

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Kolby Moss enters TCHS Basketball's 1,000-point club

By Jerry Kendall
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Towns County High School Indians junior Kolby Moss became just the fourteenth Indian known to reach the 1,000 career points club in basketball at TCHS last Friday when he sank a second quarter free throw for his ninth point in the game giving the Indians a 25-24 lead against the Providence Christian Academy Stars.

He had scored 209 points as a freshman, 509 as a sophomore, and 273 in eleven prior games this year for a total of 991 entering the Providence game.

This accomplishment is unique for Moss in at least two ways. First of all, he is the first Indian to reach 1,000 points as a junior since an evaluation of available records leads one to believe that the legendary 6'4" Bob Bryson reached the total as a junior during the 1955 season. This is based on the likelihood that Bryson would have easily reached the 274 points he would have needed as a sophomore, with the scorebook for that season being missing, between the 199 scored as a freshman and more than 527 as a junior with scoring totals for a few games missing at

the end of that season. Kolby's teammate as a freshman, Zach Davenport, missed by just three points, with 997, reaching 1,000 points as a junior the season prior to their becoming teammates for a year during the 2018 season.

Secondly, there is an excellent but unverifiable chance that Moss reached 1,000 points earlier than Bryson based upon research of Bryson's point totals in the first twelve games of his junior year which are available. He scored 267 points in the twelve games during the 1954 portion of the 1955 season with this being prior to his first game of 1955 as a junior on January 4, 1955.

When adding this total to the 199 points scored as a freshman for a total of 466 points, Bryson would have needed a pretty significant total of 534 points as a sophomore to have reached 1,000 prior to that date with Moss reaching the total on January 3, 2020.

The Moss surname has become synonymous with sports excellence in Towns County over a period of well over fifty years so it surely comes as no surprise to long time followers of TCHS basketball that Kolby has become the latest member of the 1,000 point club. A mention of two close relatives of Kolby who had prominent careers at TCHS may



Kolby Moss scores his 1,000th career point. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

be of interest to readers.

Although records of games played are very scarce, Kolby's father Keith Moss was a four year member of the Indians ending with his senior year of 1989. Score sheets for just a few of Keith's games are available with the very first varsity game he appeared in as a freshman during the 1986 season being very notable. In the absence of starting center Jeff O'Dell due to injury, Keith came off the bench and contributed four points in the

third quarter and six in the fourth for ten points overall in a 54-49 loss to Hayesville in a Christmas tournament at Murphy on December 26, 1985.

Legendary TCHS basketball and baseball standout Kyle Moss is the great uncle of Kolby and he became the first Moss known at this time to play basketball at the school during the 1963 season. He scored 40 points as a freshman substitute before enjoying stardom as a starter during his sophomore, junior, and senior

seasons. He added 229 points as a sophomore and very well may have reached 1,000 career points but with no means of verifying this as the scorebooks for his junior and senior seasons are not known to exist.

It will likely be of interest to readers to learn that Kyle was a TCHS teammate of Dwight Berrong, the grandfather of Kolby's fellow junior teammate Aidan Berrong. Their 1966 team defeated state ranked Lovett before falling by a single point in the Region 4B Tournament semi finals to state ranked Oconee County on Oconee's home court with Oconee being one of just eight teams from four regions making it to the state tournament that year and finishing as state runners up to Waynesboro.

In view of the innumerable accomplishments of the extended Moss family in basketball, it is a bit surprising for your reporter to realize that Kolby becomes only the sixth Moss or Moss descendant known to reach 1,000 points with this giving an idea of how significant it is to reach this career scoring total. The only other players with the Moss surname to reach this total have been Martha Moss (Hufstetler) during her junior season of 1978 and Jordan Moss during her senior season of 2011. The mother

Indians, Lady Indians lose tough battles at Hayesville, NC

By Jerry Kendall
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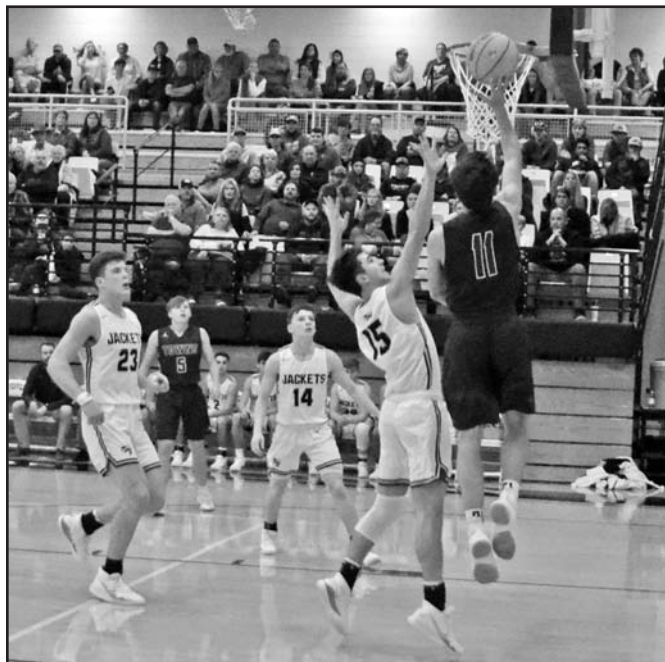
Hayesville, NC - The Towns County Lady Indians and Indians varsity basketball teams traveled to Hayesville last Saturday following a decisive victory by the Lady Indians and a heartbreaking home court loss for the Indians on Friday against Region 8A foe Providence Christian Academy of Lilburn.

The Lady Indians would battle illness and an injury in Hayesville as they fell in a very competitive game to the home standing Yellow Jackets by a 46-37 score with the win over Providence and the loss to the Yellow Jackets giving them a 5-8 record. The Lady Jackets improved their record to 6-4 with the win over the Lady Indians.

7-0 run for a 15-8 lead reduced to 15-10 at quarter's end by a pair of free throws by Floyd at 11.1 seconds. The second quarter would be a near standoff as junior Jayce Young sank a trey at 7:18 for just a 15-13 Lady Indians deficit but that would be the Lady Indians' last points of the quarter.

The Lady Jackets would not do much better, however, as they manage just a deuce off a Lady Indian turnover at the 4:30 mark and still another trey at 3:51 for a 20-13 lead at intermission. Junior Kennedy Henson not only was under the weather with an ear infection but missed much of the second quarter after an ankle injury early in the quarter which restricted her play while playing most of the remainder of the game.

A deuce and two free throws by Floyd prior to and a trey by Sophia Shook following two Lady Jacket free throws had the Lady Indians within 22-20 at the 5:25 mark of the third quarter before perhaps the turning point of the game occurred when most everyone but the officials saw a double dribble by the Lady Jackets.



The Indians in action at Hayesville, NC. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Scoring leaders for the Lady Indians for the game were Floyd with 20 points, Sophia Shook with 7, and Henson with 5 with Henson and Sophia Shook leading in assists with 4 and 3 respectively. Leading in rebounds were Floyd with 8 and Sophia Shook and Young with 4 each while Floyd led in steals with 3 and Henson and Sophia Shook followed with 2 each.

In a unique situation, both teams in the girls and boys game sank the same number of field goals. Both teams sank fourteen field goals in the girls game with the Lady Jackets holding a two points edge with seven treys compared to five by the Lady Indians and Hayesville holding an edge at the foul line with the Jackets sinking eleven of seventeen attempts compared to just four of six attempts by the Indians. The sharp shooting Lady Jackets were led in scoring by sophomore Lila Payne with 14 points, junior Jocelin Buckner with 10, and junior Breanna Burnette with 9. Hayesville finished the week with a 6-4 record while the Lady

Indians completed the week with a 5-8 record.

Hayesville 52, Indians 48 - Following a heartbreaking home court loss on a trey far off target but caroming off the backboard and into the basket as time expired to Providence Christian on Friday night, the Indians could have been flat with not much resistance to the Yellow Jackets in Hayesville. That would not be the case, however, as they battled Hayesville with everything they had in a game not clinched by the Jackets until within the final ten seconds of the game.

The game against Providence featured seven ties and six lead changes with a similar four ties and four lead changes in the game against Hayesville. After Hayesville opened the game with 3-0 and 5-2 leads, the Indians struck for an 8-0 run for a 10-5 lead at the 2:56 mark. Sophomore Collin Crowder then more than matched a Yellow Jacket deuce with a trey for a 13-7 Towns lead at 1:23 but the Jackets sank a deuce and trey during the final minute of play for just a 13-12

deficit at quarter's end. Crowder provided seven points and junior Kolby Moss the other six for the Indians in the quarter.

Sophomore Kyle Oakes got the Indians a 15-12 lead on a field goal at the 7:19 mark of the second quarter but the Yellow Jackets followed with an 8-0 run for a 20-15 lead at 4:12. The back and forth pattern then continued with a deuce and trey by junior Aidan Berrong getting the Indians even at 20-20 at the 2:13 mark but two deuces by Hayesville had them ahead 24-20 at intermission.

After the Jackets opened the third quarter with a pair of free throws for a 26-20 lead, Berrong included a trey as the pattern of small scoring runs continued in a 6-0 Towns run for a 26-26 standoff which was followed by six straight points by Hayesville for a 32-26 advantage. Berrong would then include a deuce and a trey the final 3:03 of the quarter for a slight 6-4 Towns run for a 37-33 Jackets lead entering the fourth quarter.

It would require the Indians just four minutes and two seconds at the start of the fourth quarter to edge out to a 43-41 lead with a pair of deuces by Moss, Berrong's fourth trey of the game, and a free throw by Oakes at 6:05 getting a tie and another deuce by Moss getting the Indians the lead at 3:58.

After the Jackets got a tie on a deuce at 2:44, the turning point of the game occurred at the 2:03 mark. A pass from Oakes to Berrong for a layup and whistle at that point appeared to have given the Indians a 45-43 lead with a free throw to follow but the basket and free throw were taken away when a very disputable fifth foul call on Oakes was made instead and compounded when the official considered Oakes simply untucking his shirt on the way to the bench a dastardly act resulting in a technical foul and basically deciding a hard fought on the court battle as it would turn out.

Indians lose heartbreaker to Providence; Lady Indians win with blowout

By Chad Stack
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The Indians suffered a heartbreaking loss to a 14-0 Providence Christian Academy team on Friday, Jan. 3, just a week after winning Towns County's first Battle of the States Christmas Tournament.

Heading into Friday's game, Towns County was 8-3 and 1-0 in the region when the Storm traveled to Hiwassee.

Providence Christian scored first, and for much of the first quarter, the two teams took turns leading the game with four lead changes, but the Indians closed the quarter on top 16-13.

Junior Aidan Berrong started the scoring in the opening minutes of the second quarter, hitting back-to-back shots and a 3-pointer for the Indians. But the Storm continued to battle and removed a six-point Indian lead to tie the game at 24 midway through the second quarter.



Sophia Shook (11) scored 12 points in Towns' 58-37 win over Providence. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

created their lead after Crowder put up seven points.

Following the Indians' win against Union County the previous Saturday, Moss only needed nine points to hit his 1,000th career point, and early in the second half, he hit that amazing milestone thanks to two shots from the foul line.

The Indians ended the third quarter with a 50-44 lead over the Storm, though the Storm started the final quarter with a 6-0 run to tie the game at 50. After the Indians retook the lead, Crowder was forced to leave the

game due to a cut on his arm.

As Crowder received medical attention on the sidelines, the Storm took advantage and tied things up at 58 with just under a minute left to go in the game.

Holding the ball for the last shot, the Storm managed to bank a ball off the backboard for three points with just over one second left in the game, and they won it 61-58.

Moss led the Indians in scoring with 20 points, followed by Crowder with 15 and Berrong with 11. Juniors Louis Quijada and Reace Hampton both added

Senior Sophia Shook took the Lady Indians on a 6-0 run in the opening minutes of the game, forcing the Lady Storm to call a timeout to regroup.

Following Shook's six points, junior Vanessa Floyd added eight points of her own, and Towns County ended the first quarter with a 17-14 lead.

The Lady Indians pulled ahead in the second quarter to take a 32-21 lead heading into halftime.

Second half play continued to feature dominant scoring by the Lady Indians, resulting in a 58-37 win over Providence Christian Academy.

Floyd led the Lady Indians with 19 points, followed by Shook with 17 and Henson with 12.

Juniors Abby Mauldin and Jayce Young added two points of their own, and freshmen Sarah Shook and Eden Hill also added two points.

Sophia Shook led with eight rebounds, followed by Henson with six, and Sarah Shook and Floyd both hauled in four rebounds.

Henson led the team with nine assists, followed by Sophia Shook with six and Floyd with three.

Register now for Spring Rec Soccer

Just a reminder that Regular Registration for Spring Rec soccer will continue through January 20th. Beginning January 21st, a late fee will be added to each registration.

Rec Assessments will take place Saturday, January 18th. Exact time and field locations for each location to come soon. All U8 & U10 players should attend assessments this season. Any player wishing to play up to the next age group, if not approved prior to the Fall 2019 season, must

first be assessed and approved, so they should also attend Assessments.

Register online at mountains.unitedfa.org/

