

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Indians win scrimmage, season opener but lose Barrett to injury

By Jerry Kendall
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If measured only by being victorious in a preseason scrimmage game and in their regular season opening game, it would have been a great week for the Towns County Indians Varsity Basketball Team last week.

But misfortune arose late in the second quarter of the scrimmage game on Monday night as 6'5" senior post player Adam Barrett suffered a very serious ankle injury after making a basket near the end of the second quarter.

Barrett saw significant varsity action as a freshman and was a top scorer and rebounder for the team as a starter as a sophomore and junior and doctors have given hope that he may be able to return to action for the later weeks of the season.

The Indians played host to the Robbinsville Black Knights on Monday in the preseason scrimmage game and took control of the game from near the start in racing out to a 73-44 victory.

The Black Knights quite likely were left short in personnel due to their football team still being involved in the North Carolina Class A State Playoffs but it was an impressive win for the Indians who returned most of their firepower from last year's very successful team.

They then held off a late run by Lumpkin County on Friday in taking a home court 62-59 victory, giving them a 1-0 record to start the season.

Indians 73, Robbinsville, NC 44 – Both the Indians and Black Knights, not surprisingly, got off to a cold shooting start in their first competition since last season but with the Indians eventually gaining the early upper hand.

It all started with senior Will DeVries making an old fashioned three point play at the 6:43 mark of the first quarter and the Indians were off and running, taking a 9-0 lead before the Knights got their first field goal nearly five minutes into the game.

The Knights added a pair of treys before quarter's end as the Indians led 17-8 with DeVries contributing a total of seven points and senior Major Moss six during the quarter. The Indians then extended their lead to 37-19 by intermission with DeVries including a tip in, a dunk, and a second three point play among adding 11 second quarter points and Barrett added four, including on the field goal leading to his aforementioned injury at the 1:55 mark.

Injuries are a part of the game but it was especially



Major Moss throws one down vs Robbinsville. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

harmful for all who saw Adam incur such a serious injury with prayers and best wishes extended to him for a speedy and successful recovery.

The Indians continued their dominating performance in the third and fourth quarters, leading 51-30 entering the fourth on the way to the 73-44 win.

Top individual last half point totals by quarter included five by junior Zach Davenport in the fourth, four in each of the final two quarters by DeVries, and four in the fourth by junior Evan Berrong.

Ten of eleven Indians seeing action in the game entered the scoring column.

Scoring leaders for the game were DeVries with 26 points, Moss with 13 with three dunks included, Davenport with 11, and Barrett with 6 while Moss led in assists with 3 and was followed by junior Logan Cowart with 2.

Cowart is a newcomer to the team this year after transferring from Hayesville High School.

Most Towns fans will recall the prime time contributions of his sister, Kelsie Cowart, to the Lady Indian varsity for three years prior to graduating in 2014 with her most memorable of many contributions being her scoring the winning basket as time expired in a 45-43 win over Claxton in 2013, sending her team to the Class A State Final Four for the third time in 14 years.

Indians 62, Lumpkin County 59 – Class AAA Lumpkin County, the defending Battle of the States Champions, had an experience advantage at the start of the game with the Indians as they had already played two regular season games against Class AAAAAA opponents prior to their encounter with the Class A Indians who were playing their first regular season game.

Lumpkin had fallen by just a 53-49 score to Lanier High School of Sugar Hill while taking a 51-45 victory over North Forsyth of Cumming.

With the exception of a 2-2 tie on a Zack Davenport basket, Lumpkin held leads of between one and five points for nearly 11 minutes at the start of the game before the Indians began to gain the upper hand. Lumpkin led 13-8 late in the first quarter and 15-10 and then 17-12 by the 6:30 mark of the second before the Indians came alive.

Field goals by Major Moss, Davenport, and Logan Cowart starting at the 6:06 mark got them ahead 18-17 and sophomore Will Travis matched a Lumpkin field goal for a 19-18 Towns lead at 4:13 but it wasn't until the 2:26 mark when a basket by Cowart got the Indians ahead for good by a 26-24 score.

The Cowart basket started an 8-3 Indian finish to the quarter for a 32-27 lead at intermission with the trio of



Senior Will DeVries knocks down a free throw on his way to 26 points the win. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Moss, Cowart, and Davenport providing nine, six, and five points respectively during the quarter.

The Indians continued their scoring surge in appearing to take control of the game with an 8-2 run for a 40-29 lead on the strength of two field goals by Davenport wrapped around a pair by DeVries by the 5:15 mark of the third quarter.

The momentum of an overall 28-12 run back to the 17-12 Lumpkin lead at the 6:06 mark of the second quarter would come to a quick end, however, when three Indian starters were charged with their third fouls of the game in just forty six seconds between the 4:59 and 4:13 marks as part of a run of seven fouls charged to the Indians and none to Lumpkin the first half of the third quarter.

Although the threat of a continuing dominant run came to an end at this point, the Indians were able to pretty much hold their own and maintain leads of between seven and 11 points for the remainder of the third quarter, including by a 49-40 margin at quarter's end.

Cowart scored the final six Indian points of the third quarter and the first two of the fourth as the Indians held a 51-43 lead barely a minute into the final quarter.

Lumpkin struck for a deuce and an old fashioned three point play for just a 51-48 deficit, however, and it was

a real battle after that but it can be said that the Indians bent but didn't break in holding narrow leads the remainder of the game.

Baskets by Moss and Davenport and two free throws by DeVries had them ahead 57-50 by the 3:12 mark but a trey and a deuce by Lumpkin followed for just a 57-55 Towns lead at 2:32.

A drive for two points by Davenport, 11 seconds later gave the Indians a 59-55 lead but Lumpkin wrapped two field goals around a free throw by Moss for just a 60-59 Towns advantage with 28 seconds remaining.

The Indians were able to run some clock after that with Lumpkin finally sending Davenport to the foul line with 5.3 seconds left and he sank the second of two attempts for a 61-59 Indian lead.

The drama was far from over, however, as Lumpkin went to the foul line for two shots and a chance for a tie with 2.8 seconds left.

When the first attempt was missed, the Lumpkin player missed the second intentionally, hoping for a rebound and quick putback basket and a tie for his team but Moss grabbed the rebound, was immediately fouled, and sank the first of two free throw attempts at 1.7 seconds to give the Indians a 62-59 victory.

When all was said and done, the Indians could have

clinched the win earlier but for free throw struggles the final quarter when they sank just five of twelve attempts but Lumpkin sank just two of seven attempts during the quarter in failing to capitalize on their opportunities.

Davenport took scoring honors for the game with 21 points and was followed by Moss with 15, Cowart with 14, and DeVries with 8 as Moss led in assists with 6 and was followed by Davenport with 4 and DeVries and senior Colton Shook with 2 each, according to your reporter's unofficial tally.

Indians seeing action in one or both games but not mentioned in the coverage above are junior Bradley Benson and sophomores Trent Bradshaw, Caleb Clark, and Brett Denton.

Junior Cole Ledford is hopefully to be cleared for action as early as this week after a lengthy recovery from a fractured finger which kept him out of football action for practically the full season.

On Tuesday, the Indians will travel to Union County for an 8:30 p.m. tip-off.

The Panthers are also coming off a pair of victories.

On Nov. 10 they routed Hiwassee Dam, NC 73-43 while missing several key players due to football.

Last week they returned five players from the gridiron and held on at Gilmer, 55-50.

Lady Indians fall at home in scrimmage game and season opener

By Jerry Kendall
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A very youthful Towns County Lady Indians Varsity Basketball Team opened their season last week by hosting Robbinsville in a preseason scrimmage game on Monday and Class AAA Lumpkin County on Friday.

They showed great hustle and determination but came up short of victory in falling by a 56-35 score to Robbinsville and to a torrid last half run by Lumpkin in a 71-36 loss.

Robbinsville, NC 56, Lady Indians 35 – In the Robbinsville game, the Lady Indians managed 2-2, 4-4, and 6-6 ties on two free throws by junior Madison McClure and field goals by sophomore Kristin Byers and senior Kristen Henson by the 4:41 mark of the first quarter and a 7-6 lead on a free throw by senior Kirsten Ledford at 3:28.

But the Lady Knights finished the half on a 23-8 run for a 14-9 first quarter lead and a 29-15 advantage by intermission.

A 5-2 start to the third quarter on a basket by McClure and a field goal and free throw by Byers had the Lady Indians within 31-20 by the 5:45 mark but the Lady Knights led 38-22 by quarter's end on the way to a 56-35 victory despite a seven points fourth quarter on a trey, a deuce, and two for two free throw shooting by freshman Sophia Shook.



Towns County Lady Indians vs Lumpkin County and Towns County Cheerleading photos by Lowell Nicholson

The Lady Indians were led in scoring for the game by Byers with 9 points and Shook with 7 while McClure, Henson, Shook, and sophomores Lexi Ledford and Taylor Cornett contributed 1 assist each, according to your reporter's unofficial tally.

Lumpkin County 71, Lady Indians 36 – In their first regular season game against Class AAA Lumpkin County, the Lady Indians took a quick lead on a long deuce

by Kristen Henson and later forced a 7-7 tie on a trey by Henson before Lumpkin used a 16-5 run for a 23-12 advantage by the 1:57 mark of the second quarter.

The Lady Indians would themselves strike for a 7-0 run and just a 23-19 deficit at intermission on a second trey by Henson, a putback basket by senior Kirsten Ledford, and two free throws by Madison McClure in less than a minute of playing time between the

1:11 and 18.9 seconds marks of the second quarter.

The last half would prove to be very difficult for the Lady Indians, however, as Lumpkin struck for a 13-0 run at the start of the third quarter and used it as a springboard for a 50-24 lead after three quarters and an eventual 71-36 victory.

A trey and two for two free throw shooting for five points by Sophia Shook and a deuce and two for three free



throw shooting by McClure for four points in the fourth quarter highlighted last half play for the Lady Indians.

Henson took scoring honors for the game with 9 points with other leaders being McClure with 8 and Kristin Byers, Ledford, and Shook with 6 each as Ledford led in assists with 3 and McClure followed with 2.

Lady Indians seeing action last week but not mentioned above are sophomores

Kenzlee Denton and Erika Spano and freshmen Kylie Arrowood, Kaitlyn Davis, and Shelby Turner.

Towns County will travel to Union County on Tuesday where they will tip off against the Lady Panthers at 7 p.m.

Union is also coming off a pair of one-sided losses.

On Nov. 10 they fell 58-32 at Hiwassee Dam, NC before dropping their opener at Gilmer, 58-36 on Thursday.