

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Indians, Lady Indians finish fourth in Battle of the States

By Jeremy Foster
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Last week, the eagerly anticipated Annual Battle of the States Christmas Basketball Tournament dribbled its way onto the court for three full days of fast-breaking action at Towns County High School Dec. 28-30.

The first round of the tournament that featured teams from three states saw the Lady Indians taking on Coosa High School out of Rome, with Towns County coming out on top 53-26 to advance to Round 2.

Top players of the game were junior Laura Mauldin, sophomore Kaleigh Beaver, senior Tabitha Barnes, junior Breelan Sieveking, senior Sarah Shook, junior Emma Lallement, freshman Scotlyn Fain, sophomore Ansleigh Hardin and senior Maddy Lewis.

"I think we've figured out what we want to do and what we're going to do night in and night out," Girls Head Coach Shea Taylor said after the win. "And tonight was a good example of sometimes you're going to have to go deeper down the bench.

"I called on some younger girls tonight to play, and they did a great job stepping up and giving us quality time down the stretch. That just goes to show you when people are competing for playing time and spots on a team and you got competition, it makes everybody better.

"I was proud of all those girls tonight, they all played great, and we're going to keep giving everything we've got," he said.

The first game for the boys resulted in another successful Towns victory when they defeated Coosa High School 65-47.

Top performers were seniors Grant Ingram, Lane Rouse, John Dockery and Chance Schmeltz, and juniors Gage Rogers, Zane Floyd, Tanner Cunningham,



Senior Sarah Shook fires a pull-up jumper against Union County on day three of the Battle of the States Christmas Tournament. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Kade McConnell and Connor Chastain.

"I feel great about the win and really proud of the boys and their effort," Indians Head Coach Brian Hunnicutt said last Wednesday. "For the most part, we executed our game plan, and the guys always play their guts out. Now, our focus gets bigger going forward."

On Day 2, the ladies lost 70-57 to Rabun County and the Indians lost in an eyelash to Rabun as well 62-58, putting both Towns County teams in the consolation bracket. And it should be noted that

Rabun County's boys and girls each advanced to win Battle of the States Championships.

Unfortunately, both the Indians and Lady Indians lost their respective consolation matches on Day 3, the ladies to the Union County Panthers 72-46 and the boys to the Murphy, North Carolina, Bulldogs 61-54, earning both teams Fourth Place.

Top performers collectively for the last games were; Beaver, Sieveking, Fain, Shook, Mauldin, Barnes, Floyd, Cunningham, Rouse, Dockery and Chastain.

"We need to play teams

like Rabun County and Union County because it's just getting us better for the future, which is focusing on the month-full of region games coming up in January," Taylor said.

"That's what we're playing for here in the big picture. We want to be at the top of our region, and having opponents like this are going to make us better for that," he said.

Added Hunnicutt Friday, "We played really well for 2.5 days. I didn't feel like we played well in the first half at all tonight; we were really tired and we kind of gave in to that, but then they came out



Senior Lane Rouse at the free throw line during Towns County's day-three contest vs. Murphy, NC. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

in the second half and played really hard.

"We've got the potential to be a really good team, and we've just got to kind of grow up enough to be consistent. We have moments we're not consistent in our play, but they are great kids with great potential.

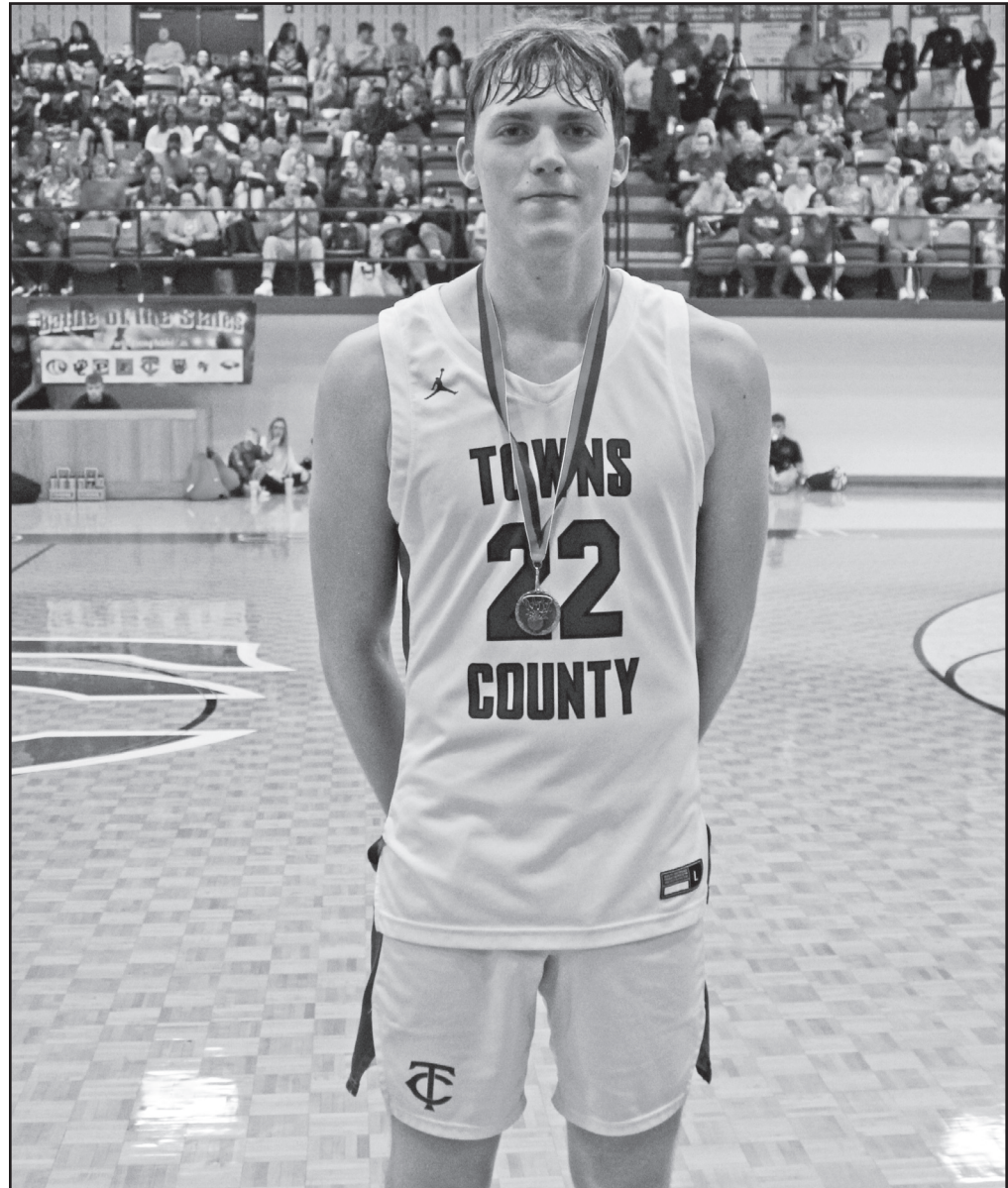
"The ceiling is very high, and I think we can do great things as we go into region play. We can win this region, but we can also finish Seventh (Place), so it's how we decide to come out and play and have that consistency day in and day out," concluded

Hunnicutt. At the end of the tournament, Towns County Schools awarded Sieveking with the All-Tournament Team medal on the ladies' side, and to Floyd for the men.

The first game of 2023 will be at home versus Andrews, North Carolina, on Thursday, Jan. 5, with JV games beginning at 4:30 p.m. and Varsity starting at 6 p.m. The teams will travel on Saturday, Jan. 7, to face Warren County, with JV starting at 2 p.m. and Varsity at 3:30 p.m. Go Indians!



Breelan Sieveking earned an All-Tournament nod during last week's BOTS. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



Zane Floyd was selected to the All-Tournament Team for his BOTS performance. Photo/Lowell Nicholson