

Towns County Sports

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Lady Indians defeat Hebron, fall in OT at state ranked George Walton

By Jerry Kendall
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The Towns County Lady Indians Varsity Basketball Team came face to face with two of the top teams from Sub-Region 8-A South last week and came away with a decisive 66-35 home court victory over Hebron Christian Academy on Tuesday before falling in overtime by a 46-43 score at George Walton Academy, the fourth ranked Class A team in the state, on Friday.

The Lady Indians came oh so close to a major upset at George Walton, getting off a 3-point field goal attempt at the buzzer ending regulation play that would have given them a win and then a 3-point attempt at the buzzer ending the overtime period which would have brought about a second overtime.

Hebron Christian entered the game on Tuesday with an overall 10-4 record while George Walton entered the Friday game with a 14-1 record with the only loss coming by a 50-38 score at the hands of Class AA power Greater Atlanta Christian, ranked fifth in the Class AA state poll.

George Walton had won their prior fourteen games by an average margin of 21.8 points with the closest being a 50-42 win over Class AA Jefferson.

The Lady Indians completed the week's play with a 10-8 record, including 6-2 in Region 8-A. They have seven regular season games remaining as of the start of this week with six of those being within the region.

**Lady Indians 66
Hebron 35**

The first quarter of the game against Hebron Christian turned out to be a hard fought battle with the Lady Indians taking a 2-0 lead on a Misty Lindemuth basket just 14 seconds into the game and a 3-2 lead they would never relinquish on a Kellsie Cowart free throw by the 7:17 mark.

The Lady Lions kept



Senior Bailey Sutton makes a save against Hebron Christian Academy. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

the game close until the final half minute of the first quarter, however, when a trey by Bailey Sutton gave the Lady Indians a 14-9 lead, their biggest of the quarter. Scoring leaders for the quarter were Eryn Cochran and Lindemuth with 4 points each.

The Lady Indians maintained their lead, of as few as four points at 18-14 and as many as 10 on two occasions on treys by Jocelyn Byers for a 29-19 lead at the 2:30 mark and Karlie Albach at nine seconds for a 34-24 lead at intermission.

Byers and Albach each included two treys among 8 and 6 points respectively during second quarter action.

The third quarter belonged to the Lady Indians as they outscored the Lady Lions 26-2 in taking a 60-26 lead into the fourth quarter as they finished off the 66-35 victory.

The duo of Cowart and Sutton dominated the scoring for the Lady Indians with 12 and 11 points in the third quarter with Sutton including three treys in her production while Savannah Dyer scored all six of the Lady Indian points in the fourth.

Scoring leaders for the game were Cowart with 15 points, Sutton with 14, Cochran with 10, Byers with 8, Dyer and Albach with 6 each, and Lindemuth with 5 while Cochran led in assists with 7 and was followed by Mckenzi Moss with 4 according to your reporter's tally.

Leaders in rebounds were Cowart with 7, Cochran with 6, and Dyer and Madison Johnson with 5 each while Cochran led in steals with 4 and was followed by Lindemuth and Sutton with 3 each.

**Lady Indians 43
George Walton 46 (OT)**

Monroe - The Lady Indians could have felt overwhelmed by the task at hand in traveling to Monroe to face the state Class A fourth ranked Lady Bulldogs, who have three senior class college recruits on their roster and with the 14-1 record tending to support their standing both in the state and region ranks where they were the only undefeated team with a 6-0 record.

Included among their fourteen wins were one each over Class AAAAAA and



Senior Eryn Cochran (10) glides in for a lay up against No. 4 George Walton Academy. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

AAAAA teams, three over Class AAAA teams, one over a Class AAA team, two over Class AA squads, and six over fellow Region 8-A opponents.

The Lady Bulldogs gave the appearance the first half of taking control of the game as they led 13-7 after one quarter and 24-14 at intermission but with the second half presenting a different story as the Lady Indians would turn the tables on the Lady Dogs.

The Lady Indians overcame an early 4-0 George Walton lead for a 5-4 advantage on a three point play by Kellsie Cowart and an Eryn Cochran basket but the Lady Dogs went on a 9-0 run for a 13-5 lead which was reduced to the 13-7 score by a Bailey Sutton basket in the final two seconds of the first quarter.

A trey less than a minute into the second quarter by Jocelyn Byers had the Lady Indians within 13-10 but George Walton followed with a 10-0 run for a 23-10 lead by the 3:36 mark.

The Lady Indians then used a Savannah Dyer basket and a drive for two by Cochran the final 1:38 in getting

to within the aforementioned 24-14 deficit at the half time break.

A 5-2 start for the Lady Bulldogs in the third quarter gave them a second 13-point lead of 29-16 but here came the Lady Indians, who simply refused to go away.

A trey by Cochran at the 6:08 mark triggered a 9-0 Lady Indian run, highlighted by two free throws and a field goal by Cowart and a field goal by Cochran, which got them within 29-25 with 3:26 on the clock.

Baskets by Byers and Lindemuth then matched field goals by George Walton the remainder of the quarter as the Lady Indians trailed by just a 33-29 margin entering the fourth quarter.

Neither team scored for nearly two-and-a-half minutes at the start of the fourth quarter but a trey by Byers got the Lady Indians within 33-32 at the 5:38 mark and a Cochran pull up jumper had them within 35-34 at 4:21.

The Lady Dogs appeared to regain control of the game when they rolled a field goal into the basket and sank two free throws for a 39-34 lead

with 2:59 to play. Two free throws by Cochran at 2:02 got the Lady Indians within 39-36 but the Lady Dogs sank two charity tosses at 1:35 for a 41-36 lead. Cowart had the Lady Indians again knocking on the door, however, when she sank one of two free throw attempts at 1:21 and then two more at 31.9 seconds for just a 41-39 Towns deficit.

The Lady Bulldogs then left the door open by missing a one and one free throw attempt at 28.3 seconds and Cochran took the ball coast to coast for a lay up and a 41-41 tie with 20 seconds left, completing a 25-12 run for the Lady Indians back to the 6:08 mark of the third quarter.

Cochran followed with a steal near the ten seconds mark and the Lady Indians got off a 3-point attempt for the win at the buzzer but the ball bounced off the rim and the game went to a 4-minute overtime.

The Lady Bulldogs took a 42-41 lead on a free throw following a putback attempt at the 3:03 mark and sank a field goal at 2:30, after the Lady Indians missed a field goal attempt, for a 44-41 advantage.

Cochran cut the lead to 44-43 on two free throws at 2:17 with neither team able to dent the scoreboard again until the Lady Bulldogs sank two free throws with 7.4 seconds left for a 46-43 lead.

A last second trey attempt by the Lady Indians for a tie didn't miss by much but, like the attempt at the end of regulation, bounced off the rim with George Walton holding on for the hard fought win.

Cochran, who is headed to Columbus State University next season, led the Lady Indians in scoring with 17 points and in assists with 6 while Cowart followed with 12 points and Byers took third honors with 8.

Young Harris College recruit Jada Williams and Shorter University recruit Cynara Pitt led George Walton with 14 and 12 points respectively while 6'1" Clemson University recruit Ivy Atkism scored just 5 points.

Manus lost to injury again, Indians victimized by last half surges in two losses

By Jerry Kendall
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A tough luck year continued last week for the very young Towns County Indians Varsity Basketball Team which has seen far more than its share of injuries and the bad luck continued when junior point guard Dallas Manus was sidelined last week due to a flare up of his earlier ankle injury with his status being uncertain for the remainder of the season.

Manus, the team's leading scorer and floor leader as a freshman and sophomore, missed the first nine games of this season before returning for increasing and effective playing time in five of the next six games but now having more difficulty with his ankle injury.

Not only has Manus been sidelined for much of the season junior Trace Moss, this year's scoring leader, and top freshman Will DeVries have missed playing time as well.

Moss returned to limited action last Tuesday against Hebron Christian Academy and full time duty at George Walton Academy on Friday after missing two games while a return to action is approaching for DeVries who has missed most of the season with a broken arm.

At any rate, the "show must go on" and the Indians have played hard and distinguished themselves while searching for their first win in view of the injuries and their youth.

They stayed within striking distance of Hebron Christian for half the game on their home court on Tuesday and led for virtually the entire first half at George Walton on Friday before their opponents pulled away the last half for decisive victories.

**Indians 41
Hebron 72**

The Indians stayed right on the heels of Hebron Christian, including with a brief



Injured star Dallas Manus (standing far right) can only watch as Coach Duncan Weekley instructs his Indians' squad during a timeout at George Walton Academy. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

lead, for the first 11 minutes of the game and within striking distance throughout the first half before the Lions took control of the game the last half.

Baskets by Garrett Bradshaw twice had the Indians within one point during first quarter action and a Boone Moss basket gave them a brief 8-7 lead at the 2:06 mark but the Lions held a 15-10 lead at the first quarter break when they rolled in a putback basket at the buzzer.

The Indians then used back to back baskets by Kobe Denton and Bradshaw for just a 15-14 deficit with 7:10 left in the second quarter and to within 17-16 on a Major Moss field goal at 5:15.

The Lions then struck for two straight treys and a deuce for a 25-16 lead midway through the quarter with the Indians reducing the nine point lead by a point for a 30-22 deficit at intermission.

Indian freshmen provided 10-of-12 Indian points

in the second quarter and 12-of-14 between a Brady Moss basket at 1:10 of the first quarter and one by Adam Barrett at the 39-second mark of the second with Denton and Major Moss scoring four points each in between.

The Indians were stung by an 8-0 run by Hebron at the outset of the third quarter for a 38-22 deficit and the Lions used the run as a springboard for a 54-35 lead entering the fourth quarter despite five Indians entering the scoring column with Boone Moss leading with six points.

The Lions then outscored the Indians 18-6 in the fourth quarter in closing out a 72-41 victory.

The Indians were led in scoring by Boone Moss with 10 points, Bradshaw and Denton with 8 each, and Major Moss with 7 while Major Moss led in assists with 10 and was followed by Bradshaw and Boone Moss with 2 each according to your reporter's tally.

Other statistical leaders

included Boone Moss with 8 rebounds, Major Moss with 7, Bradshaw with 6, and freshman Darringer Barrett with 4 while Major Moss led in steals with 2.

**Indians 40
George Walton 56**

After a long trip to Monroe on Friday, the Indians put together a very successful first half in leading, with the exception of two brief ties, from the 6:47 mark of the first quarter on a Trace Moss basket until intermission.

It was a low scoring first quarter with the Indians holding a 6-4 lead and then building as much as an 18-13 lead by the twenty seven seconds mark of the second quarter.

The Bulldogs managed a 2-2 tie in the first quarter and a 6-6 standoff with 7:14 left in the second but both ties were short lived with a basket by Boone Moss ending the first tie and back to back baskets by Trace Moss,



Junior Boone Moss (22) gets position as freshman Major Moss fires a jumper against Hebron. Photo/Todd Forrest

beginning at the 7:04 mark, the second.

Garrett Bradshaw followed the Trace Moss baskets with a pair of his own and then first cousins Major Moss and Boone Moss added baskets at the 1:03 and :27 seconds marks for the aforementioned 18-13 lead which became 18-15 when the Bulldogs came up with a loose ball and rolled it into the basket at the halftime buzzer.

Trace Moss matched an early Bulldog field goal by the 7:40 mark of the third quarter for a 20-17 Indian lead but the Bulldogs used four treys to advantage in striking for 24-3 run between the 7:12 and 1:50 marks for a 41-23 advantage.

The Indians themselves used a strong finish on a trey and deuce for five points by freshman Major Moss and a field goal by freshman Adam Barrett the final 1:22 as they reduced the Bulldog lead to 41-30 entering the fourth quarter.

Trace Moss added a

pair of free throws barely more than a minute into the fourth quarter as the Indians edged to within single digits at 41-32 but they could get no closer than that margin the remainder of the game with the Bulldog leads ranging from 10 to 16 points in the 56-40 victory.

Boone Moss scored five points in leading the Indians in scoring during the final quarter.

Scoring leaders for the Indians were Boone Moss and Trace Moss with 11 points each, Major Moss with 10, and Bradshaw with 6 while Bradshaw led in assists with 3 and was followed by Kobe Denton and Boone Moss with 2 each according to your reporter's tally.

The Indians were led in rebounds by Garrett and Major Moss with 10 each, Boone Moss with 8, and Kobe Denton with 4 while Major Moss led in steals with 2 and Boone Moss in blocked shots with two.