

# Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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## Indians begin new year with big region wins over Commerce and Prince

By Jerry Kendall  
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The Towns County Indians Basketball Team got the 2015 portion of their season off to a great start by taking the measure of Region 8-A opponents Commerce on the road and Prince Avenue Christian School at home last week in matching their total number of wins against a very challenging 2014 portion of the schedule.

They survived red hot first half 3-point shooting by both Commerce and Prince Avenue with the Tigers sinking eight treys the first half at Commerce, and Prince Avenue hitting seven treys on Saturday.

With the two game sweep for the week, the Indians improved their overall record to 4-11, including 2-2 in Region 8-A action.

The win at Commerce was the first for long time Lady Indians head coach Jim Melton who was approved as interim head coach of the Indians at last Monday's Towns County School Board meeting and will continue at the helm for the Lady Indians.

Melton's selection followed the resignation of Duncan Weekley who had served as head coach of the Indians for a year and a half but decided to step down as a result of having hip replacement surgery the day following the Battle of the States and a need for time for recovery.

Melton's Lady Indian teams compiled an overall 326-150 record during his 16-and-a-half years at the helm prior to adding the additional duty of directing the Indians.

It turned out to be an inter-



Dallas Manus



The Indians celebrate following their dramatic victory over Prince Avenue. Photos/Lowell Nicholson

rupted assignment for Melton as the scheduled home game against Lakeview Academy on Friday was postponed due to the illness of Melton, who was expected to be able to make it to the Prince Avenue game on Saturday but was not able to do so with assistant boys coach Judd Gravitt filling in for him.

The Lakeview Academy game has been rescheduled for this Saturday, Jan. 17, with earlier than usual times as the JV girls and boys will begin play at 2 pm with the varsity girls and boys to follow at 5 pm in the Towns County Gym.

### Indians 58 Commerce 54

**Commerce** - In a first quarter highlighted by strong scoring runs by the two teams at Commerce on Tuesday night, the Tigers got off to a 7-1 start the first two minutes of the game, only to see the Indians go on a powerful 17-3 run for an 18-10 lead with 1:36 on the clock.

A trey by senior Dallas Manus triggered the run which saw Manus adding a second trey and 6'4" sophomore Adam Barrett including a trey among nine points against the perhaps stunned Tigers.

Just when it seemed the Indians might be on their way to an easy victory, however, the Tigers struck for a deuce and a trey in the final 42 seconds for just an 18-15 Indian lead by quarter's end and they opened the second quarter with a trey for an 18-18 tie.

Boone Moss had the hot hand in the second quarter for the Indians, however, as an old fashioned 3-point play by the 6'6" senior got them a 21-18 lead they would extend to as much as 32-23 on two free throws by Barrett at the 3:44 mark of the quarter.

But once again, the Tigers rallied, going on a 13-2 run for a 36-34 lead at 1:15 which became 38-36 at intermission in a first half shootout. Moss wound up with 11 points in leading the Indians in that second quarter.

The first half shootout turned into a second half defensive battle as the Indians, who were stung by eight treys by Commerce the first half, held the Tigers to just 16 points in the last half with no treys allowed.

The Indians opened the third quarter on a 7-0 run highlighted by two field goals by Boone Moss and ending on a basket by freshman Zach Davenport for a 43-38 lead but the Tigers scored the next six points for a 44-43 lead with 1:54 on the clock.

A putback basket by Will DeVries got the Indians a 45-44 lead at 46 seconds and Barrett added a field goal for a 47-44 Towns lead entering the fourth quarter.

The Indians would cling to small fourth quarter leads until a three point play by the Tigers got them a 50-50 tie at the 4:25 mark.

That score would last for just six seconds, however, as a field goal by Boone Moss got the Indians a 52-50 lead they would

not relinquish at 4:19 with the two teams going more than three minutes without scoring when a Barrett basket gave the Indians a 54-50 lead at 1:11.

The Tigers drove to the basket for a field goal and just a 54-52 deficit at the one minute mark but Major Moss sank two clutch free throws at 44.9 seconds and Boone Moss added a putback at twenty three seconds for a 58-52 Towns lead.

A Commerce field goal with six seconds left was too little too late for the Tigers as the Indians came away with a 58-54 victory.

Barrett and Boone Moss both put points on the scoreboard in every quarter and wound up with 21 points each with other leaders being Manus and Major Moss with 6 each while Davenport led in assists with 4 and was followed by Major Moss with 3 and the trio of Denton, DeVries, and Boone Moss with 2 each.

The Class A Tigers saw their overall record fall to 4-12 and 2-2 in Region 8A but, like the Indians, they have faced a very challenging non region schedule, going 2-10 against Class AAA and higher schools but with a recent upswing in their fortunes against these rivals.

In their three most recent games prior to their game with the Indians, they lost by just a 53-47 score to Banks County, a team with a current record of 14-3, and defeated Jackson County 52-47 and Jefferson 58-47.

SCORING: B. Moss 21, A. Barrett 21, Manus 6, M. Moss 6,



Boone Moss throws down a vicious two-handed slam during the second half of Towns' win over Prince Avenue. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

### Indians 54 Prince Avenue 51

In the Prince Avenue game, the Indians more than matched an early trey by the Wolverines on an old fashioned three point play by Major Moss and a trey by Dallas Manus for a 6-3 lead just a minute and ten seconds into the game.

They would also take a brief 8-7 lead on a basket by Kobe Denton at the 5:01 mark but the Wolverines would reclaim the lead and protect it throughout the remainder of the first half and into the early moments of the third quarter.

The Indians kept the game close during the remainder of the first quarter, edging to within 13-11 on a trey by Major Moss, to within 15-13 on a deuce by Boone Moss, and to within 18-16 at the quarter break on a second trey by Manus during the final 4:04 of the quarter.

A victory for the Indians appeared to be in serious jeopardy at the start of the second quarter when the Wolverines used two treys and a long deuce for an 8-0 run and a 26-16 lead by the 1:48 mark as the Indians endured a lengthy dry spell, not denting the scoreboard until a strong finish the final 1:39 of playing time prior to intermission.

A field goal and two free

throws by Boone Moss and a Major Moss putback got the Indians within 26-22 with twenty five seconds left and Manus answered the Wolverines' seventh trey of the half at the nine seconds mark with his third trey at the buzzer for a 29-25 Prince lead heading to the fourth quarter.

The Indians weren't done with their third quarter heroics as Manus drilled another trey just nine seconds into the fourth quarter for six points in less than ten seconds and Denton followed with a trey and a deuce for a 33-29 lead by the 5:51 mark, completing a 17-3 Indian run.

A real battle was on after that as there would be seven lead changes the final 4:55 of the quarter with the Wolverines holding a 40-39 lead despite a dunk and two free throws by Boone Moss.

The Wolverines opened the fourth quarter with two quick baskets for a 44-39 advantage but the Indians followed with 10 straight points for a 49-44 lead at 4:09 with Will DeVries, Manus, Zach Davenport, and Major Moss all contributing points along with a putback by Boone Moss at 4:49 for a 45-44 lead the Indians would not relinquish.

A Wolverine field goal at 3:41 was matched by a second Boone Moss dunk at 2:11 for a 51-46 Towns lead but the Wol-

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## Lady Indians fall to late scoring runs by Commerce, Prince Avenue

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The Towns County Lady Indians Basketball Team hung with Commerce on the road and Prince Avenue Christian School at home last week on pretty much even terms for some three quarters before seeing their opponents strike for decisive game closing runs for 64-49 and 45-32 victories.

The scheduled home game against Lakeview Academy on Friday was postponed due to the illness of Lady Indians head coach Jim Melton, who was expected to be able to make it to the Prince Avenue game but was not able to do so with assistant boys coach Judd Gravitt filling in for him.

The two games were Region 8-A contests, leaving the Lady Indians with an overall 4-11 record, including 1-3 in the region.

The Region 8-A home game against Lakeview Academy has been rescheduled for this Saturday, Jan. 17, with a bit earlier start than usual. The JV Girls will face Lakeview at 2 p.m. with the Indian JV's to follow and the varsity games to begin at 5 p.m.

### Lady Indians 49 Commerce 64

**Commerce** - The Lady Indians lead a 3-0 on a trey by Jocelyn Byers less than a minute into the game, got a 6-6 tie on a trey by Karlie Albach, and took a 7-6 lead on a free throw by Savannah Dyer during the first four minutes of the game at Commerce on Tuesday, but the Lady Tigers would use a 6-0 run for a 12-7 lead with 2:33 remaining in the first quarter.

The Lady Tigers would hold the lead, although on two occasions by the slimmest of margins, until early in the third quarter.



Junior Jocelyn Byers (25) gets airborne for a rebound. She led the Lady Indians with 16 points vs Commerce. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

throws by Dyer had the Lady Indians within 12-11 with 1:50 left in the first quarter and a trey by Albach at 7:10 of the second reduced a 17-13 first quarter Commerce lead to 17-16.

The Lady Tigers, however, led by such scores as 23-16, 25-19, and 27-21 before a late basket by Madison Landress had the Lady Indians back within the four point margin of the first quarter at 27-23 at intermission.

Albach struck for a deuce, a trey, and two free throws in less than two minutes at the start of the third quarter for a 30-27 Lady Indian lead they held until the four and a half minute mark of the quarter when the Lady Tigers forced a 33-33 standoff.

Field goals by Misty Lindemuth and Byers gave the Lady Indians leads of 37-35 and 39-37 by the 2:11 mark but the Lady Tigers struck for a 7-0 run for a 44-39 lead with thirty six seconds remaining.

A coast to coast run by Byers at 19 seconds got the Lady Indians within 44-41 but two Lady Tiger free throws at 5.8 seconds gave them a 46-41 lead entering the fourth quarter.

Two free throws by Kristen Henson matched a Commerce field goal for just a 48-43 Lady Tiger lead barely a minute into the fourth quarter but the Lady Tigers used a 10-0 run by the mid point of the quarter for a 58-43 lead and an eventual 64-49 victory.

Byers led the Lady Indians in scoring for the fourth game in a row with 16 points with other leaders being Albach with 13, Dyer with 7, and Lindemuth with 5. Lindemuth led in assists with 4, according to your reporter's tally.

Three sisters combined for fifty three of the Lady Tigers' 64 points. Freshman twins Mya and Asia Jones scored 34 and 8 points respectively while



Senior Madison Johnson mixes it up inside during the second quarter of the Prince Avenue game. She would go on to lead Towns with 12 points in the contest. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

their older sister, junior Brasha Jones, contributed 11 for the Lady Tigers who improved their overall record to 7-11 and their region record to 5-1 by week's end with decisive road wins over Tallulah Falls on Friday and Providence Christian on Saturday with two of their wins and 10 of their losses coming against higher classification area schools.

SCORING: Byers 16, Albach 13, Dyer 7, Lindemuth 5, Henson 2, Johnson 2, Landress 2, Ledford 2

### Lady Indians 32 Prince Avenue 45

A very difficult first quarter against Prince Avenue on Saturday saw the Lady Indians trailing 14-2 by quarter's end, but they battled back in the second and third quarters to within three points on three occasions in the second, and then to within a single point during the final minute of the third,

and then in the first couple of minutes of the fourth.

They were never able to quite overcome the big first quarter deficit, however, and the Lady Wolverines broke away the final six minutes for the 45-32 victory.

The Lady Indians opened the second quarter with a 10-1 run ending with two field goals by Madison Johnson and two free throws by Misty Lindemuth by the 2:31 mark for just a 15-12 deficit.

Lindemuth then matched a Prince field goal with two more free throws at 2:08 for a 17-14 score and two charity tosses by Johnson at 1:41 made it 19-16 before the Lady Wolverines finished the quarter with a field goal and free throw for a 22-16 lead at intermission.

The Lady Indians trailed 30-21 by the mid point of the third quarter but field goals by Kristen Henson and Karlie Albach, a trey by Henson, and a free throw by Dyer between the

3:09 and 42.4 seconds marks had them knocking on the door with just a 30-29 deficit. An inbounds steal and putback basket by the Lady Wolverines at 15 seconds, however, gave them a 32-29 lead entering the fourth quarter.

A basket by Johnson with 6:23 left again had the Lady Indians within one at 32-31 but the Lady Wolverines struck for a 13-1 run the rest of the game for the 45-32 victory. The Lady Wolverines improved their overall record to 7-6, including 3-2 in Region 8A, with the victory.

Scoring leaders for the Lady Indians for the game were Johnson, who put points on the score board in every quarter, with 12 points, Lindemuth with 7, and Albach and Henson with 5 each while Albach led in assists with 3 and was followed by Lindemuth with 2.

SCORING: Johnson 12, Lindemuth 7, Albach 5, Henson 5, Dyer 2, Byers 1