

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Basketball: Battle of the States Christmas tourney tips off Dec. 28

By Jeremy Foster
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

After some rest and relaxation for Christmas, Towns County Basketball is lacing up for the widely popular regional high school tournament known as the Battle of the States, set for Wednesday, Dec. 28, through Friday, Dec. 30, inside Bill P. Kendall Gymnasium.

Lady Indians Head Coach Shea Taylor was excited to talk about the tournament in the run-up to Christmas.

"The Christmas tournament is a long-time tradition, and we look forward to it every year," Taylor said. "I can remember back when I was a kid, staying at the gym all day and watching the games, and I also remember playing in it when I was in high school.

"Now getting the privilege to coach in the tournament is very exciting. There is always great competition in both brackets and a long tradition of teams that come every year such as Polk County, Tennessee, Union County, Tennessee, Union County, and Hayesville, North Carolina.

"Playing three days in a row can take its toll on teams, but I think it's good for us to see where we are as we go full swing into region play in January. Last year we lost in the first round and played in the consolation bracket. This year our goal is to stay in the winner's bracket.

"We will prepare to face Coosa High School in the first round. After that it is just one day, one game, and one team at a time."

Boys Head Coach Brian Hunnicutt said that, first off, "the Battle of the States is the best Christmas Tournament



Lady Indians head coach Shea Taylor (left) and Indians head coach Brian Hunnicutt (right) both enter this week's Battle of the States Christmas Tournament hoping the three-day event will propel their respective squads into second-half success. Photos/Lowell Nicholson

I've ever been a part of or seen."

"The tradition, the competition, the gym being packed – it's just phenomenal with all of the coaches and teams that come to it, and I absolutely love it," Hunnicutt continued. "We were fortunate enough to win it last year, and it was a huge accomplishment, one of

our main goals we set forth every year."

Hunnicutt and his Indians set three goals for the season: to win the Battle of the States Championship, the Region Championship, and the State Championship, so Battle of the States is "high priority on our list."

"We're really excited

about this year's tournament because there is a lot of talented teams in it that are very well-coached, and our side of the bracket is just absolutely packed with good teams," he said. "Any of the boys' teams could win this tournament, it's just very good competition.

"I'm also looking forward to watching the games

besides our games, and playing, but it's going to be tough. Every game we could possibly have in this tournament would be a tough team to play. Those three days are a very good litmus test for the upcoming region schedule.

"We're not quite halfway through the season, but we're far enough along to where we

should be playing decent basketball right now.

"Last year's winning of the Battle of the States was a springboard to a 20-win season and an Elite 8 appearance, and it all started with the Battle of the States Tournament, and we're hoping to do the same thing this year."

Go Indians!

2022 28th Annual CHRISTMAS TOURNAMENT BATTLE OF THE STATES

DEC 28-29-30, 2022

CONSOlation BRACKET

DAY 1
12/28/22

Franklin High, NC

1 10:00 AM

DAY 2
12/29/22

5 10:00 AM

Murphy High, NC

Polk Co., TN

2 1:00 PM

Union Co., GA

9 10:00 AM

Rabun Co., GA

3 4:00 PM

Hayesville High, NC

Coosa High, GA

6 1:00 PM

8 7:00 PM

4 7:00 PM

Towns Co., GA

10 1:00 PM

11 4:00 PM

3rd Place

W5 W6 Bottom Team in Bracket is Home Team and Will Wear White Uniforms L7 L8

WINNERS BRACKET

DAY 2
12/29/22

7 4:00 PM

DAY 3
12/30/22

12 7:00 PM

CHAMPION

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