

Moss...from Page 1A



Keith Moss and Heather Nichols couldn't be prouder of their son, Kolby Moss, for his accomplishments on and off the court. Photo by Jarrett Whitener

team credit for helping him along the way. According to stats provided by Sportswriter Jerry Kendall, as a sophomore, Moss broke the school record of free throws in a single game when

he hit 23 of 25 baskets against Lakeview. Moss was also the first sophomore to score more than 500 points in a single season at Towns. In his junior year, Moss assisted the team to its first

Battle of the States victory in the 26 years of the tournament and was awarded Most Valuable Player for his efforts. Also that year, he became the second Indian in school history to score over 600 points in a single season.

All his achievements cumulated in a phenomenal senior season, with Moss earning the title of leading scorer in school history with

1,887 points, breaking the previous record of 1,543 points set by Zach Davenport.

"That hard work I have put in has been paying off," Moss said. "Nobody has been able to do what we have done as a team, and I'm glad that I could do it with the team that I did it with. Not many people get to go out on top, so that is important to me."

The March 26 signing ceremony featured Moss' teammates, coaches and parents. His mother, Heather Nichols, said she was incredibly proud of her son and happy to see his transition to the next leg of his journey.

"He has had so much support from rec ball and travel ball, too," Nichols said. "They have all really imprinted on him, and it has been a team effort from everybody. I think it is just his childhood dream come true."

Keith Moss, Kolby's father, said that he, too, is proud of his son, who has exhibited great determination as a student-athlete.

"I'm proud of all his work ethic," Moss said. "He has played a lot of travel ball

over the years and worked real hard playing 10 or 11 months a year. He is on the road a lot and working on shooting and playing.

"All the hard work has paid off. What I'm probably most proud of is that he is real humble, and he takes it with humility. He sees it as a team thing and sees that it is not an individual accomplishment. It has to be done as a team."

Basketball Head Coach Rob Benson said the senior is a great young person and works to help others.

"He grew as a young man so much, and to watch him grow as a person has been an honor," Benson said. "As a person, he is just an amazing young man, and I really love the kid and think a lot of him."

"He sent me a text the other day saying I love you, coach, and we will always be best friends. That means a lot as a coach, especially when you are at the twilight of your career and you can still connect that way with an 18-year-old kid. He is just an amazing kid."

Benson said Moss was a crucial factor in the Indians winning the State Championship

this year, and he hopes Moss continues to succeed in his basketball career and in life.

"He is the most skilled player I would say I have ever coached," Benson said. "The skills with his hands, his dribbling, his shooting, just everything about his game. It is an honor for both him and me that he got all-time leading scorer in school history."

"As a player, he is just amazing, and the state championship just was not possible without Kolby Moss."

For his part, Moss said his achievements come down to practicing the game he loves and the support of his many friends, family, teammates and Towns County herself.

"I want to thank the community of Towns County and all the friends along the way," Moss said. "All of my teammates helped me get here, and so did my family."

"All of the people who donated to us, we couldn't have gone in there and stayed and did all the things we did without the funds, so that is all really important to me."

Ellis...from Page 1A



Ellis made such an impression on West Virginia Wesleyan that they recruited him from afar to attend the college that is roughly 8 hours driving distance from Hiwassee. Photo by Lowell Nicholson

just clicked. I wanted to get better from there, and I started watching college, and now I am here.

"It is honestly a blessing and a dream come true to win state. I used to dream about state and all that, and just to be able to actually do it and be able to move on and have another four years to play basketball is just a blessing."

Indians Head Coach Rob Benson sees Ellis as an energetic player and essential to the team for his charisma and hard work.

"As a person, he has a great sense of humor and is a high-energy kid both on and off the court," Benson said. "He is a good student, and his humor/charisma gives him a lot of charm. He definitely has a lot of chances to be successful in life because of that."

"On the court, it is the same thing. He is a ball of energy, and he plays hard. He is very unselfish, and he plays the point guard the way you want a point guard to play."

James Ellis, Kabe's father, is proud to see his son pursuing his dreams and attending a college he wants to be part of, and he's thankful for the serendipitous way the opportunity came up for his son.

"We are super excited that he gets this chance, and the trip to Wesleyan was awesome," Ellis said. "The basketball coaches are super excited to have Kabe coming up there with his skillset. The way that he got there is almost a miracle."

"The girls' coach from Greene County saw Kabe when we were playing down there. He went on Instagram and posted a little note saying that Kabe could play for any team and that college coaches should take a look."

"The assistant coach at Wesleyan College saw that and watched Kabe's videos and recruited him."

While Kabe is excited to be playing basketball for the next four years, he plans to continue being a dedicated student-athlete focusing on his studies as well.

"I want to become a physiotherapist and major in exercise science," Ellis said. "I'm really looking forward to it, and it should be good."

As for the road he's traveled that will soon take him to West Virginia following graduation in May, Ellis credits his many successes to the support of family and friends.

"I want to thank everyone that has helped me get here: my mom, dad, coaches," Ellis said. "Everyone has had my back, even when I got hurt (in the Region 8A Public Championship game)."

"It is a blessing to have people that care for you like that and love you. I give all the glory to God for all he has done for me and blessing me with people like that."

Located in Buckhannon, West Virginia, Wesleyan College is an NCAA Division II school that offers a wide variety of academic programs. And according to its mission statement:

"West Virginia Wesleyan College challenges its students to a lifelong commitment to develop their intellectual, ethical, spiritual, and leadership potential and to set and uphold standards of excellence." per <https://www.wvwc.edu>.

Continuing, "Firmly rooted in the liberal arts tradition and closely related to The United Methodist Church, the College is a community of learning based on fundamental principles formed at the intersection of Christian faith and liberal education: intellectual rigor, self-discovery, human dignity, mutual support, social justice, self-discipline, mental and physical wellness, the appreciation of diversity and the natural world, and the judicious use of resources."