

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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TCMS Lady Indians take care of business

By Joe Collins
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Towns County Middle School girls basketball teams hosted the South Habersham Rebels Tuesday night at the Towns County middle school gym and both teams came away with solid victories.

The seventh grade team won big 29-11 while the eighth grade girls let it get close in the end but hung on to win 34-30.

The action was fast and exciting as the seventh grade hit the floor first and got things rolling with some great defense. The Indians took advantage of several turnovers and scored with some solid ball handling and heads up passing.

"We handled the ball well and our passing was much better. We took it to the basket when we caused turnovers and ran our plays well on offense. That is what I've been hoping to see from the girls and they did well," said Head Coach Lana Parker who was proud of the way the seventh grade played.

Lexi Ledford, Kristen Byers and Lea Underwood harassed the Rebel ball handlers and Byers was able to come away with a team high 10 points, many on fast breaks. Madison Thomas had a great night under the boards and followed with 8 points. Jordan Hyatt had an excellent effort from the line scoring 4 of her 6 points on 6 attempts and Madison McClure had a good game scoring 4 points. The team missed some good scoring opportunities however by only hitting 5-of-19 on the freebies but still managed to



The Towns County Middle School Lady Indians in action against South Habersham. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

win big 29-11. The eighth grade girls hit the wood next and had one of their best games of the season. Coach Parker had her girls ready to play following the break and they played well drawing first blood when Kristen Henson hit a 14-footer with 6:35 left in the first quarter for the first of her 6 points of the game.

"Our defense was strong and the offense did much better at being patient and setting up their plays," said Parker. We were very successful working the ball inside to Emory Patton, Kirsten Ledford and Madison Stroud and that is something we really need to do."

Patton had a solid game and led the team with 13 rebounds along side 8 points while Ledford had a team high scoring effort of 13 points that included hitting 7-for-12 from the line

with 5 rebounds. Stroud was solid with 4 points and 4 rebounds as the girls won 34-30.

Coach Parker showed her confidence in the team and left most of her starters on the bench in the last minutes of the game even though the Rebels were able to pull to within 4 points with 47 seconds left.

"The girls need to get used to playing under pressure so I let them play even though it got close at the end," said Parker.

The girls are getting ready for the middle school tournament starting on Jan. 17 at White County Middle School. Game times have not been posted yet but will be determined soon so call the TCMS office for scheduling times this week.

The girls are playing well and the tournament should be exciting so make plans now to attend. Go Lady Indians!

TCMS Indians whip Lumpkin County

By Joe Collins
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Dahlonega - The Towns County Middle School boys traveled to Dahlonega on Thursday to challenge the Lumpkin County Middle School Indians and came away with two big wins.

The seventh grade took it to the Lumpkin County tribe 34-26 and the eighth grade played one of their best games of the year as they dominated and won 55-41. It was a strong showing for the two teams as they prepare for the upcoming Middle School Tournament, which will be played at the LCMS starting Jan. 14.

The seventh grade boys came out fired up and moved the ball up and down the court with a vengeance. They played a good all around game and held strong on defense as the offense put the points on the board, out scoring their opponent in all but one quarter. They're hustle on defense caused 10 turnovers, several of which ended in fast break scores. It was an exciting game played very well by the guys.

Zack Davenport had another solid game and finished with 11 points, 12 rebounds and 5 assists while Cole Ledford matched Davenports point total of 11 to go with his 4 assists and 3 rebounds. Evan Berong had a great game ripping down 14 boards and scoring 5 points. Trent Bradshaw was third on the night in scoring with 7 points, as teammate Chase Williams got aggressive under the boards claiming 5 rebounds. TCMS led at the half 19-8 and defended their lead as the southern tribe came out firing in the second half matching TCMS' 15 points but could not take the lead and lost in the end 34-26.

The eighth grade took to



TCMS during its win over Lumpkin. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

the wood for the second game of the night against the distinct height and size advantage of the LCMS Indians but they were not intimidated in the least. They fought for position under the boards and got the fast break going early which led to a halftime lead of 28-15.

Major Moss had fire in his eyes and led his team up and down the court with tremendous skill and finesse while Kobe Denton and Chayton McClure harassed the Lumpkin County ball handlers to no end causing 12 turnovers. Will Devries and Adam Barrett showed their grit and kept the big guys of LCMS off the boards and delivered in the paint for the win 55-41.

"We were out sized tonight but we fought hard inside and kept Lumpkin off the boards. It was one of the best efforts I've seen out of this team all year," praised a proud head coach Duncan Weekley.

It really was a great effort for TCMS as Adam Barrett led the team in scoring with 18 points to compliment his 9 rebounds. Major Moss was very

solid again scoring 11 points with 10 boards, 4 steals and an amazing 12 assists. McClure covered the floor like a blanket on defense and added to his point collection with 10 to enhance his 7 boards, 3 steals and 2 assists and Denton added 8 points, 2 steals and 7 rebounds. Devries was very giving for a big guy with 5 assists to boost his 6 points and 8 rebounds while Darringer Barrett contributed 2 points with 5 boards and one steal.

"I am impressed with the way we played and I am looking forward to the tournament next week. We will just have to wait and see where we are ranked and get ready to play," said Weekley.

The teams are now going to get ready for the end of season tournament starting on Jan. 14 at Lumpkin County Middle School. Please check with the school office for game times and team bracket positions. Make plans now to come out and support the Indians as they are playing the best ball they've played all year. Go Indians!

NASCAR 2013

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

Speeds up in Daytona testing

Speeds were up during last week's preseason testing of the new car at Daytona. Several times cars running in packs were timed at nearly 200 miles per hour.

Jeff Burton had the fastest speed of the three-day test at 194.620 mph. In the draft, the top speeds were 199.650. The top 10-lap average in the draft was 195 mph.

"I think they want us going faster," Burton said. "I think they have a higher comfort level with the roof flaps and all that (and) they think they can get our speeds up."

"They kept inching us up at Talladega (in the test in October) and they got us to this speed, and they seem comfortable with it."

Robin Pemberton NASCAR Vice President of Competition Robin Pemberton said NASCAR had met its goal of slightly higher speeds.

"We know the teams will come back and bring a little bit better this and better that," said Pemberton. "We feel comfortable with that. The racetrack is coming to us a little bit, and speeds will fluctuate a lot — they'll be better on new tires and it will drop off as it goes."

"We're right in the ballpark. We don't foresee any changes."

Trevor Bayne, the 2011 Daytona 500 champion, posted the fastest lap at 199.650 mph.

"The biggest thing was just how the draft was working more like it used to be," said Bayne. "There were no two-car tandems, it was cool being able to back up off the leader and get runs and take the lead and do things like you used to do. It has a little bit more strategy involved than just holding it wide open and hitting the guy in front of you as hard as you could, so I thought it was cool."

The first Sprint Cup race of the season will be the Daytona Shootout, a 75-lap exhibition race on Saturday, Feb. 16.

Prior to the Shootout, the ARCA Re/Max Series will hold their first regular race of the season.

The Daytona 500 will be run Sunday, Feb. 24.

WILL MAYFIELD MAKE IT BACK TO NASCAR

Jeremy Mayfield called into a radio talk show last week and told Brian France that he would like to become part of NASCAR racing again.

"I want to make a serious comeback," Mayfield said according to NASCAR.com "(It would be) very positive towards NASCAR. It could only help both sides, especially if you guys give me another chance and keep it all positive."

Is he being realistic, or is it even possible?

Mayfield was suspended by NASCAR in 2009 and spent three years in court claiming that NASCAR suspended him for a false positive test that he said was for a mix of over-the-counter allergy medication (Claritin) and the prescription medication Adderall.

In addition he faces lots of legal problems, including numerous charges for stolen goods and possession of methamphetamine.

Mayfield believes he can put those charges behind him soon and that he would consider going through NASCAR's Road to Recovery drug rehabilitation program.

Mayfield asked France what he could do to race in NASCAR again.

"Jeremy, you know the path back for you," France said. "It's the path back for anybody. I've always hoped that you would choose the right path and not litigation and a bunch of other things."

"That's up to you. You have a welcome mat out (for you) anytime you want. There's a stated process that AJ Allmendinger just went through and we welcomed him back and it's terrific. That's up to you."

Mayfield's call to France was just another strange twist in a bizarre story that would only increase in tempo if Mayfield actually tried to race again considering the combative history and strained relationship between the driver and the sanctioning body.

Other problems developed around him after leaving NASCAR. His home was raided by police in 2011 and he eventually was charged with numerous felonies, one for possession of methamphetamine and 18 for larceny, breaking and entering and possession of stolen goods.

These charges carry a maximum of more than 40 years in jail, if found guilty of all counts. But Mayfield said he and his lawyers have almost reached a plea deal that would not require jail time.

Mayfield is looking on the positive side, but there are many negatives working against him. He is 43-year's old and has won only five Cup races in his career. If he were to somehow get out of all the charges against him without landing in jail, he would still have to complete NASCAR's drug rehabilitation program before being reinstated.

AJ Allmendinger was reinstated after a year, but he did not resist NASCAR on the charge. To the detriment of Mayfield, he fought NASCAR in court for over three years.

NASCAR is the type organization that doesn't like for someone to buck them or put them in a bad light, and Mayfield did exactly that.



2012 photo of Jeff Burton

The case involving Curtis Turner in the 1960s comes to mind. He bucked the powers that be, by trying to organize a drivers union, and it was over five years before the France family reinstated him. I believe the same thing would happen if Mayfield returned.

But let's go to the bottom line. Mayfield wasn't setting the racing world on fire before he was forced out. Now at his age, and after having been away from a race car for several years, who would want to take a chance on someone like him with all his less-than-favorable publicity?

He would be bringing too much baggage for any reputable sponsor to accept.

From my standpoint, he needs to learn another line of work.

PATRICK WON'T RUN INDY THIS YEAR

"I can confirm to you today that I will not be doing the Indy 500," Patrick said. "I'm just going to do the Coke 600. The team and I decided to focus on Cup. It's going to be plenty of work as it is."

"It's going to be important for me running for the championship full time for the first time to really keep myself focused with the Cup car."

Last year, Patrick also focused on Charlotte as one of her 10 Cup races while she also ran a full Nationwide schedule. This year, that schedule will flip with the full Cup slate and about 10 Nationwide races.

Which Nationwide team she will race for is still to be finalized. She said she has talked to Turner Scott Motorsports but hasn't signed a deal.

"I'm not sure if that is completely set," Patrick said. "I know there have been some reports that have come out about running for Turner. We're definitely talking to them and trying to figure it out."

"We're definitely working on that but there's nothing signed yet. The exact dates and the races and the sponsors have yet to be confirmed for all that."

Racing Trivia Question: Did Junior Johnson ever drive an Indy-car?

Last Week's Question: How many racing flags does NASCAR use? **Answer:** Seven, they are; black and white checkered, white, green, black, yellow, red, and blue with a yellow stripe.

You may contact the Racing Reporter at hodges@race500.com.

Lady Indian basketball: the beat goes on



Way to go Towns County 10 & Under Girls for claiming the titles of two Christmas Tournaments in December 2012! These are no ordinary girls; they took home their first title in November 2012 at the Smokey Mountain Conference in Hayesville. Last month, they swept across the score boards and wowed the crowd starting at Hiwassee Dam in their Holiday Hoop Fest, then moved on to the Andrews Holiday Tournament. In the end, they had received two first place titles to call their own! These girls averaged a 20 point margin of victory against their opponents in every game. Thanks to their hard work and dedication and the great leadership of Coach Shannon Floyd, they were able to accomplish this. Congratulations!

New Superintendent of the Appalachian Trail

The National Park Service has announced their selection of Wendy K. Janssen as the new superintendent of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, a unit of the National Park System. She replaces Pam Underhill, who recently retired this past year. Janssen is expected to assume her new position in February and will be working in cooperation with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) and its affiliated Trail clubs and volunteers, and federal, state, local and private partners in the protection and management of the Appalachian Trail (A.T.).

"The Appalachian Trail Conservancy is excited that the National Park Service has named Wendy as the new superintendent of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. Her proven history in maintaining and developing strong partnerships will be instrumental in continued protection of the Appalachian Trail," stated Mark Wenger, Executive Director/CEO of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy.

Since 2008, Janssen has served as superintendent of Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument (HAFO) and Minidoka National Historic Site (MIIN) in Idaho, with a

unit of MIIN in Bainbridge Island, WA.

During her tenure, Janssen led extensive planning and implementation efforts for both sites, including the construction of new facilities, preservation of historic camp structures, and development of education programs. In those efforts she worked with her staff to engage new audiences and involve partners to establish a cooperative and collaborative environment. Janssen also worked on many external issues affecting both parks, including wind turbines, transmission lines, and a concentrated animal feeding operation.

"Wendy's commitment to working collaboratively and building strong partnerships have been a cornerstone of her career in the National Park Service," said Northeast Regional Director Dennis Reidenbach. "Her excellence in those areas are just a few of the many reasons we know she is the perfect fit to lead the Appalachian Trail's unique cooperative management system into the centennial of the National Park System in 2016, and beyond."

Janssen has worked in management positions at parks across the country including Cabrillo National Monument, Santa Monica Mountains Na-

tional Recreation Area (NRA), Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site (NHS) and Preservation District, and Whiskeytown NRA, in addition to being a planner at the Service's Harpers Ferry Center and park ranger positions at the USS Arizona Memorial, Natchez National Historical Park (NHP), Boston NHP, Lowell NHP, Saint-Gaudens NHS, and Lyndon B. Johnson NHP.

"It is an honor to be selected as the superintendent of this much loved national treasure and the first National Scenic Trail," Janssen said. "This 'footpath for the people' is a wonderful example of 'citizen action in the public interest' and I look forward to working with Trail staff, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, stakeholders, agency partners, neighbors and communities to continue to protect this incredible trail system and its significant resources that are accessible to millions of residents in the eastern United States."

Janssen is a graduate of Rutgers University with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. She will be relocating with her husband Steven Flory, who is a museum curator with the National Park Service.