

# Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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## Floyd scores 1,000th point; Indians 9-0 in region play

By Daysha Pandolph  
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The Towns County Indians had a fantastic week on the court, securing victories against Greene County, Lincoln County and Aquinas last week.

On Tuesday, Jan. 16, the boys travelled to Greensboro to face an undefeated, first place region foe, Greene County. This matchup was particularly important because at the time, both teams had yet to lose to a region opponent.

Throughout the first half, Greene County stayed ahead with a 36-23 lead at the break. During the second half, they managed to extend that lead to nearly 20 points, leaving Towns County fans aching for a recovery.

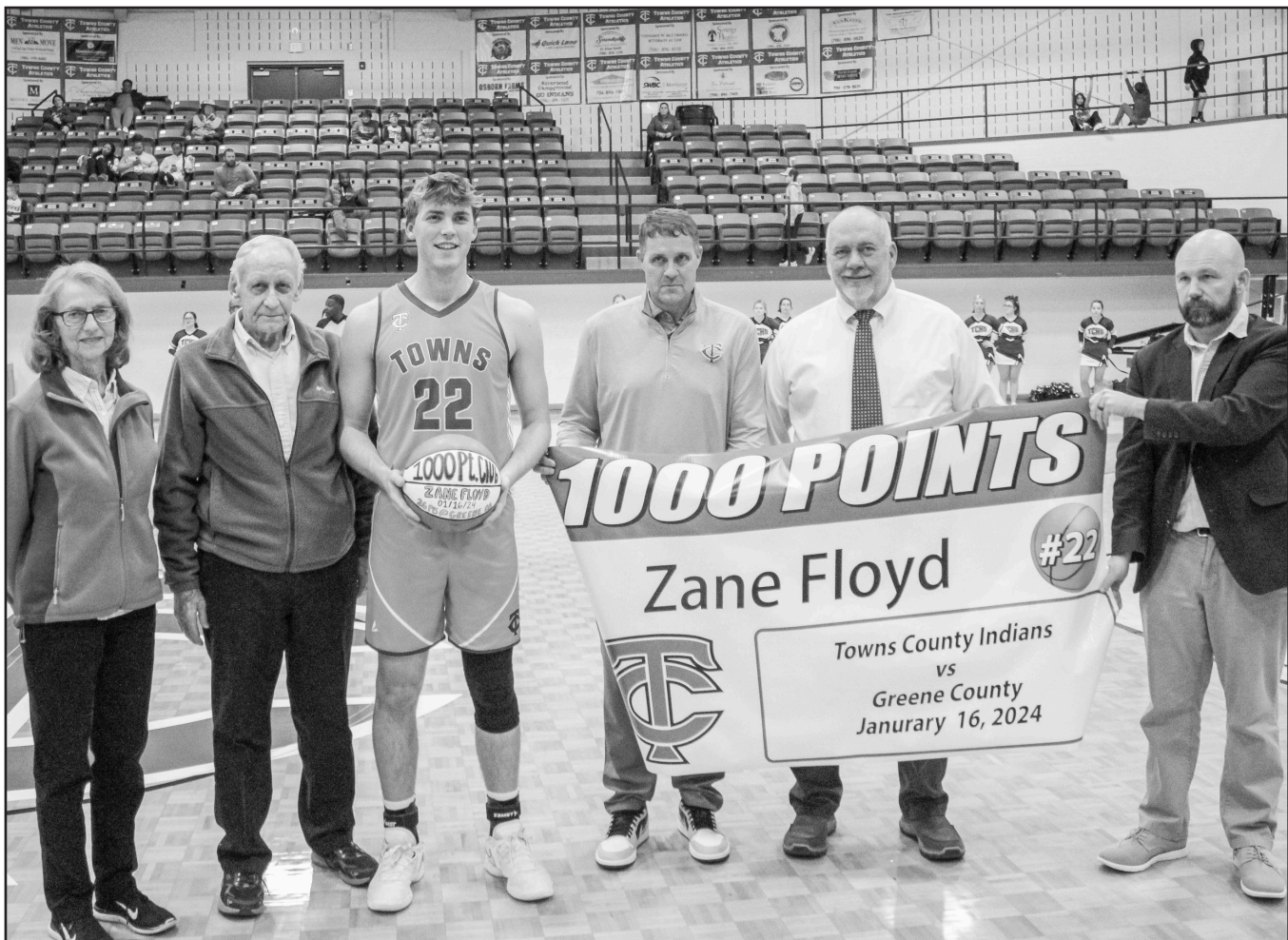
The game took an unexpected twist as the clock wound down, with Towns County overcoming an 18-point deficit to put the teams neck and neck in scoring. With only 4.6 seconds left in the game, Tanner Cunningham hit the deciding free throw to set the Indians up for 78-77 win.

Overall, Cunningham scored 21 points throughout the game.

Other players also had a huge part in chipping away at Greene County's lead, such as Zane Floyd, who led the Indians in scoring with 26 points, including his 1,000th point of his high school basketball career.

Connor Chastain, who was only two days removed from a broken nose, also contributed an outstanding 13 points despite his physical setback.

This victory sat Towns County alone on top in region



Towns County senior Zane Floyd is recognized last week at a home game after he reached the 1,000-point milestone for his career during the Indians region victory at Greene County on Tuesday, Jan. 16. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

first place, moving the team to 12-4 on the season and 7-0 in the region.

Three days later, the boys played the third place region team, Lincoln County, at home for a 69-51 victory. Floyd and Cunningham, led the team to an early advantage, combining for 18 of the team's 19 first quarter points.

Moving into the second quarter, the Indians held a 19-15 lead, which they would extend to 39-27 by halftime. Lincoln County retaliated,

however, and outscored the Indians by 17-16 during the third quarter. In the final quarter, they attempted to build on the third-quarter scoring edge, but Towns County shut down the attack, finishing with an 18-point victory.

The Lincoln County win moved the Indians to 13-4 and 8-0 in the region.

Once again, Cunningham was essential to the win, scoring 20 points and 17 rebounds. Floyd also contributed 27 points and eight rebounds,

with Gage Rogers and Kade McConnell topping it off with 12 points between them.

On Saturday night, Jan. 20, Aquinas arrived at Bill Kendall Gymnasium to suffer a tremendous loss to the Indians on Senior Night. After dominating the court early on, Towns County continued to create turnovers and get defensive rebounds.

The night ended with a blowout Towns County victory of 72-30, which was accomplished by contributions from

the entire team.

Cunningham led in scoring with 20 points, 14 rebounds and four assists, and Rogers followed close behind with 12 points, nine rebounds and seven assists. Floyd scored 12 points, seven rebounds and four assists throughout the night, with Chastain adding nine points and five rebounds.

Walker Underwood contributed 5 points, two rebounds and two steals, and McConnell contributed to the win with four steals, rebounds and assists.

"This was a really good week for our team," commented coach Brian Hunnicutt. "It exemplified what these Seniors represent and what they have gotten the whole team to buy into."

After this season, Connor Chastain, Tanner Cunningham, Walker Underwood, Kade McConnell, Justin Miles Hill, Gage Rogers and Zane Floyd will be leaving the Towns County Basketball Team to pursue the next chapters of their lives.

"These boys showed a never-quit attitude and erased a 19-point deficit with about ten minutes to play down at Greene County," he said with pride. "Then they came out Friday and showed grit and poise to beat a very good Lincoln County team pretty handily. "Finally, they showed unselfishness and love in how they finished out the week with a well-balanced and collective effort on senior night. These seniors will be a group that is going to be close to my heart for the rest of my life."

"They are going to go down as the winningest team in Towns County Boys Basketball history - counting their win total from 9th to 12th grade years. They are a great group of basketball players, but the best part about them is their character; they are just an outstanding group of young men.

"Their parents should be proud because they have raised great kids. It has truly been my privilege and a blessing to get to coach these young men. I am going to miss them dearly when they're gone. I have loved being their coach but I also look forward to just being their friend and watching them grow as men."

## No. 7 Lady Indians upset at Greene; respond with two weekend wins

By Daysha Pandolph  
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The Lady Indians Basketball Team got off to a rough start last week, losing at Greene County, 67-55, but picked up the pace later in the week to earn a 64-26 victory against Lincoln County and a 68-29 victory against Aquinas.

On Tuesday, Jan. 16, despite exceptional efforts from players such as Kaleigh Beaver, Emma Lallement and Scotlyn Fain, the girls were unable to defeat Greene County. They failed to take advantage of what the opponent gave them on offense, and they lacked in shooting overall.

Several players in foul trouble also contributed to the unbalanced scoreboard.

Coach Shea Taylor was a little disappointed in the results, but didn't lose faith in his team. For the rest of the week, the girls were back on the court to practice for the next two games.

On Friday, Jan. 19, Lincoln County traveled to Hiwassee, where they were met with intensity from the Lady Indians. By the end of the first quarter, Towns County was already ahead by a full 21 points. The contest ended in a Towns victory of 64-26.

"All aspects of the game were better from Tuesday at Greene," commented coach Taylor. "Our press was effective and we took good shots on offense. Tonight was a great team effort and win."

Several players were pivotal in the win, such as Beaver and Brelan Sieveking, who both scored 20 points. Beaver also



Towns County High School honored its basketball seniors during Saturday's win over Aquinas. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

contributed seven rebounds, while Sieveking added three steals and assists.

Other essential players included Fain with seven points and two assists, Lallement with six points, 11 rebounds, four assists and three steals, Jamie McCarter with six points and two rebounds, Ansleigh Hardin with three points and rebounds and Laura Mauldin with two points, six rebounds, three assists and two steals.

The following night, the

team played Aquinas in a 68-29 victory. The girls were able to match the intensity of the previous game and had achieved a 40-15 lead by the half. Their success continued to grow throughout the night.

"The ball moved all night on offense and we had four girls get to double digits in scoring. We won the rebounding battle 39-30 on the night. Our defense saw a few flaws, but we will clean it up and be ready for a very big game (on) Tuesday at

Lake Oconee Academy," said Taylor. "Our goal is to win every region game. We want the best seeding possible moving into the region tournament in a few weeks."

Saturday's win could not have been possible without the scoring efforts of players including Sieveking, who contributed 16 points, ten assists, five steals and three rebounds. Hardin followed close behind with 15 points, five assists, four rebounds and three steals, and

Fain scored just beneath that with 14 points, three steals, two rebounds and one block.

Mauldin scored an additional 11 points, six rebounds and two steals, while Beaver added eight points, six steals and rebounds and three blocks. Mary Lee Durham also contributed with four points, five rebounds and one steal.

The Aquinas game was also very special, as it honored the Class of 2024 basketball seniors: Mauldin, Lallement and

Sieveking.

"I would like to start by saying thank you to our three seniors this year," commented coach Taylor. "They show up and work hard every day and are a vital part of this program."

"They are great leaders and I can never thank them enough for what they have given to the Towns County Lady Indians Basketball Team. I know they will go on to be very successful in the next phases of their lives."