

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Wrestling: Oakes finishes as Area Champ; seven to grapple in sectionals

By Chad Stack
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COMMERCE – Towns County Indian grappler Garrett Oakes wrestled his way to an area championship in the 120-pound weight class on Saturday, Feb. 1.

Six Indian wrestlers traveled to Commerce on Saturday to wrestle in the Georgia High School Association Area Tournament.

Oakes started things off with a quick victory, pinning his opponent in just 26 seconds. His second match was probably his toughest of the day, requiring an extra round to decide the winner, though Oakes got the takedown in the extra round.

He finished the day undefeated, going 4-0 to win the area title for the 120-pound weight

class on Saturday.

Senior Austin Edrington grappled his way to a Fourth Place finish in the 160-pound weight class, qualifying him for the sectional tournament this week alongside sophomore Mason Yeomans, who finished fourth in the 132-pound weight class Saturday.

Sophomore Brandon Boling in the 126-pound weight class finished in Fifth Place, making him an alternate for sectionals. Similarly, Sophomore Brady Hawkins, wrestling in the 195-pound weight class, finished fifth to make him an alternate for sectionals as well.

Senior Matthew Ledford, who grapples in the 220-pound weight class, finished in Sixth Place on Saturday in Commerce.

Currently, GHSA does not have an area tournament for female wrestlers, so none of the Lady Indians wrestled over the

weekend.

Seven Towns wrestlers will grapple this week in sectionals for a chance to compete for a state title next week at the Macon Centreplex. The state tournament begins on Wednesday, Feb. 12, and goes through Saturday, Feb. 15.

All four Lady Indians – Alisa Moss, Hannah Wecer, Bazya Smith and Lindsey Giles – will grapple this week in sectionals at Pike County High School on Friday, Feb. 7.

Joining the four Lady Indians in sectional competition this weekend will be Oakes, Edrington and Yeomans, who qualified in Commerce during the area tournament.

Oakes, Edrington and Yeomans will travel to Locust Grove for sectionals to wrestle at Strong Rock Christian School on Friday, Feb. 7, and Saturday, Feb. 8.



Garrett Oakes came out on top in the 120-pound division at the Area Championships. Photo/Submitted

Lady Indians fall at Tallulah Falls, take easy win at Athens Christian

By Jerry Kendall
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The Towns County Lady Indians varsity basketball team completed regular season play last week by traveling to face Region 8-A foes Tallulah Falls on Tuesday and Athens Christian on Friday.

Playing without the services of their recently injured standout junior teammate Kennedy Henson brought about a difficult matchup at Tallulah Falls where the homestanding Indians used full court pressure to take control of the game and coast to a 62-29 victory.

The Lady Indians would themselves dominate in taking a very comfortable 46-29 victory at Athens Christian in improving their overall record to 9-14 with a 4-5 Region 8-A record good for sixth place in the regular season standings.

The sixth place finish and resulting sixth place seeding in the region tournament being held this week in Commerce matches them up with third seed Tallulah Falls with their game to be played at 4:00 pm on Tuesday with the winner of this game to reach the region tournament semi finals on Friday and the winner of that game to reach the championship game on Saturday.

Tallulah Falls 62, Lady Indians 29 – Junior Jayce Young reduced a quick Tallulah lead to 4-2 with a field goal at the 6:52 mark of the first quarter and freshman Sarah Shook contributed a deuce and three for four free throw shooting for five points in the first quarter but with the Tallulah Indians leading 22-7 at quarter's end.

Tallulah continued to dominate in the second quarter when they extended their lead to 43-12 before the two Lady Indian squads played on even terms in the third quarter and for most of the fourth as Tallulah led 58-27 after three quarters and took just a 4-2 advantage on a field goal in the closing seconds of the fourth quarter in taking a 62-29 victory.

Third quarter highlights

for the Lady Indians were three treys and two free throws for eleven points by junior Vanessa Floyd and a trey by senior Sophia Shook while junior Maci Walls contributed a deuce for the Lady Indian points in the fourth quarter.

Seven different Lady Indians entered the scoring column in the game with leaders being Floyd with 13 points and Sarah Shook with 6 while Sophia Shook and Floyd led in assists with 4 and 2 respectively.

Leaders in rebounds were Sophia Shook with 6 and sophomore Emily Vargas with 5 while freshman Tabitha Barnes and Walls each contributed 1 steal. Scoring leaders for Tallulah Falls were freshmen Denika Lightbourne with 17 points and Veronaye Charlton with 15.

By week's end, the Lady Eagles scored the final five points in the game and edged past Athens Academy at Tallulah by a 40-38 score on Friday, giving them an overall 15-6 record, including 7-2 and third place in the region in regular season play. The third place finish places them as the opponent for the sixth seed Lady Indians at 4:00 pm in Commerce in region play on Tuesday of this week.

Lady Indians 46, Athens Christian 29 – At Athens Christian, two for four free throw shooting by junior Vanessa Floyd had the Lady Indians ahead 2-0 barely a minute into the game and a 16-2 Towns run followed a Lady Eagles basket between the 5:37 mark of the first quarter and the 6:25 mark of the second for an 18-3 Lady Indians lead.

A basket by sophomore Emily Vargas got the scoring run started with field goals by freshman Sarah Shook, Floyd, and senior Sophia Shook following for a 10-3 first quarter Towns lead.

The scoring charge continued in the second quarter when Floyd and Sophia Shook wrapped treys around a deuce by junior Maci Walls for the aforementioned 18-3 Towns lead. The two teams played on even terms the remainder of the quarter with the Lady

Indians getting a second deuce by Walls, a trey by junior Jayce Young and a coast to coast run for a deuce by Sophia Shook for a 25-12 Towns lead at intermission.

The Lady Indians outscored the Lady Eagles 13-4 in the third quarter for a 36-16 lead with Floyd contributing two treys and a deuce for eight points and Sophia Shook a trey and a deuce for five.

The Lady Eagles then outscored the Lady Indians thirteen to eight in the fourth quarter for a final Lady Indian margin of victory of 46-29 with Sophia Shook leading the Indians in the fourth quarter with a trey and a deuce for five points.

Scoring leaders for the game for the Lady Indians were Floyd with 18 points, Sophia Shook with 17, and Walls with 4 while Sophia Shook led in assists with 5 and was followed by Young with 2.

Leading rebounders were Floyd with 7 and the trio of sophomore Emily Vargas, Walls, and Young with 3 each. Leading in steals for the Lady Indians were Young with 6, Sophia Shook with 4, and Floyd with 3. Leading scorers for the Lady Eagles were seniors Hailey Sternberger with 11 points and Caitlyn Brown with 10.

The Lady Eagles completed regular season play winless with an 0-18 record, including 0-9 in Region 8-A play with a 37-32 home court loss to Providence Christian having been their most competitive game.

Kennedi Henson Update – Lady Indians junior standout Kennedy Henson had surgery last Wednesday for a torn ACL knee injury suffered in the Lady Indians' game at Lakeview Academy in Gainesville on January 21.

The surgery went well with a special procedure having been done to provide some protection not completed when she had the same surgery as a freshman two years ago. She will have a several months recuperation period before being able to resume her outstanding sports career in basketball and softball.



The Towns County Lady Indians bounced back from Tuesday night's loss at Tallulah Falls with a convincing 17-point victory at Athens Christian on Friday night. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

TCHS Basketball Senior Night on Jan. 25



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

Indians win Tri-State Conference Championship; Lady Indians Runner-up

By Chad Stack
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In their first year in the Tri-State Conference, the Towns County Middle Indians have won the conference championship, and the Lady Indians finished runner-up at Tallulah Falls on Saturday, Feb. 1.

Both teams were highly seeded heading into the Tri-State Conference Championship, with the Lady Indians going in No. 3 and the Indians having earned the No. 1 seed after being undefeated in the conference.

The Indians earned a bye during the first leg of the tournament on Monday, Jan. 27, while the Lady Indians hosted the No. 4 Summit Charter Lady Bears from Cashiers, North Carolina.

Towns County's girls came out on fire in the first quarter, going on a 10-0 run to force the Lady Bears into calling a timeout.

Coming out of the timeout, the Lady Indians continued their strenuous defensive play, holding the Lady Bears to just 2 points in the first quarter and keeping a 10-point lead over Summit Charter to start the second quarter with a score of 12-2.

The Lady Indians added 10 more points to take a 22-4 lead over the Lady Bears into



the half.

Starting the second half, the Lady Indians continued to pile on the points, holding the Lady Bears scoreless in the third quarter to take a 39-4 lead into the fourth quarter.

Towns defeated the Lady Bears 45-6 in the Tri-State regional play-in game to advance to the semifinals.

Next up, the Lady Indians traveled to Rabun Gap to take on the second-ranked Lady Eagles on Wednesday, Jan. 29, as the

Indians hosted the boys from Rabun Gap for a chance to play in the championship.

The Lady Indians defeated the Lady Eagles by a score of 36-13 to advance to the championship to take on Tallulah Falls, and the Indians defeated Rabun Gap that Wednesday at home in a hard-fought contest with the Eagles.

Coming out of halftime, the Indians held a 22-9 lead over the Eagles, who then battled to get back into the game, causing

Middle School Head Coach Shea Taylor to call a timeout.

Following the timeout, the Indians picked things up, holding Rabun Gap scoreless in the fourth and ultimately defeating the Eagles 50-32.

Both Towns County Middle School Basketball Teams traveled to Tallulah Falls on Saturday, Feb. 1, to play in their first Tri-State Conference Championship Game.

The Lady Indians kicked things off, taking on the No. 1

Lady Indians of Tallulah Falls, who were undefeated heading into Saturday's game.

Unfortunately, Towns County's Lady Indians ended their season as the runner-up champs after falling to Tallulah Falls 33-25 in a close battle for the championship.

Overall, the Lady Indians finished their season with an admirable 11-8 record and runner-up title in the Tri-State Championship, all under the leadership of Head Coach Rollie Thomas.

Analeigh Hardin led the way with 7 points, followed by 6 points from Laura Mauldin and 5 points from Elizabeth Edwards. Halie Arrowood added 4 points, and Kaleigh Beaver finished with 3 points in the loss to Tallulah Falls.

The Indians took to the floor for what would be their last game of the season to play for the Tri-State Conference Championship Title on Saturday.

The boys had already defeated Tallulah Falls twice this season and went into Saturday's matchup with a 15-2 record, which included an overtime loss to Hebron Christian Academy and a tough defeat in Hayesville.

Towns County continued to dominate as they have all year, cruising to a 46-25 win over Tallulah Falls to secure the Tri-State Conference Title over the weekend.

Zane Floyd led the way with 16 points, followed by Drew Sofield with 7 points and Kade McConnell with 6 points. Conner Chastain added 5 points, while Tanner Cunningham and Seth Rutan each finished with 4 points apiece, followed up with Braden Barrett with 3 points and Walker Underwood adding 1 point to the Indians' 46-25 win over Tallulah Falls.