

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Indians win at Washington-Wilkes; girls cancel games for COVID

By Jeremy Foster
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Washington - The basketball games scheduled for this past weekend were slated to start on Friday, Jan. 7, at Washington-Wilkes High School and Saturday, Jan. 8, at home against Highlands, North Carolina.

Unfortunately, both the Lady Indians' games were canceled due to four Towns County players testing positive for COVID-19 and having to isolate, resulting in the girls' team not having enough players to play. And while non-affected team members did not have to quarantine, the school did cancel practices until Jan. 10 out of an abundance of caution.

As a consequence of the girls' games being canceled, the Saturday boys' home game was also canceled, as Highlands did not want to bring just its boys' team.

"I was hoping COVID would not interfere with our season, but it is back, and my team did not get to play Friday or Saturday because of that," Girls Head Coach Shea Taylor said. "I hope we are able to play this week but am not certain what will happen. Most importantly, I want my team to be healthy. Their health and safety is my first priority."

The Indians capitalized on their Battle of the States Championship momentum by defeating Washington-Wilkes on Jan. 7. And it was a momentous occasion, indeed, as Washington-Wilkes is the No. 7-ranked team in the state in single A classification.

"We knew it was going to be a tough team and a tough place to play, and I am so proud of my boys to have such a hard-fought victory in the end," Boys Head Coach Brian Hunnicutt said.

The final score was 63-59. Senior Collin Crowder had 28 points, senior Kyle Oakes scored 19 points, and



L-R: Towns County sophomore Zane Floyd attempts a free throw during the win at Washington-Wilkes. Senior Collin Crowder drives to the hoop. Photos/Lowell Nicholson

sophomore Zane Floyd tallied 9 points.

"We jumped out to an early lead," Hunnicutt said. "Wilkes came back, and we led by a few points to end the first quarter. They hit some big shots and were able to run it a little bit to close the gap, and we went into halftime with a 1-point lead."

"We came out into the third quarter with both teams fighting tooth and nail, and they actually reversed it on us by ending the third quarter with a 1-point lead this time. They got a run and shortly began the fourth quarter with a 4-point lead."

"Then Floyd got a big 3-pointer that brought us back to a 1-point difference. After that, everyone just kept going back and forth, and in the last three minutes of the game we were able to get some big defensive stops, with Oakes having some huge scores down the stretch and Crowder with

some huge layups and free throws.

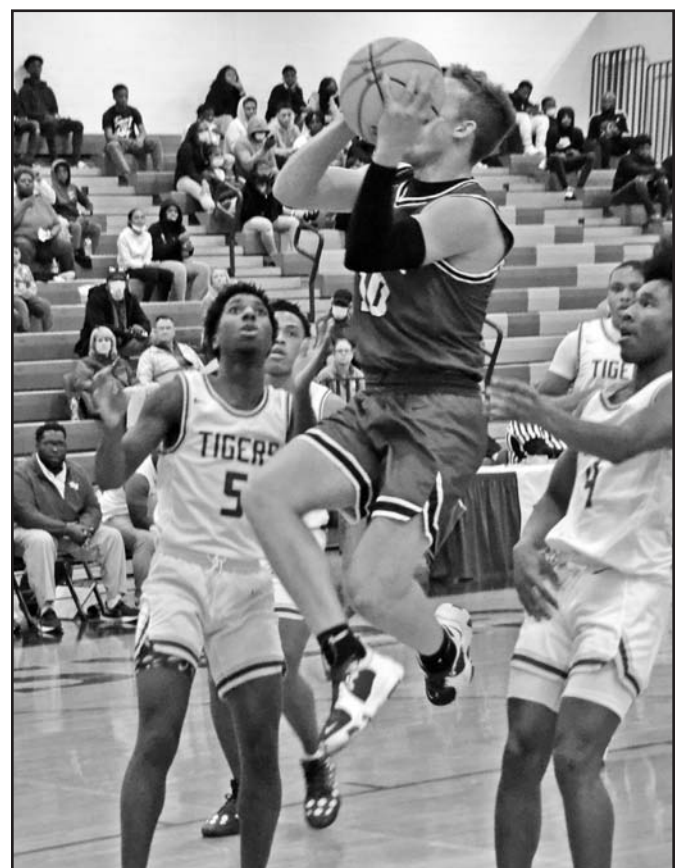
"(We held out) the rest of the game with great defense for a 4-point victory. Being able to win that game with such a high class of athletes and especially on the road is just a huge testament to our team."

"We are looking to just keep this going into next week and into region play and keep playing this way to make it to the state tournament."

With their Friday win, the Indians are 9-4 on the season and 1-1 for conference games.

The Indians and Lady Indians' next games were set to occur after press time on Tuesday, Jan. 11, at home against Commerce, with a pair of away conference games against Lake Oconee Academy on Friday, Jan. 14, beginning at 6 p.m.

For full scheduling information, visit <https://townscountyathletics.com/>.



The Indians celebrate after opening 2022 with a Region 8-A victory at Washington-Wilkes over the weekend. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Wrestling: Indians finish fourth in area, headed for Dual Sectionals

By Jeremy Foster
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Towns County Indians Wrestling Team had a huge area duals tournament Jan. 6-7 at George Walton Academy, where the team finished Fourth Place in the region to qualify for the first round of state this weekend in the Georgia High School Association Dual Wrestling Sectionals.

Towns County wrestled first against Commerce, with junior Brandon Bowling at 138 pounds earning the team's only win for an overall result of 78-6.

Next up, the Indians wrestled Washington-Wilkes, with wins by sophomore Andrew Brinson at 220 pounds by pin, Brandon Bowling by pin, junior Zion Calhoun at 170 pounds with a pin, junior Seth Gillis at 182 pounds by pin, and senior Hannah Wecer at 132 pounds by forfeit.

The final score was 48-30 for a Wilkes victory.

"This team has definitely exceeded my expecta-



Head coach Brandon Rowland and the Towns County wrestling coaching staff encourage their athletes during a recent match. Photo/Todd Forrest

tions this season, and I also have high expectations for individual traditional area," Wrestling Head Coach Brandon Rowland said. "They are

working very hard, and I feel like all that hard work will pay off in the end."

"We have a possibility to qualify quite a few for

(individual state sectionals at the end of the month) if they continue to improve."

The Indians wrestled again after press time on

Monday, Jan. 10, at home for Senior Night against Union County and Rabun Gap. The GHSA Team Duals Sectional Tournament will take place

on Saturday. Visit www.townscountyathletics.com for complete scheduling of all Towns County Sports.

The Benton Mackaye Trail Association January 2022 Hikes

The current social distancing and health rules are used by hike Leaders.

10 (Monday) - The Benton MacKaye Trail association sponsors an easy /moderated 4.5 mile hike Amadahy trail at Carter's Lake. This will be a leisurely hike. Leaders: Evelyn and Doug Yarns For more info, contact HikeleaderEY@bmtmail.org

14 (Friday) - The Benton MacKaye Trail association sponsors a moderate 4.3 mile hike on the BMT from Three Forks to No Name Bald and back. Dog friendly hike (adult humans may bring a leashed dog). Largely uphill going and reverse returning. Approximately 700' of elevation change each way. We'll include a side trip to Long Creek Falls. Hike leader is Ken Cissna. For more information, contact hikeleaderKC@bmtmail.org.

17 (Monday) - The Benton MacKaye Trail association sponsors a moderate 6.5 mile hike at Thunder Rock Express on to Chestnut Mountain trail

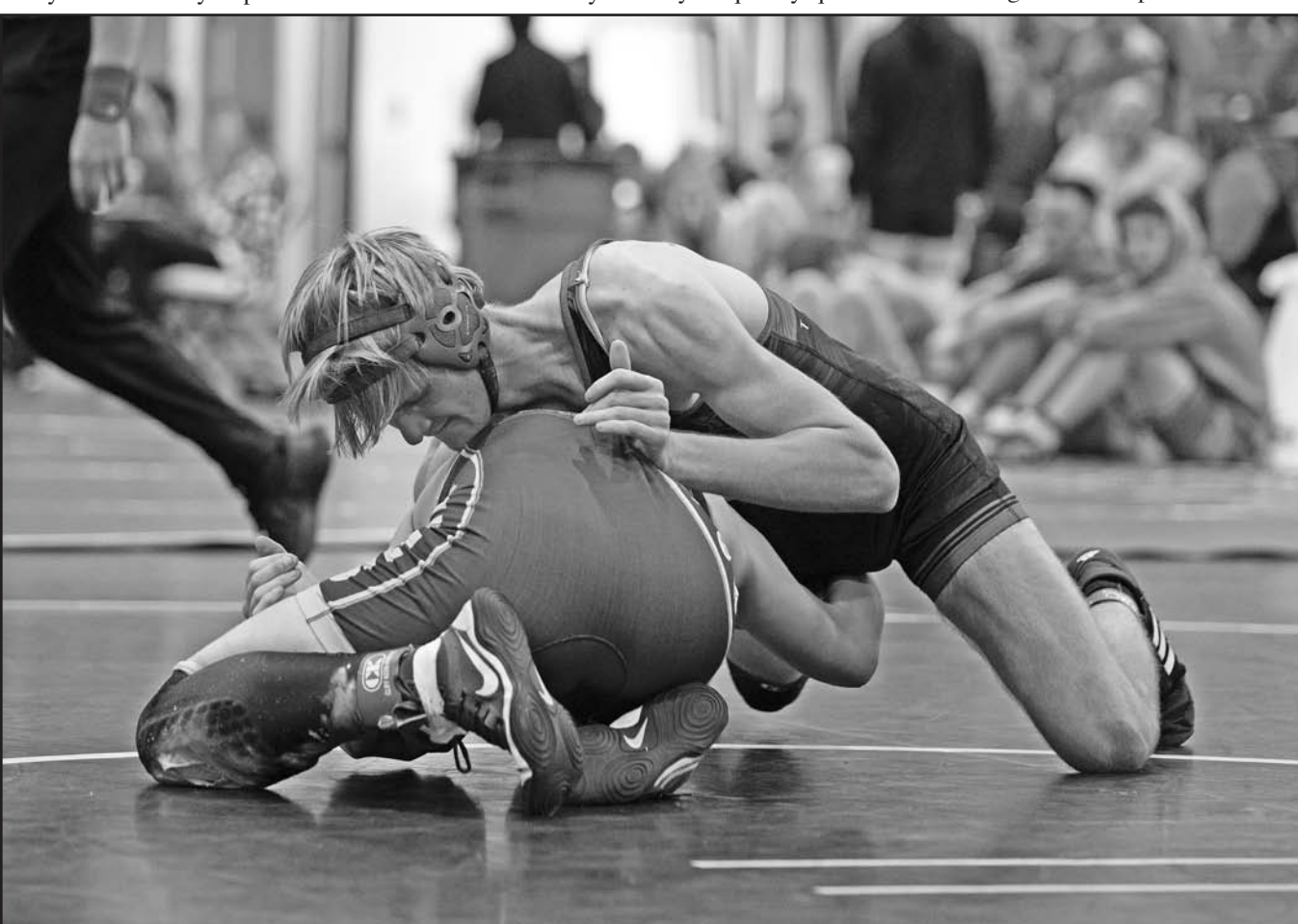
to BMT trail down to Thunder Rock Campground. Whitewater Center in Ducktown, TN. Hike Leaders: Tom & Carolyn Sewell.

For more info, contact HikeleaderTS@bmtmail.org.



BEEP BEEP! That's Jeep speak for "Join Us!"

If you own a Jeep and like to ride the mountains and trails, see local sights, and enjoy other Jeep enthusiasts, then Blue Ridge Mountain Jeepers is the club for you. We meet the second Friday of every month at the Blairsville Skillet Cafe. Lunch is at 11:30 and the meeting starts at 12:30 p.m. Look us up at www.blueridgemountainjeepers.com or on Facebook. Come and join us. BEEP BEEP! NTJan12/27/CA



Towns County wrestling earned a spot in the Class A State Sectionals with a fourth-place finish in the region. Photo/Todd Forrest