

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Henson lost to injury, Lady Indians win one of three games last week

By Jerry Kendall
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Both heartbreak and success were present last week for the Towns County Lady Indians varsity basketball team but with the heartbreak far overriding the success.

The heartbreak comes as a result of junior Lady Indian standout Kennedy Henson being lost for the remainder of the season due to a dreaded torn ACL in her knee suffered early in the second quarter of her team's game at Lakeview Academy on Tuesday.

Surgery is planned for this week and a lengthy recovery period will be required but Henson has expressed that she plans to return to sports action as an outstanding basketball and softball player.

This is not the first time for Henson to incur this unfortunate event as she suffered the same injury to the same knee during the Battle of the States tournament in 2017 during her freshman year with the Lady Indians. As at the time of the injury in 2017, there was little if any physical contact with another player but what might be described then as now as a freak type of injury.

Prayers and best wishes are extended to Kennedy from this reporter and the *Towns County Herald* for successful surgery and a safe, rapid, and complete recovery.

Henson's loss came as not only a devastating event for her but at a disappointing time for her team as they had showed much improvement in recent games with four wins and three strong challenges to opponents beginning with their final game in the Battle of the States Tournament which included perhaps their most impressive appearance of the year in a win over Commerce in their most recent prior game.

The game when Henson was injured against a senior laden Lakeview Academy team proved to be very difficult but the Lady Indians were in contention against Prince Avenue until the closing seconds on Friday and they got a decisive win over Andrews on Saturday without Henson's presence.

The Lady Indians completed the week with an overall 8-13 record and it appears that with a current 3-4 regular season region record they will finish sixth in seeding for the region tournament which begins next Monday in Commerce and be scheduled to play on either Tuesday or Wednesday with the winner of that game to make it to the tournament semi-finals 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.



L-R: Seniors Kaitlyn Davis, Luis Quijada, Sophia Shook, Jacob Kinsey and Grace Berrong were honored during last week's TCHS Senior Night festivities. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Lakeview Academy 72, Lady Indians 24 – The game of basketball proves to sometimes be impossible to explain. After perhaps the Lady Indians' finest hour of this season to date in their victory over Commerce in their most recent game, a tip of the cap can be sent to the Lakeview Academy Lady Lions much as by the Indians to Andrews last month as there have been very distinct similarities with Andrews then and Lakeview last week seemingly just having to get the ball above the rim to make their shots while similar Lady Indian and Indian shots found a way to roll or bounce off the rim.

It truly seemed at times in both games that radar or a magnet was pulling Lady Lion shots into the basket and rejecting Lady Indians shots in a 72-24 victory just as in the Indians' 34-5 second quarter deficit at Andrews in an 86-41 loss. The Indians certainly proved the one sided loss at Andrews to fit the impossible to explain category when they took an 82-81 overtime victory over the outstanding Andrews team last Saturday.

An interesting comparison of scores of games brings about another interesting look at scores and the futility of determining what might be expected in other contests between mentioned teams. Lakeview Academy defeated Rabun Gap by just a 54-52 score at Lakeview on December 14 while Rabun Gap just defeated the Lady Indians by a

53-43 score on January 7 on the Lady Indians' home court.

At any rate, the Lakeview ladies used three treys and two old fashioned three point plays for 15 of their points within a 19-0 first quarter.

The Lady Lions strong scoring run actually diminished after they reached a 14-0 lead at the 4:38 mark of the first quarter as they were limited to three deuces and a trey for just nine points in nearly nine minutes of playing time from that point in the first quarter to 3:51 in the second.

Unfortunately, the Lady Indians would not only suffer the previously described loss to injury of Kennedy Henson but not enter the scoring column until senior Sophia Shook took the ball coast to coast for a three point play at the 4:23 mark of the second quarter with sophomore Emily Vargas matching two free throws with a deuce for a 25-5 Lakeview lead at the 3:19 mark.

After that, the Lady Lions resumed their torrid scoring by including four treys in a 30-1 scoring run interrupted only by a free throw by junior Maci Walls for a 55-6 lead at the 3:43 mark of the third quarter.

From the 3:12 mark of the third quarter to the end of the game, however, the Lady Indians would hold an 18-17 edge in scoring with highlights being eight points on two treys and two for two free throw shooting by freshman Eden Hill and six points on a pair of treys by junior Vanessa Floyd.

It is important to note here that Lakeview had at least three starters in the game at all times during this final run as they had just seven players dressed for the game with the added advantage of five of them being seniors.

Hill and Floyd led the Lady Indians in scoring for the game with 8 and 6 points respectively while freshman Tabitha Barnes, Hill, junior Abby Mauldin, Sarah Shook, and junior Jayce Young each contributed 1 assist. Leaders in rebounds were Sophia Shook with 5, Young with 4, and Sarah Shook with 3 while Sarah Shook took the lead in steals with 2.

The Lady Lions were led in scoring by seniors Maddie Towles with 19 points, Eliza Snyder with 13, Ellie Kate McDonald with 11, and sophomore Joelle Snyder with 11. The Lady Lions completed the week with an overall 17-6 record including 7-0 in region play with games against Athens Academy and Hebron Christian remaining.

Prince Avenue 52, Lady Indians 46 – With the Lady Indians playing without Kennedy Henson and the Prince Avenue Lady Wolverines including two treys in jumping out to a 10-0 lead barely three minutes into the game on Friday, some may have surmised that they were not up to the task of competing well with the visitors from the Athens area.

That would prove to not be the case, however, as the Lady Indians would rally and

compete heroically throughout the contest with the Lady Wolverines not able to clinch a victory until the final seconds of the game. Treys by senior Sophia Shook at 3:33 and junior Jayce Young at 2:10 of the first quarter got them within 10-6 and a late deuce by Sophia Shook had them within 15-8 at quarter's end.

Prince opened the second quarter with a trey and a deuce for a 20-8 advantage before a deuce by Sophia Shook and two by junior Vanessa Floyd had the Lady Indians within 20-14 but a 5-1 finish had the visitors back ahead by ten points at 25-15 at intermission.

The third quarter would be especially good for the Lady Indians as they used two treys by Young and one each by freshman Sarah Shook and Floyd along with a two pointer by Sophia Shook for a 14-5 scoring run to edge to within 30-29 in less than five minutes of playing time at the 3:07 mark. And following a free throw by Prince at 1:29, a three point play by Floyd had the Lady Indians leading 32-31 at 27.5 seconds.

The Lady Wolverines struck for two free throws and an extra long trey as time expired, however, for a 36-32 lead entering the fourth quarter.

Deuces by Floyd and Sarah Shook got the Lady Indians a 36-36 tie at 6:32, a three point play by Floyd at 5:34 following three free throws by Prince had another standoff of 39-39 at 5:34, and a trey by Floyd at 4:46 more

than matched a deuce by the Lady Wolverines for a 42-41 TCHS lead.

Prince used two deuces and two free throws for a 47-42 lead at 2:24 but a drive for two points by Sophia Shook had the Lady Indians within striking distance at 47-44 at 2:09 and a drive for two more points by Floyd at 38 seconds matched two for four free throw shooting by the Lady Wolverines for just a 49-46 Towns deficit. But the Lady Indians would not be able to enter the scoring column again and Prince sank three of six free throw attempts during the final 35.3 seconds for a 52-46 win.

The Lady Indians were led in scoring by Floyd with 21 points and she was followed by Sophia Shook with 11, Young with 9, and Sarah Shook with 5 while leaders in assists were Sophia Shook with 6 and Floyd and Young with 3 each.

Leaders in rebounds were Floyd with 6 and Sarah Shook with 3 while Sophia Shook led in steals with 8. Prince Avenue's leading scorers were junior Karlee Armstrong with 28 points and sophomore Noelle Hynes with 13 and their record was 8-11 including 3-4 in the region at week's end.

Lady Indians 59, Andrews 39 – After defeating the Andrews Lady Wildcats 57-29 in North Carolina last month, the game last week quickly became a mismatch between the two teams as the Lady Indians held leads of 14-5, 33-14, and 46-26 at the quarter breaks on the way to a 59-39 victory.

Lady Indians senior Sophia Shook, playing in her last home game, got the Lady Indians off to a 2-0 lead they would never relinquish on a runner at the 7:22 mark of the first quarter. Junior Vanessa Floyd provided eight points and Sophia six in first quarter action and Sophia 12 and Floyd five in second quarter action.

Floyd added nine points and junior Jayce Young contributed four in the third quarter while Floyd and Sophia added five each and Young a trey in the fourth as the Lady Indians closed out the victory.

Scoring leaders for the game were Floyd with 27 points, Sophia Shook with 23, and Young with 7 while leaders in assists were Sophia Shook with 9, Young with 3, and Floyd with 2.

Leaders in rebounds were Floyd with 6, junior Abby Mauldin with 5, and freshman Sarah Shook and Young with 4 each while leaders in steals were Sophia Shook with 7 and Floyd and junior Maci Walls with 2 each.

Senior Abby Hedden led Andrews in scoring with 17 points as the Lady Wildcats completed the week with a 1-15 record.

Basketball: Towns County Middle School teams advance to Tri-State Region playoff tournament

By Chad Stack
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Last week, both Towns County Middle School Basketball Teams advanced to the playoffs in their first year in the Tri-State Region.

With two regular-season games left on the schedule, Towns County hosted Summit Charter School from Cashiers, North Carolina, on Wednesday, Jan. 22.

The Lady Indians kicked things off with an 8-0 run against the Lady Bears, forcing Summit Charter to call an early timeout.

Following the timeout, the Lady Bears were able to generate 5 points, and the Lady Indians added 2 points of their own to end the quarter with a 10-5 lead over Summit.

The Lady Indians gave up 6 points in the second half, allowing the Lady Bears to cut the lead to 4. The Lady Indians went into halftime with a 15-11 lead over Summit Charter.

Coming out after halftime, the Lady Indians ramped things up on the defensive side of the ball, holding Summit Charter School to just 1 point in the second half as they cruised to a 32-12 win over the Lady Bears.

Kaleigh Beaver led the way with 10 points, followed by Brittany Cook, Laura Mauldin and Emma Lalletment with 4 points apiece.



TCMS in action vs Tallulah Falls last week. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

din, Halie Arrowood and Elizabeth Edwards all scored 2 points, and Natalie Barnes and Makayla Aston each added a point of their own.

Next up that evening, the 12-2 Indians took to the court to play their match against the Summit Charter Bears on Wednesday.

The Summit Charter Bears opened the first quarter with a 5-1 lead. With just under two minutes left in the first, Indians Head Middle School Basketball Coach Shea Taylor called a timeout to regroup.

After the timeout and some player substitutions, the Indians went on an 8-0 run to take a

apiece. Conner Chastain had 5 points, and Gage Rogers added 3 points.

Following their wins over Summit Charter School, the Towns County Middle School Basketball Teams hosted the Tallulah Falls Indians on Thursday, Jan. 23.

The Lady Indians fell to an undefeated Tallulah Falls team 25-40 on Thursday to end their regular season with a 9-7 record and the No. 3 seed in the playoffs.

For their part, the Indians continued their dominance, defeating Tallulah Falls 50-16, bringing their season record to 14-2, which was enough for a No. 1 seed in the tournament and a playoff bye.

The Lady Indians hosted a play-in game after press time on Monday, with the outcome set to determine if the Lady Indians would advance to the semifinals on Wednesday, Jan. 29.

Going undefeated in the Tri-State Region has allowed the Indians to advance straight to the semifinals, and they will host a playoff game Wednesday, Jan. 29, at 4:30 p.m.

If the Indians win in their semifinal matchup, they will advance to the Tri-State Championship game on Saturday, Feb. 1, at Summit Charter in Cashiers, North Carolina.

The Tri-State Championship games are scheduled to tip off at 11 a.m. starting with the girls, followed by the boys at 12:15 p.m.

Register now for Rec Department Baseball/Softball

Towns County Recreation Department Baseball/Softball registration: January 1st - February 16th. Late registration: February 17th - March 1st - \$15 late fee.

The Towns County Recreation Department would like to invite you to participate in our inaugural season with GRPA. There will be evaluations held the second week of March. If you are interested in coaching, please fill out a coaching application at the Towns County Recreation Department & complete a MANDATORY background check ONLY after you have been selected as a coach.

Divisions: T-Ball: Ages 5-6 Born September 1st, 2013 to August 31st, 2015. 8u: Ages 7-8 Born September 1st, 2011 to August 31st, 2013. 10u: Ages 9-10 Born September 1st, 2009 to August 31st, 2011. 12u: Ages 11-12 Born September 1st, 2007 to August 31st, 2009. 14u: Ages



13-14 Born September 1, 2005 to August 31, 2007.

Please register online at www.TownsCountyRec.com or register in person at the Towns County Recreation Department.

Towns County Recreation Department will be providing jerseys, pants & adjustable hats that players will be able to keep at the end of the season.

If you have any questions please contact Matthew Youngblood or Tyler Garrett at (706) 896-2600 or by email at TCRcreation2600@gmail.com.