

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Late scoring runs decisive in Indians' win, Lady Indians' loss at Commerce

By Jerry Kendall
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Commerce - The Towns County Lady Indians and Indians varsity basketball teams traveled to Commerce last Saturday night for the opening games of their 2019-20 Region 8-A schedule with the Lady Indians falling by a 39-34 score on a late scoring spurt by the Lady Tigers while the Indians used late scoring dominance in taking a 70-56 victory.

The TCHS teams were playing in just their second game in 19 days but with a more steady number of games upcoming and perhaps providing an opportunity for developing some game to game momentum, beginning with games at Andrews, NC on Thursday and home games against Hiwassee Dam, NC on Friday of this week.

The Towns teams will then host the 26th Annual Battle of the States Tournament next week from Thursday, Dec. 26 through Saturday, Dec. 28.

The home standing Lady Tigers entered the game against the Lady Indians with an impressive 5-1 record but trailed for most of the game before rising to the occasion on their home court and including two of just three treys they made in the game during a 14-4 finish the final 6:26 of the game in overcoming a 30-25 Lady Indians lead in taking the victory.

The Indians also led for most of their game, trailing as it turned out by a single point on just three occasions for no more than a minute and two seconds of playing time each time but breaking open a close game by not only excellent play themselves but benefiting greatly by some lack of self control by the Tigers.

The Tigers were charged with five technical fouls during the final 10:22 of the game, including two and an automatic ejection for the



L-R: The Lady Indians swarm a Commerce ball handler; Aidan Berrong launches a 3-pointer from the corner. Photos/Chad Stack

Tigers coach after entering the game with a 4-2 record with one of the losses being by just a 58-53 score the night prior on the home court of Region 8-A foe Providence Christian of Lilburn who improved to an 11-0 record with that victory.

Indians 70, Commerce 56 - It required just 10 seconds for the Indians to claim a 3-0 lead on a trey by junior Aidan Berrong at the 7:50 mark of the first quarter and they would lead 7-2 on back to back baskets by sophomore Collin Crowder and 13-7 on back to back deuces by junior Kolby Moss by the 4:58 mark.

They would then manage just two deuces by junior Reace Hampton at the 4:26 and 1:26 marks, however, with the Tigers holding a 16-15 lead by quarter's end.

Four Indians would sink points at the start of the second quarter with a putback basket by senior Jacob Kinsey getting them a 17-16 lead they would extend to 24-16 on a trey by Berrong and deuces by Crowder and Moss by the

6:22 mark. They would maintain leads of between three and seven points the remainder of the quarter, including by a 32-29 score at intermission with Moss leading the way with eight points during the quarter.

The widest difference in the score in the third quarter was a 40-35 Indians lead on a trey by Moss at the 3:50 mark but the Tigers used a 7-1 run for a 42-41 lead at the 50-second mark.

The first significant results of technical fouls arose at the 29.3 second mark, however.

The second technical on the Tigers coach was followed quickly by a technical on one of his players with Moss sinking three of four free throw attempts and with the Indians also gaining possession of the ball due to the technicals, Berrong sank a trey as time expired for what might be considered a six points play with the Indians suddenly ahead 47-42 entering the fourth quarter.



L-R: The Lady Indians swarm a Commerce ball handler; Aidan Berrong launches a 3-pointer from the corner. Photos/Chad Stack

The Tigers opened the fourth quarter with a deuce and then deuces by Hampton and Moss were more than matched by treys by the Tigers for just a 51-50 Towns lead at the 5:33 mark.

A pair of putback baskets by Hampton got the Indians a 55-50 lead by the 4:25 mark but a pair of Tiger free throws had them within 55-52 at the 4:00 mark.

A second situation of self destruction was on the horizon, however, as a personal foul on the Tigers at 2:59 was followed by a technical on the same player, resulting in four free throw attempts for the Indians.

With the Indians again gaining possession of the ball as a result of the technical foul, another personal foul followed at 2:45 and a final technical on a player on the Tigers bench occurred at 2:20 resulting in Moss sinking seven of eight free throw attempts for another suddenly increased Towns lead to a 62-52 score.

Hampton and Moss

added four points each during the remaining 1:42 of the game as the Indians closed out a 70-56 victory. Moss totaled thirteen points and Hampton ten during the final quarter for the Indians.

Scoring leaders for the Indians for the game were Moss with 36 points, Hampton with 14, and Berrong and Crowder with 9 each while sophomore Kyle Oakes led in assists with 5 and was followed by Crowder and Moss with 4 each and Berrong with 2.

Moss also led in rebounds with 11 and was followed by Hampton with 8; Crowder and Oakes with 6 each; and Berrong, Kinsey, and junior Luis Quijada with 3 each.

Although taking the punishment of charges for foul calls on opponents is not usually reported, it was striking and very commendable in this game to see Kinsey achieve this feat on three occasions by the mid point of the second quarter.

The Tigers were led

in scoring by juniors Creed Dunbar with 15 points and Ian McConnell and Dominic Ricci with 10 each.

Commerce 39, Lady Indians 34 - The first quarter of the Lady Indians game at Commerce featured ice cold shooting by both teams, perhaps as much as anything due to the defensive presence of their opponent, with the exception of a period of less than a minute of playing time.

Between the 3:10 and 2:13 marks, the Lady Indians overcame a 4-0 Commerce lead with two treys by junior Kennedi Henson at the start and end of the run and one by junior Jayce Young in between for a 9-4 Towns lead which became 9-6 at quarter's end.

The Lady Indians appeared to be taking control of the game in the second quarter when they used treys by Henson at the 5:38 and 1:58 marks with senior Sophia Shook this time adding a trey in between for an 18-9 lead which became 20-9 on a medium range deuce by junior Vanessa Floyd at 1:48.

The Lady Tigers reduced the lead to 20-13 at intermission by sinking a pair of deuces the final 1:40 of the quarter and the two teams played on pretty much even terms in the third quarter with Commerce closing the gap by just two points to 28-23 entering the fourth quarter.

Sophia Shook got the Lady Indians a 23-13 lead with an early third quarter trey but the Lady Tigers used a 10-2 run interrupted only by a deuce by Floyd for just a 25-23 Towns lead at 1:14.

Henson's fifth trey in the game got the Lady Indians the five points lead of 28-23 and Floyd matched a Commerce deuce with her third of the game at the 6:44 mark of the fourth quarter for the aforementioned 30-25 Lady Indians lead.

An 8-1 Lady Tigers run ending with a trey at the 1:25 mark got them a 33-31 lead

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2019 26th Annual
CHRISTMAS TOURNAMENT
BATTLE OF THE STATES
DEC 26-27-28, 2019

CONSOlation BRACKET

WINNERS BRACKET

GIRLS
DAY 1
12/26/19
Lumpkin Co., GA

DAY 2
12/27/19

1 10:00 AM

5 10:00 AM

9 10:00 AM

W5 1:00 PM

W6 Bottom Team in Bracket is Home Team and Will Wear White Uniforms

DAY 2
12/27/19

2 1:00 PM

6 1:00 PM

3 4:00 PM

4 7:00 PM

L7

DAY 3
12/28/19

7 4:00 PM

12 7:00 PM
CHAMPION

8 7:00 PM

10 1:00 PM

11 4:00 PM

3rd Place

CONSOlation BRACKET

WINNERS BRACKET

BOYS
DAY 1
12/26/19
Lumpkin Co., GA

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12/27/19

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