

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Lady Indians seize double overtime victory at Union County

By Jerry Kendall
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Blairsville - Following a very difficult preseason matchup and 49-14 loss at Tallulah Falls a week earlier, the Class A Towns County Lady Indians varsity basketball team rebounded in a most impressive manner last Tuesday at Class AA Union County in coming away with a 43-42 victory in double overtime over the homestanding Lady Panthers.

Their performance was aided immeasurably by the return to action by senior Kennedy Henson who got medical clearance to return to play with contact included on the day of the game.

Henson was not expected to see extensive action following game inaction since suffering an ACL injury in a game in January but quickly got into the flow of the game and played extensively in aiding the victory.

She entered the game with just a minute and five seconds elapsed at the 6:55 mark of the first quarter and nine seconds later sank a trey for a 3-3 tie and twenty nine seconds after that at the 6:17 mark assisted sophomore Sarah Shook on a trey for a 6-3 Lady Indians lead in quickly establishing her relevance in the game.

The game would become a fierce battle for 40 minutes, the length of a college basketball game due to adding four minutes with each of the two overtimes to the 32 minutes included in four complete high school quarters.

There would be 10 ties and 13 lead changes during the 40 minutes of play with no



Seniors Kennedy Henson and Vanessa Floyd were instrumental in Towns County's win at Union County. Photos/Lowell Nicholson

more than a three points lead by either team. The Lady Panthers claimed three leads of three points in the first quarter and one in each of the second, third, and fourth quarters.

On the other hand, the Lady Indians held just three leads of three points during the entire game with the first occasion being on the aforementioned early trey by Shook, the second on a trey by sophomore Tabitha Barnes giving them a 22-19 advantage at exactly the four minutes point of the third quarter, and the third coming on a putback basket by Shook at the 3:53 mark of the fourth quarter giving the Lady Indians a 32-29 lead.

Both teams were plagued

by ice cold field goal shooting, especially during the first half, and the Lady Indians also at the foul line throughout the game, a not uncommon occurrence in a season opening regular season game with this perhaps being especially true for two neighborhood rivals.

At any rate, the cold shooting by each team largely kept the game close through especially the first two quarters with Union holding a 16-13 lead at intermission with the scoring pace picking up a bit for the remainder of the game.

Hot first half shooting by either team could have propelled that team to a significant early lead but that would not be the case in this



game.

The last half saw a 25-25 tie after three quarters, a 36-36 standoff after four quarters, a 40-40 tie after the first overtime, and the 43-42 Towns victory after the second overtime.

The Lady Indians were led in scoring by senior Vanessa Floyd with 15 points, including on seven occasions when her point production gave the Lady Indians a tie or lead and especially clutch production during the final nine minutes of the game when it was decided.

She got the Lady Indians a tie on a field goal at the forty four seconds mark of the fourth quarter sending the game into overtime, got

them a quick 38-36 lead on a drive for a deuce at the start of the first overtime, and then in the second overtime sank a deuce on a drive for the basket for a 42-42 tie at the 57-second mark and sank the game winning free throw with 23.2 seconds remaining in the final overtime.

Henson had gotten a tie on two free throws at the 1:44 mark of the first overtime sending the game into the second overtime.

Obviously, both teams had several opportunities for a tie or win in the closing seconds of regulation play and in the two overtimes but shots either would not fall or shot attempts were not developed.

Other scoring leaders

for the Lady Indians for the game were Shook with 9 points, Henson with 7, senior Abby Mauldin with 5, and senior Jayce Young with 4 with Shook and Henson getting three ties or leads each and Mauldin two.

Henson led in assists with 4 and was followed by Floyd and Mauldin with 2 each. Leading in rebounds were Shook with 8, Young with 7, and Floyd, Henson, and Mauldin with 5 each while

Floyd led in steals with 4 and Young followed with 2. Mauldin deserves much credit for holding her defensive position well and taking six charges during the game, often at crucial times..]

Scoring leaders for the youthful Lady Panthers were 6' junior Ava Hunter with 17 points, junior Ashley Collins with 7, and sophomore Corrine Hill with 6.

The TCHS teams have three upcoming games with the first two being home games this week on Thursday against Tallulah Falls at 6:00 pm and Union County on Friday at 7:00 pm. They then travel to Rabun Gap on Monday for 6:00 pm games.

Seating for games will be limited due to the Covid virus with current procedures for home games allowing fans to purchase available tickets on the Internet at 10:00 am on the days of the games.

Fans should go to the www.townscountyathletics.com website to purchase tickets.

Fans should be aware that the games at Rabun Gap will be closed to the public with no fans allowed for these games.

Towns County breezes past shorthanded Panthers 63-37

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The Towns County Indians varsity basketball team traveled to Union County last Tuesday and came away with a convincing 63-37 victory over the Panthers.

Just as the Indians were shorthanded, largely due to football activity by several players, in their earlier scrimmage at Tallulah Falls, so were the Panthers in this game as their football season continued into the Class AA state playoffs.

The Indians, on the other hand, saw the arrival for practice the day prior to the game of their football players, with the exception of junior Kyle Oakes due to a quadriceps injury in their final game on Friday. Oakes is expected to miss a week or two of basketball prior to his return to action with the team.

The first quarter was a low scoring battle with junior Jake McTaggart giving the Indians a 3-2 lead on an old fashioned three points play at the 4:59 mark and then a 5-5 tie on a deuce at the 3:07 mark. A field goal by junior Collin Crowder got the Indians a 7-5 lead at the 2:07 mark but a long trey at the buzzer got the Panthers an 8-8 stand-off at quarter's end.

An early second quarter field goal at the 7:43 mark by McTaggart got the Indians a 10-8 lead they would not relinquish although the Panthers would hang tough until past



Colton Day drives to the basket at Union. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

the mid point of the quarter when trailing by just a 20-18 score.

The Indians would finish on an 11-2 scoring run, however, as senior Colton Day struck for three straight field goals between the 3:26 and 1:18 marks for a 26-18 Towns lead and senior Kabe Ellis wrapped a deuce and his third trey of the quarter for eleven points around a Panthers deuce for a 31-20 Indians halftime advantage.

Seven different Indians put points on the scoreboard the last half as they led 46-30

after three quarters on the way to the 63-37 victory. Senior Kolby Moss took the scoring lead with a trey in each quarter included among nine points in the third and seven in the fourth with McTaggart adding six points on three deuces during the half. Of second half note is the Indians response to a pair of treys by the Panthers for just a 40-30 Indians lead at the 2:09 mark of the third quarter.

Moss struck for a deuce and a trey during the final two minutes of the quarter and added a trey just 13 seconds



Junior post Jake McTaggart (2) anchors the Towns County defense. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

into the fourth with Crowder then adding a deuce at 7:04 in completing for an 11-0 Indians scoring run and a sudden 51-30 advantage.

Scoring leaders for the game for the Indians were Moss with 18 points, Ellis and McTaggart with 14 each, Day with 6, and Crowder with 4 while leaders in assists were Ellis with 5, Moss with 3, and Day and senior Aidan Berrong with 2 each.

Leaders in rebounds were McTaggart with 10, Ellis with 5, and Crowder and senior Hayden McClure with

3 each. The Indians field goal accuracy was outstanding in sinking twenty six of forty nine attempts and they made just seven turnovers during the game.

The leading scorers for the Panthers were sophomore Eli Underwood with 11 and junior Caleb John with 9 points.

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