

Towns County Sports

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Lady Indians and Indians get decisive region wins at Providence

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LILBURN - The Towns County Lady Indians and Indians Varsity Basketball Teams traveled to metro Atlanta last Friday and came away with decisive Region 8-A victories over the Providence Christian Academy Storm.

Although both Towns teams had taken two victories as compared with one defeat against region opponents, this was the first to count for region tournament seeding as the Towns teams will face each of the three prior region opponents again with just the second of two meetings counting as just one contest against region opponents is considered this year.

The season has been a struggle to this point for the Providence Christian teams as the Lady Storm saw their overall record fall to 2-15 and 0-2 and the Storm to 1-16 overall and 0-2 in Region 8A by week's end.

Lady Indians 51, Providence Christian 35 - Although the Lady Indians in using their suffocating full court pressure were in control of the game from the beginning, cold shooting prevented them from putting great distance between themselves and the Lady Storm from Lilburn until beginning at the 4:11 mark of the second quarter.

A putback basket by sophomore Kennedy Henson got the Lady Indians a 2-0 lead at the 6:22 mark of the first quarter and a trey by senior



Aidan Berrong lifts off for a layup at Providence Christian Academy on Friday, Jan. 4. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Taylor Cornett gave them a 5-2 lead at 5:01 they would never relinquish. By quarter's end, Cornett would have six points, sophomore Vanessa Floyd five, and Henson four as the Lady Indians extended a 7-5 lead to 15-9 by quarter's end.

The Lady Storm continued to remain competitive as they were within 21-14 at 4:34 and 23-16 at 4:03 of the second quarter but a 9-2 Lady Indian finish the final 3:50 of the quarter had them holding a 32-18 lead at intermission.

Scoring highlights for the quarter were ten points by Hen-

son and a trey by sophomore Jayce Young.

The Lady Indians then got contributions of six points on two treys by Floyd, four by junior Sophia Shook and a trey by Henson in building a 47-23 lead entering the fourth quarter and they held their biggest lead of 51-25 at the 5:41 mark before Providence closed on a 10-0 run against the Lady Indians' less experienced players for a final Lady Indian margin of victory of 51-35.

Eight different Lady Indians put points on the scoreboard for the game with scoring

leaders being Henson with 17 points, Floyd with 13, Cornett with 6, Shook with 4, and seniors Demya Allen and Kristen Byers and the aforementioned Young with 3 each.

Allen and Shook led in assists with 2 each while ten Lady Indians collected at least one rebound with leaders being Henson with 13 and Floyd with 4. Freshman Maymie de Mayo led the Lady Storm in scoring with 13 points.

Indians 75, Providence Christian 42 - Despite their having just one victory, Providence Christian gave the Indi-

ans quite a battle the first half as they overcame an early 8-1 lead and two other Towns leads of seven points the first quarter to pull to within 13-10 late in the quarter. They then rallied from an early 18-10 second quarter deficit to within 22-20 at the 4:18 mark and 26-25 at the 1:36 mark of that quarter but with the Indians holding a 32-27 lead at intermission.

Senior Will Travis had the hot first half scoring hand for the Indians as he included a trey among nine first quarter points and added six on three deuces in the second for fifteen

points at intermission. Other leading first half scorers for the Indians were freshman Collin Crowder and senior Brett Denton with five points each with Denton including a trey in his five points production.

The Indians adjusted their defensive strategy for the last half and overpowered the Storm by outscoring them 27-8 in the third quarter for a 59-35 lead entering the fourth quarter and on the way to a 75-42 victory.

Seven different Indians put points on the scoreboard in the last half with leaders being sophomores Aidan Berrong and Kolby Moss contributing eleven points each, Travis scoring eight, Crowder five, and Denton four. Sharpshooting junior varsity sophomore Peyton Barrett has seen increasing minutes with the varsity recently and scored his first varsity points with a deuce in the fourth quarter.

Travis led the scoring parade with 23 points with other leaders being Berrong with 14, Moss with 13, Crowder with 10, Denton with 9, and senior Trent Bradshaw with 4. Eight different Indians provided at least one assist with leaders being Moss with 10, Berrong with 4, Denton with 3, and Crowder with 2.

Eight different Indians also contributed at least one rebound with leaders in this category being Travis with 13, Crowder with 9, Bradshaw with 6, and Denton and Moss with 5 each. Leading scorers for the Storm were sophomores Jamie McDonough with 12 points and Cayden Johnston with 11.

Lady Indians and Indians victims of heartbreaking losses at Hayesville

By Jerry Kendall
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HAYESVILLE, NC - The Towns County Lady Indians and Indians traveled to nearby Hayesville last Saturday after having had a long road trip to Lilburn in metro Atlanta on Friday to face the well rested Lady Jackets and Yellow Jackets who had not played since the Battle of the States Tournament a week prior but such are the results of scheduling for a long basketball season.

Both TCHS teams would suffer one point losses although each got off a long 3-point field goal attempt for a potential victory that missed the mark as time expired.

Both the Lady Indians and Indians completed the week with 7-8 overall records, including 1-0 in Region 8A. The Lady Jackets finished their week with an 8-3 overall record including 2-1 in the Big Smoky Mountain Conference while the Yellow Jackets are 7-4 overall with a 2-1 conference record.

Hayesville, NC 40, Lady Indians 39 - The Lady Indians got off to a quick start on a trey by sophomore Vanessa Floyd at the 6:26 mark of the first quarter only to see Hayesville rally ahead for a 10-4 lead by the 3:54 mark but treys by sophomore Kennedy Henson and senior Taylor Cornett and two free throws by Floyd had the Lady Indians within 14-12 at quarter's end.

The Lady Jackets would open the second quarter on an 8-2 run for a 22-14 lead at the 5:25 mark but a trey by Cornett at 4:02 would be followed by deuces by seniors Kenzlee Denton and Demya Allen and three for four free throw shooting by senior Kristen Byers for a 10-6 finish and just a 28-24 deficit at intermission.

A trey by Lady Indian junior Sophia Shook and a free throw by Cornett got the Lady Indians a 28-28 tie at the 5:49 mark of the third quarter and treys by Cornett and Henson more than matched a three point play by the Lady Jackets for a 34-31 Towns lead at 4:07. The scoring pace would fall drastically for both teams after that, however, with a total of just fourteen points being scored by both teams the remainder of the game.

Cornett's fourth trey of the game at the 1:25 mark of the third quarter more than matched a Lady Jacket deuce for a 37-33 Towns lead entering the fourth quarter but the Lady Jackets would score the first five points of the fourth quarter for a 38-37 lead at the 5:04 mark. The Lady Indians got the lead back at 39-38 at the 1:32 mark on a steal by Cornett and pass to Allen for a field goal but the Lady Jackets sank a deuce at fifty two seconds for a 40-39 lead which would hold up for the one point



Taylor Cornett races up the court on a Lady Indians fast break at Providence Christian Academy last week. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

victory.

The Lady Jackets would miss two one and one free throw attempts at 16.4 and 10.7 seconds in leaving the door open for the Lady Indians but they would not be able to overcome the lead with a long trey attempt as time expired missing the mark. The final quarter included some slow down tactics and especially defensive success by both teams with each of the four field goals made in the quarter following turnovers by the opponent.

The Lady Indians were handicapped throughout the game by foul trouble for leading scorer and rebounder Kennedy Henson who missed more than five and a half minutes of the first quarter with three fouls and fouled out with 1:37 remaining in the game and her team trailing by just a 38-37 score. In a game dominated for the Lady Indians by "what if" thoughts, they missed several layup opportunities during the fourth quarter.

Scoring leaders for the game for the Lady Indians were Cornett with 13 points, Floyd with 7, Henson with 6, and Allen with 5. Five different Lady Indians contributed at least one assist with leaders being Henson with 4 and Shook with 2 while Henson also led in rebounds with 8 and was followed by Allen with 4 and Floyd with 3. Senior Savanna Annis led Hayesville in scoring with 16 points.

Hayesville, NC 53, Indians 52 - The Indians got off to a quick 5-0 lead over Hayesville on a deuce by senior Will Travis and a trey by senior Trent Bradshaw by the 6:18 mark of the first quarter and they would lead for all of the first half with the exception of forty two seconds near the end of the first quarter and thirteen seconds at the start of the second. Two deuces by the Yellow Jackets got them an 8-7 lead at the forty two seconds mark only to see Travis sink three

free throws with zero time on the clock after being fouled on a trey attempt for a 10-8 Towns advantage.

A Hayesville deuce at 7:18 of the second quarter got them a 10-10 tie but Indians sophomore Kolby Moss struck for two deuces and a trey between the 7:05 and 6:25 marks for a sudden 17-10 Indians lead. The Jackets used a deuce and trey to edge to within 17-15 by the 4:13 mark but the Indians responded with a deuce by sophomore Aidan Berrong, a deuce and second trey by Moss, and two free throws by Bradshaw for a 9-7 finish and a 26-22 lead at the halftime break.

The Indians would hold 29-24 and 31-26 leads by the mid point of the third quarter on a trey

by Moss and a deuce by Travis but the Yellow Jackets would force a 31-31 tie at the 3:48 mark and initiate five straight lead changes with a field goal at the 2:52 mark with baskets by Moss and senior Brett Denton giving the Indians two leads but Hayesville holding a 37-36 advantage entering the fourth quarter.

The Indians would open the fourth quarter with an 11-2 run for a 47-39 lead at the 4:37 mark on the strength of, in order, a three point play by Berrong, a trey by Moss, deuces by Berrong and Moss, and a free throw by freshman Collin Crowder.

A Hayesville trey at 4:16 sent the Yellow Jackets on a 13-2 run interrupted only by two Travis free throws for a 49-48

Towns lead at 2:17, however, for a 52-49 lead at the 1:32 mark. Two free throws at 1:28 and the second of two attempts by Moss at 50.4 seconds got the Indians even at 52-52 with the Jackets running the clock down in looking for a final field goal attempt for the win.

The Yellow Jackets would be sent to the foul line by one of the officials, however, with 2.9 seconds on the clock with the first attempt being made for a 53-52 Hayesville lead. The second attempt was missed with the Indians claiming the rebound and calling time out with 2.1 seconds on the clock. They got off a long pass to the front court and a long 3-point attempt that missed the mark as the Yellow Jackets held

on for a 53-52 victory.

This report would not be complete without at least a mention of the late Hayesville trip to the foul line. With the Indian defender not doing so aggressively and the Yellow Jacket dribbling the ball more than twenty feet from the basket, quite a number of Indian supporters attending the game and knowledgeable about such matters expressed that they felt no call was warranted and that the Yellow Jackets should have been allowed to decide the outcome of the game on a field goal attempt or have a resulting overtime instead of having a free throw as a result of a disputable call deciding the game. And there is probably a good chance that some Hayesville supporters would have preferred a field goal attempt for the win.

Scoring leaders for the game for the Indians were Moss with 25 points, Travis with 9, Berrong with 7, and Bradshaw and Denton with 5 each while Berrong, Bradshaw, Denton, Moss, and Travis all contributed 2 assists according to your reporter's unofficial tally.

Travis led in rebounds with 13 and was followed by Moss with 7, Crowder with 6, and Bradshaw and Denton with 4 each. Scoring leaders for the Yellow Jackets were sophomore Hayden McClure and freshman Jake McTaggart with 14 each and freshman Kolbe Ashe with 10.

McClure has a Towns County basketball history as a top player at the middle school through eighth grade and powerful rebounder and excellent scorer Charles "Chip" Gribble of the 1975 region championship team is his grandfather.

TCHS to crown new Basketball Homecoming Queen on Friday night



The Towns County High School Basketball Homecoming Court for the 2018-2019 season includes, L-R: Princesses Kayla Peacock (Freshman), Abby Mauldin (Sophomore) and Rylee Kitchens (Junior); with a Senior Court of Erika Spano, Kaitlyn Crowder, Carly Woodard, Kenzlee Denton and Taylor Cornett. Homecoming will take place at the halftime of the boys' basketball game on Friday, Jan. 11. All girls will be recognized and escorted onto the court, after which the Homecoming Queen and Runner-Up will be crowned from among the members of the Senior Court.