

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Indians, Lady Indians Basketball continue to improve over season

By Jeremy Foster
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This past week's road action in Towns County Indians Basketball saw the boys and girls going up against Tallulah Falls High School on Tuesday, Dec. 7, and Union County High School on Friday, Dec. 10.

Tuesday's games seemed to stay at a somewhat even back-and-forth pace throughout.

The competition was not a total blowout for the Lady Indians, who are still improving their game every step of the way. Many notable moments came from key players who were able to resist much of the dominance from Tallulah Falls.

Junior Tabitha Barnes gained 15 points, 3 rebounds and 4 steals for the team. Freshman Kaleigh Beaver earned 7 points and 3 rebounds, while junior Morgan Pierson shot 4 points with 2 rebounds and 2 assists.

The valiant effort still resulted in the scoreboard reading 67-30 in the final of the game with Tallulah Falls taking home the victory.

"They had a very big and athletic team," Girls Head Coach Shea Taylor said. "We are still improving but have a lot of things we need to fix. One main focus is limiting turnovers."

The Indians played next, and it was more of a close call throughout, though Tallulah Falls did manage victory in ending the game at 55-40.

"We played a very good team, but we just did not play our best game," Boys Head Coach Brian Hunnicutt said. "We played hard, and the boys gave great effort, but we did not shoot the ball particularly well and gave up too many easy buckets."

"We got close by the first half but could not hit enough shots to maintain throughout the rest of the game. Collin Crowder has been an unbelievable scoring option for us, and Tallulah was able to limit him a little bit."

"The tenacity is there with these boys, so going forward, we just need to get more experience."

Friday night's games ran with the same competitive energy, as the Lady Indians took on the Lady Panthers for the first game of the evening at Union County High, with the result being a 52-35 Panther victory to give the Towns County girls a 1-5 season record at the end of the game.

Towns County scorers for the game were senior Emily Vargas, junior Sarah Shook, sophomore Halie Arrowood, junior Tabitha Barnes, sophomore



Tied at 38, Collin Crowder knocks down a go-ahead 3-pointer with 3:16 to play, putting Towns on top for good. Photo/Todd Forrest

Laura Mauldin, junior Morgan Pierson and freshman Kaleigh Beaver.

"Improvements have been coming and our offense was better tonight than at some points in the past," Coach Taylor said. "We still turned the ball over too many times, but we also broke the press really well."

"We are getting better, and the girls are playing very hard with a great defense as well. We are trying to improve all aspects of the game, from shooting, rebounding, offensive and defensive play, and we are going to continue to do that all the way through the season so we will be ready to compete in our conference at region play."

Barnes scored a team-high 11 points at Union with five rebounds. Shook finished with 8 points and a game-high six assists.

Arrowood had 6 points, four rebounds and a team-high three steals. Mauldin added 5 points and seven boards while Beaver and Vargas chipped in two points apiece.

Beaver also pulled down five rebounds while Vargas had two boards and a steal.

In the subsequent boys' game Friday night, Indian senior Kyle Oakes scored the first 2 points at the beginning for Towns, and senior Cabe Poston earned a free throw shortly thereafter, with sophomore Tanner Cunningham netting 2 after a rebound.

Following more action, senior Collin Crowder put 2 points and 2 free throws up on the board to end the first period with a 15-7 lead for the Indians.

The rest of the game fea-



Sophomore Halie Arrowood attempts a jump shot in the paint at Tallulah Falls. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

tured scores from sophomores Connor Chastain and Zane Floyd among the others already mentioned, and it remained a true nail-biter throughout, with Towns ultimately holding off the pressure with some very sly trickery play to win 49-41 for a 4-2 season record.

"We beat Union at Union County, and that is a big deal," Coach Hunnicutt said. "They have a great coach and are a great team. It is a fun rivalry, and we like beating them and were able to come out on top this time."

"I am very happy with our kids and the composure that



Senior Emily Vargas applies defensive pressure during the Lady Indians' Tuesday night road trip to Tallulah Falls. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



Senior Kyle Oakes soars to the basket during the first half at Union County. Photo/Todd Forrest

high six assists to go with 10 points and four boards. Cunningham scored 7 points to go with a game-high 10 rebounds.

Floyd had 4 points, three rebounds and three assists. Chastain scored 2 points with five boards. Senior Cabe Poston scored 1 point in 12 minutes.

Next up, the Indians will face Union County again, but

this time at home for games beginning at 7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 17. Then on Saturday, Dec. 18, the Indians will travel to Social Circle for games that start at 5 p.m.

For complete scheduling and other information, visit www.townscountyathletics.com.



The Towns-Union rivalry led to a packed house in Blairsville on Friday night. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



Towns County sophomore starter Emma Lallement (11) is introduced during Friday night's pregame introductions at Union County. Photo/Todd Forrest