

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Indians sweep past Lakeview Academy, Prince Avenue and Andrews

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A most eventful week was enjoyed by the Towns County Indians varsity basketball team and their followers last week. They traveled to Gainesville and survived a late Lakeview Academy rally for a 77-70 victory on Tuesday before returning home and taking a methodical and pretty comfortable 68-48 win over Prince Avenue Christian School on Friday and what might fit the description of a game for the ages 82-81 overtime victory over Andrews, North Carolina, on Saturday.

The game against Andrews presented a stark contrast to a December 19 game in Andrews when early red hot shooting by the Wildcats and frigid shooting by the Indians led to a 34-5 Indians disadvantage in an 86-41 loss.

A most noteworthy observation is the Indians taking three victories despite an avalanche of three point baskets by their opponents. While the Indians have displayed outstanding three point shooting during the season, Lakeview would sink twelve treys compared to five by the Indians, Prince Avenue would lead eight to seven in this category, and Andrews sank an incredible 14 treys compared to seven by the Indians.

The Indians completed the week with an overall record of 15-6 and the victories over Lakeview Academy and Prince Avenue were Region 8A contests with the Indians improving their record within the region to 6-2. The region tournament is scheduled to begin next Monday, February 3, at Commerce but with the Indians not playing until either Tuesday or Wednesday.

The region is so well balanced this year in boys competition that there are so many scenarios possible that giving projections as to how the standings might evolve and affect the tournament schedule at press time would be futile. A number of games scheduled for this week will serve to determine the regular season standings and seedings for the tournament, including the Indians' games at Tallulah Falls on Tuesday and at Athens Christian on Friday. Those interested in attending the tournament should check with school officials, players, or coaches to find out the time and date of the first game.

Although the Class A Public State Tournament will begin following the region tournament, it is already clear that the Indians will make the tournament and host their first game. As of Sunday evening, they are the seventh place team statewide in the Power Rankings being used for the final time this year to determine which teams make the tournament and how those making it are seeded.

If remaining among the top eight teams entered in the



Aidan Berrong fires away from 3-point range during Towns County's victory over Prince Avenue Christian. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

tournament, the Indians will receive a bye and not play in the first round but if dropping to a spot in the ninth through 16th place teams, they will host a first round game against a team from the 17th through 24th group. The top eight teams will then host winners of those first round games.

Indians 77, Lakeview Academy 70 – At Lakeview Academy, the Lions got a 2-0 lead on a basket just eleven seconds into the game but that would be their only lead of the game as it turned out although they would challenge the Indians throughout much of the first half and especially during the closing minutes of the game.

A basket by sophomore Collin Crowder at the 7:06 mark got the Indians a tie and along with a deuce by junior Kolby Moss at 6:43 for a 4-2 Towns lead had the Indians on a 12-0 run for a 12-2 lead by the 3:54 mark of the first quarter and the lead could have been significantly larger if not for the Indians missing several inside shots during the early going.

The Indians completed the early scoring run on a free throw and a deuce by junior Aidan Berrong, a trey by Moss, and Crowder's second deuce of the quarter with sophomore Kyle Oakes matching a trey by Lakeview with an old fashioned three point play for a 15-5 Towns lead at 2:36.

The Lions would however finish the quarter by using two treys in an 8-2 run interrupted only by Crowder's third deuce for just a 17-13 deficit at quarter's end. The Indians would then have five different team members enter the scoring column by the 3:57 mark of the second quarter for a third

lead of ten points at 28-18 on a pair of free throws by Oakes, a trey by Moss, and deuces by Berrong, Crowder, and junior Luis Quijada.

After the Lions used a three point play and a trey for just a 28-24 deficit at 2:35, a trey by Crowder and two more free throws by Oakes got the Indians back to a 33-24 lead at 1:42 which became 33-26 at intermission.

A high scoring third quarter for both teams saw the Indians out distance the Lions by a 26-20 margin for a 59-46 lead by quarter's end with five Indians contributing points to the run and highlights including a three point play among nine points for Moss, three deuces for six by Crowder, a trey and a deuce by junior Colton Day for five, and two deuces by Berrong for four.

When the Indians opened the fourth quarter on a 9-3 run on a deuce and trey by Berrong and a deuce each by Crowder and Oakes for a 68-49 lead at the 5:35 mark, the appearance of smooth sailing for the Indians appeared eminent for a convincing win but it turned out that the Lions would not go quietly.

They embarked on an extended 19-5 run highlighted by four treys and interrupted only by four for four free throw shooting by Moss and a one for two trip to the line by Day between the 4:44 and 1:32 marks for just a 73-68 deficit and a clear threat to the Indians.

Two free throws by Moss at 1:02 got the Indians some breathing room at 75-68 and he matched a pair of charity tosses by the Lions at 30.1 seconds for a 77-70 Towns lead and what turned out to be the final score in a hot shooting display by

both teams.

Moss led the Indians in scoring with 25 points with other leaders being Crowder with 19, Berrong with 14, Oakes with 11, and Day with 6 while leaders in assists were Oakes with 4, Day and Moss with 3 each, and Berrong and Crowder with 2 each. Crowder and Day led in rebounds with 9 each and were followed by Moss with 7, Berrong with 6, and Oakes with 4 while Oakes led in steals with 3.

Scoring leaders for Lakeview were 6'5" junior Declan Weidner with 35 points and junior Conley Millwood with 11. Millwood is the son of former Major League baseball pitcher Kevin Millwood who compiled a 169-152 record in 16 Major League seasons, including 75-46 in his first six seasons with the Atlanta Braves. Conley Millwood sank three of the four treys in the fourth quarter Lakeview rally. The Lions finished the week with an overall 8-15 record, including 3-5 in region play but on an upswing with an impressive 67-57 victory at Riverside Military Academy on Friday.

An outstanding display of free throw shooting by a combination from the two teams was present in this game. Weidner was eleven for eleven for the Lions while Moss was nine for nine and Oakes five for five in giving these three players a perfect twenty five for twenty five at the foul line for the game.

This was the second win in a row for the Indians over Lakeview with the first of the two coming last January 22 and ending not only a then current eight game winning streak but much more significantly a fifty game winning streak by the Lions over Region 8A opponents in regular season play back to their last such loss to Hebron Christian on February 6, 2015.

Indians 68, Prince Avenue Christian 48 – The Indians struck quickly against Prince Avenue for a lead they would not relinquish although have challenged for awhile. Junior Kolby Moss struck for two treys and junior Aidan Berrong added a long deuce in just a minute of playing time at exactly the seven minutes mark before the Wolverines used three treys in a 13-6 run for just a 14-13 deficit at 17 seconds.

Moss struck for his third trey of the quarter at the buzzer, however, as the Indians held a 17-14 lead after one quarter with Berrong adding a second deuce for a total of four points and sophomore Kyle Oakes sinking two deuces for four points in the quarter.

Six different Indians put points on the scoreboard in the second quarter as they extended their lead to 32-25 at intermission with highlights being two deuces for four points for sophomore Collin Crowder and a trey by Berrong.

After the Wolverines edged to within 34-28 early in the third quarter, the Indians struck for a 15-3 run interrupted only by three for four free throw shooting by Prince between the 6:17 and 1:19 mark for a 49-31 lead which became 49-33 entering the fourth quarter. Five different Indians entered the scoring column during the long

scoring run with Berrong including a trey among seven points and Crowder adding four.

The Indians extended their lead a bit in fourth quarter action with junior Luis Quijada sinking two treys in two attempts and Crowder three deuces for six points each and Moss adding four points as they closed out a 68-48 victory.

Scoring leaders for the game for the Indians were Moss with 17 points, Berrong and Crowder with 14 each, Oakes with 11, Quijada with 6, and junior Colton Day with 4 while Moss also led in assists with 6 and was followed by Crowder with 5, Oakes with 4, and Day with 2. Leaders in rebounds were Crowder with 11, Day and Moss with 6 each, and Berrong and Oakes with 5 each while Oakes and Berrong led in steals with 3 and 2 respectively and Crowder and Moss each blocked 1 shot. The Wolverines were led in scoring by Will Elrod with 15 points and Phillip Kelley with 10. They finished the week with an 8-12 record, including 3-5 in the region.

Indians 82, Andrews, NC 81 (OT) – The opening minutes of the game against Andrews gave the appearance of a repeat of the first game between the two teams as the Wildcats sank four of their first five field goal attempts with three being treys for an 11-2 lead at the 4:54 mark of the first quarter.

This set the stage for the Indians to make a number of big plays in edging closer to the Wildcats but the Wildcats responding with big plays of their own to add back to their leads until the later stages of the game.

By the end of the first quarter, the Indians had overcome cold early shooting in this game by holding their own after the early hot Andrews start with sophomore Collin Crowder wrapping deuces around a trey by the Wildcats and junior Colton Day sinking a deuce with six seconds left as the Indians still trailed by nine points by a 20-11 score at quarter's end.

Several examples of the Indians making a move but diluted by following Andrews heroics began early in the second quarter. After the Wildcats opened the quarter with their fifth trey of the game for a 23-11 lead, the Indians edged to within six points at 23-17 on a deuce and free throw by junior Kolby Moss and a trey by junior Aidan Berrong in barely more than a minute of playing time between the 6:49 and 5:45 marks.

The Wildcats bounced right back, however, with a trey and two free throws for a 28-17 lead which became 33-24 at intermission despite two deuces and a trey by Berrong who finished the quarter with ten points.

With the Wildcats leading 35-25 on a deuce at the 7:00 minutes mark of the third quarter, a trey by Berrong and a deuce by Moss got the Indians within 35-30 exactly a minute later but the Wildcats responded with a trey and deuce of their own by 5:05 in regaining the ten points lead at 40-30.

Then when Day sank a trey at 4:56 for just a 40-33 Towns deficit, the Wildcats responded with a trey and an old

fashioned three point play for what would be their biggest lead of 46-33 at the 4:20 mark.

The remainder of the quarter would belong to the Indians, however, as they used a 15-5 finish to close to within 51-48 entering the fourth quarter. They achieved this scoring run on two free throws by sophomore Kyle Oakes and a basket by Moss, a three point play and deuce by Crowder following an Andrews deuce, and treys by junior Luis Quijada and then Moss as time expired following a trey by the Wildcats.

All seemed well for the Indians following the third quarter finish but the Wildcats included two treys in a 10-2 opening run in the fourth quarter for a 59-50 lead at the 5:48 mark. But here came the Indians again with alternate scoring runs continuing.

A pair of three point plays by Moss and a free throw by Crowder between the 5:42 and 4:27 marks had the Indians within 59-57 only to be followed by a trey and two three point plays by the Wildcats between the 4:09 and 3:31 marks for a sudden and perhaps insurmountable 68-58 lead.

But guess what? Two baskets by Berrong, a three point play by Moss and still another deuce by Berrong accounted for a 9-1 Indians run between the 3:13 and 1:08 marks for just a 69-67 Andrews lead. Andrews missed a one and one free throw attempt at exactly the one minute mark but sank two charity tosses at 43.7 seconds for a 71-67 lead.

Moss drove for the basket for a deuce at thirty eight seconds and the Wildcats missed two free throws at 36.4 seconds with Moss claiming the rebound and being fouled as he claimed the ball. He sank two free throws at 35.8 seconds for a 71-71 tie and it held up when the Wildcats missed a trey and putback attempt in the closing seconds and the game went into a four minute overtime.

It required just eight seconds for Quijada to nail a trey for a 74-71 Indians lead only the have the Wildcats tie the score with a trey just 16 seconds later at 3:36. A basket by Crowder at 3:14 got the Indians a 76-74 lead but the Wildcats responded with deuces at 2:48 and 2:06 for a 78-76 advantage.

A basket by Moss at 1:57 got a 78-78 tie and when a Wildcat was called for a charging foul at 1:33, he was called for a technical foul with Moss sinking the first of two free throws for a 79-78 Indians lead which became 80-78 when Crowder sank the second of two attempts at the 1:02 mark.

After Andrews lost the ball out of bounds, Moss ran some clock and was fouled with 6.5 seconds left and he sank two pressure free throws giving the Indians an 82-78 lead which became an 82-81 lead when the Wildcats sank their 14th trey of the game at the one second mark. A quick time out was called by Andrews with three tenths of a second on the clock but the Indians got the ball inbounds with time running out and the Indians having a most memorable 82-81 overtime victory.

Moss scored 13 points in the fourth quarter and five in the overtime and led the Indians in scoring for the game with 30 points and was followed by Berrong with 20, Crowder with 15, Day and Quijada with 6 each, and Oakes with 5 while leaders in assists were Moss with 5 and Berrong, Day, and Oakes with 4 each.

Leading in rebounds were Crowder with 11 and Berrong and Moss with 8 each while Berrong led in steals with 2. The Wildcats were led in scoring by 5'9" junior Kabe Ellis with 39 points, junior Tucker Holloway with 12, and senior Landon White with 11. Andrews junior starter Bryson Holloway was lost to injury near the midpoint of the first quarter and junior substitute Spencer Bateman was lost to injury near the midpoint of the second quarter with Holloway not returning but Bateman seeing some action later in the game.

The Wildcats saw their outstanding record fall to 14-2 with the loss with the only previous loss being by a 54-49 score at Hayesville, a team with a sparkling 15-2 record with the losses being by scores of 61-60 at Class AA Franklin and 67-64 to the Indians in the semi-finals of the Battle of the States Tournament.

Class A Public Boys Power Ratings

As of Monday, Jan. 27

Rank	School	Region	Record	Ranking
1	Treutlen	3-A	21-0	15.33
2	Wilcox County	2-A	20-0	14.60
3	Wilkinson County	7-A	15-8	12.40
4	Hancock Central	7-A	18-3	12.09
5	Calhoun County	1-A	18-2	12.04
6	Terrell County	1-A	19-1	11.95
7	Towns County	8-A	15-6	11.45
8	Dooly County	4-A	17-5	10.98
9	Drew Charter School	5-A	15-7	10.90
10	Manchester	4-A	15-5	10.89
11	Lanier County	2-A	18-4	10.63
12	Lincoln County	7-A	14-5	10.46
13	Mitchell County	1-A	14-4	10.19
14	Taylor County	4-A	13-8	9.67
15	Macon County	4-A	12-8	9.65
16	Turner County	2-A	17-5	9.64
17	Warren County	7-A	13-3	9.45
18	Schley County	4-A	10-7	9.10
19	Clinch County	2-A	9-10	8.85
20	Georgia Military College	7-A	13-5	8.82
21	Miller County	1-A	13-7	8.50
22	Mt. Zion, Carroll	6-A	10-9	8.19
23	Charlton County	2-A	10-11	8.18
24	Irwin County	2-A	11-10	8.12
25	Wheeler County	3-A	15-7	8.06
26	Jenkins County	3-A	10-9	7.93
27	Bowdon	6-A	13-10	7.74
28	Marion County	4-A	10-7	7.73
29	Randolph-Clay	1-A	11-8	7.70
30	Claxton	3-A	10-9	7.56