

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports



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Lady Indians, Indians impress in scrimmage wins over Andrews

By Jerry Kendall
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In a preview for their followers of the upcoming season, the Towns County Lady Indians and Indians Varsity basketball teams had their way in easily disposing of the Andrews Lady Wildcats and Wildcats in pre-season scrimmages Saturday night in the Bill P. Kendall Gymnasium. Although the games don't count as a part of their records for the upcoming season, it was still a very rewarding way to open the season.

Although both teams lost prime time performers to graduation, each returns an outstanding group of veteran performers. Lady Indians lost to graduation were Kerri Abernathy, Melissa Conrad, Heather Hamilton, and Sheena Kendall while the Indians lost the services of John Bleckley and Ethan Burch. Conrad has joined Ellie Parton and Nikki Winn of the Lady Indian Class of 2009 as members of the brand new Young Harris College Lady Mountain Lions basketball team.

While the Lady Indians return a wealth of tested varsity talent, they will be extremely young this year with just two seniors, three-year starter Jordan Moss and Crystal Bishop who played on last year's JV squad. The Indians, on the other hand, feature six seniors in five long-time teammates plus a newcomer to basketball. The long time teammates are Brett Bradshaw, Corbin Gilfilian, Devin Henderson, DJ Rogers, and Bradley Swanson with Austin Holliman being the newcomer, not to the school but to the Indian basketball program.

Lady Indians use potent scoring runs on the way to victory

The Lady Indians gave every indication that they will be up to the task of continuing a long tradition of success on the basketball court as they came away with a convincing 79-21 triumph over the visitors from North Carolina. The Lady Indians have not only compiled 20-9, 28-4, 25-6, and 23-7 records during the last four years but have qualified for the Class A state tournament in 10 of 12 seasons with Head Coach Jim Melton at the helm.

It actually required the eventual Class A state championship team to end their season the last three years, including three years ago in a state Final Four appearance at the Macon Coliseum and two years ago in the Elite Eight round at Marietta High School. Veteran coach Duncan Weekley will return for his second year as assistant coach for the Lady Indians.

The Lady Indians built an 8-0 lead barely two and a half minutes into the game, only to see Andrews reduce the margin to 8-4 and then 10-6. The Lady Indians responded, however, with a 25-0 run between the 2:51 mark of the first quarter and the 5:34 mark of the second for a 35-6 advantage. The scoring barrage included 17 straight points in closing out the first quarter with five 3-point baskets included in that run. It never got any better for the Lady Cats as the Lady Indians led 46-18 at intermission and 62-21 after three quarters on the way to the 79-21 triumph as the Mercy Rule shortened the fourth quarter preventing an even wider margin of victory.

At least five Lady Indians put points on the scoreboard in each quarter with highlights by quarter including 10 by Gabby Arencibia in the first, Ben Pong with 6 points in the first, Jordan Moss with 5 and 6 points respectively in the middle two quarters, and Eryn Cochran with 5 points in the fourth. Pong has returned to the school and team after a year's return to her homeland of Thailand. Cochran is a newcomer to the varsity as a freshman after a stellar recreation and middle school career.

Five Lady Indians reached double figures in scoring with leaders for the game

being Moss with 17 points; Arencibia with 14; Ali Bleckley, Dadrrian Blythe, and Pong with 10 each; and Cochran with 7. Leaders in assists according to your reporter's unofficial tally were Davilyn Blythe, Moss, and Makayla Underwood with 4 each and Arencibia and Cochran with 3 each. Underwood, like Cochran, is another newcomer to the Lady Indians' varsity as a freshman following an outstanding career at the recreation, middle school and Junior Varsity levels.

Not mentioned above but seeing significant and successful action against Andrews were senior Crystal Bishop and junior Kindle Moss. Lindsay Patton, a standout performer as a sophomore last year for the Lady Indians, will miss several games at the start of the season while completing recovery from July 1 knee surgery for an injury sustained last spring in AAU play.

Early surge, dominant second half propel Indians past Andrews

The Indians will be looking to improve on last year's 5-21 record under the direction of new Head Coach Ken Hamilton who served as interim head coach for the final eight games of the 2010 season. Accompanying Hamilton on the bench this year will be Assistant Coach Darryl McClure and Community Coach Michael Anderson. McClure not only serves as an assistant football coach for the Indians but sports a long and successful career as head coach of the Hayesville Lady Jackets Varsity Basketball Team with his teams earning six straight North Carolina Class A State Championships during the late 1980's and early 1990's. Anderson was a standout basketball player for the Indians back in the 1980's and has served with distinction as a youth coach for many years here in Towns County.

The Indians used a 9-1 run by the 3:51 mark of the first quarter for a margin they would pretty much maintain for the remainder of the first half, leading 15-8 after one quarter and 23-15 at intermission. D.J. Rogers provided the first quarter spark for the Indians with 10 points as the Indians seized the lead and Bradley Swanson provided most of the second quarter firepower with 5 points as Towns maintained its early advantage.

After missing playing time in a bit of foul trouble the first half, Rogers returned to prominence with a 7-point third quarter in leading the Indians to a 40-20 advantage by quarter's end. Swanson then scored 9 points and Brett Bradshaw 8 in the fourth quarter as the Indians prevailed for a 62-29 victory over the Wildcats, who were handicapped a bit by the absence of players still involved in post season football play.

The Indians were led in scoring for the game by Swanson with 20 points, Rogers with 17, Bradshaw with 10, and Corbin Gilfilian with 6. Leaders in assists according to your reporter's unofficial tally were Devin Henderson with 4 and Rogers and Ryan Tallent with 2 each. Other Indians not mentioned in this article but seeing extensive playing time in the game were Dakota Barrett and Austin Holliman.

BASKETBALL INDIVIDUAL SCORING Versus Andrews Wildcats

- Lady Indians (Grade)**
Jordan Moss (12) 17
Gabby Arencibia (11) 14
Ali Bleckley (11) 10
Dadrrian Blythe (10) 10
Ben Pong (11) 10
Eryn Cochran (9) 7
Crystal Bishop (12) 4
Makayla Underwood (9) 4
Davilyn Blythe (10) 3
- Indians (Grade)**
Bradley Swanson (12) 20
DJ Rogers (12) 17
Brett Bradshaw (12) 10
Corbin Gilfilian (12) 6
Dakota Barrett (11) 4
Austin Holliman (12) 3
Ryan Tallent (10) 2



Senior Brett Bradshaw nails a jumper in the Indians triumph over Andrews.



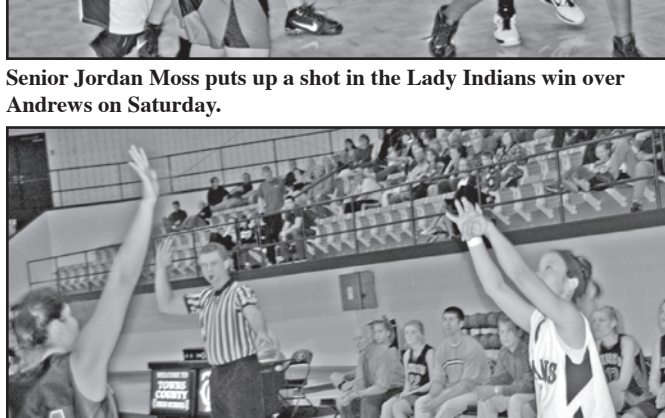
Junior Dakota Barrett hits a layup during Saturday's game with the Andrews Wildcats.



DJ Rogers drives for a layup Saturday against the Andrews Wildcats.



Senior Jordan Moss puts up a shot in the Lady Indians win over Andrews on Saturday.



Junior Ben Pong fires a jumper in the Lady Indians win over Andrews on Saturday.



Junior Ali Bleckley drives for a basket in the Lady Indians win Saturday over Andrews.

TCMS basketball teams split with Fannin County

By James Reese
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Basketball is well underway at Towns County Middle School.

Lady Indians Head Coach Lana Parker debuted with an impressive 25-18 win over the Fannin County Lady Rebels on Thursday.

Her Lady Indians shutout the Lady Rebels in the second half to take control of an 18-18 tie game and turn it into a 7-point win.

After taking the opening tip, Parker's Lady Indians led throughout the opening quarter finishing with an 8-6 lead.

Early in the second quarter, the Lady Rebels regained their poise and evened the game score at 8-8.

The Lady Rebels managed to stay close and even take a 12-10 lead with 4:05 remaining in the first half. However, the Lady Indians regained some poise of their own to the take the lead and then managed to fend off the Lady Rebels' first half surge. Both teams headed to the locker room with the score tied 18-18 at the half.

The second half was all Lady Indians, literally, as they

pulled away with the 25-18 win as they held the Lady Rebels scoreless for the second half.

Carly Gilfilian led the Ladies with 9 points, Madison Johnson followed with 6, Misty Lindemuth and Alyssa Pyle had 4 points each and Karlie Albach finished with 2 points.

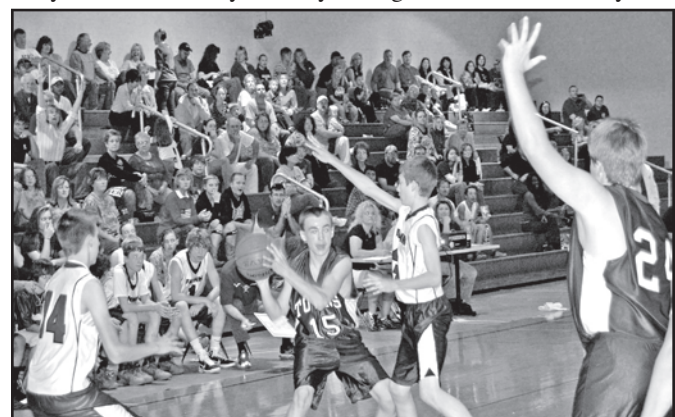
Head Coach Frank Johnson's TCMS Indians debut didn't fair quite as well against their Lady Indian counterparts. The Indians dropped a 23-14 decision to the Fannin County Rebels.

During the opening quarter, the Rebels managed a basket while the Indians hit a free throw for a Rebel 2-1 score at the end of one quarter.

Both teams then stepped it up before the half as the Rebels took a 14-6 lead into the locker room at the first half break.

The Rebels came out strong in the third quarter and began to pull away, taking a 19-10 lead into the final quarter.

The fourth quarter featured a shoot out at the charity stripe and each team had troubles. When the final horn sounded, the Rebels were in control and returned to Blue Ridge with a 23-14 victory.



The Middle School Indians got more than they bargained for against the Fannin County Rebels on Thursday.



Lady Indians Head Coach Lana Parker gives her team a game strategy during timeout in Thursday's win over Fannin County.

KOM time again for Indians' middle school grapplers



Indians Head Wrestling Coach Jeff Stowers doesn't look pleased during last week's wrestling action in Hiwassee.

By Charles Duncan
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It's King of the Mountain Junior time in Towns County again.

The grapplers have already hit the mats and the 2010-2011 middle school wrestling season is underway.

The TCMS Indians have wrestled some tough matches already.

Next up: the tournament that separates the men from the boys.

The first King of the Mountain match is scheduled for 9 a.m. Saturday in the Middle School Gym at Towns County Schools.

"The middle school wrestling team is young and we just don't have the numbers we're accustomed to," Indians Head Wrestling Coach Jeff Stowers said.

Eighth-grader Kyle Davis returns to lead the Indians in 2010-11 as the King of the

Mountain tournament waits for no one.

"I'm real excited about our chances," Coach Stowers said. "We've lost some leadership, but from a physical standpoint, we've got a strong group back on the mats."

Last year, the Towns County Indians finished sixth in a 13-team field during the annual middle school wrestling tournament, which packed the wrestling gym with fans and family members from throughout the region.

Jackson Noblet and Austin Stephens were Gold and Koby Hughes and Evan Keyes claimed Silver.

Coach Stowers hopes for a similar performance from the 2010-11 edition of the TCMS Indians.

The Varsity season gets underway at 5 p.m. on Nov. 30 in a tri-match with Dawson and Lumpkin counties at home in the wrestling gymnasium.

TCMS Basketball...from page 1A

with 17, Bradshaw with 10 and Gilfilian with 6 points.

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Rogers provided the first quarter spark for the

Indians with 10 points as the Indians seized the lead and Swanson provided most of the second quarter firepower with 5 points as Towns maintained its early advantage.

After missing playing time in a bit of foul trouble the first half, Rogers returned to prominence with a 7-point third quarter in leading the Indians to a 40-20 advantage by quarter's end.

Swanson then scored 9 points and Brett Bradshaw tallied 8 in the fourth quarter as the Indians prevailed for a 62-29 victory over the Wildcats.

Rounding out the scoring for the Indians, junior Dakota Barrett with 4 points, senior Austin Holliman with 3 points and sophomore Ryan Tallent with 2 points.

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