

Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports



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Hiawassee, Georgia

Towns County Lady Indians and Indians sweep Andrews

By Jerry Kendall

The Towns County Lady Indians and Indians Varsity Basketball Teams played host to Andrews last Tuesday night and gave their followers a preview of the upcoming season with impressive victories over the Lady Wildcats and Wildcats. Each team lost three productive players to graduation with five of the six taking their athletic talents to college participation.

The Lady Indians lost Amber Allen, Ellie Parton, and Nikki Winn while the Indians lost the services of Chase Ellis, Ezekiel Gribble, and Andy Page to graduation. Parton and Ellis have already made their presence known at the college level during fall varsity action with Parton having been named to the All-NJCAA Region XVII Cross Country Team after finishing sixth in the regional meet for Young Harris College. Meanwhile, Ellis accomplished the formidably feat of earning the starting quarterback position at Pikeville College in Kentucky as a true freshman. Readers can look for additional periodic updates in the Towns County Herald on former Lady Indians and Indians involved in sports at the college level.

Each Towns team not only lost the three productive seniors but each has lost a player to moving away and a player to injury as the season begins. Lady Indian Sophomore point guard Ben Pong has returned to her native Thailand while Indian Senior post player Will Adkins has moved to Michigan. Lost to knee injury and surgery for awhile are Lady Indian Freshman Meagan El-

lis, last year's leading scorer for the Lady Indian JV's as an eighth grader, and Junior post player Brett Bradshaw, a productive varsity player for the previous two years.

In spite of these permanent and temporary losses in personnel, each team returns a wealth of varsity experience from last year with this advantage being evident in the victories over Andrews, launching hope for successful seasons. The Lady Indians look to continue a run of success including trips to the State Tournament in nine of the last eleven years and remarkable success the last three years with seventy three victories, culminating in a State Final Four birth two years ago and a State Final Eight appearance last year.

TREYS GALORE, PART ONE - The Lady Indians found themselves in a tight battle with Andrews for about three minutes at the start of the game with Andrews holding two ties and a pair of two point leads. The Lady Indians then found the range from behind the three point line in using three treys during a 13-0 run for a 17-6 lead just after the mid point of the first quarter and a 20-12 advantage at quarter's end.

The second quarter then belonged to the Lady Indians as they exploded out to a 47-16 lead at intermission, largely on the strength of five 3-pointers in the stanza and eight for the half. It was more of the same the last half as the Lady Indians held leads of 76-20 after three quarters and extended the margin further during a mercy rule shortened fourth quarter for an

83-24 victory.

The Lady Indians placed five players in double figures in scoring with Senior Kerri Abernathy leading the way with 20 points. Sophomores Ali Bleckley and Gabby Arenecibia followed with 16 and 12 points respectively while Senior Heather Hamilton and Junior Jordan Moss had 10 each. Senior Melissa Conrad and Junior Brittany Walls were close behind with 8 and 5 points respectively. The Lady Indians sank a stunning fourteen 3-pointers in the game with Abernathy, Arenecibia, and Bleckley hitting four each. Leading in assists according to your reporter's tally were Abernathy and Arenecibia with 5 each, Moss with 4, and Bleckley with 3.

TREYS GALORE, PART TWO - The Andrews Boys led for most of the first ten minutes of the game, including by an early 9-2 margin and 12-10 after one quarter. The Indians then seemed to take command the final six minutes of the second quarter, leading by as much as 25-16 and then 31-26 at intermission. They followed the lead of the Lady Indians in sinking two treys in the first quarter and five in the second in building their lead.

With the Indians holding a seemingly comfortable 38-32 lead just two minutes into the third quarter, Andrews struck for twelve straight points for a 44-38 advantage midway through the quarter but a stunning turnaround was on the horizon. The Wildcats would score just seven points the rest of the way as the In-

dians responded with the final ten points of the quarter for a 48-44 lead.

Five of the Wildcats' final seven points came in the first minute of the fourth quarter for a short lived 49-48 lead with the Wildcats not to score again until a putback basket during the final minute of play. That basket only served to reduce the final TCHS margin of victory to 65-51 following seventeen straight Indian points and an overall 27-5 run.

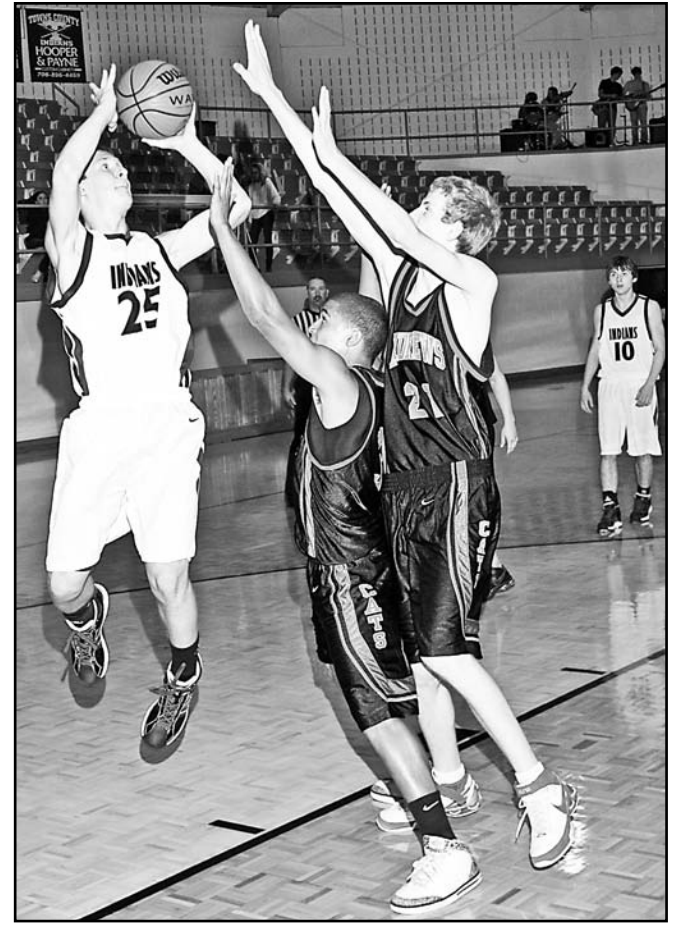
Junior Bradley Swanson included four treys in scoring a team leading 22 points but he got lots of help from his teammates with other leaders being Sophomore Brandon Henderson with 13 points, Senior John Bleckley with 10, Junior DJ Rogers with 7, and Sophomore Rylan Albach with 6. The Indians added three more treys the last half for a total of ten for the game. Your reporter's assists tally showed Senior Ethan Burch leading with 4 and Albach and Junior Devin Henderson tied for second with 3 each.

Basketball individual scoring
Lady Indians (Grade)

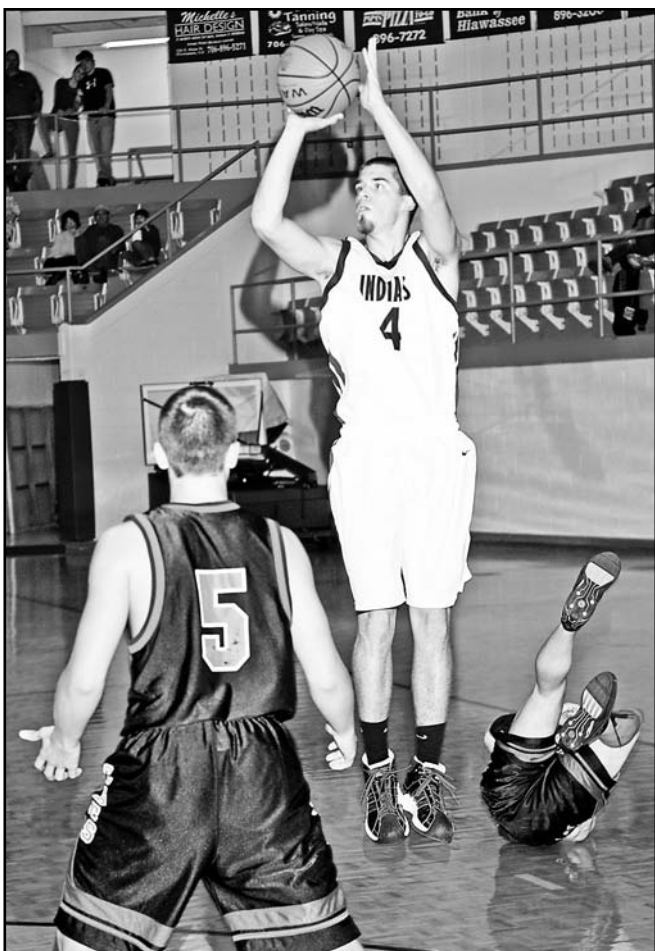
Kerri Abernathy (12)	20
Ali Bleckley (10)	16
Gabby Arenecibia (10)	12
Heather Hamilton (12)	10
Jordan Moss (11)	10
Melissa Conrad (12)	8
Brittany Walls (11)	5
Sheena Kendall (12)	2

Indians (Grade)

Bradley Swanson (11)	22
Brandon Henderson (10)	13
John Bleckley (12)	10
DJ Rogers (11)	7
Rylan Albach (10)	6
Ethan Burch (12)	4
Devin Henderson (11)	3



Bradley Swanson jumps in a shot over two W'cats in 65-51 Indian win.



John Bleckley sends a trey airmail over one Wildcat as another hits the deck.



Ali Bleckley makes a shot block against an Andrews Wildcat in 83-24 win.

Photos by Jim & Lisa Bryant



Jordan Moss takes the ball to the glass in the scrimmage game against Andrews, NC.



Missy Conrad dribbles the end line as the Tribe dominated on offense and defense.



Georgia Prep Softball Championships

- Class A Eagles Landing
- Class AA Buford
- Class AAA Columbus
- Class AAAA Marist
- Class AAAAA Collins Hill

GA Coaches Association Pre-Season Rankings

- Boys Class A Athens Christian 7th
- Boys Class AAA Gainesville 1st
- Flowers Branch 6th
- East Hall 7th
- Girls Class AA North Oconee 7th
- Girls Class AAA Gainesville 2nd
- Chestatee 10th

Prep Wrestling

- Chestatee 48 Forsyth Central 24
- Chestatee 45 East Hall 33

Girls Prep Basketball

- Towns County 83 (Scrimmage) Andrews, NC 24
- Pickens County 43 Armuchee 36
- Lakeview Academy 40 Banks County 34
- Chestatee 41 West Hall 38
- Dawson County 64 Oglethorpe County 5
- Dawson County 73 Cross Keys 1

Boys Prep Basketball

- Towns County 65 (Scrimmage) Andrews, NC 51
- Lakeview Academy 74 Riverside Academy 80
- Chestatee 56 West Hall 66
- Dawson County 64 Oglethorpe County 56
- Dawson County 80 Cross Keys 30
- Riverside Academy 60 North Cobb Christian 69

State Football Second Round Play-Offs

- Class A
- Commerce 14 Darlington 28
- Miller County 13 Savannah Christian 28
- Chattahoochee County 18 Twiggs County 47
- ECLA 39 Lincoln County 47
- Bowden 28 Wesleyan 34
- Wilcox County 39 Greenville 13
- Bremen 0 Holy Innocents 21
- ECL 28 Clinch County 39
- Class AA
- Brooks County 36 Charlton County 46
- East Jackson 0 Lovett 58
- Jefferson County 20 Thomasville 17
- North Oconee 14 Calhoun 39
- Jefferson 22 Buford 30
- Cook 29 Appling County 21
- Westminister 31 Callaway 35
- Swainsboro 36 Fitzgerald 64
- Class AAA
- Woodward Academy 7 Carver Columbus 33
- North Hall 3 St. Pius X 17
- Washington County 6 Peach County 29
- North Clayton 21 Brunswick 12
- Liberty County 9 Jackson 36
- Carrollton 13 Eastside 20
- Dunwoody 10 Gainesville 41
- Cairo 9 Baldwin 7
- Flowers Branch 35 Grady 21
- Class AAAA
- Richmond Academy 7 Thomas Co Central 56
- Tucker 14 Sandy Creek 17
- Ware County 10 Griffin 42
- Apalachee 36 Marist 35
- Rockdale County 21 Hiram 7
- Westside Macon 48 Lakeside Evans 21
- Clarke Central 19 Southwest DeKalb 17
- Class AAAAA
- Union Grove 10 Northside WR 21
- Brookwood 6 Peachtree Ridge 21
- ML King 6 Newnan 15
- Roswell 14 Grayson 24
- Woodstock 0 North Gwinnett 24
- Lowndes 7 Camden County 10
- South Gwinnett 49 Lassiter 70
- Colquitt County 22 Stephenson 21
- TriCounty Football Play-Offs**
- Murphy, NC 28 Albermerle, NC 35
- Franklin, NC 14 Ashville, NC 48
- Robbinsville, NC 46 South Stanley, NC 7
- Swain, NC 33 Bessemlle City, NC 13