

# Towns County Sports

*Towns County's Leader In Sports*

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## Indians get impressive wins over Commerce and Fannin

**By Jerry Kendall**  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer



**Towns County senior Will Travis drives to the basket during the Indians win at Fannin County on Saturday. Travis would finish with a 13-point, 10-board double-double. Photo/Lowell Nicholson**

The Towns County Indians Varsity Basketball Team was in action twice last week and came away with two victories involving contrasting styles of play. In a high scoring event they took a home court 86-70 win over Region 8A foe Commerce on Friday and then traveled to Class AAA Fannin County in Blue Ridge on Saturday where they came away with a 52-40 win in a much slower paced defensive battle.

In spite of both Commerce and Fannin having just one victory in the young season, both proved to be very capable opponents for the Indians with, for example, Commerce sinking eight treys in their game and Fannin pretty much matching the Indians on a point by point basis until the mid point of the third quarter.

**Indians 86, Commerce 70** – The Indians got off to a rousing start against Commerce on a trey by senior Trent Bradshaw and a coast to coast run by freshman Collin Crowder for a 5-0 lead just thirty four seconds into the game. They would then hold leads of 11-2 and 19-5 by the 2:55 mark before the Tigers closed the gap to 23-14 at quarter's end.

The first quarter Indians charge was led in scoring by Crowder with eight points, sophomore Aidan Berrong with six, Bradshaw with five and senior Will Travis with four with Berrong providing three assists.

The second quarter was played on a nearly even basis with the Indians leading 44-34 at intermission. Crowder included a trey and four for four free throw shooting for nine points for a total of seventeen points at the half with Travis right behind for the quarter with seven points on a pair of deuces and three for four free throw shooting.

The Indians then put some distance between themselves and the Tigers in the third quarter for a

60-43 lead with sophomore Kolby Moss leading the way with eight points and Berrong with four. The Indians got their biggest lead of the game at 80-58 at the 3:21 mark before the Tigers included their seventh and eighth treys in a 12-6 finish for a final Indians margin of 86-70.

Berrong scored ten points on three deuces and four for four free throw shooting and was followed by Bradshaw with five points and Moss and Travis with four each in the fourth quarter.

Berrong and Crowder led the Indians in scoring with 22 points each, remarkable totals for a sophomore and freshman in just the seventh game of the season with Berrong having appeared only briefly with the varsity last year and Crowder just appearing in his seventh varsity game. They got plenty of help, with all five starters hitting double figures, from Travis with 17 points, Moss

with 15, and Bradshaw with 10. Moss led the way in assists with 9 and was followed by Berrong with 6 and Bradshaw with 2.

Leading in rebounds were Bradshaw with 9, Travis with 8, Crowder with 6, Moss with 5, and Berrong with 4. It is especially noteworthy that the Indians sank 22 of 27 free throw attempts during the game compared with just 10 for 20 by the Tigers. The Tigers were led in scoring by sophomore Creed Dunbar with 18 points, senior Jalen Dorsey with 17, and sophomore Tyeon Brock with 10.

Although Commerce is a Region 8-A opponent of the Indians, the win will not count in the region standings for seeding in the region tournament but rather a later season game at Commerce since just one game against each region opponent counts this year.

**Indians 52, Fannin County 40** – Displeasure with

the officiating in the hard fought earlier game between the Lady Indians and Fannin County described in the Lady Indians article brought about some anxiety for not only the Indians followers but likely Fannin as well. But the officiating was considered by your reporter, at least, to be pretty good in a game with teams employing more traditional style defense than the full court pressure defense employed by both girls teams.

There were just two ties at 5-5 and 18-18 but a quite remarkable fourteen lead changes the first half between the Indians and Rebels with the Indians sinking four treys and the Rebels three. Further, there was just one lead of four points at 14-10 by the Indians on the second of two straight treys by sophomore Kolby Moss at the 2:57 mark of the first quarter and just one lead of three points at 22-19 by the Rebels at the 4:25 mark of the second quarter with Fannin

leading 26-25 at halftime.

Moss led the Indians with fourteen first half points with ten in the first quarter and four in the second with seniors Will Travis and Trent Bradshaw following by including a trey each in six and four points respectively and sophomore Aidan Berrong providing three first quarter assists.

The Rebels wrapped deuces around a three point play by Moss for a 30-28 lead at the 4:55 mark of the third quarter.

But here came the Indians with a Travis deuce at the 4:22 mark forcing a 30-30 tie and initiating a 13-1 run for a 41-31 Towns lead at the 16.3 seconds mark. Berrong and freshman Collin Crowder followed Travis' basket with coast to coast runs resulting in Berrong sinking one of two free throws and Crowder two of two.

A drive for two points by Berrong and a three point play

run by Travis, a second coast to coast run by Berrong for a free throw and two charity tosses by Moss completed the run with the Rebels sinking a deuce at five seconds for a 41-33 Towns lead after three quarters.

The Rebels edged to within 41-35 and then 43-37 at the 6:10 mark of the fourth quarter by wrapping two deuces around one by Travis but a trey by Bradshaw at 4:34 and six for nine free throw shooting by the Indians more than matched a Fannin trey for a final Indians margin of victory of 52-40.

Scoring leaders for the game for the Indians were Moss with 23 points, Travis with 13, Bradshaw with 9, and Berrong with 5. Leading in assists were Berrong with 5 and Crowder with 3 with leaders in rebounds being Travis with 10, Crowder with 6, Bradshaw and Moss with 5 each, and Berrong with 3. The Rebels were led in scoring by senior Chandler Kendall with 11 points and sophomore Cohutta Hyde with 8.

And as reported last year, Chandler Kendall is a bit distant relative of your reporter and all the Kendalls in Towns County plus all the descendants. This includes Lady Indian Vanessa Floyd who led the Lady Indians in scoring with 15 points in the preceding Lady Indians versus Fannin County game.

Chandler Kendall just got back into basketball action recently after sustaining a collarbone injury in football and he is a top notch baseball player being recruited by our local Young Harris College Mountain Lions.

The Indians completed the week with a 4-4 record with a home game against Union County on Monday and a road trip to Hiwassee Dam, North Carolina, on Thursday scheduled for this week.

They will then host the twenty fifth annual Battle of the States Tournament on Thursday, December 27, through Saturday, December 29 next week.

## Lady Indians win vs Commerce, fall in foul infested game at Fannin

**By Jerry Kendall**  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer



**Towns County Head Coach Brian Hunnicutt huddles his Lady Indians at Fannin County last Saturday afternoon. Photo/Lowell Nicholson.**

It was a split decision last weekend for the Towns County Lady Indians Varsity Basketball Team against two very capable opponents as they took an impressive come from behind home court win over the Commerce Lady Tigers on Friday but fell to defeat in a foul infested game felt by many to be unnecessarily so against Class AAA Fannin County in Blue Ridge on Saturday.

The officiating crew at Fannin County, in your reporter's view and that of many others, had little concept as to how to officiate a game between two teams using aggressive but actually quite clean all over the court defense.

By way of comparison, the Lady Indians' same defensive style resulted in fourteen free throw attempts by Commerce on Friday night but forty seven by Fannin on Friday. The Lady Indians, like Commerce, went to the foul line fourteen times on Friday but thirty six times on Saturday, resulting in a totally unbelievable eighty three free throw attempts in the game.

Light touch contact was consistently whistled for fouls on both teams throughout the Fannin County game while heavier contact, especially on field goal attempts, often went uncalled with technical fouls due to not surprising frustration being called on both head coaches. Four Lady Indians fouled out in the game compared to just one for Fannin.

**Lady Indians 57, Commerce 41** - The Commerce Ladies entered the game on Friday night with a 5-1 record, including victories over Class AA, AAA, and AAAAA schools but the Lady Indians overcame early deficits of 7-0 and 16-8 in charging to a very impressive 57-41 victory.

Early Lady Indian turnovers contributed to Commerce holding the mentioned 7-0 lead by the 6:21 mark of the first quarter but the two teams played on virtually even terms the remainder of the quarter for a 14-8 Commerce lead with senior Demya Allen providing four points for the Lady Indians.

After the Lady Tigers opened the second quarter with a deuce for the 16-8 advantage, however, the Lady Indians would dominate for the remainder of the game with a 49-25

scoring advantage although the Lady Tigers would have their own strong run within the final Lady Indian success at the start of the third quarter.

The Lady Indians rallied to a 25-23 lead by intermission with a deuce by sophomore Vanessa Floyd getting them a 19-18 lead at the 4:28 mark and the quarter highlighted by nine points by senior Taylor Cornett and four more by sophomore Kennedy Henson.

The first four and a half minutes of the third quarter turned out to be a struggle offensively for the Lady Indians as the Lady Tigers used an 8-2 advantage for a 31-27 lead at the 4:21 mark.

The Lady Indians would come alive after that, however, as they used a 12-0 run the final 3:30 of the quarter for a 39-31 lead entering the fourth quarter.

Five different Lady Indians contributed to the deadly third quarter finish, beginning with deuces by Allen and senior Kenzlee Denton and followed by treys by Henson and Cornett wrapped around a deuce by Floyd.

The fourth quarter also saw five Lady Indians entering the scoring column with leaders being Floyd with seven points and Henson with 6 as they outscored Commerce 18-10 in closing out the 57-41 victory.

Scoring leaders for the Lady Indians for the game were Henson with 17 points, Cornett with 14, Floyd with 13, and Allen with 9 while Henson and Cornett also led in assists with 4 and 2 respectively.

Leaders in rebounds were

Henson with 9 and Allen and Floyd with 5 each. The Lady Tigers were led in scoring by sophomores Bryana Sanders with 12 points and Maggie Mullis with 11 and junior Ragan Allen with 10.

Although Commerce is a Region 8A foe of the Lady Indians, the win will not count in the region standings for seeding in the region tournament but rather a later season game at Commerce since just one game against each region opponent counts this year.

**Fannin County 44, Lady Indians 36** – The Fannin Lady Rebels entered the game with just a 3-6 record but with two straight impressive wins over Region 7AAA foes Lumpkin County by a 56-48 score and Cherokee Bluff by a 41-27 score.

The victory over Lumpkin in Dahlonega was particularly noteworthy as Lumpkin entered the game with a 9-0 record, including an impressive win over the Lady Indians, and the win became even more noteworthy when Lumpkin lost their next home court game to region foe and perennial state power Greater Atlanta Christian by just a 48-42 score.

There were five lead changes and one tie in first quarter action at Fannin County with the Lady Rebels holding a 7-6 lead at quarter's end despite five Lady Indian points by sophomore Vanessa Floyd.

The Lady Indians got an 8-8 tie on two free throws by senior Demya Allen and a 10-10 standoff on a field goal by senior Kenzlee Denton by the 4:33

mark of the second quarter but the Lady Rebels would close out the quarter on an 11-4 run for a 21-14 lead at intermission.

The Lady Rebels would outscore the Lady Indians by just a 3-2 margin in more than five minutes at the start of the third quarter for a 24-15 advantage before a trey by sophomore Kennedy Henson at the 2:57 mark triggered a 10-0 Lady Indian run with a three point play by Allen at the 16.2 seconds mark giving the Lady Indians a 25-24 advantage entering the fourth quarter.

With it seeming that members of both teams could hardly make a defensive move without a foul being called on them, Fannin sank just three deuces and the Lady Indians a deuce by Henson and a trey by Floyd in fourth quarter action with fourteen for twenty nine free throw shooting by Fannin and six for eighteen by the Lady Indians accounting for the remaining points in the quarter as the Lady Rebels completed a 44-36 victory.

Henson's fourth quarter deuce had the Lady Indians within 30-28 at the 4:59 mark before a deuce and three for five free throw shooting by the Lady Rebels gave them a 35-28 lead at the 4:14 mark but with the Lady Indians still easily within striking distance.

Henson became the first of four Lady Indian starters lost on fouls between the 3:37 and 2:00 marks but the Lady Indians followed a Fannin field goal with three for six free throw shooting to edge to within 37-31 at 2:33.

for shooting woes for both teams at the foul line where the Lady Rebels overall went just 22 for 47 and the Lady Indians 14 for 36 although frustration with the prevention of a normal flow of the game by so many fouls certainly could have affected the mental aspect of the game for the players including possibly the concentration needed to succeed at the foul line.

Floyd led the Lady Indians in scoring for the game with 15 points and was followed by Henson with 7 while Henson led in assists with 4.

Allen led the Lady Indians in rebounds with 10 while other leaders were Henson with 6, Floyd with 5, senior Kristen Byers with 4, and Cornett with 3. The Lady Rebels were led in scoring by sophomore Abby Ledford with 11 points and freshman Becca Ledford with 9.

The Lady Indians finished the week with a 3-5 record with a home game against Union County on Monday and a road trip to Hiwassee Dam, North Carolina, on Thursday scheduled for this week.

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## Football: 8-A All Region First Team

All Region Player of the Year	
Brock Vandergriff	PACS
<b>All Region Defensive Player of the Year</b>	<b>All Region Offensive Player of the Year</b>
LB Khalid Duke Riverside Military	RB Len'Neth Whitehead Athens Academy
<b>All Region 1st Team Defense</b>	<b>All Region 1st Team Offense</b>
DB Kurt Knisely Athens Academy	OL Charles Clark Athens Academy
DB Caleb Mason Commerce	OL Tanner Lumpkin Commerce
DB Omar Daniels George Walton	OL Terrence Thorpe George Walton
DB Elijah Hynes PACS	OL Alex Sudderth Hebron Christian
DB Griffin Presley Providence Christian	OL Teyvon Carson Riverside Military
DB Camron Shod-Dabney Riverside Military	OL Jake Parker Towns County
DL George Smith Athens Academy	QB Nate Ray Commerce
DL Levi Pate Commerce	QB Colten Gauthier Hebron
DL Hamilton Allen George Walton	RB Payton Bowles Athens Academy
DL Alex Pawson Hebron	RB Dylan Deaton Commerce
DL Blake Scarberry Hebron Christian	RB Darius Barnum George Walton
DL Josh Hilton PACS	RB Dylan Parr Riverside Military
DL Tyler Payne PACS	TE Barrett McLanahan Athens Academy
LB William McLanahan Athens Academy	WR Deion Colzie Athens Academy
LB Lovic Smith Athens Christian	WR Jeffrey Saturday Hebron
LB Tucker Flint Commerce	WR Will Warbington Hebron
LB Andrew Tossie George Walton	WR Mack Simmons PACS
LB Michael Moyers Hebron	<b>All Region 1st Team Special Teams</b>
LB Davis Ridings PACS	K James Williams Athens Academy
LB Jordan van den Berg Providence Christian	P Josh Jones Providence Christian
LB WookDong Harry-Kim Riverside Military	

**Joining Jake Parker on the 8-A All-Region Team were Second Team selections Chase Rogers (OL), Tyler Swanger (DL), Wes Calhoun (LB, K), WR Will Travis and Alan Gillis (RB). Honorable Mention selections were Trent Bradshaw (QB) and Nick Bradley (DB)**