quarter. A trey by Makayla Underwood at the 5:56 mark of the second quarter got the Lady Indians off and running on their extended streak with Jordan Moss scoring six points the remainder of the quarter as the Lady Indians pulled to within 34-22 by intermission.

Moss continued her scoring flurry with the first four points of the third quarter but with the Lady Indians still trailing 38-26 before a 13-2 run the final 4:19 had them knocking on the door with just a 40-39 deficit entering the fourth quarter. Gabby Arencibia highlighted this run within a run by sinking a running shot in the lane at the start and adding two treys following first a ten footer by Moss and then a trey by Ali Bleckley.

The Lady Knights opened the fourth quarter with a field goal and two free throws for a 44-39 advantage but the Lady Indians responded with a Moss field goal and a three point play by Bleckley for a 44-44 tie at 6:35. Moss then got the Lady Indians what would prove to be their only lead of the game with a free throw at the aforementioned 6:10 mark. After their lengthy shooting woes, the Lady Knights finished the game as they had started it, with a sizzling shooting exhibition actually surpassing the initial run. They sank eight straight field goals and four straight free throws with three of the field goals being 3-pointers between the 5:50 and 1:38 marks for an insurmountable 67-52 lead which became the 69-54 victory. They did finally miss a trey and two of four free throws while having an inside field goal attempt blocked during the final minute and a half of the game but time ran out on any chance the Lady Indians might have had for another rally.

Although the Lady Indians could not pull off a victory against the Lady Knights, it was a great tribute that they survived the early Pace run and their own uncommonly cold shooting to have a 45-44 lead and the momentum for a great chance to win in most such situations. Indeed, the nine points they scored after attaining the brief lead would have often been sufficient for a victory or a chance for a win under the normal flow of games and without the powerful Lady Knights finish.

The Lady Knights were not especially known when entering the game for hot shooting, averaging fifty three points per game but far less than that total against the more competitive teams they had faced. As is often the case in post season tournament play, however, the Lady Knights followed a different pattern than in the past, coming out of the gate with the red hot shooting. They certainly got some great looks at the basket in the two sterling scoring runs, largely made possible by the dynamic play of point guard Haley Zwecker, but they also made a few off balance and even falling down shots as well in their opening run. When all was said and done, however, you sometimes have to just tip your hat to a team rising to the occasion and playing above what may have been their normal capabilities in taking a very impressive victory.

The Lady Indians were led in scoring for the game by Moss with 17 points, Arencibia with 16, Bleckley with 12, Lindsay Patton with 6 and Makayla Underwood with 3. Leading in assists were Eryn Cochran with 5, Bleckley and Underwood with 4 each, and Arencibia with 2 according to your reporter's unofficial tally.



Lindsay Patton battles for inside position against Pace Photo James Reese.



Freshman Makayla Underwood fights for the loose ball against Pace Academy Photo by James Reese.



Indians' Coach Jim Melton spells it out for the Lady Indians in the fourth quarter Photo James Reese.



Freshman Eryn Cochran tries to work to the inside against Pace Academy Photo James Reese.



Gabby Arencibia drives for a shot against Pace Academy Photo James Reese.



Ali Bleckley tries for a deuce against Pace Academy Photo James Reese.



Jordan Moss goes toe to toe with Pace's Morgan Batey in the second round of the state basketball playoffs Photo James Reese.



Junior Gabby Arencibia looks to pass inside against Pace Academy Photo James Reese.

### T-Ball and Farm League registration

The Towns County Recreation Department will be holding registration for T-Ball and Farm League March 12 through March 26.

T-Ball is for boys and girls ages 4 and 5. Farm League is for boys and girls ages 6, 7 and 8. The age control date will be prior to May 1 for boys and girls. Boys and girls ages 6 may play in either

the T-Ball or the Farm League programs.

Cost for these programs will be \$35 per participant. All registration will be held at the Recreation Department. Our hours of operation are: Monday through Friday 9 AM until 9 PM and Saturday from 9 AM until 7 PM. For more information please call the Recreation Department at 706-896-2600. T(Mar9,F1)SH

### Fishing for a cause

Where: Ledford Chapel Boat Ramp. When: Sat. March 26th. Time: 7 a.m. - 4 p.m. (Breakfast & sign-in starting @ 5:30 a.m.)

Entry fee is \$50 per boat. Blast off will be drawn @ 6:50 a.m. Early registration will get you and your partner 5 tickets in the door prize drawing. All

donations are appreciated and accepted. Thanks for supporting our cause!

All proceeds will benefit Towns County's Relay For Life. Anyone who would like to participate in this event or to volunteer please call: 706-897-3228 or email Crossfam27@gmail.com. T(Mar9,F1)SH

### UCB supports Towns Touchdown Club



United Community Bank's Tammy Hooper presents a check to Kyle Langford, Head Football Coach for the Towns County Indians. This donation is a sponsorship for the second annual Lake Chatuge Bass Tournament to be held on March 19, 2011, at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds. The Towns County Touchdown Club is a non-profit organiza-

tion committed to the financial support of the football program of Towns County. Proceeds from the tournament will be used to purchase uniforms and equipment.

United Community Bank has an unwavering commitment to Towns County, and is proud once again to help support the activities of our communities and schools. T(Mar9,H2)SH