

Towns County Sports

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Indians defeat Tallulah for first win, very competitive in two losses

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The Towns County Indians Varsity Basketball Team entered Sub-Region 8A North play last week and came away with their first regular season victory of the season in an impressive performance against the visiting Tallulah Falls Indians. By week's end, the Indians had given both the Lakeview Academy Lions and the Hiwassee Dam Eagles all they wanted before falling to defeat in those games. With Lakeview Academy being fellow members of Sub-Region 8A North, the Indians completed the week with a 1-1 record in the sub-region.

Region play has been re-formatted for this year after two years of playing full region schedules. The Lady Indians find themselves in just a four team sub-region with Tallulah, Lakeview, and Commerce. The Indians, on the other hand, are part of a five team sub-region with Riverside Military Academy of Gainesville included after participating in Class AA for awhile. The Towns County Teams will face each sub-region opponent twice but each opponent from Sub-Region 8A South just one time this year and next during regular season play.

Tallulah Falls – The Indians went right to work at home against Tallulah Falls, taking a quick lead on a Brett Bradshaw putback basket and brushing off a game tying Tallulah field goal seconds later in springing out to a 9-2 lead and then a 19-5 advantage by quarter's end. A pair of treys by Bradley Swanson for six points and five points by Dakota Barrett led the Indians in first quarter action.

Swanson and DJ Rogers then scored nine points each and Bradshaw five in the second quarter as the Indians took complete control of the game with a 46-14 lead at intermission. The scoring pace slowed considerably the final half as the Indians coasted to a 58-21 lead after three quarters and a 67-27 conquest with five different Indians putting points on the scoreboard in the half.

Scoring leaders for the Indians for the game were Swanson with 22 points, Rogers with 13, Bradshaw with 9, Devin Henderson and Ryan Tallent with 8 each, and Barrett with 5. Henderson and Swanson led in assists with 3 each as Rogers contributed 2, according to your reporter's unofficial tally.

Lakeview Academy – At Lakeview Academy in Gainesville on Friday, the Indians overcame 1-0 and 3-2 deficits to lead for the final 5:23 of the first quarter, including by such scores as 14-8, 17-10, and 17-12 at quarter's end. A field goal by Dakota Barrett got them a 3-2 lead and two free throws by Brett Bradshaw not only gave them a 4-3 lead but triggered a 15-7 run for the aforementioned 17-10 lead. DJ Rogers used a three point play and two additional free throws for a team leading five points for the quarter.

The Indians sank four field goals in that quarter but as is often typical in a game against Lakeview, the remainder of the game for the Indians was largely a parade to the foul line against the Lions. The Lions typically play aggressive, in your face defense, using numerous players with the appearance of little concern if they are charged with numerous fouls although clearly hopeful that many fouls will be missed, resulting in turnovers by their opponents.

At any rate, most of the second quarter was a tight battle with the Indians sinking only one field goal by Barrett but eight of twelve free throw attempts. After the Lions scored the first five points of the quarter, Rogers gave the Indians what would turn out to be their last lead of 18-17 on a free throw at 6:09. The Indians would force three additional ties, however, on five for six Bradley Swanson free throw shooting with the last tie of 24-24 occurring with just 2:18 left in the half. A Barrett field goal at 1:40 followed a Lion troy for just a 27-26 Indian deficit but the Lions finished on an 8-1 run for a 35-27 lead at intermission.

The first of two events perhaps not playing a role in who won the game but certainly affecting the point spread occurred just nine seconds into the third quarter. A charging foul on Friday night could have left the Indians short of energy for their Saturday night home contest but they showed no ill effects of the tough game in battling Hiwassee Dam to the wire before losing the hard fought game. The senior laden Eagles had handed the Indians a 66-47 defeat on their home court last month and have given highly re-



Bradley Swanson fights for the rebound in the Indians win over Tallulah Falls Photo by Lowell Nicholson.



DJ Rogers banks a layup in the Indians win over Tallulah Falls Photo by Lowell Nicholson.



Brandon Henderson sinks a jumper in the Indians game against Hiwassee Dam Photo by James Reese.

be lost on actually just his fourth foul with still 6:16 remaining in the fourth quarter. When the error was detected and called to the attention of the officials at the time of Rogers' true third foul, the scorekeeper refused to correct her error with the officials properly following the rules of the home book being official and the erroneous foul being allowed.

The Lions continued the late second quarter run with the first six points of the third for a 41-27 lead with the two teams playing on even terms the rest of the quarter for a 49-35 score entering the fourth quarter. The score was 53-37 when Rogers was lost on fouls at the 6:16 mark with the Lions extending their lead to 57-37 by the 4:41 mark.

Junior power player Brandon Henderson, in the Indians' lineup for the first time this season, made his presence known the rest of the way, scoring nine points in a 12-4 Indian run for just a 61-49 Lion lead with 46.8 seconds on the clock. In a reversal from a typical finish for a basketball game with a team holding a safe lead, the Lions apparently were not satisfied with the prospects of a ten or twelve point win. They began jacking up 3-point attempts, with two starters sinking one each in the final thirty six seconds for a 68-50 final score not really indicative of the competitiveness of the game.

The Indians were led in scoring for the game by Brandon Henderson with 13 points, Rogers and Swanson with 12 each, and Barrett with 5 while Devin Henderson led in assists with 3 and Swanson followed with 2. Although they had a distinct advantage at the foul line in sinking 29 of 47 attempts as compared to 8 for 17 by the Lions, in using smaller numbers of players the Indians were not immune to foul difficulty. They not only lost Rogers on fouls early in the fourth quarter as referenced but had three other players charged with their fourth in the third quarter with loss of playing time resulting. Bradshaw, in fact, played less than five minutes in the first three quarters after having three fouls in less than four minutes at the start of the game and his fourth just a minute and seven seconds into the third quarter.

Hiwassee Dam – The grueling game at Lakeview Academy on Friday night could have left the Indians short of energy for their Saturday night home contest but they showed no ill effects of the tough game in battling Hiwassee Dam to the wire before losing the hard fought game. The senior laden Eagles had handed the Indians a 66-47 defeat on their home court last month and have given highly re-

garded Class AA Rabun County two tough battles before losing by thirteen and fourteen point margins.

The Indians followed an early Eagle basket with field goals by Bradley Swanson and Brett Bradshaw and two free throws by Swanson for a 6-2 lead by the 2:50 mark of the first quarter but it required a late Dakota Barrett basket to reduce an Eagle lead to 10-8 at quarter's end. The Eagles led by as much as 23-12 in the second quarter and 26-17 at intermission despite a pair of field goals by Bradshaw.

The Indians would rally in both the third and fourth quarters, however, behind the scoring punch of DJ Rogers and Swanson in the third and Brandon Henderson in the fourth. Rogers included a pair of treys among ten points and Swanson a troy in his nine in the third quarter as the Indians rallied to within 37-34 but fell back to a 44-36 deficit on a last second third quarter putback by the Eagles.

With Hiwassee Dam holding a 46-40 lead, Bradshaw tipped in a missed Indian field goal near the six minute mark and Henderson followed an Eagle free throw with two field goals for just a 47-46 Indian deficit near the three minute mark of the fourth quarter. It's all part of the game but near the two minute mark on a layup attempt by the Indians for the lead, they were called for a charging foul that could have probably gone either way and the Eagles followed with a troy on the other end, giving them a 50-46 lead. The Indians would not be able to dent the scoreboard again and the Eagles extended their lead for a final score of 56-46.

Swanson led a balanced scoring attack for the Indians with 14 points as Rogers and Henderson scored 10 each and Bradshaw 8. Henderson took the lead in assists with 2 according to your reporter's tally. Although the Indians could not achieve a victory on Friday or Saturday, it appeared they may have turned a positive corner on their season last week with many games yet to be played.



Monday, December 13th, and Thursday, December 16th, McConnell Memorial Baptist Church will be hosting Upward Basketball evaluations in the gym from 5:30-7:30 p.m. The cost for Upward is \$65 and scholarships are available.

Lady Indians crush three opponents for 7-0 record

By Jerry Kendall
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In three mismatches from the beginning tip-off, the Towns County Lady Indians Varsity Basketball Team exploded past Tallulah Falls, Lakeview Academy, and Hiwassee Dam last week in improving their season record to 7-0. With the Tallulah and Lakeview games being Sub-Region 8A North games, they take an early lead in the sub-region with a 2-0 record.

Region play has been re-formatted for this year after two years of playing full region schedules. The Lady Indians find themselves in just a four team sub-region with Tallulah, Lakeview, and Commerce. The Indians, on the other hand, are part of a five team sub-region with Riverside Military Academy of Gainesville included after participating in Class AA for awhile. The Towns County Teams will face each sub-region opponent twice but each opponent from Sub-Region 8A South just one time this year and next during regular season play.

Tallulah Falls – The Lady Indians, playing host to Tallulah Falls last Tuesday, spurred out to a 22-0 lead by the three minute mark of the first quarter and continued on for a 35-2 bulge by quarter's end. Six straight points by Eryn Cochran started the twenty two point game opening run and Ben Pong ended it with nine straight points.

The big story of the first quarter, however, was the fact that all nine Lady Indians dressed for the game entered the scoring column in that first quarter. Ali Bleckley sat out the game to rest a bruised leg sustained in the final seconds of the Lady Indians' Saturday night win over Union County and Crystal Bishop sat out the game due to sickness. The Lady Indians extended their first quarter lead to 56-6 by halftime and 65-7 after three quarters on the way to a 71-9 victory.

Scoring leaders for the game were Pong with 13 points; Gabby Arencibia with 12; Jordan Moss with 9; Lindsay Patton, Dadrion Blythe, and Cochran with 8 each; Kindle Moss with 6, and Davilyn Blythe with 5. Leading in assists according to your reporter's tally were Cochran with 7 and Dadrion Blythe and Makayla Underwood with 3 each. Patton easily provided the overall highlight for the game with her return to action following more than five months of intense and dedicated recuperation from knee surgery.

Lakeview Academy – The second venture into Sub-Region 8A North competition, this time at Lakeview Academy in Gainesville on Friday, proved to be very similar to the Tuesday contest with Tallulah Falls. The Lakeview Lady Lions have been a formidable opponent for several years but on this evening could provide little resistance to the rampaging Lady Indians from the north.

The Lady Indians not only struck for a 17-0 lead after one quarter but extended the game opening run to 25-0 before the Lady Lions mounted a brief rally of their own, scoring seven straight points between the 4:45 and 2:48 marks of the second quarter for a bit more respectable 25-7 score. That run would prove to be about the only highlight of the game for the Lady Lions, however, as a Lady Indian lead of 31-11 at intermission became 51-19 after three quarters. The Lady Indians then matched the shutout of the first quarter with a 6-0 advantage in the mercy rule shortened fourth quarter.

Seven points and three steals by Eryn Cochran and five points on a deuce and troy by Ali Bleckley highlighted first quarter action for the Lady Indians while six points by Jordan Moss led the Lady Indians in the second. Ben Pong sank two of four Lady Indian treys in the third quarter for six points and Lindsay Patton added four in the mercy rule shortened fourth.

For the game, Cochran led her team in scoring with 14 points with other leaders being Moss with 10, Gabby Arencibia with 8, Pong and Dadrion Blythe with 6 each, and Bleckley with 5. Moss led in assists with 6 with Pong taking second honors with 3.

Hiwassee Dam – The Lady Indians took the measure of Hiwassee Dam on the road last month, scoring the first twenty two points in a 73-32 victory, and held a 24-5 lead after one quarter after the Lady Eagles scored the first two points of the game on Saturday. Eight points and three assists by Ben Pong and seven points, including her first career 3-point bas-



Ben Pong plays stealth defense in the Lady Indians win over Tallulah Falls Photo by Lowell Nicholson.



Gabby Arencibia and Eryn Cochran make life miserable for Lakeview Academy Photo by Lowell Nicholson.



Makayla Underwood sets up the offense in the Lady Indians win over Hiwassee Dam Photo by James Reese.

ket, by Jordan Moss highlighted first quarter action for the Lady Indians.

Eryn Cochran then included a troy among her seven second quarter points as the Lady Indians built a 40-11 lead by intermission and Davilyn Blythe included a troy in a five point third quarter which had the Lady Indians ahead 56-16. By mutual agreement, the clock ran straight through the mercy rule shortened fourth quarter which saw the Lady Eagles outscore the Lady Indians by a 6-3 margin for a final score of 59-22.

Three Lady Indians tied for the scoring lead in this game. Moss, Pong, and Davilyn Blythe provided 11 points each with Cochran and Dadrion Blythe not far behind with 10 and 7 points respectively. Pong led in assists with 5 while Moss and Dadrion Blythe followed with 2 each.

Indian Discount Cards available at all Bank of Hiwassee locations

The Indian Discount Card, sponsored by the Towns County High School FBLA club, is now on sale at Bank of Hiwassee's main branch (lobby and drive thru), Ingles branch, and Young Harris branch (lobby and drive thru). The \$10 discount card can be used at the listed businesses through September 30, 2011. Towns County FBLA would like to send a special 'Thank You!' to the following businesses for their participation in our Indian Discount Card fundraiser:

- A to Z Outlet – 10% off of \$25 or more; Enrico's Italian Restaurant – 10% off order; A Head of Hair & More – 10% off service OR \$10 off color and cut; Georgia Mountain Restaurant – free drink with purchase of a meal (one per card); Asiano's – 10% off lunch

BASKETBALL INDIVIDUAL SCORING

- TALLULAH FALLS
Lady Indians (Grade)
Ben Pong (11) 13
Gabby Arencibia (11) 12
Jordan Moss (12) 9
Lindsay Patton (11) 8
Dadrion Blythe (10) 8
Eryn Cochran (9) 8
Kindle Moss (11) 6
Davilyn Blythe (10) 5
Makayla Underwood (9) 2
Indians (Grade)
Bradley Swanson (12) 22
DJ Rogers (12) 13
Brett Bradshaw (12) 9
Devin Henderson (12) 8
Ryan Tallent (10) 8
Dakota Barrett (11) 5
Brett Barrett (9) 2
- LAKEVIEW ACADEMY
Lady Indians (Grade)
Eryn Cochran (9) 14
Jordan Moss (12) 10
Gabby Arencibia (11) 8
Ben Pong (11) 6
Dadrion Blythe (10) 6
Ali Bleckley (11) 5
Lindsay Patton (11) 4
Davilyn Blythe (10) 4
Indians (Grade)
Brandon Henderson (11) 13
DJ Rogers (12) 12
Bradley Swanson (12) 12
Dakota Barrett (11) 5
Devin Henderson (12) 4
Brett Bradshaw (12) 2
Ryan Tallent (10) 1
Brett Barrett (9) 1
Lady Indian JV's (Grade)
Kelsie Cowart (9) 22
- STEPHANIE PATTON (8) 8
Bailey Sutton (9) 7
Eryn Cochran (9) 6
Emily Anderson (10) 2
Destiny Blythe (9) 2
McKenzi Moss (9) 2
Elizabeth Turner (9) 2
Grant JV's (Grade)
Indian Arencibia (8) 11
Ryan Tallent (10) 5
Brett Barrett (9) 4
Luke Parker (10) 3
Austin Wood (10) 3
Stetson Hedden (9) 2
- HIWASSEE DAM
Lady Indians (Grade)
Jordan Moss (12) 11
Ben Pong (11) 11
Davilyn Blythe (10) 11
Eryn Cochran (9) 10
Dadrion Blythe (10) 7
Lindsay Patton (11) 4
Crystal Bishop (12) 3
Makayla Underwood (9) 2
Indians (Grade)
Bradley Swanson (12) 14
DJ Rogers (12) 10
Brandon Henderson (11) 10
Brett Bradshaw (12) 8
Dakota Barrett (11) 4
Indian JV's (Grade)
Grant Arencibia (8) 12
Dallas Manus (8) 12
Brett Barrett (9) 5
Aaron Dodson (9) 5
Ryan Tallent (10) 4
Austin Wood (10) 4
Garrett Bradshaw (9) 4
Luke Parker (10) 1