

# Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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## Ninth-ranked Indians get hard fought win over No. 10 Social Circle

By Jerry Kendall  
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It had been 15 days since the Towns County Indians varsity basketball team had faced an opponent until last Saturday night due to Covid issues at other schools resulting in cancellations or rescheduling of four games when they played host to the undefeated, 10th-ranked Social Circle Redskins as their first Region 8-A Public opponent of the year.

The Indians led the entire game with the exception of a scoreless tie for a minute and seven seconds at the start of the game and a 44-44 standoff for fifteen seconds early in the third quarter in taking a 64-58 victory.

The fact that the Indians led for all but a total of less than a minute and a half might lead one to believe it was an easy victory for the Indians but that was not the case.

The Indians did appear on several occasions to be taking control of the game only to have the Redskins rally to within striking distance and the single tie but the Indians had an answer themselves each time Social Circle reduced their lead. Examples of Indian leads were by a 12-2 score in the first quarter, 21-12 in the second, 33-24 and 40-28 in the third, and 62-53 and 64-55 late in the fourth quarter with a three point Redskins bank shot with eleven seconds left closing the gap to 64-58 at the end.

The Redskins entered the game with a 4-0 record and it is often interesting to examine how a team reached their record. This exploration turned out to be especially impressive when learning that Class A Social Circle got their four wins against larger classification schools with one victory coming against a Class 2A school, two against 5A schools, and the other against a 6A school. Two of the Social Circle wins are especially impressive.

The Redskins took a 47-46 win over Class 5-A Walnut Grove, a team with a 4-5 record but with three of the losses being by a total of seven points and with a 3-0



Towns County basketball edged Social Circle 64-58 last weekend in a battle of ranked unbeaten teams. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Commerce and Jefferson rallying, three baskets by McTaggart and treys by Moss and Crowder had the Indians leading 40-28 by the 4:24 mark of the third quarter. But the Redskins struck for thirteen points the remainder of the quarter interrupted this time by just a pair of free throws by senior Kabe Ellis for a razor thin 42-41 Towns lead entering the fourth quarter.

A drive to the basket for two points by senior Aidan Berrong got the Indians a 44-41 lead at the 7:35 mark of the fourth quarter but the Redskins struck for a trey for the aforementioned brief tie of 44-44 at the 6:48 mark.

A runner by Moss got the Indians a lead of 46-44 they would not relinquish at the 6:33 mark, however, with the Indians reversing the pattern of the first three quarters by finishing on an upswing for the 64-58 victory although it would not be until the final minute of the game that the Indians would secure a safe lead.

The basket by Moss giving the Indians the lead was

the start of a 10-4 run including two deuces by McTaggart and another by Moss and one by Ellis for a 54-48 Indians lead at the 4:14 mark. A trey at 3:58 got the Redskins within 54-51 but Moss sank two free throws at 2:51, a deuce at 1:41 and two more free throws at 58.5 seconds for a 60-53 and a spectacular lead pass by Berrong to Crowder for an also spectacular field goal at forty four seconds had the Indians leading 62-53.

Social Circle would not give up however as they used a steal for two points and followed a pair of free throws by Ellis with the aforementioned three point bank shot at eleven seconds to pull within 64-58 with that becoming the final score when the Indians got the ball inbounds and ran out the clock.

Scoring leaders for the game for the Indians were McTaggart with 25 points, Moss with 19, Crowder with 12, and Ellis with 6. Additional stats are not available as of press time but they will be provided as a footnote with

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the next Indians game coverage. The Indians were able to welcome junior Kyle Oakes, a starting member of last year's Indians team which compiled an outstanding 18-9 record, including the first TCHS Battle of the States Tournament championship.

Oakes had missed the first three games due to an injury sustained in the final Indians football game after a standout season on the team. Juniors KJ Reid and Tyrhell Branch provided most of the scoring for Social Circle with 31 and 20 points respectively.

**Rankings impact:** With the win, Towns County jumped two spots to seventh in the sandyspiel.com Class A Public rankings. Even after the loss, Social Circle moved up to ninth in the latest rankings after offering Towns County its toughest contest of the season.

Scheduled games for the Lady Indians and Indians at Fannin County on Tuesday of this week have been postponed due to Covid with the Towns teams scheduled to travel to Athens Academy for games on Monday, December 28 of next week. Efforts are underway to schedule additional games to replace some that have been canceled with others having been or hopefully to be rescheduled at a later date.

**Lady Indians update:** The scheduled home court game between the Towns County Lady Indians varsity basketball team for last Saturday was postponed due to Covid issues for the Lady Redskins to Wednesday, December 30 at 2:00 pm in the Towns County gym. Additionally, scheduled games for the Lady Indians and Indians at Fannin County on Tuesday of this week have been postponed due to Covid issues in Fannin County.

The Lady Indians and Indians are scheduled to travel to Athens Academy for games on Monday, December 28 of next week at 6:00 pm.

Efforts are underway by the TCHS coaches to schedule additional games to replace some that have been canceled with others having been or hopefully to be rescheduled at a later date.

## Towns County High School pays tribute to Fall sports participants



Clockwise from left: Towns County softball, football and cheerleading were three of the groups recognized last week when Towns County High School honored its Fall Sports athletes on Tuesday, Dec. 15 at the Bill P. Kendall Sports Complex. Photos by Lowell Nicholson.

