

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Basketball: Lady Indians go 1-1, Indians win two last week

By Jeremy Foster
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Towns County Indians and Lady Indians Basketball played against Greene County at home and away at Lincoln County last week.

The first game was versus Greene County on Friday, Jan. 21, and the Lady Indians were up first and came ready to play.

Greene County took first possession of the ball at the tipoff and scored the first 3 points of the game.

Senior Emily Vargas then gained the first point on the board for the ladies with a free throw, and junior Sarah Shook scored a 3-pointer followed by freshman Kaleigh Beaver hitting for 2 and a free throw.

With an assist from sophomore Halie Arrowood, sophomore Emma Lallement netted 2 points to keep the Lady Indians ahead 9-7 at the end of the first period.

Junior Tabitha Barnes scored her first 2 points of the game at the beginning of the second, and other scorers throughout the rest of the game were Shook, sophomore Laura Mauldin, Barnes, Arrowood, Beaver, Lallement and sophomore Maycee Garrison.

The combined action of the girls culminated in a 52-32 victory for Towns County.

"We are really sinking our teeth in with our press," Girls Head Coach Shea Taylor said. "We are a pressing team, and that gave us a lot of turnovers tonight and manufactured points for us."

"I am very proud of our girls for stepping up and playing fast tonight. Ultimately, defense won that game for us, and we are proud to get that region win. Going forward, our goal is to get a Top 4 spot in the state tournament."

Next up, the boys' teams collided in the Bill P. Kendall Gymnasium. Greene County took the ball at tipoff, but possession was quickly reversed to earn sophomore Zane Floyd the first 2 points of the game for the Indians.

Other scorers throughout



The Towns County Lady Indians ahead of last Friday's 53-32 home victory over Greene County. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



Collin Crowder attempts a free throw during last week's trip to Lincoln County. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



Kyle Oakes creates space in the paint. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

the rest of the match were senior Kyle Oakes, senior Collin Crowder, sophomore Tanner Cunningham and sophomore Connor Chastain, and the Indians won the game 52-42.

"We did more of what we needed to do in this game in being patient with the ball and playing the pace of the game that we want," Boys Head Coach Brian Hunnicutt said. "I am very proud of our boys for getting better and playing

the kind of defense that we wanted."

The Indians traveled to Lincoln County on Saturday, Jan. 22, where the Lady Indians experienced a heartbreaking loss in overtime by just 2 points in a 57-55 score.

"It was a hard-fought battle, but the outcome was not in our favor," Coach Taylor said.

The boys then battled it out and ended up the victors with a 58-27 score. For

the entire game, Crowder had 34 points, Floyd netted 8 and Oakes scored 7.

"Towns came out and set the defensive tone, leading 16-8 after the first period and 28-13 at halftime," Coach Hunnicutt said. "We played a physical and controlled defensive game in the third period and led 47-21. We finished by outscoring Lincoln 11-3 in the final period."

"I believe this was one

of the more complete games we have played all year, and I am proud of the boys. We need to rest and get ready, because we play three highly ranked teams next week, all at home, and we need our great TC fans out helping us show why Towns County is a great place for basketball."

The Indians are 12-5 on the season and 4-2 in region play, while the Lady Indians have a 4-12 season record and

are 2-3 in the region.

As noted by Coach Hunnicutt, the next series of games are all at home, on Tuesday, Jan. 25, against Social Circle at 5 p.m.; Friday, Jan. 28, against Washington-Wilkes at 7 p.m.; and Saturday, Jan. 29, against Tallulah Falls at 5 p.m., also Senior Night.

Visit www.townscountyathletics.com for detailed scheduling and other information.



Freshman Kaleigh Beaver drives to the hoop during Towns' win over Greene. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



Sophomore Tanner Cunningham with a breakaway layup vs. Greene. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

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The Lady Indians battle for a rebound in the paint at Lincoln County. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



Coach Shea Taylor huddles his squad during last week's trip to Lincoln County. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



Sophomore Zane Floyd steps to the foul line during the Greene County win. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

NASCAR 2022

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

Newman on the sidelines, but not out

Ryan Newman, who raced full-time in the Cup Series from 2002-21, does not have a ride for 2022. But he does not consider himself retired. After being released from the No. 6 Roush Fenway Ford at the end of the 2021 season, he did not throw a retirement or going away party.

He had other plans that would keep him in racing outside of NASCAR.

Newman specifically named dirt late model racing, the Whelen Modified Tour and the USAC Silver Crown as competitions he intends to enter in 2022. He called them "bucket list items (he) missed along the way" through a couple decades in the Cup Series.

Chances are, he will be the same star on those stages that he was this past weekend at the Chili Bowl in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

The Chili Bowl specifically is special to Newman because of the partner and team name on his car's panels.

The Indiana Donor Network's program, which raises awareness about organ, tissue and eye donation, launched in 2016 in the wake of IndyCar driver Justin Wilson's on-track accident and death. Race fans began signing up as organ donors in honor of the late driver.

Later that year, another open-wheel driver, National Sprint Car Hall of Famer Bryan Clauson, was killed in an on-track accident. Like Wilson, Clauson saved five lives as an organ donor.

The Driven2SaveLives program continues on in a partnership with Clauson-Marshall Racing, a team Newman bought into as part-owner in 2017. Newman joined the Driven2SaveLives program in 2020 ahead of his Chili Bowl debut.

"The program we have here is pretty amazing," Newman said. "It's an honor to be promoting someone like Bryan Clauson and the legend he was and is."

Newman's car at the 2022 Chili Bowl did not sport his name on it. Instead, it carried the names of other organ donor heroes on his Chili Bowl cars in 2020 and 2021.

Asked why he's back for his third Chili Bowl, Newman looked at his car: "To have what we have herethis weekend, with Cody Brommer's name on the car, to representing someone who was an organ and tissue donor, somebody who saved five lives because of his life, and the difference it makes for so many other people out there."

The next chapter of Newman's career will bring new challenges.

So that's where Newman's career will go from here toward the amusement. It's less of a return to the levels of racing on which he built his NASCAR career and more of a quest to find fulfillment driving midgets, late models and modifieds.

And yes, his family is a factor. As Newman prepared for Friday night's feature at the Chili Bowl, his family helped him strap into his car. When he returned from the race, they were the first to welcome him back.

These moments with Newman surrounded by the people he loves and partnered with teams and sponsors for which he cares deeply will undoubtedly contribute to the fun he plans to have with this portion of his career.



Ryan Newman

Meanwhile, Harrison Burton hopes his first full season in the Cup Series, driving the Wood Brothers No. 21 will be a productive one.

Burton makes the move up from the Xfinity Series, where he spent the last two seasons with Joe Gibbs Racing. While he has made one Cup Series start, the second generation driver is well aware of the steep learning curve ahead, coming from behind the wheel of an Xfinity Series car.

"It's definitely a different race car," Burton said after last week's Next Gen car test at Daytona. "That's for sure, but at the end of the day it's still the same techniques, the same mentality. I thought Daytona in particular was a lot more like the older generation's racing. I think the pack runs that we did were really racy and really competitive and it was challenging."

"The way the cars line up, they're a handful, which is good. It should be harder to drive these race cars and it was a fun weekend, for sure, trying to figure all that out. I got to work with my teammates and race team and I think we made some good progress there."

It's no secret, the Burton name carries a long history in NASCAR racing. Harrison's father, Jeff, and uncle, Ward, combined to win 26 races in the Cup series, while cousin Jeb is finding success in the Xfinity Series. But the youngest Burton now has an opportunity to do what none of them have done before: win a race for NASCAR's longest continually operating team.

A win for Burton and Wood Brothers this season would mark two milestones for the newly formed pairing: the first top-flight victory for Burton and the long-awaited 100th for the Wood Brothers' team. And both have the confidence they can get it done.

"That's the biggest thing is having a team that believes in you, that surrounds you and wants to go to work with you," Burton said. "I've gotten nothing but confidence from the people around me. They believe that we can go and be successful and that's from our crew chief level to the people at Ford, all the way down to just saying 'hi' to the people in the shop. It's nothing but excitement and that's been cool to see."

In Other Racing News: The NASCAR Hall of Fame Class of 2021 was finally inducted. The ceremony was originally scheduled for Feb. 5, 2021 but was postponed due to the uncertainty surrounding COVID-19.

The ceremony, which was held in Charlotte last Friday, was the 12th class inducted into the NASCAR Hall of Fame

since its 2010 inception. It was the first class with three members instead of five. The three inductees were: Dale Earnhardt Jr., Charles "Red" Farmer, and Mike Stefanik.

Dale Earnhardt Jr. is a third-generation NASCAR champion in a family synonymous with the sport. Earnhardt Jr. is among the most popular drivers in NASCAR history. In addition to his 26 Cup Series wins and two Xfinity Series championships, Earnhardt Jr. served as the face of NASCAR for many years with 15 consecutive Most Popular Driver awards.

Red Farmer was part of the original Alabama Gang. Farmer's exact win count is unknown but it's more than 700 and counting. Named one of the 50 Greatest Drivers in 1998, Farmer's immeasurable passion for the sport has kept him racing for decades, even as he approaches 90 years of age.

Mike Stefanik sits atop the list of all-time NASCAR championships with nine. In 2003, Stefanik was named one of the Modified Tour's 10 Greatest Drivers, and he holds the all-time series record in wins, poles, top fives and top 10s.

Racing Joke: Harold's wife accompanied him to the doctor's office. After the check-up the doctor called the wife back into the office alone.

He said, "Your husband is suffering from a very serious disease. Combined with fatigue from his racing, it's causing him tremendous stress. If you don't do the following, your husband will no longer be able to race. Each morning fix him a very healthy breakfast, with lots of proteins. Be very pleasant and keep him in a good mood all the time, especially before meals. For dinner, prepare an especially nice meal for him. Don't burden him with chores, or any of your daily problems. Don't discuss your stress or anything negative. This would probably make him feel worse."

"If you can do this for at least ten months to a year, I think he will overcome this condition."

On the way home, Harold asked his wife, "What did the doctor say to you?"

She replied, "You're going to have to give up racing."

Racing Trivia Question: Who was the youngest winner of the Daytona 500?

Last Week's Question: Which team has the most Daytona 500 wins? The Wood Brothers Racing is tops with 14. Petty Enterprises is second with 11.

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