

# Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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## Cox and Rogers highlight Indians' 12th place finish at King of the Mountain

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Harold Cox took home third and Blaine Rogers placed fourth at the Towns County's King of the Mountain wrestling tournament on Dec. 1-2.

Cox, competing at 220 pounds, won his opening round match over East Hall's Jeff Linares then defeated Chestatee's Jesus Aguilera in round two.

He ran into trouble in the semifinals when he fell to Jasper's Dalton Brunner. Cox would rebound in the consolation bracket with a win over Certlen Stewart of Harris County to set up a match with Washington Wilkes' Bailey Brock for third place.

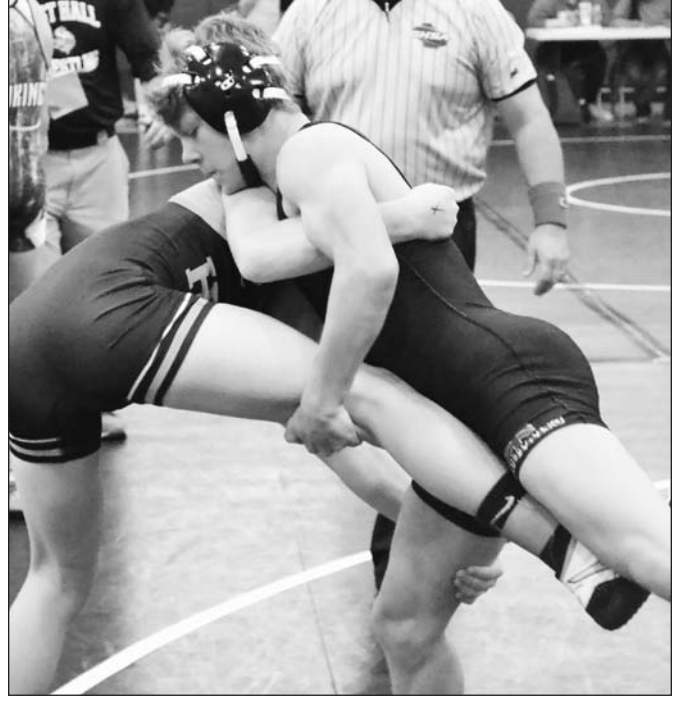
Cox would take the victory by fall to claim the Indians' top performance of the tournament.

Rogers, meanwhile, took a similar path in the 160-pound division as he was victorious through two rounds, recording wins over West Hall's Jorge Valle and East Hall's Dylan Lee.

Mt. Pisgah's Conner Spence would defeat Rogers by decision in the semifinals, sending him to the consolation bracket where he took down Fannin's David Davenport.

In the third place match, Rogers fell by decision to Dacula's Anderson Bailey to finish fourth.

Other Towns County competitors were Xavier Hogsted, who



won a match at 106 pounds. Garrett Oakes went 3-2 at 113 pounds, coming up one round short of the third place match. Tyler Swanger also finished 3-2 at 170 pounds falling one match short of placing. Kaine Hoffman won two matches at 126 pounds; Corbin Henderson saw action at 132 pounds and Nick Bradley at 138. Hayden Walters won once at 145 pounds; Austin Edrington competed at 152 pounds, Wesley Calhoun at 182 pounds, and Seth Grizzle at 285 pounds.

With 71 points, the Indians placed 12th overall out of 26 teams behind 11th place Banks County (81 points) and ninth place Chestatee and Mt. Pisgah (95 points).

Towns County edged 13th place Hayesville, NC (68 points) and 14th place Stephens County (61 points). Rabun Gap was 16th Union County 18th, Andrews, NC 24th, and Murphy, NC 26th.

If any TCHS wrestlers from KOM were overlooked, please email their name and weight and we will include them next week.



King of the Mountain wrestling photos by Lowell Nicholson

## Indians win thriller over Tallulah; games vs Lakeview, SE Whitfield postponed

By Jerry Kendall  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

A long week of game activity by the Towns County Indians varsity basketball team wound up being limited to just one game last week when they came away with a heart stopping home court, last second victory over Region 8A foe Tallulah Falls on Tuesday but saw scheduled home games against Lakeview Academy on Friday and Southeast Whitfield County on Saturday postponed by snow.

The Indians improved their overall record to 4-2 with the victory and to 2-0 in region play. Tallulah fell to 4-5 with the loss to the Indians but they had won three straight games prior to this game with one early loss having been in overtime and two by just three and five points. Tallulah's region record fell to 1-1 after a win over George Walton Academy prior to the loss to the Indians.

**Indians 75, Tallulah Falls 73** - WOW. What a game and especially what a finish! Your reporter has followed the Lady Indians and Indians quite closely since the 1959 season and there have been a number of last second Indian wins, including by one or two points when a missed deuce or trey attempt would have ended in a TCHS loss. But it seems a certainty that no game in those nearly sixty years and probably at no earlier time came to an end in such a unique manner as this win by the Indians over Tallulah Falls as will be described.

The Indians got a 2-0 lead less than a minute and a half into the game on a pull up jump shot by senior Zach Davenport but found



Towns County players and coaches celebrate the last-second victory over Tallulah Falls on Tuesday night. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

themselves playing catch up for the remainder of the first half and for more than three minutes into the third quarter with the game becoming a real shoot out the remainder of the way.

Tallulah would lead by scores such as 7-2, 16-7, and 21-12 by the 1:03 mark of the first quarter but field goals by Davenport at twenty six seconds and junior Trent Bradshaw at the buzzer got the Indians within 21-16 at quarter's end. Bradshaw and Davenport scored six points each in leading the scoring in first quarter action with Bradshaw including a trey in his production.

The two teams played on nearly even terms in the second quarter with treys by senior Bradley Benson at the 5:57 and 5:15

marks getting them their first six points of the quarter and freshman Kolby Moss scoring seven of their last nine points, including on a trey and then on a jumper as time expired for a 38-31 Tallulah lead at intermission.

The Indians struck for nine straight points and a 40-38 lead by the 4:52 mark of the third quarter on two deuces at the start by senior Logan Cowart and a deuce and trey by Davenport with the trey getting them their first lead since the 5:42 mark of the first quarter. Cowart then got the Indians a 42-40 lead on a deuce at 4:19 and treys by Bradshaw at 3:48 and 2:33 got them ahead 45-43 and then a tie at 48-48 but it required a last second eighteen footer by Davenport at the buzzer to get the

Indians within 51-50 entering the fourth quarter.

A field goal by junior Will Travis got the Indians a 52-51 lead at the 6:34 mark of the fourth quarter that they would hold by mostly razor thin margins for the remainder of the game with the exception of four ties but with none lasting more than thirteen seconds. A deuce by Travis, a trey by Bradshaw, and a deuce by Cowart broke the first three ties and the Indians extended the lead provided by Cowart at 3:11 on deuces by Bradshaw at 2:15 and Travis at 1:18 for a 70-64 Towns lead.

Tallulah got back in the game with two free throws at 54.9 seconds and a field goal following a steal at forty nine seconds for just a 70-68 Indian lead. Travis' fifth

field goal of the quarter, giving him eleven points in the quarter with his completing an old fashioned three point play on one basket, got the Indians a 72-68 lead but Tallulah matched it ten seconds later for just a 72-70 Towns lead.

Bradshaw sank a free throw at 14.8 seconds for a 73-70 Indians lead but the tenth trey of the game by Tallulah as time was running out resulted in a sudden 73-73 tie with a quick time out call by Indians head coach Rob Benson giving the Indians possession of the ball with 1.9 seconds on the clock. With the Indians in a situation of having to get the ball the length of the court and in the basket in such a short time, Indians football quarterback Bradshaw was given the duty of making a long pass

down court with a caution to not overthrow his teammates with the ball going out of bounds as this would result in Tallulah getting the ball back under their basket with an opportunity for the win.

Bradshaw launched a pass the length of the court which Davenport did not catch but made a tip pass from the right baseline to Cowart who laid the ball in the basket from the left side of the lane as time expired and the Indians had a thrilling 75-73 victory. It is indisputable that the Indians tied a record in this game with Cowart's game ending basket as the Indians wound up hitting the final basket of each of the four quarters after Bradshaw, Moss, and Davenport pulled the trick at the end of the first three quarters. There certainly are no official records compiled for one team ending each quarter in a game with a field goal at whatever level might be considered but this is no doubt a quite rare occurrence if for no other reason than the rarity of any teams getting off a last shot in all four quarters but with little likelihood of sinking all four.

Bradshaw led a balanced scoring attack for the Indians with 20 points and was followed by Cowart with 16, Davenport with 15, Travis with 11, Moss with 7, and Benson with 6. Seven different Indians combined for twenty assists in the game with leaders being Davenport with 10 and seniors Evan Berrong and Cole Ledford with 3 each.

Eight different Indians entered the rebounding column with leaders being Cowart and Moss with 5 each and Bradshaw with 4. Tallulah was led in scoring by senior Tahj Moss with 32 points and sophomores Hayden Johnson with 20 and Matthew Weidner with 12.

## Lady Indians surge past Tallulah Falls; two games postponed due to snow

By Jerry Kendall  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

A scheduled busy week for the Towns County Lady Indians varsity basketball team for last week wound up being shortened to just one game, a Tuesday night home court contest against Region 8A opponent Tallulah Falls. The Friday night home game scheduled against Lakeview Academy of Gainesville and the Saturday night home game against Southeast Whitfield County of Dalton were postponed by snow.

**Lady Indians 66, Tallulah Falls 37** - The Lady Indians had their hands full during most of the first half before their trademark defense began to take it's toll on the visiting Tallulah Falls Lady Indians as the ladies from Towns would come charging from behind and take a decisive 66-37 victory. With the victory, the Class A Lady Indians improved their overall record to 2-5 but with a perfect 2-0 mark against Class A private school opponents in Region 8A and the five losses being to much larger classification schools with four of those losses being very competitive as reported in prior articles. Tallulah's overall record fell to 3-7 and their region record to 0-2 with the loss but with the region loss being by just a 34-33 score to George Walton Academy.

The Lady Indians took a



The Towns County Lady Indians picked up their second region victory vs Tallulah Falls on Tuesday. Photos by Lowell Nicholson

3-1 lead on a trey by senior Madison McClure at the 6:41 mark of the first quarter but they would have to play catch up for most of the remainder of the first half. Tallulah would take a 5-3 lead and follow a game tying basket by freshman Vanessa Floyd at 5:13 for a 5-5 score for leads such as 9-5, 13-8, and 18-11 during first quarter play with treys by freshman Kennedy Henson and sophomore Sophia Shook and a late deuce by Henson keeping

the Lady Indians within 18-13 at quarter's end.

The scoring pace slowed for both teams for nearly six minutes at the start of the second quarter with McClure's second trey included in a 4-4 standoff by the two teams until the 2:04 mark when the Lady Indians got their offense cranked up big time. Henson's second trey, a McClure deuce, and two free throws by Henson in less than a minute of playing time got the Lady Indians



a 24-22 lead at 1:16 before Tallulah sank two free throws at 8.8 seconds for a 24-24 standoff at intermission.

The Lady Indians of Tallulah scored the first basket of the third quarter for a 26-24 lead but that would be their last points for nearly seven minutes of playing time while the Lady Indians of Towns struck for a 21-0 run and a 45-26 lead at the minute and a half mark. Floyd struck for three deuces and six points in just thirty

three seconds between the 6:47 and 6:14 marks of that third quarter and added three more deuces before quarter's end for twelve points with other highlights of the quarter being two deuces for four points and four assists by junior Kristen Byers and a trey and two assists by junior Taylor Cornett.

Tallulah sank a trey at the twenty two seconds mark of the third quarter for a 45-29 Towns lead entering the fourth quarter

and wrapped two deuces around a trey by Lady Indians junior Erika Spano by the 5:53 mark of the fourth quarter for a 48-33 TCHS lead but the Lady Indians finished the game on an 18-4 run for a final margin of victory of 66-37.

McClure included her third trey among six points and Shook two deuces for four points in the fourth quarter with Lady Indians JV freshmen putting an exclamation point on the victory with six points in the final 1:19 of the game on deuces by Maci Walls and Shelby Morris and two free throws by Remington Parker with Jayce Young contributing assists on the two field goals.

Ten different Lady Indians put points on the scoreboard for the game with leading scorers being McClure with 16 points, Floyd with 14, Henson with 13, and Shook with 7 while eight different Lady Indians combined for twenty assists with leaders being Cornett and Byers with 4 each, Henson and McClure with 3 each, and Shook and Young with 2 each. Ten different Lady Indians also entered the rebounding column with Floyd leading with 6 and followed by Byers, Cornett, Henson, and McClure with 3 each. Junior Nyah Williams led Tallulah with 22 points but with diminishing production as the game progressed as she struck for thirteen points in the first quarter but just four in the second, three in the third, and two in the fourth.