

Vanessa Floyd joins Lady Indians 1,000 points club

By Jerry Kendall
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Towns County High School senior Vanessa Floyd became just the 22 Lady Indian basketball player along with 14 Indians to reach the 1,000 career points club at TCHS last Saturday when she sank a two-point field goal at the 5:44 mark of the third quarter in her team's game against Rabun County, giving her 1,001 points at that moment.

Floyd had scored 188 points as a freshman, 288 as a sophomore, and 321 as a junior for a total of 797 points in leaving herself 203 points short of the milestone entering this 2021 season. The field goal described above and four additional points by game's end lifted Floyd to 208 points for this season and 1,005 for her career.

With Floyd becoming the 22 Lady Indian and with 14 Indians known to have reached 1,000 career points, it would be easy to assume this milestone to be a common occurrence in high school basketball, but conversations through the years with officials and fans from other schools have revealed that this is a quite rare occurrence at many schools.

Given that Towns County High School is one of the smallest public schools in the state, we have been very fortunate to have numerous capable athletes good enough to compete well at the freshman and sophomore levels. Larger schools often have larger numbers of capable juniors and seniors with younger players not able to receive enough playing time to get a good start at the 1,000 points total.

A few other factors re-

quired for reaching the total include avoiding injuries that limit playing time during their career and often the factor of playing on a team extending the number of games played by qualifying for extended post season play.

As is often the case when a TCHS athlete reaches a memorable milestone, Floyd has several ancestors who have preceded her in sports activity at Towns County High School, including her parents, Shannon and Pamela Kendall Floyd, and her grandfather, Bill Kendall.

Shannon and Pamela both played basketball in the mid to late 1980s at the school, with Shannon having been a prominent member of the Indians basketball team as a senior and a vital member as a top-notch hitter and pitcher on the 1988 Indians state championship baseball team. He earned a

scholarship as a pitcher to Piedmont College, where he had a successful four-year career in that sport.

It is noteworthy that records exist for three grades of Vanessa's grandfather Bill's basketball career when he scored 24 points as a ninth-grader, 211 for a 9.2 points per game average as a 10th-grader, and 336 for a 14.6 average in his second year as a senior, with the scorebook being missing for his 11th-grade year and a few games missing during his first and fourth years.

As a historical note, the statement about two years as a senior is correct, as Bill Kendall was in the unique situation of graduating in 1955 when high school was extended from students graduating after 11 to 12 years. And like his son-in-law Shannon, Bill also played baseball at Piedmont College. As an added note, the basketball scoring exploits of Bob Bryson were explored in last week's Kolby Moss article, with Bryson and Bill Kendall having been teammates for three years on very successful teams through the 1955 TCHS season.

Sincere congratulations are extended to Vanessa Floyd from the Towns County Herald and this reporter for a job well done and with best wishes during her future endeavors in basketball and especially in life.



TCHS senior Vanessa Floyd is joined by Athletic Director Jim Melton after having scored her 1,000th career point as a Lady Indian Saturday. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

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advantage, but the Lady Indians pulled off a strong first quarter finish.

Sophomores Tabitha Barnes and Sarah Shook struck for a trey and two free throws respectively for just an 11-10 Lady Indians deficit at the 2:22 mark and two late free throws by senior Vanessa Floyd followed a pair of Rabun deuces for a 15-12 Lady Cats lead at quarter's end.

The Lady Cats opened the second quarter with a 21-3 scoring run interrupted only by a free throw by Shook and a deuce by Floyd, however, for a 36-15 lead, but with a deuce by senior Kennedy Henson, two free throws by Floyd, and a bas-

ket by Mauldin during the final minute and a half reducing the Rabun lead to 36-21 at intermission.

The two teams pretty much matched points in the third quarter with the Lady Cats extending their lead by three points, with Lady Indian highlights being four points each by Floyd and Shook while Henson scored 10 points in the fourth quarter when Rabun closed out a 68-44 victory.

Leading scorers for the Lady Indians were Henson with 14 points, Floyd with 12, Shook with 7, and Mauldin with 5, while leaders in assists were Henson and Mauldin with 3 each and Young with 2. Leaders

in rebounds were Floyd with 6, Shook with 5, and Mauldin with 4, while Henson led in steals with 6 and Shook had 2.

The Lady Cats were led in scoring by junior Gracie Deetz with 15 points, freshman Lucy Hood with 13, and juniors Carley Haban and Sophie Woodard with 10 each. The Lady Wildcats completed the week with a 14-4 record and ranked fourth in the state by the Atlanta Journal and Constitution in Class 2A, with two of the losses being to Jefferson, the top-ranked AJC team in Class 4A, one to fellow region second-ranked foe Elbert County, and the other to North Forsyth, the AJC's ninth ranked team in Class 7A.

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Five Indians put points on the scoreboard in the third quarter, with Berrong leading with 10 and Moss following with four. Five Indians again entered the scoring column in the fourth quarter, with Moss leading this time with six as the Indians closed out a 65-47 victory.

Eight different Indians put points on the scoreboard in this game, with leaders being Moss with 22 points, McTaggart with 14, Berrong with 12, and Crowder with 10, while leaders in assists were senior Kabe Ellis with 5, Berrong with 4, Moss with 3, and the trio of senior Hayden McClure, McTaggart, and junior Kyle Oakes with 2 each. Leaders in rebounds were McTaggart with 13, Moss with 11, Crowder with 8, Oakes with 5, and senior Colton Day with 4, and McTaggart had 4 blocked shots.

Washington-Wilkes was led in scoring by junior Dalen Cobb with 24 points. The Tigers completed the week with a 5-6 overall record, including 4-5 in the region.

Indians 72, Rabun County 55 - The Indians took a very comfortable 79-56 victory at Rabun County back on Jan. 9, but the Wildcats have shown improvement as the season has progressed although with just a 4-18 record at week's end. Some striking examples of improvement include just 67-57 and 44-38 losses to Jef-

erson, the Atlanta Journal and Constitution's 10th-ranked team in the state in Class 4A with a 12-4 record, a 43-40 loss to Class 5A Northview of John's Creek, and a 66-62 loss to Class 7A Mountain View of Lawrenceville, along with a recent 53-44 win over Tallulah Falls, a previous AJC top 10 team in Class A Private with a 14-4 record, including 8-0 in Region 8A Private.

On Saturday against the Indians, the Wildcats continued their improved look and took a 3-0 lead on a trey at the 7:19 mark of the first quarter and led for the remainder of the quarter by between one and five points. Seniors Aidan Berrong and Kabe Ellis each included a trey among five points in leading first quarter action, with junior Collin Crowder getting the Indians within 14-13 at quarter's end with a deuce at the 37 seconds mark.

The Indians got their first lead of 15-14 on a basket by senior Kolby Moss at the 7:18 mark of the second quarter; senior Colton Day got them a 17-16 lead at 6:04; and a Moss deuce at 4:18 got them a lead they would not relinquish but have challenged by the Wildcats until the Indians broke the game open beginning near the end of the third quarter. Moss scored eight of 16 Indian points as they led 29-23 at intermission after holding a 29-20 lead at the 2:02 mark.

The Wildcats continued

to challenge the Indians by pulling to within four points on five occasions during third quarter action, including to within 42-38 at the 1:04 mark, before a trey at six seconds by senior Aidan Berrong for a 45-38 Towns lead was the start of a rousing finish by the Indians after Moss contributed six points and junior Jake McTaggart four during the quarter.

McTaggart struck for eight points and Crowder a 3-point play in an 11-3 Indians run by the 5:38 mark of the fourth quarter for a 56-41 Towns lead, which led to a 72-55 Indians victory. McTaggart included three dunks among 12 points in the quarter, with Moss providing six points, Crowder five, and Ellis four in the final quarter.

Scoring leaders for the Indians for the game were McTaggart and Moss with 20 points each, Crowder with 13, Ellis with 9, and Berrong with 8, while leaders in assists were Ellis with 7, Berrong with 6, Moss with 3, and Crowder with 2. Leading in rebounds were McTaggart with 12, Crowder with 6, Moss and junior Kyle Oakes with 5 each, and Berrong and Ellis with 4 each. Crowder led in steals with 3 and McTaggart in blocked shots with 3.

Leading scorers for Rabun County were juniors Connor McKay with 16 points and Clayton Dixon with 14, and senior Adriel Clark with 11.

Peacock announces cast for season opener in March



(L-R) front: Caroline Sposto, Suzanne West, David Layfield, Kay Thomas (Stage Manager) behind Kay is Tina Marie Wolfley; back: Cameron LeJeune, John Barber, Jon Jordan, Ashley Eller, Ben Stephens, Lamar Barber

"I thought we needed a ray of hope, fun, passion and a dollop of history for this season's opener, and 'The Book of Will' offers every one of those aspects," says Laurel Adams, Resident Artistic Director of the Peacock in Hayesville.

The play is set in 1619, London, 3 years after William Shakespeare died. His loyal friends - actors in his acting company at the Globe Theatre - deeply miss him and his brilliant plays. When a really bad pirated version of "Hamlet" is presented on a rival stage, they realize Will's lines are disappearing into oblivion. They refuse to let that happen,

but their solution forces them into battle with an unscrupulous publisher, to wrestle with another rival of Will's, Ben Jonson, and to face their own mortality.

The play by Lauren Gunderson is a lively look at the creation of Shakespeare's First Folio and is a poignant and funny love letter to the theatre.

The cast features a mix of veteran actors and new-to-the-area and new-to-the-stage actors: Cameron LeJeune, Jon David Jordan, Ashley Eller, David Layfield, Ben Stephens, Lamar Barber, John Barber, Tina Marie Wolfley, Suzanne

West and Caroline Sposto.

Performances are March 4 - 7 and 11 - 14. Thursday, Friday, Saturday at 7 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. and again at 7 p.m. at the Peacock, 301 Church St., Hayesville. Tickets are \$35 and, due to limited seating of 10 per performance, may only be purchased by calling 828-389-2787 or by visiting the box office 10 - 2 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. We follow all Covid guidelines. Visit thepeacocknc.org to find our season offerings.

The Peacock is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider. NT(Feb3)ZJCA

February Garden Chores from your Master Gardener Extension Volunteers



Clean out the old nesting materials in your bluebird boxes early in the month and they will be ready when the bluebirds are ready to nest. Fertilize established ornamental trees and shrubs always following label directions.

Observe Arbor Day by planting a tree on February 19th. In Georgia, Arbor Day is celebrated the third Friday in February.

February is a good month to plant and transplant trees and shrubs. Prune flowering shrubs that flower before May just after they bloom; prune those that bloom after May prior to spring growth. Prune ornamental grasses down to 12-18 inches to expose base of clump to sunshine. Cut back butterfly bush to 12-18 inches to promote thicker growth and more blooms.

Prune climbing roses after the first flush of blooms. Now is a good time to tie main canes to a support before they leaf out and remove any stray canes. Prune apple and pear trees. Forsythia and quince are easy to force into bloom indoors. Cut branches when the buds show a touch of color and place them in a vase of water. They should bloom within a week or so.

Fertilize spring bulbs as they emerge with 10-10-10, following label directions. Note gaps in plantings and plan fall blub order. Take soil samples from your garden area in order to plan your fertilizer program. Contact your County Extension Agent for instructions on having your soil tested.

Prepare vegetable garden area for planting. Add fertilizer and lime if indicated by your soil test. Check the mulch around your landscape plants and add some if necessary. Trees and shrubs should have about a six-inch-thick covering layer of mulch. Continue dormant pruning; prune out any tree branches that are crossed, broken, or diseased.

Divide ground covers that have become too thick and prune back liriop before new spring growth begins by setting your lawn mower to its highest setting and cut. Prune overgrown broadleaf shrubs late this month.

Lisa Ezzard to be featured guest at Writers' Night Out

By Carroll Taylor

In this time of COVID-19, NC Writers' Network-West is not holding face-to-face meetings, but we are gathering once a month on Zoom. On Friday, February 12, 7:00 PM, Writers Night Out will be hosted by Karen Holmes, and our featured presenter will be Lisa Ezzard—poet, writer, and the current vintner (winemaker and grower) at Tiger Mountain Vineyards.

As the 6th generation on her family farm, which is now a boutique winery, she chose to write poems that follow the growing seasons for her book Vintage (Native Press). Through beautiful imagery and personal details, we learn much about the joys and toils of cultivating grapes, caring for vines, and producing hand-crafted, award-winning wines in the N. Georgia mountains. She also writes prose and has an essay in Appalachian Adventure: From Georgia to Maine—A Spectacular Jour-

Prune evergreens. Do not severely prune pines, spruce, or junipers as they are unable to generate new growth from old wood. Feed birds and provide them with a fresh supply of water. If necessary, prune crepe myrtle by selecting 3, 5, or 7 main stems. Prune old seed heads and twiggy growth that grows from the base of the plant. Look for blooms on your Lenten rose (Hellebores orientalis).

Use cat litter or sand on icy sidewalks instead of salt. Too much salt can burn nearby plant roots. An occasional lukewarm bath in the sink or shower is a tonic for houseplants that overwinter in hot, dry rooms.

When the weather is

extremely cold, close the window shades or place protective cardboard between houseplants and window glass to protect houseplants. Service your lawn mower so it will be ready when you are for spring grass cutting. Keep faded flowers and weak growth removed from pansies and keep them well watered and fertilized. Prune Clematis armandii immediately after it blooms.

Add any remaining leaves and garden debris to your compost pile if you have one. If you do not have a compost pile, start one.

Jo Anne Allen
Master Gardener
Extension Volunteer
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Kennesaw State students named to Fall 2020 Dean's List and President's List

Kennesaw State University congratulates the more than 7,000 students named to the Fall 2020 Dean's List. Undergraduate students enrolled in at least 9 credit hours and with a grade point average of at least 3.5 were named to the list.

Local students include: Jennifer Jimenez-Hernandez, Justin Bryson, Luke Winkler, Clifford Herr, Isaac Tritt, Fletcher Moon, Brittany Spivey, and Aidan Francis all of Blairsville; and Connor Kelley of Young Harris; and Taralee Arrowood of Hiawassee.

Kennesaw State Univer-

sity recently named students to the President's List in recognition of their academic excellence for the Fall 2020 semester. To achieve this honor, each undergraduate student must have completed at least 9 semester hours with a term grade point average of 4.0.

Local students include: Braden Potete, William Donaldson, Allison Fair, and Adam McCombs all of Blairsville; Elizabeth Bury and Emily Williams of Young Harris; Roger Giles, and Sydney Collins of Morganton; and Sophia Parsons and Jessica Taylor of Hiawassee. NT(Feb3)ZJCA

Register now for Baseball, Softball and T-ball

Baseball, Softball, T-Ball registration is now open at townscountyrec.com or come by and register! \$60 registration fee includes, hat, jersey and pants. Some age groups also receive a belt and socks.

Registration will run through the end of February!

Baseball 14U, 12U, 10U, 8U. Softball 14U, 12U, 10U, 8U. T-Ball Co-ed 5 and 6 year old.

Player control date is September 1st of Current year (2021): 14U Birthdate range September2, 2006 to September1, 2008. 12U Birthdate range September2, 2008 to September1, 2010. 10U Birthdate range September2, 2010 to September1, 2012. 8U Birthdate range September2, 2012 to September1, 2014. T-Ball Birthdate range September2, 2014 to September 1, 2016. TF(Feb3)FJSH



Lisa Ezzard

ney on the Great American Trail, a book nominated for the Pulitzer Prize in journalism.

Ezzard taught literature and writing for 25 years in places as varied as the University of Bordeaux in France and the Idyllwild School of Arts in Southern California. She is a member of the Squaw Valley Community of Writers and has received writing grants from

Casa Don Miguel in Mexico and Hambidge Arts Center in Georgia. Most recently, her work appeared in the anthology, Mountains Piled Upon Mountains: Appalachian Nature Writing in the Anthropocene (WVU Press). Other publishing credits include Wild Goose, Exit 271: Your Georgia Writer's Resource, The Squaw Valley Review, and From the Web: A Global Anthology of Women's Political Poetry.

NC Writers' Network-West is learning ways to stay in touch and use technology to share our writing. We will continue to offer writing events and writing classes online until we can safely meet face-to-face again.

We welcome those who were regulars at Coffee with the Poets and Writers which met at Moss Memorial Library. We hope to meet there again in the coming year. Those wishing to attend WNO may contact glendabeall@msn.com to receive the Zoom link.