

# Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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## Basketball: Lady Indians and Indians take decisive victories at Nantahala

By Jerry Kendall  
Towns County Herald  
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Nantahala, NC - The Towns County High School Lady Indians and Indians varsity basketball teams traveled to Nantahala, North Carolina, High School last Tuesday and came away with decisive victories over the Lady Hawks and Hawks.

The Lady Hawks struggled to a 4-21 record last year and lost two seniors from that team but four of their top scorers were non seniors.

The Hawks, on the other hand, compiled an 11-14 record a year ago and although losing four seniors they returned three of their top four scorers who will be recognized at the end of the article.

**Lady Indians 49, Nantahala 31** - The Lady Indians took 4-2 and 6-4 leads on field goals by senior Sophia Shook and junior Vanessa Floyd at the 7:54 and 7:08 marks of the first quarter and got ahead for good 7-4 on a trey by junior Kennedy Henson at 4:23.

A trey by freshman Tabitha Barnes followed at 3:28 for a 10-4 Lady Indians lead and baskets by junior Jayce Young and Floyd more than matched a deuce by the Lady Hawks during the final minute and a half for a 14-6 Towns lead at quarter's end.

The Lady Indians used the success of five players entering the scoring column in the first quarter as a springboard to a 27-8 lead at intermission and a 39-13 advantage after three quarters before the Lady Hawks closed the margin a bit during the final quarter in a 49-31 Towns victory.

They continued the pattern of several players entering the scoring column with six accomplishing the feat in the second, five in the third, and three in the fourth.

Scoring highlights during the final three quarters



The Indians finish the first week of the 2019-20 with a 1-1 record after cruising to a win at Nantahala, NC and falling short at Hiwassee Dam, NC. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

included a trey by Sophia Shook in the second quarter, a trey included in five points by Henson and a trey by Young in the third, and a trey and deuce for five points by freshman Sarah Shook and a second trey by Barnes in the fourth.

Eight Lady Indians entered the scoring column during the game with leaders being Henson with 10 points, Floyd with 8, Sarah Shook and Sophia Shook with 7 each, Barnes with 6, and junior Abby Mauldin with 4.

A noteworthy total of twelve assists were recorded by your reporter with leaders being Sophia Shook with 3

and Henson with 2. Leaders in rebounds were Mauldin and Sarah Shook with 7 each and Sophia Shook with 6 while Floyd and Young led in steals with 5 each.

The Lady Hawks were led in scoring by 5'10" senior Savannah O'Dell with 22 points.

**Indians 88, Nantahala 58** - At Nantahala, the Indians faced a shorthanded team featuring just five players due to one player having the flu and another not eligible to play until Christmas but they must be given much credit in providing an impressive showing without any rest breaks

against the Indians who were able to substitute extensively throughout the game. And there was very significant talent among the five players with three providing all of the points but all five giving their best and an example of their talent being the sinking of ten three point baskets during the game.

The Indians included a game opening 8-0 run by the 4:39 mark of the first quarter and led 21-11, 39-25, and 69-42 at the quarter breaks on the way to an 88-58 victory.

Most of the scoring load would be provided by the three returning very produc-

tive members from last year's team in the persons of juniors Aidan Berrong and Kolby Moss and sophomore Collin Crowder but with significant other contributions provided by the less experienced players.

Berrong provided eight points, Moss six, and Crowder five in first quarter action with Berrong later including a fourteen and a nine points quarter and Moss scoring ten in one quarter and eight in another.

Berrong led the scoring for the Indians with a career high 35 points and was followed by Moss with 27, Crowder with 15, junior Drew

Hodge with 6 and sophomore Kyle Oakes with 5.

The Indians accumulated a whopping twenty six assists with leaders in this category being Moss with 9, Berrong with 7, and Crowder with 5.

Leading in rebounds were Moss with 12, Crowder with 8, and Hodge and junior Luis Quijada with 4 each while Berrong and Oakes led in steals with 3 each.

The Hawks were led in scoring by senior Dylan Stroud with 26 points, junior Zac Taylor with 22, and junior Dillon McLean with 10.

## GHSA Realignment brings changes to 8-A

By Todd Forrest  
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On the heels of the Georgia High School Association's recent split between public and private schools at the region-level in Class A, Towns County High School's athletic schedules are going to look very peculiar when the 2020-21 school year gets underway next summer.

Last week's GHSA Reclassification Committee meeting brought major changes to the newly titled "Region 8-A Public" that Towns County High School has called home for the better part of four decades. Gone are the Athens and Atlanta-area private schools, but still intact is a widely-dispersed region that traverses the entirety of Northeast Georgia.

Commerce remains in Region 8-A Public as Towns County's nearest opponent and a familiar face from previous seasons. Joining those two will be a handful of schools from Region 7-A and another from Region 8-AA.

Greene County, Lincoln County, Warren County and Washington-Wilkes will remain in Class A, making the lateral jump from Region 7 to Region 8-A Public. Meanwhile, Social Circle will drop down to 8-A Public from Region 8-AA, rounding out the seven-team region.



Stretching from the North Carolina line to Interstate-20 and the outskirts of Augusta, three and four-hour bus rides will remain the norm for Towns County student-athletes.

As for the departed members of Region 8-A, Athens Academy, Athens Christian, George Walton and Prince Avenue will join with Loganville Christian to create Region 8-A Private.

Hebron Christian will join the Atlanta-area private schools in Region 5-A Private and Riverside Military Academy will replace Social Circle in Region 8-AA.

However, not everyone has been accepting of the rule changes as a large group of Class A private schools requested to play up in Class AA

instead of competing in a private school-only classification. As a result, the Reclassification Committee denied the request, electing to vote on all of the requests as a group.

The motion to vote on all of the schools as a group, as well as deny their request to play up were both passed by a 15-1 vote. The lone "no" came from Jasper Jewell, who serves as the Atlanta Public Schools' Athletic Director and President of the Georgia Athletic Director's Association.

Barring any last-minute appeals, these changes will be finalized on Tuesday, Nov. 19 and will take effect at the beginning of the 2020-21 school year, remaining for a two-year cycle until the GHSA meets again in the fall of 2021.

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