

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Basketball: Indians, Lady Indians gear up for 2022-23 season

By Jeremy Foster
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It's officially winter sports season in Towns County, as the Indians and Lady Indians Basketball Teams get ready to start a busy schedule of games for their 2022-23 season.

First practices were held on Monday, Nov. 7, and both the Boys and Girls Teams have been able to develop their rosters fully now that football and softball seasons have wrapped up, as many students are dual-sport athletes.

And the teams got their first moments of competitive action on the court during a set of scrimmage games on Thursday, Nov. 10, at home against Highlands High School of North Carolina.

The ladies experienced a tough-fought loss at 37-30, showing some major potential at the start of the season, and the boys enjoyed a 54-26 victory to hopefully carry forward some great momentum for a dominant season fresh out of the gate.

"The scrimmage did not end the way we wanted it to, but we will use it as a teaching point," Girls Head Coach Shea Taylor said. "Highlands has had a great team the past few years, and they were very tall and athletic.

"We see things we need to improve on and will build around the positives. Shots were not falling for us at times, and we turned the ball over more than I expected us to, but it is early, and we will limit turnovers moving forward.

"(Senior) Tabitha Barnes led scoring with 15, (senior) Sarah Shook and (junior) Brellan Sieveking had 5. (Junior) Laura Mauldin led in rebounding with 5.

"We have to bounce back quickly from this as we play our first regular season game (after press time on Monday, Nov. 14) at Copper Basin. I know they are going to come out ready to play; they are not going to accept losing."

On the boy's side of the basketball, Head Coach Brian Hunnicutt noted that his Indians "did some really good



The 2022-23 Towns County Lady Indians and Indians basketball teams. Photos by Jeremy Foster

things, and we did some things poorly" during the scrimmage.

"We have just been together as a whole team for three days - the rust was expected," he said. "I was pleased with our overall effort. We had stretches of really good basketball and stretches of really ugly basketball.

"The game was a good way to dip our toes in the water

of competition before we start for real next week. Our first game is against a region opponent on the road in Taliaferro County (on Tuesday, Nov. 15). So, we need to fix things and be ready to compete on Tuesday.

"(Junior) Gage Rogers, (junior) Zane Floyd and (sophomore) Julian Mosley stepped up with scoring (against Highlands Nov. 10). (Junior) Tanner Cunningham,

(senior) Grant Ingram, (junior) Connor Chastain and (senior) John Dockery really stepped up on the defensive end, and (junior) Kade McConnell had some nice moves to get some buckets."

Added Hunnicutt, "The heart and soul of our team, senior Layne Rouse, had to leave the game in the third quarter with a leg injury. We pray for the best for Layne.

He is a tremendous leader for our team and is a major threat on offense. More than that, he is a great young man. Everybody just loves this kid, and he represents the best of Towns County."

The teams will play away games on Saturday, Nov. 19, against Hiwassee Dam in North Carolina, with JV Boys starting at 5 p.m. and Varsity Girls at 6 p.m., to be followed

by Varsity Boys.

And the first home game for the boys will be on Monday, Nov. 21, against Taliaferro County, with varsity action beginning at 6 p.m.

Then on Tuesday, Nov. 22, the teams will travel to face cross-town rivals Union County High School, with JV games set to start at 4 p.m. and varsity games tipping off at 7 p.m.



Tanner Cunningham departs during the fourth quarter vs. Highlands, NC. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



Junior Brellan Sieveking fires a 3-pointer vs. Highlands, NC. Photo/Lowell Nicholson