

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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KOM: Swanger victorious at 170, Indians finish eighth overall

By Todd Forrest
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Towns County's Tyler Swanger ran the table in the 170-pound weight class at last weekend's 13th Annual King of the Mountain wrestling tournament.

Swanger defeated East Hall's Blake Nix in Saturday's finals by a 7-5 decision to claim the King of the Mountain crown.

On Friday evening, Swanger opened with a pinfall victory over Waverly Hall's Paul Waites. He followed that up with another pinfall, this time over Jasper's Julian Vreeland.

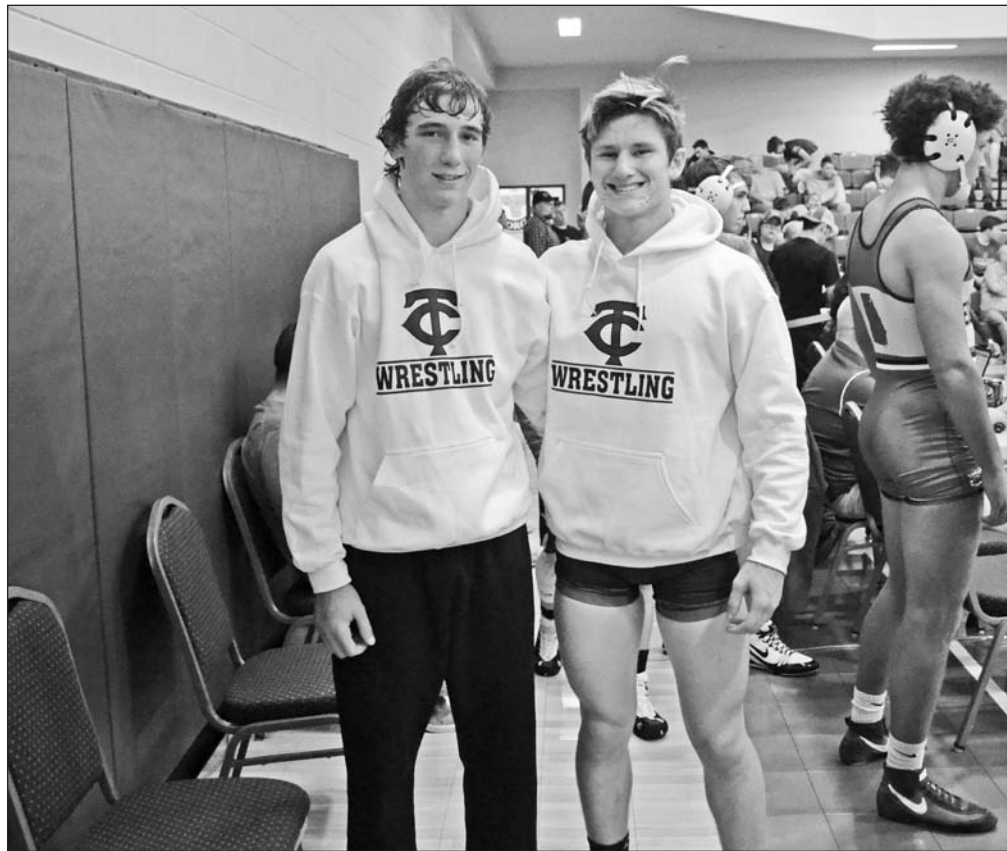
Rabun County's Quill Martin was Swanger's next victim, coming by pinfall at 2:29, setting up his championship round victory over Nix.

Towns' Blaine Rogers placed second after dropping a 12-5 decision to Mt. Pisgah's David Bertrand in the 160-pound final.

Rogers opened the tournament with a 52-second pinfall over East Hall's Hunter Sunderman before pinning Franklin County's Wyatt Lutz in 47 seconds. Gilmer's Andrew Gooch was unable to deny Rogers a trip to the finals as a pinfall victory punched his ticket to the championship match.

At 126 pounds, Garrett Oakes fell one win shy of wrestling for third place after winning his first two matches.

He began the tournament with an 11-1 major decision victory over Jasper's Leo Rodriguez. He followed that up with a pinfall over Hart



Towns County's Blaine Rogers and Tyler Swanger following their performances at last weekend's King of the Mountain wrestling tournament. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

County's Ayers Honiotes.

In round three, Fannin County's Landon Galloway took an 11-1 major decision from Oakes. In the consolation bracket, he fell via pinfall to Gilmer's Gabriel Reimer.

Wes Calhoun took a pair of wins at 182 pounds, beginning with a 48-second pin of Gilmer's Carlos Lopez.

After falling to Harris County's Elijah Perry, Calhoun defeated Chestatee's Geronimo Marin by pinfall. His day would end at the hands of East Hall's Taylor Myers.

Michael Moss won a match at 120 pounds after

dropping the opener to Morgan County's Griffin McAlister.

His victory came over East Hall's Ethan Hall via pinfall in 1:41. In the following match, he was upended by Cooper Glossen of Creekview.

Nick Bradley scored a win at 138 when he defeated Hart County's Ty McCurley by pinfall in the consolation first round. He would suffer a pair of losses to Creekview's Evan Brown and Brock Sumner of Gilmer.

Austin Eddrington recorded an early win over Chestatee's Evan Cagle by pinfall before falling to the

eventual champion in the second round, West Oak's Tyler Byars.

His consolation action got underway with an 8-6 decision over Gilmer's Edgar Jacinto. East Hall's Dylan Lee would bring his day to a close, however, with a pinfall in 1:57.

In other results, Alisa Moss competed in two matches at 106 pounds, falling to Hayesville's Kevin Cook and East Hall's Hunter Dailing.

At 113 pounds, Hunter Quinten fell to the eventual runner-up, Kieth Cook of Hayesville. Later, Quinten would fall



Towns County coaches and fans look on during a dramatic moment during the King of the Mountain. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

to the fourth place finisher, CG Bertrand of Mt. Pisgah.

Nick Houser suffered an unlucky draw at 145, getting the eventual champion, West Oak SC's Matthew Williams, in the first round.

In the consolation tournament, Houser fell to Brody Lack of Hart County.

After a first round bye, Matthew Ledford fell to Harris County's Curtlen Stewart. The eventual third place finisher, Dallas McHale of Jasper eliminated Ledford in the consolation match.

In the team standings, Towns County placed eighth

with 73 points. The Indians finished 13 points back of seventh place Banks County and seven points better than ninth place Gilmer.

West Oak, SC took home the team title with 219.5 points. Harris County was second at 152.5, Pickens County's 118 points were good enough for third, Mt. Pisgah placed fourth at 105 and East Hall rounded out the top five at 99.5.

Sixth through 10th featured several local schools with Fannin County in sixth followed by Banks, Towns, Gilmer and Chestatee.

Lady Indians, Indians rebound from losses at Lumpkin in sweep at Athens Christian

By Jerry Kendall
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

ATHENS - To state that the Towns County Lady Indians and Indians Varsity Basketball Teams rebounded in a big way from their disappointing losses at Lumpkin County on Tuesday when traveling to Athens Christian on Friday would be a vast understatement.

While the Lady Indians exploded out to a huge early lead and coasted to a 49-28 victory, the Indians had a real battle with a very impressive Athens Christian team until using a 19-8 game ending run in taking a 70-63 victory.

The week's work leaves the Lady Indians and Indians with 2-2 records as they enter a very challenging week with games at Tallulah Falls on Tuesday of this week and then host Class AA Rabun County this Friday and Class AA Union County on Saturday.

This was just the second regular season game for Athens Christian as they had traveled to Westminster Christian Academy in nearby Watkinsville last Tuesday with the Lady Eagles falling by a 50-40 score but the Eagles taking a 74-41 victory.

Although Athens Christian is a Region 8A foe of the TCHS teams, this game does not count in the region standings.

In an apparent move to reduce travel costs, just one game against each region opponent will count in the standings this year and in the few cases when a team faces a region opponent twice during the season as is the case here, only the second meeting between the two teams will count as will be the case when Athens Christian travels to Hiwassee late in the season.

Lady Indians 49, Athens Christian 28 - It required just nineteen seconds at the start of the game for the Lady Indians to take a 2-0 lead on a long deuce by sophomore Vanessa Floyd with a trey by sophomore Kennedy Henson and two free throws by Floyd giving them a 7-0 lead at the 6:45 mark.

It was significant that Athens Christian did not get the ball across the center line until the 5:54 mark against the Lady Indians' stifling defensive pressure leading to the early seven points deficit.

The Lady Indians were not nearly through with first quarter heroics, however, as three for four free throw shooting by junior Sophia Shook and a second deuce by Floyd got them a 12-0 lead by the 3:52 mark. And by quarter's



Towns County senior Will Travis drives to the basket during last week's game at Lumpkin County. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

end, the Lady Indians had extended their lead to 23-4 on the strength of three additional treys and a deuce by Henson as they exceeded in just one quarter their scoring total for the entire game just three nights prior at Lumpkin County.

The scoring pace slowed in the second quarter with a trey by senior Taylor Cornett, a deuce by Henson, and two free throws by sophomore Maci Walls being highlights as the Lady Indians held a 32-9 lead at intermission.

The Lady Indians led 42-21 after three quarters on the way to the 49-28 victory with last half highlights being seven points in the third quarter by Henson on a trey, a deuce, and two free throws; two treys by Cornett, a deuce by senior Kristen Byers, and two free throws by sophomore Ivie Davenport.

Nine different Lady Indians entered the scoring column with Henson taking scoring honors for the game with five treys among her 23 points while three treys accounted for 9 points by Cornett, and Floyd contributed 6 points before having to leave the game in the second quarter due to a non contact hip injury of hopefully short duration.

Leaders in assists were Byers and sophomore Jayce Young with 3 each and Cornett and Henson with 2 each while leaders in rebounds were Floyd and Henson with 6 each, Cornett with 4, and Shook and Young with 3 each. In addition to the loss of much playing time for Floyd due to the in game

injury, senior Kenzlee Denton missed the entire game due to an ankle injury. Sophomore Annalisa Heiss took scoring honors for Athens Christian with 10 points.

Indians 70, Athens Christian 63 - There were highlights galore for the Indians throughout their game at Athens Christian as evidenced by there being six ties and eight lead changes during the first three quarters and into the first minute of the fourth when the Indians took a lead they would not relinquish.

Three different Indians contributed six points in first quarter action with senior Trent Bradshaw pulling the trick on a pair of treys and seniors Brett Denton and Will Travis on three deuces each while freshman Collin Crowder added four points on a pair of deuces.

Each of these Indians forced at least one tie or lead for their team during the quarter.

These contributions represent just part of the TCHS heroics during the quarter, however, as sophomore Kolby Moss contributed six assists, including closing out the quarter by taking a defensive rebound and making a long pass to sophomore Aidan Berrong who beat the buzzer with a layup in giving the Indians an 8-0 finish and reversing a 20-16 deficit to a 24-20 advantage.

The Eagles had highlights in the quarter as well with the most prominent being four treys for twelve of their twenty points.

The Indians held leads of between two and five points,

including by a 30-25 score at the 5:44 mark before a trey and two deuces between the 4:27 and 2:11 marks gave the Eagles a 32-30 lead.

The Indians answered quickly, however, on a pull up jumper by Moss for a tie, a steal near mid court and layup by Crowder for a 34-32 lead, and a basket by Berrong for a 36-32 lead at the 1:20 mark.

A trey from some twenty five feet by the Eagles at forty six seconds not only got the Eagles within 36-35 at intermission but they struck for three more treys, giving them nine in barely more than half a game, by just the 6:38 mark of the third quarter for their biggest lead of 44-36.

Moss sank a trey just thirteen seconds later for a 44-39 score with the Indians calling a time out to revise defensive strategy.

As part of the strategy change, the 6'5" Travis was assigned defensive duty on the Eagles' taller Jarrett Boyd, a smooth lefthander who had included four treys among twenty points from all over the court to that stage of the game.

Boyd scored just two points the remainder of the game but the two teams continued a fierce battle through the end of the third quarter.



Kristen Byers guards an inbounds pass during the Lady Indians trip to Lumpkin County last week. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

trey at 1:56 for a 51-50 Indians lead but the Eagles sank a deuce and their tenth trey of the game by the ten seconds mark for a 55-51 lead.

Berrong then beat the buzzer for the second time in the game when he snagged a rebound and made an acrobatic field goal for just a 55-53 Towns deficit entering the fourth quarter.

Moss struck for the first eight points of the fourth quarter on two free throws and three deuces for a 61-55 Indians lead at the 4:53 mark and Travis more than matched an Eagle free throw with a deuce for a 63-56 Towns lead at 3:31.

The Eagles were not quite through, however, as they sank two free throws and a deuce prior to two free throws by Moss at 1:37 and followed with their eleventh trey of the game for just a 65-62 deficit at the 1:25 mark. But Moss would protect and add to the Towns lead with five for eight free throw shooting compared to a single free throw by the Eagles during the final 1:09 of the game for the 70-63 Indians victory.

The Indians featured a balanced scoring attack for the game with Moss including fifteen points in the fourth quarter among his game high 22 while Travis contributed 19 points, Berrong 9, Bradshaw 8, and Crowder and Denton 6 each.

Moss just missed a triple double while also leading in assists and rebounds with 9 of each. Berrong took second honors in assists with 6 with other leaders in rebounds being

Travis with 7, Denton with 4, and Berrong and Crowder with 3 each. Freshman Kyle Cowan led Athens Christian with 23 points and was followed closely by Boyd, a junior, with 22.

The Eagles used the previously mentioned eleven treys by four different players to great advantage compared to five by the Indians but the Indians held a whopping 22-9 advantage in deuces with free throw shooting a near standoff with Athens sinking 12 of 19 and the Indians 11 of 20.

The Eagles have a new head coach in the person of Carlos Strong, a former University of Georgia basketball star and long time professional player primarily in Argentina and the Philippines.

This week, Towns County will visit Tallulah Falls on Tuesday with the JV boys at 4:30 p.m. and the varsity girls tipping off at 6 p.m.

The Rabun County Wildcats will visit Towns County on Friday with both JV teams in action, starting at 4 p.m. The varsity games will get underway at 7 p.m.

The week comes to a close when Towns County hosts Union County in a rematch from Nov. 20. Both JV teams are in action and get underway at 3 p.m. with varsity starting at 6 p.m.

Editors Note - The recap of Towns County at Lumpkin County will be included in next week's Towns County Herald.

Lumpkin won both games, 42-20 (girls) and 55-36 (boys).