

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Indians just miss giant upset against George Walton

By Jerry Kendall
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Towns County Indians had a tough time getting victories during the 2013 season, finishing with a 3-23 record but they gained some respect in what turned out to be their final game of the season.

They suffered a hard fought 51-48 overtime home court loss to George Walton Academy of Monroe in a Region 8-A Tournament play in game last Monday. The Indians had seen an 18-16 home court lead achieved at the 3:33 mark of the second quarter rapidly vanish as the Bulldogs broke away for a 72-38 victory last month.

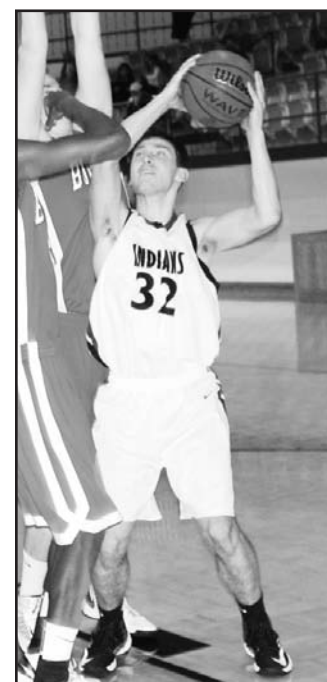
That was then and this was now, however, as the Indians trailed by mostly small margins for nearly three-and-a-half quarters before tying and then taking a late lead and just missing a victory in regulation. The Bulldogs sank a trey barely half a minute into the game for a 3-0 lead and held leads of as much as 11-5 on their third trey of the quarter by the two minutes mark of the first quarter but the Indians were within 11-9 by quarter's end, complements of the second field goal of the quarter by both Boone Moss and Trace Moss.

The Bulldogs continued to lead throughout the second quarter but a trey and a deuce by Dallas Manus had the Indians within 15-13 and then 17-15 by the three and a half minutes mark of the quarter and the Indians had an answer when the Bulldogs opened their biggest lead of 22-15 at the 1:53 mark.

Joseph Gibson sank a free throw at 1:46 and came up with a miracle steal and miracle field goal in completing a three point play at 33.9 seconds for a just a 22-19 Bulldog lead. Manus then



Ryan Tallent



Slade Davenport

Photos by Lowell Nicholson

drove the lane for a last second basket following a Bulldog free throw for a slender 23-21 George Walton lead at intermission.

The Bulldogs again continued to lead by margins of two to four points in the third quarter before edging out to a 32-26 advantage with 2:08 on the clock. This time it was Trace Moss who came to the rescue for the Indians as he wrapped a field goal and two free throws around a George Walton basket for a 34-30 Towns deficit entering the fourth quarter.

Two field goals by Trace Moss then got the Indians within 34-32 nine seconds into the fourth quarter and 36-34 with 6:57 on the clock. The Indians then followed a Bulldog basket on a steal near mid court and drive for two points by Ryan Tallent at 5:41 and the Indians' first tie of 38-38 came on a basket by Boone Moss at 4:30.

The Bulldogs bounced

right back with two baskets for a 42-38 lead at 3:28 but the Indians struck for back to back treys by Trace Moss and Manus and a sudden 44-42 Towns lead with 2:43 left.

The Indians missed three opportunities, including a 1-and-1, at the foul line to increase the lead but a free throw by Slade Davenport at 43.7 seconds had them ahead 45-42. This time the Bulldogs would not be denied as they sank a trey at 33 seconds for a 45-45 tie and neither team could add points prior to the end of regulation.

The game went to a four minute overtime with the Bulldogs seeming to have control with a 51-45 lead by the 1:12 mark but Manus struck for a trey at 48 seconds and the veteran Bulldogs team left the door open by missing three straight 1-and-1 free throw attempts between 43.0 and 24.1 seconds. The Indians had several chances to

tie on 3-point attempts but the shots wouldn't fall, including a desperation attempt from near mid court as time expired, and the Bulldogs escaped with a 51-48 victory.

Three sophomores pretty much dominated the statistics for the Indians in the game. Trace Moss led in scoring with 15 points and added 6 rebounds, a team leading 3 steals, and 2 assists while Manus contributed 13 points and a team leading 4 assists and Boone Moss scored 8 points while leading in rebounds with 10. Davenport, a junior, got into the leading statistics act by taking second honors in rebounds with 7. Either team could have gained the upper hand with better free throw shooting as the Indians sank just 8-of-22 attempts and the Bulldogs just 3-of-12.

Just as the Indians couldn't quite pull off the upset of George Walton on Monday, the fifth seed Bulldogs from Sub-Region 8-A South fell just short of an upset of their own on Tuesday against Athens Christian, the top seed from the south. The Bulldogs sank three treys late in the third quarter to rally from a 42-34 deficit to a 43-34 lead entering the fourth quarter and added two field goals to open the fourth quarter for a 47-42 lead.

But that would be their last points in the game, perhaps at least partially as a result of fatigue following the overtime game against the Indians the night before, as Athens Christian scored the final ten points of the game for a 52-47 victory.

Just as late free throws were a problem for both the Indians and Bulldogs on Monday night, a George Walton player missed three attempts when fouled on a 3-point attempt with several seconds left and a chance to cut the Athens Christian lead to two points.

Joe Collins

Tips from the Range

I have been talking about the movements in the swing for the last several months. I would like to focus on one of the central things that I have brought to your attention but have not explained in detail. It is the basic idea that all the function of the golf swing pivots on. Let's look at the turn.

There are many parts that are involved in making the correct turn away from the ball and then back through impact, but to maintain all the proper elements of the whole swing, one must center the swing in front of the body. This means that the chest is the central area of consideration. Keeping the chest turning into the backswing and back through the downswing will enable you to maintain the spine position throughout the swing.

I don't have enough space in these short lessons to explain, nor would I even attempt to explain, the techniques I use to teach the proper turn but believe me when I tell you, it is rare when you see someone other than a really good competitive player turn correctly. This in large part is due to ignorance of the proper fundamental on the part of the player and the inability of most instructors to teach it. The largest percentage of players, and I mean most players, rarely complete their turn. A full turn is very important in making solid contact at impact. It can look like a full turn but still be disconnected. Here in lies the problem for the player and the instructor.

There is a gauge that will tell you if you are making a full turn and that is the position of the front shoulder when the club is at the top of the backswing arc. It should be squarely behind the ball with your back to the target.

Now here is the hard part. You must turn the chest and arms together to obtain the proper timing and arm placement on the downswing. It is imperative that your chest and arms realign at the 45 degree mark on the downswing. This is one of the things I don't have room to explain here in Tips but a proper instructor can answer any questions you might

have about realignment on the downswing.

So, the big question is how you make a correct turn away from the ball? This is the easy part. Keep the club in front of your chest as long as you can on the backswing and then again on the downswing while keeping the spine in its original position that you established at address. This is what many know as connection and it is the basic unit of the actual full turn. Remember, it is very important to keep the head behind the ball and your center of gravity over the ankles until after impact or else the spine will move and the lower body will stop its rotation.

The easiest way to stay connected is to focus on the triangle your arms create at address. The triangle is in front of the chest and is created by the attachment of the arms to the shoulders and then extends down the arms to the grip of the club. To find the triangle, take an address position and look down and you will see said triangle. Keep this triangle in front of yourself until the arms are forced to separate and continue on their path to the top of the backswing. The rub here is that many of us will move our arms then the chest and think that we are turning correctly. But if the turn is correct, the arms will stay in front of your chest at the start and well into the backswing.

I hope I haven't confused many of you but the turn is so important because it promotes proper power through the big muscles and not the small ones. The turn is the key to staying connected and correctly realigning again on the downswing. This is a very involved fundamental and should be looked at as merely trying to keep the club in front of the chest throughout the swing.

The connection and realignment process, and the explanation thereof, is a sure fire way of determining if the person you are using for lessons or instruction is an informed teacher or just someone who claims to know what they're doing. Every successful competitive golfer makes sure the turn is connected and that realignment occurs at the proper time in the downswing. It is also the one bullet that will help every swing if it is done and taught correctly.

Good luck and I will see you on the course!

State champs: has a nice ring to it

By Joe Collins
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Monday Feb. 4th at Towns County High School was a very big night.

During the half time of the varsity girl's game, the TCHS Lady Indians Cross Country team received their state championship rings during a special ceremony led by High School Athletic Director, Jonathan Gibson.

It was a proud moment in the history of TCHS as the girls came forward one by one to

receive not only their championship rings but to be acknowledged as the champions they are. Each member of the team and their Head Coach Jeannie Ledford received a ring and a hug from Gibson who brought to everyone's attention that not one girl on this team had a grade point average less than 3.5, and that there are no seniors on this team. The crowd showed their appreciation as the names were called out and the rings were distributed.

Congratulations to the Public Class A State Champions, the Lady Indians Cross Country team.



Towns XC showing off their new bling. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Three-Peat ...continued from Page 8A

ket in reducing the lead to 38-28 at the 1:35 mark. But Patton, who was playing since the first half of the Providence game with a painful jammed finger on her shooting hand, continued a run of 7-straight Lady Indian points with a field goal at 1:21 for a 40-28 lead which would be the score entering the fourth quarter.

The Lady Indians had increased their lead by a point during the third quarter but points became hard to come by in the fourth quarter for both teams. The Lady Dogs sank just 1-of-3 free three attempts when fouled on a 3-point shot at 7:25 of the fourth quarter and a field goal at 6:54 for a 40-31 deficit with both teams going more than four minutes after that without scoring.

The Lady Dogs finally ended the dry spell with a field

goal at 2:48 and a free throw at 1:41 in making it a potential two possession game with the Lady Indians' lead dwindled to 40-34. That would be the final points for the Lady Bulldogs, however, and the Lady Indians sank 4-of-7 free throw attempts, highlighted by 3-for-4 accuracy by Cochran, in the final 1:05 of the game for the 44-34 Towns victory.

When the smoke had cleared, the Lady Indians were 17 points below their scoring average per game while the Lady Bulldogs were 14 below their average, giving indication to the extent of the defensive intensity of the game.

The Lady Indians were led in scoring for the game by Patton with 11 points, Cochran with 9, Anderson with 8, and Cowart with 6 while Cochran

took the lead in assists with 5. Cowart pulled down a whopping 12 rebounds against the tall Lady Dogs with other leaders being Cochran with 8 and Anderson with 5 as Patton led in steals with 4 and Cochran followed with 2. This was truly a team victory with all eight Lady Indians appearing in the game contributing statistically to the win.

This report would not be complete without mentioning the outstanding performance by senior Emily Anderson, a power hitter for her Lady Indians' softball team, who used her excellent physical strength to great advantage in helping to somewhat contain the powerful presence of Atkism who scored 17 points for the Lady Dogs.

The victory was the fourth in five games between the Lady

Indians and Lady Bulldogs back to the 2011 season, George Walton's first in the Georgia High School Association. The Lady Indians drilled George Walton 77-47 in Hiwassee in their only game played during the 2011 season which saw the Lady Dogs lose just four games by a total of seven points other than the drubbing by the Lady Indians.

Among the razor thin losses by the Lady Dogs during the 2011 season was just a 57-56 loss to Class AAA state ranked Locust Grove, themselves losers of just three games that year by a total of 12 points. Last year, the Lady Indians took a 55-45 victory in Monroe and then won the Region 8-A Championship over the Lady Dogs by a 66-54 score at Lakeview Academy in Gainesville.

forward to sort of getting back to that older style of (restrictor) plate racing and I think it will provide a really good Daytona 500," said Earnhardt.

"I struggled with the (COT) car and you couldn't overdrive the car at all, even half a car length into the corner and it would get p'o'ed at you. This car we have today still has a splitter, but I think the rest of the car is definitely a step back toward the old, original car we used to have.

"I think that's going to benefit me in certain areas and in other areas, I'll still have to learn. There will be new things about this car. New things it does that you'll have to tailor yourself to and understand.

"I'm certain that I'll have to have an open mind towards a lot of things about the car that I might not fall in love with, but as a whole the car is really exciting. I'm looking forward to it."

WILL GORDON GET HIS PAYBACK

Practically everyone is wondering if Clint Bowyer will have a payback moment at Daytona and wreck Gordon to retaliate for Gordon intentionally wrecking him in last year's race at Phoenix.

I wouldn't count on it, especially at Daytona. Intentionally wrecking someone on a plate track is a really bad idea, possibly causing a 20-car melee.

Second, Bowyer is a serious title contender and he knows it. Wrecking Gordon to "get even" is not in Bowyer's best interest in the big picture. Things could go wrong and he could end up wrecking himself in the process, and hurt his overall Chase chances.

"A lot of people didn't have us chucked up to make the Chase," said Bowyer. "So to be able to win three races together our first time out and make the Chase - we proved that wrong - and go down to the wire in the championship in our first year together - we were

NASCAR 2013

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

Danica Patrick claims Daytona 500 Pole

Danica Patrick's time of 196.43 miles per hour during Sunday's qualifying for the Feb. 24, Daytona 500 was the fastest of any driver, and gave her the honor of being the first female to win a Cup pole.

"I'm so proud," she said. "So much attention and detail went into making this pole possible. It speaks volumes about the organization and our potential."

Jeff Gordon was second at 196.29 mph.

The two front row starting spots for Sunday's Daytona 500 are set.

The next 30 positions will be decided by placement in the Budweiser Duels, to run on Thursday, February 21. Fifteen positions will be added to the already qualified pole sitter in each Duel race. We now have 32 cars qualified.

The next four positions (33, 34, 35, 36) will go to drivers that didn't make it in through the qualifying Duels, but posted the four fastest speeds in the February 17 qualifier. The next six positions, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42 will be awarded as provisional starts based on 2012 owner points.

Finally, position 43, last on the starting grid, will go to the most recent past champion not yet in the field. If there is not a past champion still not in, that position will be filled by the next driver eligible based on 2012 owner points.



Patrick and car owner Tony Stewart inside the Daytona Media Center points). For the next two races, Phoenix and Las Vegas, 2012 owner points will be used.

SATURDAY'S SPRINT UNLIMITED AND ARCA WINNERS

Kevin Harvick in the first event of his final season for Richard Childress Racing won what was dubbed as the "Sprint Somewhat Unlimited" after nearly half the field vanished after a major pileup on lap 15 of the 75-lap race.

Greg Biffle finished second, followed by Joey Logano and Tony Stewart.

John Wes Townley won Saturday's ARCA Re/Max series 200 at Daytona.

Townley won from the pole in what was the 50th annual ARCA Racing Series event at Daytona International Speedway. "It's one thing to win your first race in ARCA, it's another to win at Daytona," Townley said after the first win in the 31-year history of Venturini Motorsports at Daytona International Speedway. Kyle Larson, Ricky Eh-

CAN DALE JR BOUNCE BACK AT DAYTONA

Dale Jr. is rested and raring' to go, as he hopes to regain the glory he once had at restrictor plate tracks.

The multi-car crash he caused at Daytona in preseason testing could be a good thing. It taught him, and a probably everyone else, a little something about what can and can't be done in the new Gen-6 car on a restrictor plate track.

But Earnhardt remains confident this car will race similar to the Gen-4, the one that made him a restrictor-plate star.

From the middle of the 2001 season through the end of 2004, Earnhardt won seven of 14 plate races -- two at Daytona (the 2001 July race after his father's death in the 500 and the 2004 Daytona 500) and five at Talladega. "I'm really excited and look

ecstatic! We were happy with that. So I don't see that side of a huge letdown. We were pumped up about it and don't see that second place hangover

"It was a complete start over from scratch...with a new manufacturer in Toyota, a new organization in MWR, a new sponsor. To be able to share the success we had right off the bat was certainly special. It meant a lot to me. It was an eye-opener - I think it opened my eyes and a lot of people's eyes to the potential of this race team. If we could come out of the box and have the success we had in the first year together, I really think the sky is the limit this year."

Weekend Racing: There's plenty of NASCAR racing this week. Starting Thursday, there will be two 60-lap exhibition races, called the Budweiser Duels. Friday the trucks will run a 100-lapper, while the Nationwide teams go at it on Saturday. On Sunday, it's the Daytona 500, NASCAR's most prestigious race of the season.

Thurs., Feb. 21, Sprint Cup Budweiser Duel No. 1; Starting time: 1 p.m. ET; TV: SPEED..

Thurs., Feb. 21, Sprint Cup Budweiser Duel No. 2; immediately following Duel No. 1.

Fri., Feb. 22, Camping World Trucks, race 1 of 22; Starting time: 7 p.m. ET; TV: SPEED.

Sat., Feb. 23, Nationwide DRIVE4COPD 300, race 1 of 33; Starting time: 1 p.m. ET; TV: ESPN.

Sun. Feb. 24, Sprint Cup Daytona 500, race 1 of 36; Starting time: 1 p.m. ET; TV: FOX

Racing Trivia Question: How many times did Dale Earnhardt Sr. win the Daytona 500? **Last Week's Question:** Does former Cup champion Terry Labonte plan to do any racing in 2013? **Answer:** He does plan on using his past champion's provisional to run the Daytona 500. You may contact the Racing Reporter at hodges@race500.com. NT(Feb20,C)nc

Baseball \ Softball Registration

The Towns County Recreation Dept. will be holding registration for softball and baseball for ages 8 thru 14 thru February 23, 2013. The cost for registration will be \$45. Sign-ups will be held at the Towns County Recreation Department. Our hours of operation are Monday thru Friday 9 a.m. till 8 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. till 4 p.m.

If you have any questions please call the Recreation Department at 706-896-2600.