

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Towns County rebounds from Union losses with wins at Lincoln Co.

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Towns County suffered a pair of home loss on Friday night to Union County, but bounced back 24 hours later with two region wins at Lincoln County.

The Lady Indians team had its share of ups and downs last weekend as they officially moved into the Region 8-A season. On Friday night, Dec. 8, they lost a non-region home game against Union County. The following day, they traveled to Lincoln County to battle their first region opponent and came out on top by a score of 64-26.

After a tough loss at Union County on Nov. 28, the team was eager for Friday night's rematch; however, they couldn't build up much momentum on the court.

Despite notable scoring contributions from Breelan Sieveking, Kaleigh Beaver, Scotlyn Fain and Laura Mauldin, the team still couldn't pick up the pace, resulting in a loss of 68-36.

"We never really got going and (we) played from behind the entire game," commented coach Shea Taylor. "Our defense was not rotating well and we were careless with the ball on offense."

Sieveking finished with 14 points, Beaver had 11 and Fain added 8 points. Mauldin scored 2 points and Ansleigh Hardin chipped in a free throw.

After the loss, Taylor knew that the team needed to make a big response the following night – and luckily, they did not disappoint him.

"(Saturday) night at Lincoln County, we played much



Senior Tanner Cunningham battles for position in the paint vs. Union County. Photo/Todd Forrest

better across the board. We won 64-26 starting our region schedule on a good note," he shared. "I am very proud of this team for the bounce back from [Friday night's] performance."

Throughout the game, the girls' outstanding defensive performance caused many turnovers and opened numerous opportunities to score. And while this accomplishment was greatly a team effort, Taylor credited several players for leading the scoring.

With 13 total points, Fain led the team towards their win. Sieveking also contributed an impressive 11 points alongside Mauldin's 10-point, 12-rebound double-double. Beaver and Ansleigh Hardin each scored

9 points.

Next week, the Lady Indians will hit the road for a contest at Commerce on Tuesday, Dec. 12. Then on Friday, Dec. 15, they will travel to Aquinas High School (Augusta) for their second region match of the season.

Last week, the Towns County boys' basketball team welcomed Union County to Hiawassee for a rematch on Friday, Dec. 8, which resulted in an 87-51 Union County victory. On Saturday, Dec. 9, the Indians traveled to Lincoln County to oppose last year's region No. 3 seed and picked up a 55-44 victory.

The game against Union County began with a close first



Scotlyn Fain scored a team-high 13 points in Towns County's Saturday win at Lincoln County. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

quarter. The Panthers held 20-13 edge, but during the second quarter, they outscored the Indians 32-9, capped by a 15-0 run entering halftime.

Although they showed improvement and played even with Union County throughout the third quarter, the Indians were unable to overcome the huge deficit. Despite outstanding efforts from players such as Zane Floyd, who scored 16 points and grabbed four rebounds; Tanner Cunningham, who scored 10 points and collected 6 rebounds and Connor Chastain, who scored 6 points to go with 4 rebounds, the night ended in an 87-51 final.

Despite the loss, Towns shot 50% (22-44) from the

field and out-rebounded Union 29-23.

"It is a big credit to Union players and coaching staff for how well of a game they played," commented coach Brian Hunnicut. "They spread the ball well and shot unbelievably well, on top of playing great defense."

"On our end, the loss rests on my shoulders. I did not do enough to have my team prepared for that game, and that falls on me solely. However, we have a great group of kids, and I do not believe that the loss will define us; rather, I believe that the way we respond to that loss will be what defines this team. They are a gritty, determined bunch."

And just as Hunnicut expected, the guys bounced back the following day.

Early in the first quarter, the Indians grabbed the lead – something they would not relinquish throughout the rest of the game, despite a closely contested matchup. By the end of the quarter, they were ahead by 5 points, which they converted into a lead of 33-27 by halftime.

Towns County withstood heavy pressure from Lincoln County throughout the second half, but still managed to grow the lead to 48-37 by the end of the third quarter.

The fourth quarter saw little scoring action from either team, but thanks to a huge steal by Kade McConnell, Towns County secured a 55-44 victory.

Other prominent players included Floyd, who led the team in scoring with 17 points, 12 rebounds and 8 assists; Chastain, who pitched in 10 points and 5 rebounds; Walker Underwood had 9 points on three 3-pointers and Gage Rogers who did a phenomenal job holding Lincoln County's first-team all region point guard under control.

"This was such a huge game for us. I'm so proud of the boys and the toughness that they showed to bounce back from Friday night and travel three hours to play a tough road game in a hostile environment and come out with a victory," said Hunnicut. "It is a credit to what they are made of. They are a great group. [My assistants and I] love coaching them and look forward to the rest of the season."

The Indians will play next on Friday, Dec. 15 vs. Aquinas.

Deal takes home gold at annual King of the Mountain tournament

Indians defeat Andrews, NC, battle injuries at Habersham Central

By Daysha Pandolph
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On Saturday, Dec. 2, nine schools from multiple states gathered at Towns County for the annual High School King edition of the King of the Mountain tournament.

The Georgia schools included Rabun Gap, Rabun County, Stephens County and, of course, Towns County. Seneca and Walhalla traveled from South Carolina, and from North Carolina, Cherokee County, Murphy and Hayesville participated.

These teams were carefully chosen for the tournament based off of their show of strength and skill throughout the past few weeks of wrestling season.

"We invited certain teams for certain reasons," said coach Clay Livingston, "so all the kids were very competitive but very classy as well. It went off very smoothly."

The competition began at 9 a.m., but thanks to the orderly leadership of Nathan Wade and Towns County Middle School coach Jeff Stowers, all of the schools had finished their matches by 3 p.m..

"(They) did a fantastic job," commented Livingston. "The biggest thing about those tournaments is that coaches don't want a lot of delays. They want the kids to get their mat time without having to sit around in-between rounds. So he did a good job of that."

"I was glad to keep (the competition) going because it has been a very successful tournament for years and an important fundraiser for the



Towns County High School King of the Mountain wrestling tournament photos by Lowell Nicholson

program." By the end of the tournament, Towns County had earned one first-place finish by Mason Deal at 138 lbs. Several other Towns County wrestlers also placed.

Mason Brighton finished in third place at 157 lbs and Gabe Calhoun finished in fourth at 175. Jack Stowers also medaled at 165 lbs, River

Chauncey at 113 and Stone Chauncey at 215.

The next Tuesday, the team traveled to Andrews, North Carolina to wrestle both Andrews and Hayesville. They were able to pick up a dual win vs. Andrews, however, couldn't match Hayesville.

Deal, Nick Vargas and Stone Chauncey all went 2-0 that night, with River

Chauncey, Brighton, Jack Stowers and Calhoun each winning once.

On Saturday, Dec. 10, the wrestlers attended the Raider Invitational at Habersham Central High School, and despite some unexpected circumstances, they pushed through.

Unfortunately, Deal injured his ribs during a tough



semi-final win, which defaulted him to second place. And along with Deal's commitment to the fight, Jack Stowers showed off his dedication by going 3-2 while wrestling through an upset stomach.

Vargas, River Chauncey and Stone Chauncey also won matches during the Invitational.

"We are getting better

every week, but have to run into the inevitable sickness and injuries that come with wrestling season," said Coach Livingston. "We have another 10 days or so filled with matches and tournaments and then we will take a much-deserved break around Christmas to hopefully get the guys ready for the final push."