

# Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

www.townscountyherald.net • E-mail: tcherald@windstream.net

## Indians take victory over Highlands, NC; Lady Indians fall short

By Jerry Kendall  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

The Towns County High School Lady Indians and Indians varsity basketball teams played host last Monday to the Highlands (North Carolina) High School Lady Highlanders and Highlanders and came away with a split decision.

Reviewing the results of last year's Highlands teams and seniors lost gave contrasting results and differing potential for the two teams.

The Lady Highlanders lost just two seniors and one non returning player and returned five of their top seven scorers and rebounders from last year's team which compiled a 10-15 record.

They recently took an impressive 64-49 come from behind victory over Lady Indians' Region 8A foe Tallulah Falls and following a 41-38 loss to Rosman, the Lady Highlanders built a large early lead and withstood two strong scoring spurts by the Lady Indians in holding on for a 49-43 win.

The Highlanders, on the other hand, lost seven of ten players to graduation from last year's team which included two wins over Murphy and a victory at Hayesville in a 17-10 record and made it to the second round of the North Carolina Class A State Tournament.

Three juniors returned from last year's team but no one from that group entered the scoring column against the Indians in leaving this task to non seniors not on last year's varsity roster.

They were hammered in their season opening game against Indians Region 8A foe Tallulah Falls but rebounded for a very decisive victory over Rosman and it was pretty clear to close followers of basketball that the ultra young Highlanders have a bright future although falling to the Indians by a 73-55 score.

**Indians 73, Highlands 55** – It required just twenty five seconds at the 7:35 mark of the first quarter for a deuce by sophomore Collin Crowder to give the Indians a 2-0 lead over Highlands that they would never relinquish although the Highlanders would keep the game close after an 8-2 deficit for most of the remainder of the first quarter.

Six different Indians entered the scoring column in first quarter action with highlights including two free throws by junior Aidan Berrong extending an 8-7 Towns lead, a field goal and two free throws by Crowder extending a 10-9 advantage, and a deuce by junior Luis Quijada giving the Indians a 19-13 lead at quarter's end.

Junior Kolby Moss had largely accounted for an early 18-2 Indians lead with a trey and a deuce for five points.

Berrong wrapped a pair of



Left: Coach Benson looks on as Garrett Oakes attempts a free throw vs Highlands. Right: Vanessa Floyd searches for room to dribble vs Highlands. Photos/Lowell Nicholson

Left: Coach Benson looks on as Garrett Oakes attempts a free throw vs Highlands. Right: Vanessa Floyd searches for room to dribble vs Highlands. Photos/Lowell Nicholson

treys around a Highlands deuce by the 5:46 mark of the second quarter for a 25-15 Indians lead which became as much as 32-18 at 1:57 but reduced by a 10-5 closing Highlanders run to 37-28 with Moss contributing the Indians points during the run with a trey and a drive to the basket for a field goal with five seconds on the clock.

The Highlanders edged to within seven points on three occasions, including by a 41-34 score at the 5:58 mark of the third quarter but Moss sank two treys, two deuces, and two free throws for twelve points during the remainder of the quarter as the Indians held a 55-44 lead entering the fourth quarter.

A trey by Moss and a trey and a deuce by Berrong got the Indians their biggest lead of 63-44 at the 6:19 mark of the fourth quarter and they coasted from there to a 73-55 victory.

Leading the scoring parade for the Indians were Moss with 30 points, Berrong with 23, and Crowder with 13 while leaders in assists were Berrong and Crowder with 5 each and Moss with 4 and leaders in rebounds were Moss with 7, Crowder with 5, and Berrong with 4.

Accurate shooting was especially impressive in this game for the Indians with the team sinking 19 of 26 free throw attempts and Moss sinking five of eight three point attempts and Berrong three of six. Scoring leaders for the Highlanders were sophomores Reid Carrier with 22 points and Brent Sleight with 9 and junior Lane Tingin with 5.

**Highlands 49, Lady Indians 43** – A very difficult first

quarter start and a similar result starting the third proved to be too much to overcome in the Lady Indians' loss to the Highlanders. A free throw by junior Kennedy Henson and a deuce by freshman Sarah Shook had the Lady Indians within 6-3 at the 3:04 mark of the first quarter but the Highlanders struck for the next nine points for a 15-3 lead at the 1:32 mark.

A trey by junior Jayce Young at twenty two seconds and a putback basket by Henson at the four seconds mark got the Lady Indians within 15-8 at quarter's end and the Lady Indians continued better fortune in what turned out to be the first of two strong rallies against the Highlanders.

Highland deuces wrapped around Young's second trey had the Lady Indians trailing 19-11 by the 6:49 mark of the second quarter but an 11-5 Towns run the remainder of the quarter had the Lady Indians within 24-22 at intermission.

Five different Lady Indians contributed points to this scoring run with Sarah Shook leading with a deuce and two for two free throw shooting for four points and Henson finished the run with a drive for two points as time expired.

Senior Sophia Shook got the Lady Indians what turned out to be their only lead of the game with a trey just nineteen seconds into the third quarter at 7:41 but a trey just sixteen seconds after that by the Lady Highlanders started a 9-1 run for a 33-26 lead at the 4:03 mark.

The Lady Indians would then use two free throws and a trey by Henson to gain a single point and trail 37-31 entering the fourth quarter.

The Lady Highlanders used a trey and a free throw for just a 4-2 advantage in nearly four minutes of playing time by the 4:07 mark of the fourth quarter for a 41-33 advantage before the Lady Indians rallied for a 10-4 run beginning at the 3:45 mark.

They edged to within 41-39 highlighted by three for four free throw shooting by Henson and a long deuce by junior Vanessa Floyd at the 1:33 mark and came oh so close to taking a lead when a trey attempt at the 1:06 mark would have given them a 42-41 lead but the shot missed the mark.

The Lady Indians still were not done, however, as they edged to within 45-43 at



Junior Kennedy Henson led the Lady Indians with 14 points and 5 assists during last week's meeting with Highlands, NC. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

the 18.8 seconds mark on two free throws by Henson but they couldn't connect for points after that and the Lady Highlanders sank two free throws at both the 17.2 and 1.8 seconds marks for a 49-43 victory. Overall, the Lady Highlanders sank eight of ten free throw attempts during the final 52.4 seconds in sealing the victory.

Scoring leaders for the Lady Indians for the game were Henson with 14 points, Sarah Shook with 12, Young with 8, and Sophia Shook with 5 while Henson also led in assists with 5 and was followed by Sophia Shook with 3 and Henson and Sarah Shook tied for the lead in rebounds with 7 each.

Scoring leaders for the Lady Highlanders were junior Jordan Carrier with 18 points and sophomores Hayley Borino with 14, Reese Schmitt with 7, and Julia May Schmitt with 5.

### T.U.F. Athletes Fundraising Events

T.U.F. stand for Towns, Union, & Fannin Counties and are a group of special needs individuals who have to face and overcome challenges every day, challenges that you and I don't have to face. Thus why they are called "T.U.F. ATHLETES".

Saturday, December 7th we will be at the Kris Kringle Market located at the Union County Farmers Market from 10-3, selling handcrafted items the athletes have been working on, so stop by and see us; meet the T.U.F. Athletes and let them tell you what Dream Ride means to them. You will get a better picture of why we work so hard to reach our fundraising goal.

We have other fundraising events coming up in the Spring of 2020. We will be announcing the event, time, and

place; so stay tuned.

As of now we have 14 athletes and their chaperones going on this trip. Although we are doing fundraising we need our community's help to reach our goal of approximately \$18,000, which includes airfare, 4-day hotel stay, transportation & fuel to/from the airport, meals; etc.

If you would like to sponsor an athlete to help them make this absolutely amazing trip, please contact us; Paulette (706) 897- 9938; Terri (706)-400-9839; or Carla (770)-596-3397. Donation can be tax deductible.

Help us let them know they are an important part of our community, by showing them your support.

Thank You,  
T.U.F. Athletes,  
Dream Ride Bound



Junior Aidan Berrong drives to the basket. Photo/Lowell Nicholson