

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Indians defeat Commerce and Tallulah for first wins, fall at Hayesville

By Jerry Kendall
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After coming agonizingly short of victory on several occasions this season, the youthful Towns County Indians Varsity Basketball Team got their first win of the season in Commerce in a makeup game last Monday and celebrated the success by getting their second victory on Tuesday on senior night with Garrett Bradshaw appearing in his final home game for the Indians.

The longer a team strives for that first win, the more difficult it often becomes to pull off the feat but the Indians came through in fine style with numerous heroics both at Commerce and against Tallulah. The Indians would fall, however, largely due to decisive scoring runs of 9-2 and 10-0 in just the final 2:09 of the second quarter and the final 1:22 of the third, at Hayesville on Friday as the Yellow Jackets took a 60-38 victory.

The games against Commerce and Tallulah completed Region 8-A play for the Indians who vaulted above Tallulah into fourth place in Sub-Region 8-A North after the Tallulah Indians had defeated the Towns Indians 64-40 in November at Tallulah Falls. The week's work lifted the Indians to a 2-23 overall record with the Region 8-A Tournament scheduled for this week at Commerce High School in Commerce. Tournament details are included in a related article in this week's newspaper.

**Indians 54
Commerce 51**

Commerce - After trailing 2-0 on an early Commerce basket, the Indians tied the score on two free throws by Garrett Bradshaw and then took a 4-2 lead on two free throws by Dallas Manus and a 7-4 lead on a trey by Manus by the 5:15 mark of the first quarter. That lead would hold up for the Indians until the early stages of the fourth quarter when the Tigers overtook the Indians with a battle for the ages ensuing during the fourth quarter right up until the final buzzer.

But for first things first, a second trey by Manus and field goals by Trace Moss and Boone Moss had the Indians ahead 15-9 by the first quarter break and Bradshaw led five Indians entering the scoring column in the second quarter with five points as they built what would be their biggest lead of 27-12 on a Major Moss basket at the 1:42 mark. A late trey by the Tigers had them within 27-15 by intermission.

The Indians still led 37-26 on Manus' second field goal of the third quarter at the 2:22 mark but the Tigers closed out the quarter on a 7-0 run for just a 37-33 Indian lead entering the fourth quarter. When the Tigers then sank two free throws and a trey in less than half a minute at the start of the fourth quarter for a 38-37 lead, the aforementioned battle was on. That they would mark the first of six lead changes with five ties the remainder of the game.

A free throw by Major Moss would give the Indians a 38-



The Towns County Indians celebrate their first win of the 2013-14 season at Commerce last week. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



Garrett Bradshaw honored on Senior Night. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

38 tie and a Boone Moss putback a 41-41 standoff before a Manus trey matched a trey by the Tigers for a 44-44 score at the 4:24 mark. The battle intensified, beginning at the 2:32 mark, when a Trace Moss free throw got the Indians ahead 45-44.

Two free throws by Major Moss at 1:45 matched a Tiger field goal thirteen seconds earlier for a 47-46 Indian lead and back to back baskets by Boone Moss at 1:18 and fifty five seconds more than matched a Tiger trey for a 49-49 tie and then a 51-49 Towns lead.

Commerce tied it again on a field goal at thirty seven seconds but Major Moss found Bradshaw open for a field goal at twenty four seconds for a 53-51 Indian lead they would not relinquish. The assist by Major Moss was his fourth on the final four Indian baskets back to the 4:27 mark.

When the Tigers missed their next field goal attempt, Major Moss came up with the loose ball and sank the first of two free throws at 12.0 seconds for his fourth in a row, forcing the Tigers to try and go for a 3-point basket for a tie.

The Indians fouled the Tigers at 4.6 seconds with no chance for three points from the foul line but when the Tiger missed the free throw there was a held ball with the alternate possession going to the Tigers.

With 2.8 seconds on the clock, the Tigers got the ball inbound for a 3-point attempt from the left corner but the shot missed the mark and Major Moss again corralled the carom off the rim with time expiring a second later and the Indians holding on for the very satisfying 54-51 victory. The tough victory brought memories to those who were in attendance of the Indians' late season game at Commerce two years ago when Manus, then a freshman, sank a long trey with the ball being in the air at the buzzer for a heart stopping 47-45 Indian victory.

The Indians were led in scoring for the game by Manus with 16 points, Boone Moss with 12, Bradshaw with 10, Trace Moss with 8, and Major Moss with 6. Major Moss contributed an astounding total of 9 assists for a freshman with six of them coming from the 3:06 mark of the third quarter on a pass to fellow freshman Will de Vries forward to the end of the game with Trace Moss finishing second in assists with 2 according to your reporter's tally. Leading in rebounds were Boone Moss with 11, Major Moss with 7, Trace Moss with 6, and Bradshaw with 4.

**Indians 51
Tallulah Falls 45**

In playing their fourth



Dallas Manus fires an early jumper vs TFHS. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

game in just five nights due to the rescheduled game on Monday at Commerce, the Indians could have been physically weary to the point of overriding their success of the night before.

They proved to be up to the task at hand as it turned out, however, as they would be able to build significant leads in the second quarter and then overcome the effect of similar leads by Tallulah in the third in pulling out the last ditch victory.

The Indians led by no more than 4-0 on two quick baskets by junior Boone Moss while Tallulah led by no more than 10-7 in the first quarter with the score being 10-9 at quarter's end after a late basket by freshman Adam Barrett which triggered a rapid start to the second for the Indians. They struck for the first eight points on a second field goal by Barrett and three by junior Trace Moss for a 17-10 lead by the 5:39 mark and led by as much as 23-15 on a Barrett basket with 2:30 on the clock.

But Tallulah finished the quarter on an 8-2 run interrupted only by a basket by freshman Will de Vries for just a 25-23 Indian lead at intermission. And late second quarter success by Tallulah would continue in the third as they more than matched two field goals by senior Garrett Bradshaw by opening on a 14-5 run for a 37-30

lead with 2:42 on the clock.

The Indians returned the favor after that, however, on a 7-0 run for a 37-37 standoff which became a 39-37 Tallulah lead entering the fourth quarter on a basket at the buzzer. But the Indians weren't through as they brushed off the ultra brief Tallulah lead when de Vries took a Boone Moss pass and tied the score just four seconds into the fourth quarter and the Indians continued on for an overall 13-2 run and a 43-39 lead by the 4:01 mark.

Four points by de Vries highlighted the run lasting more than six minutes of playing time during which five different Indians entered the scoring column.

Tallulah followed with two free throws and turned a pair of steals into a 6-0 run for a 45-43 lead with 2:49 left in the game but that would be their final points as junior Dallas Manus took charge of the game after that. He sank a pull up jumper at 1:39 for a 45-45 tie and followed with a free throw at 53.6 seconds for a 46-45 lead which became 48-45 on a coast to coast run by the little left hander and then 50-45 on two free throws at 8.3 seconds which gave Manus seven straight points in barely a minute and a half of playing time.

A free throw by Trace Moss at nine tenths of a second set the final score at 51-45 as the Indians

had their second clutch victory in two nights.

Scoring leaders for the game for the Indians were Trace Moss with 13 points, Manus with 10, Boone Moss with 8, and Barrett and de Vries with 6 each while Boone Moss led in assists with 4 according to your reporter's tally. This was the first varsity game for de Vries to receive extensive action after returning to action from a broken arm. A top flight rebounding effort was led by Boone Moss with 16, Major Moss with 11, Trace Moss with 7, and Bradshaw and Manus with 4 each.

**Indians 38
Hayesville 60**

Hayesville, NC - The Indians were stung by three treys less than two minutes into the first quarter for a 9-0 Hayesville lead but the Yellow Jackets would go nearly six minutes before scoring again, on their fourth trey of the quarter with eight seconds on the clock. In between, the Indians had edged to within 9-7 on a trey by Dallas Manus and deuces by Trace Moss and Boone Moss with Hayesville leading 12-7 at quarter's end.

The Jackets increased their first quarter lead of five points by just one point to 20-14 after a long deuce by Trace Moss at the 2:22 mark of the second quarter but they finished on a 9-2 run the final 2:09 for a suddenly imposing 29-16 lead at intermission.

The Indians then edged to within ten points on three occasions in the third quarter and were still well within striking distance with 2:22 on the clock. Two free throws by Trace Moss and a trey by Manus got the first ten point deficit of 31-21 at 6:52 and Will de Vries pulled the trick on two occasions.

The freshman matched two Jacket field goals with two of his own for a 35-25 Hayesville lead at 2:58 and he then used a trey to match and old fashioned three point play by the Jackets for a 38-28 score with just a minute and a half on the clock.

The Jackets finished this quarter much like the second, however, this time on a 10-0 run in just a minute and twenty two seconds in doubling their lead to 48-28 and taking command of the game.

The final seven points of the quarter and ten of the last thirteen back to the 1:45 mark came as a direct result of Indian turnovers with a pair of three point plays included.

The Indians never got closer than 19 points on three occasions but behind by no more than twenty four on one occasion the final quarter as Hayesville closed out a 60-38 victory.

Five different Indians put points on the scoreboard in the final quarter

Scoring leaders for the game were de Vries and Manus with 9 points each, Trace Moss with 8, and Bradshaw with 5 while Major Moss led in assists with 5 and Boone Moss was second with 2 according to your reporter's total. Leading in rebounds were Boone Moss with 8, Bradshaw with 6, and Major Moss with 4.

Lady Indians rally past Commerce, take easy win over Tallulah on Senior Night

By Jerry Kendall
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The Towns County Lady Indians Varsity Basketball Team completed regular season play last week when they took a tougher than expected win at Commerce on Monday night and an easy home court victory over Tallulah Falls on Tuesday.

With the wins, the Lady Indians improved their overall record to 16-8, including 12-2 in Region 8A, and with a 10-1 overall record during the 2014 portion of their schedule. They finished region play in a tie for second place with Lakeview Academy behind the undefeated George Walton Academy Lady Bulldogs of Monroe but in a tie for first place in Sub-Region 8A North with Lakeview.

By virtue of the tie with Lakeview for first place in the sub region, a coin toss was required to determine the number one seed from the sub region for the Region 8-A Tournament scheduled for this week at Commerce High School in Commerce. Lakeview won the coin toss and took the top seed while George Walton won the top seeded position in Sub-Region 8-A South. Tournament details are provided in a related article in this week's Herald.

**Lady Indians 56
Commerce 39**

Commerce - In a game



Madison Johnson for two at Commerce. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

much more competitive than the final score would indicate, the Lady Indians led Commerce for just 14 seconds during the first three quarters but trailed for only forty four seconds in the fourth as they outscored the Lady Tigers 26-5 in that fourth quarter in taking a 56-39 win. The Lady Indians had led 13-4, 32-12, and 45-24 at the quarter breaks in taking a rousing home court victory over Commerce exactly one month earlier but the Lady Tigers played very well on this evening while the Lady Indians were able to overcome ice cold shooting the first three quarters in rallying to victory.

The Lady Tigers held first quarter leads of 4-0 and 7-2

and then 13-6 by quarter's end with Eryn Cochran contributing all six Lady Indian points. Cochran also scored the first four points of the second quarter by the 7:01 mark as Commerce led 13-10 at that point. Misty Lindemuth then got the Lady Indians within one point on two occasions in the second quarter on field goals before a Cochran field goal at the 2:45 mark of the second quarter gave them an 18-17 lead.

At 2:31 the Lady Tigers regained the lead, however, and extended a 20-18 halftime advantage to as much as 24-18 and 30-23 before a trey and two free throws by Jocelyn Byers at the 2:07 and 1:33 marks got the Lady Indians within 30-28 with



McKenzie Moss with a lay up at Commerce. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

the Commerce lead being 34-30 after three quarters.

The Lady Indians struck rapidly in fourth quarter action, however, as two free throws by Cochran at 7:40 and an old fashioned three point play by Kellsie Cowart at the 7:16 mark had them ahead 35-34 and they would not be threatened again as they continued on for 16-0 run by the 3:16 mark for a 46-34 lead which became a 56-39 victory.

Last half individual scoring highlights for the Lady Indians in addition to the five points run by Byers included five points in the third quarter and six in the fourth by Lindemuth, nine by Cochran in the fourth, and six by Cowart in

the fourth.

For the game, Cochran led the Lady Indians in scoring with 23 points with Lindemuth contributing 15, Byers 7, Cowart 6, and Bailey Sutton 5 while Cochran also led in assists with 5 and was followed by Sutton with 2 according to your reporter's tally. Leading in rebounds were Lindemuth with 10, Cowart with 7, and Cochran with 6 while Cochran led in steals with 8 and Cowart and Lindemuth tied for second with 3 each.

**Lady Indians 66
Tallulah Falls 23**

The game against Tallulah Falls on Senior Night

in the Towns County Gym was a mismatch from start to finish as the Lady Indians sprang out to a 9-0 lead and led 21-2, 38-8, and 63-18 at the quarter breaks in taking a 66-23 victory. This was the final home court game for Lady Indian seniors Eryn Cochran, Kellsie Cowart, McKenzie Moss, and Bailey Sutton.

Top individual scoring production by quarter included seven points by Cochran and six by Cowart in the first, six by Moss and five by Sutton in the second, and ten by sophomore Brooke Smith and four each by Cochran and Cowart in the third as nine of ten Lady Indians seeing action in the game entered the scoring column.

Scoring leaders for the game for the Lady Indians were Cochran with 15 points, Cowart and Smith with 12 each, Moss with 10, junior Misty Lindemuth with 6, and Sutton with 5. Junior Karlie Albach led in assists with 6 and was followed by Cochran with 4 and Cowart, Lindemuth and Sutton with 2 each.

Leading in rebounds were Cowart with 13, Cochran with 6, junior Madison Johnson with 5, and Moss and Sutton with 4 each while Cochran led in steals with 6 and was followed by Sutton with 5 and sophomore Savannah Dyer and Moss with 3 each.