

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Towns County Basketball ready to hit the court in 2021-22

By Jeremy Foster
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Toccoa - In the leadup to their first games of the season at Hiwassee Dam, North Carolina, on Nov. 16, which occurred after press time, the Towns County Indians and Lady Indians Basketball Teams were raring to carry on their momentum from last year's stellar post-season play.

Coach Brian Hunnicutt is running the Indians program for the first time as head coach in 2021 after switching over from coaching the girls team.

"We are currently now in a sort of crash course with our full team because, out of our 22, 16 played football or ran cross country," Hunnicutt said. "We are right now learning our offense and defense and how we are going to play."

"This year we only have two returners that have played any significant time with our program, so we are sort of starting from scratch. We have about 20 players who have had any substantial amount of varsity time."

Regarding feeling any extra pressure this season after the boys were GHSA Class A Public State Champions last year, Hunnicutt said, "not at all."

"I do this because I genuinely love the game, and especially working with kids and helping them grow not only physically, but to help them learn to love thy fellow person and to help others," he said. "I just want to build upon the success we had last year and represent Towns County to the best of my abilities."

"Our strength this year is that we are a very scrappy bunch that has decent size overall, and we are going to play hard. But our weakness is, obviously, in experience."

"I think our fans are going to see a team that plays with true grit, and odd to say, we are going to be underdogs this year even as returning state champs, and we kind of like that role so we can perform as a full team."

In a pre-season scrimmage matchup on Nov. 11, the boys lost 74-53 to Stephens County High School in Toccoa, through the game saw Collin Crowder scoring 23 points and Tanner Cunningham adding 12 points.



The Towns County Indians and Lady Indians traveled to Stephens County last week for a preseason scrimmage contest in preparation for Tuesday's season opener at Hiwassee Dam, North Carolina. Both TCHS basketball teams will be under the direction of a new head coach in 2021-22. Photos/Lowell Nicholson



As for the girls' team, Coach Shea Taylor is igniting his first year as high school head coach from his prior year head coaching the middle school boys' team for the last six years.

Unfortunately, the girls also lost their scrimmage game against Stephens County in a true heartbreaker, coming up a single point short for a 29-28 defeat.

"We lost five seniors last year, and two of those were 1,000-point scorers," Taylor said, describing the layout of the team. "And I have one varsity returning from last year, and just a handful coming with very minimal varsity experience."

"So, we are going to be young but have implemented some new stuff with a new system, and the girls have responded well to it."

"Our strengths this year are that they work hard and are dedicated to the sport. I think the biggest thing we will be

working on is learning who we are as a team and general cohesiveness, learning how to work together."

"Going into January for our regional tournament is the most crucial, because that is where we have the chance to qualify for the playoffs."

Lastly, Coach Taylor wants all the fans to know that the teams "appreciate all of our community coming out to support us, whether it be girls or boys' basketball teams, including our sponsors as well."

"When the kids see a packed house, they are aware and feed off of that energy," he said.

The Nov. 16 games began at 6:30 p.m. in Hiwassee Dam, North Carolina. Next, the Indians will travel to Highlands, North Carolina, for a pair of games starting at 6 p.m.

The home opener is scheduled for Nov. 23 against Hiwassee Dam beginning at 7 p.m.

Basketball Season Passes – Pick Your Seat Night

Season passes for the 2021-22 TCHS Basketball Season will go on sale Thursday, November 18 at 7pm in the Bill Kendall Sports Complex. All fans and community wishing to purchase season passes will have the opportunity to "pick your seat" for the entire 2021-22 basketball regular season, excluding the Battle of the States Christmas Tournament and State Tournament games.

There are twelve (12) scheduled home events for the 2021-22 regular season. Season passes are valid for all JV and Varsity games, excluding the Battle of the States and State Tournament games.



Season passes are \$60.00 each. What are the advantages of season passes? Season passes will be sent to your email so it makes it easier and faster for the season pass holder to enter the game by either scanning their phone or by scanning a printed

hard copy. Season passes also save you money compared to purchasing game day tickets to all the events, a \$12 savings.

Season passes will only be available on Thursday, November 18 at 7pm – 8:30pm in the Bill Kendall Sports Complex where fans can "pick their seat" and Friday, November 19 from 9am until 2pm in the Towns County High School office with Assistant Principal/Athletic Director Jim Melton.

Season tickets are \$6.00 per game, per person. The preferred method of purchasing game day tickets will be online at townscountyathletics.com under the "More" tab.

Congratulations to the 2021 Towns County Lady Indians Cross Country team



The Towns County Lady Indians Cross Country team placed eighth at the Class A Public State Championships earlier this month in Carrollton. Towns County qualified for the State meet with a third-place performance at the Region 8-A Public Championships in October. The Towns County Herald would like to congratulate the Lady Indians on a fantastic 2021 season.

| Towns County Basketball Schedule 2021-22 | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|----------|---|-----------------------|--------------|
| Date | Opponent | Place | JVG/JVB | JV Time | VARSITY Time |
| November | | | | | |
| Thur 11 | Stephens County (scrimmage) | Away | none | n/a | 6:00pm |
| Tue 16 | Hiwassee Dam, NC | Away | JV Boys | 5:00pm | 6:30pm |
| Fri 19 | Highlands, NC | Away | none | n/a | 6:00pm |
| Tue 23 | Hiwassee Dam, NC | Home | JV Boys | 5:30pm | 7:00pm |
| Tue 30 | Rabun Gap | Home | none | n/a | 6:00pm |
| December | | | | | |
| Tue 7 | Tallulah Falls | Away | JV Girls | 4:30pm | 6:00pm |
| Thur 9 | Summit Charter | Home | JV Only | 6:30pm | n/a |
| Fri 10 | Union County | Away | Both JV | 4:00pm | 7:00pm |
| Fri 17 | Union County | Home | Both JV | 4:00pm | 7:00pm |
| * Sat 18 | Social Circle | Away | JV Boys | 3:30pm | 5:00pm |
| Tue 21 | Banks County | Away | Both JV | 2:30pm | 5:30pm |
| Tue 28 | Battle of the States | Towns | none | n/a | 7:00pm |
| Wed 29 | Battle of the States | Towns | none | n/a | TBA |
| Thu 30 | Battle of the States | Towns | none | n/a | TBA |
| January | | | | | |
| * Fri 7 | Washington-Wilkes | Away | Both JV | 4:30pm | 7:00pm |
| Sat 8 | Highlands, NC | Home | noe | n/a | 6:00pm |
| * Tue 11 | Commerce | Home | JV Girls | 4:30pm | 6:00pm |
| * Fri 14 | Lake Oconee Academy | Away | none | n/a | 6:00pm |
| Tue 18 | Summit Charter | Away | JV Only | 6:30pm | n/a |
| Tue 18 | MANDATORY OPEN REGION DATE | | | | |
| * Fri 21 | Greene County | Home | none | n/a | 6:00pm |
| * Sat 22 | Lincoln County | Away | Both JV | 2:00pm | 5:00pm |
| * Tue 25 | Social Circle | Home | JV Boys | 3:30pm | 5:00pm |
| * Fri 28 | Washington-Wilkes | Home | none | n/a | 7:00pm |
| * Sat 29 | Tallulah Falls (Senior Night) | Home | Both JV | 2:00pm | 5:00pm |
| February | | | | | |
| * Tue 1 | Commerce | Away | JV Boys | 4:30pm | 6:00pm |
| * Fri 4 | Lake Oconee Academy | Home | none | n/a | 6:00pm |
| * Sat 5 | Greene County | Away | none | n/a | 5:00pm |
| * Fri 11 | Lincoln County | Home | none | n/a | 6:00pm |
| Sat 12 | MANDATORY OPEN REGION DATE | | | | |
| Mon 14 | Region Tournament @ Commerce | Commerce | | | TBA |
| Tue 15 | Region Tournament @ Commerce | Commerce | | | TBA |
| Thur 17 | Region Tournament @ Commerce | Commerce | | | TBA |
| Fri 18 | Region Tournament @ Commerce | Commerce | | | TBA |
| Women's Head Coach: Shea Taylor | | | Men's Head Coach: Brian Hunnicutt | | |
| Women's Assistant Coach: Chase Phillips | | | Men's Assistant Coach: Alan Rogers | | |
| Women's Assistant Coach: Sheena Kendall | | | Men's Assistant Coach: Michael Anderson | | |
| Athletic Director: Jim Melton | | | *Region Game | Principal: Roy Perren | |