

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

www.townscountyherald.net • E-mail: tcherald@windstream.net

Lady Indians lose competitive games to Polk, Hayesville, defeat Walhalla

By Jerry Kendall
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Although competing quite well in all three games played in the Battle of the States Tournament last week, the Towns County Lady Indians fell to defeat by six and seven points margins in their first two games to quality opponents in Polk County (Tennessee) and Hayesville before taking a hard fought 56-54 victory in the final seconds over Walhalla (South Carolina) for seventh place in the third round on Saturday.

The Lady Indians completed the week's play with a 4-7 overall record as they begin the 2020 portion of their schedule by hosting Region 8-A foe Providence Christian Academy of Lilburn on Friday, travel to Hayesville on Saturday, and return home to host mon region opponent Rabun Gap on Tuesday.

Polk County 53, Lady Indians 47 – The Polk County Lady Wildcats entered the Battle of the States and their game with the Lady Indians with an impressive 6-2 record with not much information about the games they have played being available other than the games played in the tournament.

It required just under three minutes for the Lady Indians to strike for a 9-0 lead over the Lady Wildcats on two coast to coast runs for deuces by junior Kennedy Henson, a trey by junior Vanessa Floyd, and a drive for a deuce by senior Sophia Shook. A pair of treys by Polk got them to within 9-6 by the 2:44 mark of the first quarter but three deuces by Floyd for a 6-1 Lady Indians finish had them leading 15-7 at quarter's end.

Points would be hard to come by for the Lady Indians for an extended time after that, however, as the Lady Cats outscored the Lady Indians 14-5 in the second quarter for a 21-20 lead at intermission and they continued on for a 29-24 lead by the 6:03 mark of the second quarter.

Drives for deuces by Shook and Henson sandwiched around two Polk free throws had the Lady Indians within 31-28 at 4:44 of the third quarter and they responded to an ensuing 7-0 run by the Lady Cats with a 7-1 finish the final 1:45 for just a 39-35 deficit entering the fourth quarter.

After a 6-2 start in the fourth quarter by Polk for a 45-37 advantage at the 5:31 mark, two free throws and a field goal by Floyd had the Lady Indians still well within striking distance in trailing just 45-41 at 4:03 but the Lady Cats used 6-for-7 free throw shooting during an 8-2 run for a 53-43 lead at 42.7 before a trey and free throw by Henson reduced the final Polk margin of victory to 53-47.

Floyd led the Lady Indians in scoring with 21 points



L-R: Junior Kennedy Henson was the Lady Indians All-Tournament Team selection. Vanessa Floyd scored 11 points during the win over Walhalla, SC. Photos/Lowell Nicholson

and was followed by Henson with 16 and Shook with 10 while junior Jayce Young led in assists with 2. Leaders in rebounds were Floyd with 9 and Henson with 8 as Floyd also led in steals with 4 and Henson was right behind with 3.

The very youthful Lady Cats were led in scoring by sophomore Courtney Farr with 18 points, junior Kailey Cox with 13, and freshman Callie Brewer with 11. The Lady Cats followed the same pattern of quickly falling behind in their second round game against Hokes' Bluff (Alabama), trailing 10-0 until sinking two free throws in the final seconds of the first quarter and not sinking their first field goal until near the mid point of the second.

As against the Lady Indians, they mounted a strong rally in reducing a 20-10 halftime deficit in pulling to within 30-24 after three quarters and falling by just a 44-42 score to Hokes Bluff, a team which gave Murphy quite a battle before falling by a 57-47 score in the championship game on Saturday night. The Lady Cats, like the Lady Indians in two regular season games, were overwhelmed in a difficult matchup against Union County in losing by a 66-44 score to the Lady Panthers who had been surprisingly overwhelmed by Murphy 63-39 in their second round game.

Hayesville 49, Lady Indians 42 – The Lady Indians unfortunately followed the same pattern in second round play as did Polk County in the same round, falling far behind and mounting a strong rally but not sufficient to overcome the early deficit against Hayesville. The Lady Jackets entered the tournament with a 4-2 record

and were very impressive in first round play in trailing by just two, four, and four points at the quarter breaks before falling by a 53-46 score to eventual tournament finalist Hokes Bluff as addressed above.

The Lady Indians took a 3-2 lead on a trey by junior Kennedy Henson at the 5:10 mark of the first quarter and got within 8-5 on two free throws by Henson at 3:12 but the Lady Jackets struck for the final seven points of the quarter for a 17-5 lead at quarter's end.

The Lady Indians edged to within 23-16 at the 19-second mark of the second quarter behind six points by Henson before the Lady Jackets sank a trey as time expired for a 26-16 lead at intermission. Floyd included a trey among seven of nine Lady Indian points in third quarter action as they closed to within 31-25 entering the fourth quarter.

A putback basket by freshman Sarah Shook got the Lady Indians within 31-27 at the 6:21 mark of the fourth quarter before a mystifying official's call of five seconds on a drive to the lane by Henson on the Lady Indians' next possession gave the ball back to the Lady Jackets who scored a deuce for a 33-27 lead. Five seconds rules apply near mid court with three seconds rules applying in the lane under the basket where Henson arrived just an instant prior to the questionable call.

Although no one could ever know if Henson would have reduced the lead without what seems certain to have been a misapplication of the rules, it is a fact that the resulting Lady Jackets possession and score was the start of a 7-2 Hayesville scoring run proving



to be decisive for a 39-28 lead at 2:59. Beginning at the 2:42 mark, the Lady Indians struck for four treys—one each by junior Jayce Young and senior Sophia Shook and two by Henson—in a 14-10 game ending run and a 49-42 Hayesville victory.

Scoring leaders for the Lady Indians were Henson with 18 points, Floyd with 10, and Sarah Shook with 7 while leaders in assists were Henson with 3 and Sophia Shook and sophomore Emily Vargas with 2 each. Leaders in rebounds were Henson and Sarah Shook with 7 each, Floyd with 5, and Vargas with 4.

The Lady Jackets were led in scoring by senior Jade Patterson and sophomore Lila Payne with 15 points each. The Lady Jackets went on to fall 50-34 in the third round to an outstanding Lumpkin County team which pulled away from just a 24-17 halftime advantage in winning their second tournament game after falling 70-65 in overtime to tournament champion Murphy in the opening round.

Lady Indians 56, Walhalla 54 – The Lady Indians faced a very youthful Walhalla (South Carolina) team in the third round with the Lady Razorbacks having entered the tournament with a 3-3 record and one notable loss. They fell by just a 59-49 score less than a week prior to the tournament to undefeated Class AA power Rabun County but were overwhelmed by outstanding teams from Union County by a 75-39 score and 59-30 to Lumpkin County prior to facing the Lady Indians.

There were five first quarter lead changes and three ties, including by a 14-14 score

at quarter's end with junior Vanessa Floyd including a trey among seven points and senior Sophia Shook a trey among four points during the quarter.

The second quarter saw the Lady Indians take a 16-14 lead on a deuce by Floyd at the 6:08 mark they would hold until the Lady Razorbacks got a 24-22 lead on a trey at 4:02 that they would hold until Henson sank two free throws at 7.2 seconds for a 27-26 Lady Indians halftime advantage. Henson included a trey among seven second quarter points and Floyd added four points on two deuces.

Floyd scored 11 first half points but suffered what is referred to as a charley horse muscle injury during first half play. Described by Lady Indians head coach Brian Hunicutt as one of the toughest kids he has ever coached and the ultimate team player, Floyd continued to play and contribute to her team during the last half but the injury affected her mobility and she failed to score but freshman Sarah Shook rose to the occasion in contributing four points in each of the final two quarters with the two fourth quarter baskets tying the score.

Four different Lady Indians entered the scoring column during third quarter action which saw the Lady Razorbacks sink four treys compared to two for the Lady Indians by Henson and junior Jayce Young with three lead changes occurring during the first half of the quarter and Walhalla leading 41-40 at quarter's end.

The Lady Razorbacks followed two free throws by Henson for a 42-41 Towns lead at 7:19 with a trey, two free throws and a deuce between

just the 7:08 and 5:52 marks for a 48-42 Walhalla lead. The Lady Indians were up to the task at hand, however, as a free throw and trey by Henson and a deuce by Sarah Shook between 5:39 and 4:41 forced a 48-48 standoff.

A Walhalla deuce and free throw prior to and a trey following a Henson basket gave the Indians another challenge with Walhalla holding a 54-50 lead at 3:19 but a deuce by Henson at 2:56 and one by Sarah Shook following a missed free throw attempt by Walhalla at 1:34 got the Lady Indians a tie again at 54-54.

With the Lady Indians holding possession at 33.3 seconds and the tie still in effect, they went for one shot and Henson was fouled on a drive to the basket at 2.6 seconds. She sank both free throws for a 56-54 lead and a desperation field goal attempt by Walhalla from mid court missed the mark with the Lady Indians claiming the two point victory.

The Lady Indians were led in scoring by Henson with 26 points, Floyd with 11, Sarah Shook with 10, and Sophia Shook with 6 while leaders in assists were Sophia Shook with 5, Henson with 4, and Floyd with 3.

Henson and Sophia Shook led in rebounds with 5 each and Floyd and Young followed with 4 each while leaders in steals were Sarah Shook with 5 and Henson and Sophia Shook with 4 each.

Walhalla was led in scoring by sophomore Rebekah Moxley with 17 points, junior Leah Buckner with 10, and sophomore Cade Robinson with 9.

Lady Indians soar at Andrews, comeback bid falls short vs Hiwassee Dam

By Jerry Kendall
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Lady Indians got very little resistance from the Lady Cats as they vaulted out to a 30-2 lead by the 1:34 mark of the second quarter, leading 17-2, 32-7, and 43-17 at the quarter breaks in taking a 57-29 triumph. The Lady Cats saw their record fall to 1-6 with the loss while the Lady Indians improved their record to 3-4 with the victory.

After finishing the game on a 14-0 run for a 52-39 win at Hiwassee Dam last month, the Lady Indians fell into a big hole in the opening minutes of this game, trailing 19-4 by the 5:53 mark of the second quarter, rallying heroically to within 31-29 by the 5:47 mark of the fourth quarter but going cold after that and unable to quite get over the early game deficit and falling by a 44-33 score

Lady Indians 57, Andrews 29 – It required more than three and a half minutes of playing time for the Lady Indians to take control of their game after a field goal by junior Vanessa Floyd got them a 2-0 lead at the 5:47 mark of the first quarter. It was nearly all Lady Indians from the 4:27 mark of the first quarter to the 1:34 mark of the second when they used a 28-2 run for the aforementioned 30-2 lead.



Junior Abby Mauldin attempts a jump shot during the first half of Towns County's 57-29 win at Andrews, NC. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Six different Lady Indians entered the scoring column during the game opening scoring surge with Floyd including a trey among 12 points, junior Kennedy Henson scoring eight, freshman Tabitha Barnes and senior Sophia Shook four points each, and junior Jayce Young a trey by intermission.

Five points by freshman Sarah Shook and four by Henson highlighted third quarter

action for the Lady Indians while a deuce and a trey for five points by Barnes highlighted fourth quarter action for Towns County Ladies.

Scoring leaders for the Lady Indians for the game were Floyd with 17 points, Henson with 14, Barnes with 9, Sarah Shook and Young with 5 each, and Sophia Shook with 4. Leaders in assists were Sophia Shook with 5 and Henson with

3 while Henson led in rebounds with 9 and steals with 8 and Sarah Shook contributed 4 rebounds. The Lady Cats were led in scoring by seniors Karlie Curtis with 16 points and Abby Hedden with 10.

Hiwassee Dam 44, Lady Indians 33 – In a low scoring start for both teams, the Lady Indians took a 2-1 lead on a long deuce by junior Vanessa Floyd at the 5:11 mark of the

first quarter and a second long deuce by Floyd had them within 6-4 at the 2:33 mark before a 13-0 Lady Eagles run gave them the aforementioned 19-4 advantage.

The Lady Indians came alive after that, however, as they struck for a 12-4 second quarter finish on the strength of three treys by juniors Jayce Young and Kennedy Henson and senior Sophia Shook along

with an old fashioned three points play by Henson for just a 23-16 halftime deficit. A low scoring third quarter was a near standoff with the Lady Indians reducing the deficit by a point to 29-23 entering the fourth quarter.

The Lady Indians opened the fourth quarter with a 6-2 run as they edged to within 29-27 on a free throw by freshman Sarah Shook and a trey by Henson at the 7:06 mark and a deuce by Floyd matched two free throws by the Lady Eagles for the previously mentioned 31-29 deficit at 5:47.

The Lady Indians' shooting went cold after that, however, and the Lady Eagles struck for three deuces for a 37-29 lead at 2:40 and they sank 7-of-10 free throws the remainder of the game compared to two free throws by Sophia Shook and a deuce by Floyd in closing out the 44-33 victory.

Scoring leaders for the game for the Lady Indians were Floyd and Henson with 11 points each and Sophia Shook with 5 with Shook leading in assists and steals with 3 of each and Floyd and Henson leading in rebounds with 7 each. The Lady Eagles were led in scoring by Chloe Roe with 15 points and Kiare Anderson with 10. This was their second victory in a row as they completed the week's play with a 2-5 record.