

Towns County Sports

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Swanson heroics not enough for Indians at Hiwassee Dam

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Hiwassee Dam – In contrast to the Hiwassee Dam Lady Eagles with no seniors and just one junior on their roster, the Eagles have a veteran team of seven seniors and four juniors with much past success under their belts. They proved to be a formidable opponent for the Indians and came away with a 66-47 home court victory last Tuesday for a 2-1 record with all games to date being against Georgia opponents. They took a close, come from behind victory over Class AA Banks County and lost a competitive 13-point decision to the very highly regarded Class AA Rabun County Wildcats in a tournament at Rabun County.

The first quarter was quite a battle with the Indians holding four separate 2-point leads by the 5-minute mark of the quarter and forcing an 11-11 tie on a three point play by Bradley Swanson at the 1:46 mark. The Eagles took a 13-11 lead by quarter's end, however, and spurted out to a 27-15 lead by the 3:30 mark of the second which became 32-23 at intermission.

Swanson, who scored 11 of the Indians' first 15 points in the game, outscored the Eagles 10-4 the final 4:35 of the third quarter, including by an 8-1 margin the final 2:10 of the stanza in reducing 41-25 and then 44-27 leads to just 45-35 after three. An 18-2 run in barely more than four minutes at the start of the fourth quarter, however, gave the Eagles a 63-37 lead the Indians were able to reduce to the final 66-47 score by game's end.

Swanson poured in 26 points for the Indians with other scoring leaders being DJ Rogers with 7 and Brett Bradshaw and Corbin Gilfilian with 5 each while Gilfilian took the lead in assists with 2. Sophomore Austin Wood and Freshman Slade Davenport received promotions from the JV squad to the varsity for this game with Wood seeing his first varsity action of the



DJ Rogers nails a layup against the Eagles last week. Photo by James Reese.



Bradley Swanson puts up two of his game high 26 against the Eagles. Photo by James Reese.

season and Davenport making his varsity debut.

SCHEDULING NOTE – The Towns County teams were

scheduled to play at Andrews last Monday night but that game has been rescheduled for Saturday, Dec. 18.

Arencibia leads Lady Indians past Hiwassee Dam

By Jerry Kendall
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Hiwassee Dam – The Towns County Lady Indians Varsity Basketball Team traveled to rural Cherokee County, North Carolina, last Tuesday and brought back home a surprisingly easy 73-32 victory over the Hiwassee Dam Lady Eagles. The traditionally strong Lady Eagles have found themselves with no seniors and just one junior on this year's team and are paying a price for their youth this year. Several Lady Indians probably recall falling to the Lady Eagles by a 52-49 score in the Towns County Tip-Off Classic two years ago, a season which saw the Lady Indians include a Region 8A Championship in a stellar 25-6 campaign.

The Lady Indians wasted little time in taking total control of the game at Hiwassee Dam behind 10 first quarter points by Makayla Underwood and 6 by Gabby Arencibia. A put back basket by Dadrion Blythe just 21 seconds into the game had gotten the Lady Indian off and running with a basket by Ben Pong at the 45-second mark of the first quarter giving them a 22-0 advantage which became 22-2 by quarter's end.

Three treys by Arencibia for 9 points highlighted the second quarter which saw the Lady Indians take a 38-13 lead to the dressing room at the half and Arencibia included a pair of treys in a 10-point third quarter which had the Towns Ladies ahead 56-23. Eryn Cochran included a trey in a 7-point fourth quarter with the Lady Indians taking the comfortable 73-32 victory.

All 10 Lady Indians dressed for the game saw significant action and all entered the scoring column. Arencibia finished the game with a team leading 25 points in less than three quarters of playing time with other scoring leaders being Underwood with 10 points, Blythe with 8, and Cochran and Kindle Moss with 7 each. Cochran took the lead in assists for



Gabby Arencibia puts up a trey against Hiwassee Dam.



The Lady Indians talk it over during a timeout at Hiwassee Dam.

the game with 7 with all coming during the final 11 minutes of the game while Ali Bleckley finished the game with 2 assists according to your reporter's unofficial tally.

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TCMS Lady Indians split with Rabun, Union

By James Reese
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The Towns County Middle School Lady Indians split a pair last week at home.

On Monday, the Lady

Indians (2-1) couldn't survive first half runs of 9-4 and 8-2 in the first and second quarters respectively to fall to the Rabun County Lady Wildcats.

The second half prospects didn't get much better, despite

staying close with the Lady Wildcats in the third quarter. The Lady Indians narrowed the gap in the third to 25-13 after trailing 17-6 at the end of the first half.

Rabun outscored the Lady Indians 9-2 in the fourth quarter to close out the game with a 34-15 victory. It was the Lady Indians' first loss of the young season. Madison Johnson and Misty Lindemuth each scored 4 points to pace the Lady Indians.

On Tuesday, the Lady Panthers of Union County came to visit and Head Coach Lana Parker's Lady Indians were anxious to avenge the previous day's loss.

It was a close matchup in the first half. The Lady Panthers took a 4-2 lead into the second quarter. However, they were out-

scored 4-2 in the second quarter by the Lady Indians as the game was tied at 6-6 at the half.

In the third quarter, the Lady Indians played staunch defense and aggressive offense as they shutout the Lady Panthers with a 10-0 third quarter run, leading 16-6 heading into the final quarter.

The fourth quarter belonged to the Lady Panthers as they outscored the Lady Indians 13-5, but it wasn't enough as Towns County held on to defeat the Lady Indians 21-19 for their second win of the season.

Lindemuth led the Lady Indians with 10 points followed by Johnson with 4 points.

The Lady Indians are back in action on Thursday at home against White County. Game time: 4:15 p.m.



Misty Lindemuth drives the lane for two points against Union. Photo by Lowell Nicholson.



Madison Johnson fires a three pointer against Rabun Photo by James Reese.

Indian JV's lose close battle at Hiwassee Dam



Carly Gilfilian heads to the basket last week against Rabun. Photo by James Reese.



Dallas Manus fires an inbound pass. Photo by James Reese.



Brett Barrett fires away at the Eagles. Photo by James Reese.

By Jerry Kendall
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Hiwassee Dam – With the Towns County Indian and Hiwassee Dam Eagles varsity teams featuring large senior classes, the JV game between the two schools last Tuesday night at Hiwassee Dam took on special significance for next year. The game was a battle all the way with the Eagles taking a 36-29 victory in a game much more competitive and much closer than the final score would indicate with the Eagles holding a distinct edge in maturity. Their roster features eight sophomores and ten freshmen while the Indians featured just two sophomores, five freshmen,

and two eighth graders.

A duce and a trey by Austin Wood in first quarter action had the Indians within 6-5 and a steal and basket by Dallas Manus had them within 8-7 before the Eagles closed out the first quarter with a 10-7 lead. The Eagles seemed to be taking control of the game with a 20-11 lead on two free throws with 2.9 seconds on the clock in the second quarter but Brett Barrett stunned the crowd with a 3-point basket from near the 3-point line...on the opposite end of the court at the halftime buzzer for just a 20-14 Indian deficit as they headed to the dressing room.

Cold shooting by both

teams for nearly four minutes at the start of the third quarter had the Indians trailing 23-16 before a field goal by Slade Davenport and a trey by Grant Arencibia got the Indians within 23-21 at the 2:20 mark. Aaron Dodson then matched an Eagle field goal for just a 25-23 Eagle lead at the 21-second mark but the Eagles responded with a field goal for a 27-23 lead after three quarters.

A fast break layup and a trey by Arencibia had the Indians within 33-28 by the 2-minute mark of the fourth quarter but the Eagles got the benefit of a disputable call when Manus drove the lane for a basket that would have made it a one pos-

session game. He was called for a charging foul with the basket nullified, however, and the Eagles were able to extend their lead for a final margin of victory of 36-29.

Seven of 9 Indians seeing action in the game entered the scoring column with Arencibia leading his team with 8 points and other leaders being Barrett and Wood with 5 each. Manus led the Indians in assists with 2 according to your reporter's tally. The foul line was unkind to the Indians in this game as they sank just one of 10 free throw attempts for the game while the Eagles made 9 of 22 attempts at the charity stripe.



Misty Lindemuth fights for a jump ball. Photo by Lowell Nicholson.