

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Basketball: Indians clinch automatic GHSA State Playoff berth

By Jeremy Foster
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Congratulations to the ninth-ranked Towns County Indians for securing the No. 2 seed in the region and an automatic berth in the upcoming Georgia High School Association Class A Public State Playoffs following their 43-42 victory at Greene County on Feb. 5.

The Indians and Lady Indians played several games last week, the first one occurring on Tuesday, Feb. 1, away at Commerce High School.

Up first were the Lady Indians. In a close race that went neck-and-neck all the way through, the Lady Indians lost in a valiant effort against Commerce 40-33, with leading scorer junior Tabitha Barnes earning 13 points and junior Sarah Shook scoring 7.

"We had a good night on defense but could not cash in on scoring opportunities," Girls Head Coach Shea Taylor said.

The boys were up next and saw victory over Commerce in an even closer margin, 38-35, officially putting the Indians in the No. 2 spot going into the region tournament that runs next week.

Senior Collin Crowder led in scoring against Commerce with 19 points, and sophomore Zane Floyd had 14.

"It was a hard-fought defensive game, and both sides played physical, aggressive defense," Boys Head Coach Brian Hunnicutt said. "Towns County avenged an earlier loss by controlling the pace of the game and limiting Commerce's outside shooting."



Towns County junior Sarah Shook and senior Collin Crowder attempt free throws at Greene County on Saturday, Feb. 5. Photos/Lowell Nicholson

The next game occurred on Friday, Feb. 4, at home, which was also the Senior Night celebration, with the teams facing off against Lake Oconee Academy.

Up first were the girls, and Lake Oconee gained control from the tipoff and scored the first 3 points of the game.

Freshman Kaleigh Beaver scored the Lady Indians' first 2 points and followed that up with another 2 shortly thereafter.

Other scorers for the first period were sophomore Emma Lalletment and junior Tabitha Barnes to end the first period 11-9 in Lake Oconee's favor.

During the halftime of the girls' game, the school held a special recognition highlighting the youngsters of Towns County Recreation Basketball, welcoming to the

court the boys and girls 8 and under teams and the boys and girls 10 and under teams for applause and admiration.

Scorers for the rest of the game were Beaver, Barnes, sophomore Laura Mauldin, freshman Natalie Barnes, freshman Ansleigh Hardin and senior Emily Vargas, with the final result being 60-29 in Lake Oconee's favor.

"I was very pleased with the way we kept it close in the beginning of the game," Coach Taylor said. "We had them rattled, but they are a very good team and are No. 1 in the state for a reason."

"That is the kind of team you want to strive to be like one day, and I do believe we can build this program up in the soon future just like that."

"But we have to forget about that and get ready for

a very important conference game (against Greene County Feb. 5), so we are right back to business."

Next up, the boys tried their luck against Lake Oconee and ended up with victory at 63-18.

Scorers for the game were Crowder, Floyd, senior Kyle Oakes, senior Cabe Poston, senior Zion Henderson, senior Dade Joyner, sophomore Tanner Cunningham, sophomore Connor Chastain and sophomore Gage Rogers.

"The boys played hard, and we did not take the team for granted but matched their intensity and played our style," Coach Hunnicutt said. "We did not deviate from what we do, and we put on a great show for the crowd."

Saturday saw the last ac-



tion of the week for both sets of Indians, who were pitted against Greene County High School away.

Unfortunately, the Lady Indians lost a very competitive game 53-44. Junior Sarah Shook was the lead scorer for the game with 19 points, followed by sophomore Laura Mauldin with 9 points and 9 rebounds, and junior Tabitha Barnes with 7.

"The game was very physical, and our girls had to play through a lot of fouls," Coach Taylor said.

Following the ladies were the Indians, who excelled in an incredibly crucial performance against Greene County, winning a nail-biting contest by a single point, 43-42, to earn an automatic berth in the state playoffs later this month.

"Both teams fought hard throughout the game," Coach Hunnicutt said. "Collin Crowder made the go-ahead bucket late in the fourth, finishing with 12 points. Kyle Oakes had a monster game, continually punishing Greene on drives to the hoop. Oakes finished with 20 points."

Towns County Basketball has one final set of regular season games against Lincoln County High School at home on Friday, Feb. 11, with the girls' game slated to begin at 6 p.m. Next week is the start of the region tournament.

After the region tournament, the Indians will move on to the State Playoffs, where they will be looking to duplicate the success they experienced as 2020-21 GHSA Class A Public State Champions.

Go Indians!

Indians Wrestling sending one to GHSA State Tournament

By Jeremy Foster
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Towns County High School Varsity Wrestling traveled to Brunswick High School on Friday, Feb. 4, and Saturday, Feb. 5, for the Georgia High School Association Class A Public Traditional Sectional Tournament.

The Indians sent eight competitors to vie for the chance to enter the State Tournament.

Men's competitors were senior Konner Davis at 120 pounds; junior Brandon Bowling at 138 pounds; junior Mason Yeomans at 145; sophomore Ian Arrowood at 152; senior Kevin Gowan at 160; junior Seth Gillis at 170; sophomore Stone Chauncey at 182; and sophomore Andrew Brinson at 220.

Davis placed sixth to advance to the State Tourna-

ment Feb. 10-12, and Chauncey placed eighth.

Women's competitors were seniors Alisa Moss at 102 pounds, Hannah Wecer at 122 pounds, and Lindsey Giles at 195 pounds.

Giles earned Fourth Place but did not qualify for the state tournament, as only the Top Two move on for the girls' division.

"Tough weekend for us, but we fought hard," Wrestling Head Coach Brandon Rowland said.

The Indians will travel to the Macon Centreplex this weekend to compete at the GHSA Traditional Wrestling State Tournament.

"Girls will compete in their own single championship with 10 weight classes, and boys individual state titles will be contested in seven classifications with 14 weight divisions," according to GHSA net.



The Lady Indians take a timeout at Greene. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Class A-Public

1. Drew Charter (23-1)
2. Social Circle (23-0)
3. Dublin (22-1)
4. Calhoun County (18-0)
5. Manchester (22-2)
6. Lanier County (19-2)
7. Warren County (15-3)
8. Turner County (20-2)
9. Towns County (16-6)
10. Chattahoochee County (14-6)

The Indians returned to the Class A Public rankings this week.



Sectionals qualifier Mason Yeomans wrestles earlier this season.



The Indians celebrate with local youngsters following their Senior Night victory over Lake Oconee Academy. Photo/Lowell Nicholson