

# Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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## Indians lose heart breaker at Union County as late rally falls short

By Jerry Kendall  
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**BLAIRSVILLE** - After trailing by several points for most of the game, the Towns County Indians Varsity Basketball Team came to within less than two seconds of playing time of taking Class AA Union County to overtime before the Panthers enjoyed exceptionally good fortune on the bounce of the ball that gave them a 63-62 victory over the Indians in the Union County gym last Tuesday.

Both teams finished the night with 1-1 records as the Panthers lost an earlier 39-38 home court decision on a free throw with just 4.7 seconds on the clock to super tall Rabun Gap, a team currently sporting a 4-1 record against a mixture of private schools in North Carolina and large public in Georgia, while the Indians took an earlier 73-67 home court win over Hiwassee Dam.

The Eagles have split two games against Class AAAA Georgia opponents with a win over Pickens of Jasper but a loss to undefeated Gilmer of Ellijay while falling by a 49-48 score to Class AAA Fannin County of Blue Ridge.

Not much went well for the Indians in the opening minutes at Union County as the Panthers sank a trey from some 23 feet just five seconds into the game and they held a 7-0 lead just a minute later at the 6:55 mark which became 14-4 at 1:28 of the first quarter.

The Indians came to life by quarter's end, however, as field goals by freshman Collin Crowder, sophomore Kolby Moss, and senior Will Travis during the final 1:17 got them within 14-10. Moss held the lead in scoring for the quarter with 4 points.



Kolby Moss scored 17 of his team-high 21 in the second half, including 10 in the final minute. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

The second quarter featured two modest scoring runs by each team with the Panthers opening with a 6-1 run for a 20-11 lead by the 5:11 mark, the Indians scoring 7-straight points for just a 20-18 deficit at 3:27, Union following with a 7-0 run of their own for a 27-18 lead at 1:50, and the Indians scoring the final five points for a 27-23 deficit at intermission.

Treys by Travis and sophomore Aidan Berrong highlighted the Indians' seven points run while a runner by senior Brett Denton and a putback basket by senior Trevor Bradley highlighted the five points finish.

The Panthers would lead by as many as eleven points on

three occasions in the third quarter, including by a 51-40 score at the 1:30 mark. The Indians reduced this lead to 51-44 on two free throws by Moss and a deuce by Berrong by the half minute mark but the Panthers nailed a trey from about 25 feet at the buzzer for a 54-44 lead entering the fourth quarter, despite very productive quarters by Travis with 8 points on four deuces and Moss with seven on a trey and four for four free throw shooting.

The scoring pace slowed considerably for more than six-and-a-half minutes at the start of the fourth quarter, partially due to the Panthers slowing the pace of the game for awhile, with six



Will Travis sends back a Union County shot attempt during the first half. Travis would finish with 20 points. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

points by Travis compared to five by the Panthers reducing the Union lead by a single point to 59-50 at the 1:48 mark.

There was nothing slow about the Indians scoring the final 1:15 of the game, however, with Moss starting an Indian charge with a trey at that point and Denton sinking a pull up jumper at exactly the one minute mark for just a 59-55 Union lead.

The Panthers sank a free throw at 55.8 seconds for a 60-55 advantage but Moss nailed another trey at 45 seconds and followed two missed Panther free throws at 42.3 seconds by sinking two charity tosses at 35.4 seconds for a 60-60 standoff after the Panthers had

led from just five seconds into the game. The Panthers retook the lead on a field goal at 29 seconds but Moss sank two more free throws at 16.2 seconds for a 62-62 tie.

Lady luck would shine on the Panthers at the 1.7 seconds mark, however, when they went to the foul line with the game on the line. The first of two free throw attempts appeared initially to have missed the mark when it caromed upward off the back of the rim but fell back down and rattled around the rim before falling through the net for a 63-62 lead which would establish the Union margin of victory when the second free throw attempt missed the mark.

Moss wound up with 10

points on two treys and 4-for-4 free throw shooting and Travis 6 on two deuces and two for two free throw shooting in fourth quarter action for the Indians.

On the other hand, the Panthers were just two for eight at the foul line in the fourth quarter in leaving the door open for the Indians.

Moss missed some significant playing time in the first half, as had Travis throughout much of the earlier Hiwassee Dam game, with early foul difficulty but scored 17 of his team leading 21 points in the last half with Travis right behind for the game with 20 points.

Other scoring leaders for the Indians were Denton with 9 points and Berrong with 6. Travis took the lead in rebounds with 10 and was followed closely by Crowder with 8, a remarkable contribution for a freshman appearing in just his second regular season varsity game.

Leaders in assists were Moss and senior Dylan Shook with 3 each and Berrong with 2.

Sophomore Peyton Barrett made his regular season varsity debut and contributed an important assist on Moss' final trey during the final minute of play.

Senior Trent Bradshaw missed the game while attending a military graduation event involving his brother, Garrett, a former Indian basketball player.

The Panthers were led in scoring by juniors Pierson Allison with 29 points, Sawyer Drake with 14, and Sawyer Brey with 9.

Allison sank nine of ten Panther treys for the game with several being from far beyond the 3-point arc after getting off to a slow scoring start in a preseason scrimmage against Hayesville, NC and the regular season Union County opener against Rabun Gap after making the transition to basketball from football.

## Strong fourth quarter propels Union County past Lady Indians

By Jerry Kendall  
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**BLAIRSVILLE** - The Towns County Lady Indians Varsity Basketball Team battled the Class AA Union County Lady Panthers on even terms for three quarters last Tuesday in Blairsville, including holding a 27-26 lead entering the fourth quarter, but the much taller Lady Panthers took advantage of suddenly cold shooting by the Lady Indians in pulling away for a 43-31 victory.

The Lady Panthers improved their early season record to 2-0 with the win while the Lady Indians fell to 1-1.

The Lady Panthers had earlier taken an easy 50-22 home court victory over Rabun Gap while the Lady Indians had taken a comfortable 46-33 home court win not as close as the final score would indicate over Hiwassee Dam.

Rabun Gap has taken a five point win over a private school with a 2-1 record from Concord, North Carolina, and lost by just five points to a private school with a 3-0 record from Burlington, North Carolina, since their loss to the Lady Panthers.

Just one score for the Hiwassee Dam ladies has been posted since their loss to the Lady Indians with that having been a 54-37 loss to Class AAA Fannin County.

The Lady Panthers led for most of the first half by small margins but with exceptions.

A trey by sophomore Vanessa Floyd at the 6:55 mark of the first quarter matched



Towns County senior Taylor Cornett (10) splits a Union County double team on her way to the basket last week in Blairsville. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

one by the Lady Panthers just 27 seconds earlier for a 3-3 score but the Lady Panthers led 8-4 at quarter's end.

After the Lady Panthers extended their lead to 10-4 with an early second quarter field goal, a deuce by Floyd and treys by senior Taylor Cornett and sophomore Jayce Young got the Lady Indians a 12-10 lead at the 4:04 mark. And Floyd got the Lady Indians a 13-12 lead on a free throw and then a 16-15 lead on a trey at the 1:34 mark but the Lady Panthers used two deuces during the final 42 seconds for a 19-16 lead at intermission.

The Lady Indians then led for much of the third quarter on a pair of treys by Cornett for a 19-19 tie and then a 22-

19 lead by the 6:49 mark.

Senior Kenzlee Denton then matched a Union field goal for a 24-22 Towns lead at 4:11 and a trey by sophomore Kennedy Henson at 57 seconds more than matched a Lady Panthers deuce for a 27-24 Lady Indians lead which became 27-26 entering the fourth quarter.

A Floyd deuce just 22 seconds into the fourth quarter had the Lady Indians leading 29-26 but a long scoring dry spell followed for the Lady Indians with Union finishing the game on a 17-2 run interrupted only by a second fourth quarter field goal by Floyd for the 43-31 Lady Panthers victory.

The Lady Indians were led in scoring by Floyd with

13 points and Cornett with 9 while Henson took the lead in assists with 6.

Leaders in rebounds were Cornett with 6, Henson with 5, and junior Sophia Shook with 4.

Super tall freshman Ava Hunter led the Lady Panthers with 24 points and was followed by senior Adeline Dockery and junior Brooke Dockery with 6 each.

The Lady Indians included seven treys among their eleven field goals while the Lady Panthers sank three treys among fifteen field goals.

The significantly taller Lady Panthers used this advantage in sinking 10-of-17 free throw attempts while the Lady Indians sank just 2-of-5 attempts.



Kennedi Henson with a base line pass. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

## Towns County soccer tournament



Towns County Soccer Booster Club will be hosting a 3v3 soccer tournament at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds November 30 and December 1. All proceeds from this tournament will benefit middle school and high school (boys and girls) soccer teams at Towns County Schools.

Concessions will be offered, a yeti-hauler will be raffled off, and well the goal is to have some good ole' soccer fun for a great cause. Towns County Soccer Booster Club hopes to see you on the 30th of November and 1st Of Decem-

ber. We understand that other sports are occurring on the same weekend and we are prepared to schedule tournament games accordingly.

If you would like to purchase a raffle ticket for a yeti-hauler, they are 1 for \$10 and 3 for \$20. Find a soccer player or again email townscountysoccer@gmail.com and we will ensure you receive a raffle ticket. Again, this will be raffled off on December 1, 2018 with again all proceeds benefiting Towns County Soccer. We would also like to say a big thank you to the Ridges for their overall support and generosity for our soccer programs and for sponsoring our teams! T(Nov28,F)SH