

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Indians escape with win over Christian Heritage of Dalton

By Jerry Kendall
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Staff Writer

The Towns County Indians Varsity Basketball Team was in action just one time last week but came away with a razor thin home court win over a top quality team from Region 6-A in Dalton on Saturday.

Based on limited available roster information about the Lions, they apparently have most of their fire power back from last year's 19-7 Class A Private state tournament team. And they entered the game with a 4-1 record with the prior loss being at Region 6A foe Darlington of Rome, a team which finished last week with a 5-1 overall record.

The Indians completed their week's work with an overall record of 7-2, including 2-1 in Region 8A.

The Indians got a 2-0 lead less than half a minute into the game on a field goal by junior Logan Cowart and they overcame a brief 4-2 Christian Heritage lead on a field goal by sophomore Will Travis and a trey by junior Zach Davenport for a 7-4 lead at 5:15 of the first quarter they would hold for most of the remainder of the game.

The only exception would be the final 3:13 of the second quarter and the first thirty nine seconds of the third before the Indians would reclaim the lead and hold it, even though quite precariously at the end, in taking a 72-69 victory.

All five Indian starters put points on the scoreboard in first quarter action with leaders being Travis with six points, Davenport and senior Will De Vries with five each, and Cowart with four while senior Major Moss contributed assists on four of the Indians' first five field goals.

The Indians led by as much as 18-9 by the 2:04 mark of the first quarter but it required two free throws by Davenport with six tenths of a second on the clock to give the Indians a 22-17 lead at quarter's end.

Davenport opened the second quarter with a trey for a 25-17 Indian lead, the first of four leads of eight points by the 5:34 mark but the Lions took



Towns County boys in action during a recent game. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

advantage of a trey and three old fashioned three point plays during an 18-2 run between the 5:20 and 2:06 marks for a sudden eight point advantage of their own of 41-33.

The Indians got clutch plays on a trey from Colton Shook and a putback basket

by De Vries by the 1:23 mark, however, for just a 41-38 deficit at intermission.

Davenport contributed five points and Cowart and De Vries four each in leading second quarter scoring action for the Indians.

Davenport would strike

with a vengeance at the start of the third quarter for the Indians when he included two steals and a dunk in providing six points by the 6:41 mark for a 44-41 lead the Indians would not relinquish, although have challenged to the final buzzer. Treys by Moss and De Vries

by the 5:05 mark and a deuce by each and a free throw by De Vries by quarter's end had the Indians with as much as a 54-48 advantage but as small as 54-52 with the Towns lead being 57-52 entering the fourth quarter.

The Lions opened the

fourth quarter with a trey for just a 57-55 deficit but the Indians used a 7-1 run for a 64-56 lead by the 4:11 mark with this lead holding up until an Indian turnover resulted in a Christian Heritage three point play at 3:14 and another free throw and deuce by 2:43 had the Lions knocking on the door at 64-62.

A field goal by Cowart at 2:17 got the Indians ahead 66-62 and two free throws by Moss at 1:40 followed a Lion trey for a 68-65 Indian lead and two De Vries free throws matched a Lion field goal at 57.5 seconds for a 70-67 Indian lead.

The Indians would make just two of six free throws the final 33.2 seconds, however, for a 72-69 lead at 17.4 seconds with the Lions missing two trey attempts for a tie in the final ten seconds as the Indians escaped with the 72-69 victory.

The Indians have made a habit of sinking crucial free throws in the closing minutes of their games this season so must be considered fortunate to escape with a win after hitting just six of twelve the final 2:17 of the game.

Scoring leaders for the Indians for the game were Davenport with 19 points, De Vries with 18, Cowart with 14, Moss with 12, and Travis with 6 while Moss led in assists with 6 and was followed by Davenport and De Vries with 3 each and Shook with 2.

Leaders in rebounds were De Vries with 8, Cowart and Moss with 6 each, and Davenport and Travis with 3 each. Scoring leaders for the Lions were juniors Christian Koneman with 21 points and Sam Dindoffer with 12 and senior Tristin Blackwell with 12.

The Indians are scheduled to complete the 2016 regular season portion of their schedule at Lumpkin County on Tuesday of this week and then host the 23rd Annual Battle of the States Tournament next Wednesday through Friday on December 28, 29, and 30. They will face Piedmont, Alabama, at 8:30 on Wednesday with future tournament games depending on the results of the games as they are played.

Lady Indians fall short of victory against Christian Heritage

By Jerry Kendall
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The Towns County Lady Indians Varsity Basketball Team dropped a 67-40 decision to Christian Heritage of Dalton in their only game of last week in the Towns County Gym on Saturday night.

The Lady Lions from Region 6-A extended their record to 5-4 with the win while the Lady Indians are still in search of their first victory of the season.

The Lady Indians took a quick 2-0 lead on a long deuce by senior Kristen Henson just twenty five seconds into the game but they found themselves trailing by a 20-11 score by quarter's end despite a field goal by sophomore Taylor Cornett, two free throws each by senior Kirsten Ledford and junior Madison McClure, and a trey by sophomore Erika Spano.

A McClure trey at the 6:39 mark of the second quarter got the Lady Indians within striking distance of 20-14 but the Lady Lions spurted out to a 32-15 lead by the 3:03 mark.

The Lady Indians reduced the margin a bit on a 6-4 finish highlighted by a field goal and two free throws by Henson for a 36-21 deficit at intermission.

The Lady Lions dominated the third quarter, outscoring the Lady Indians 21-2 before a long trey and the buzzer by sophomore Kristin Byers got the Lady Indians within 57-26 and triggered a strong fourth quarter.

Freshman Sophia Shook scored the first six points of the quarter for the Lady Indians and McClure included a trey among five points as the Lady Indians outscored the Lady Lions 14-10 as the visitors from Dalton closed out the 67-40 victory.

McClure took the scoring lead for the Lady Indians



Towns County Lady Indians during a recent game. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

for the game with 12 points and was followed by Henson with 8, Byers with 5, and Ledford with 4 while Byers led in assists with 4 and was followed by Henson with 3.

The Lady Lions were led in scoring by sophomores Kelsey Schneller and Meghan Schneller with 19 and 14 points respectively and freshman Madison Brown with

13. The Lady Indians complete the 2016 portion of their season at Lumpkin County on Tuesday of this week while hosting the twenty third an-



nual Battle of the States Tournament Wednesday through Friday of next week on December 28, 29, and 30. They will host Piedmont, Alabama, on Wednes-

day at 7:00 pm with the times of remaining games depending on the results of the games as played.