

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Late third quarter scoring run lifts Andrews past Lady Indians

By Jerry Kendall
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Towns County Lady Indians Varsity Basketball Team got it's 2015-16 season underway last Tuesday by hosting the Andrews Lady Wildcats in a pre-season scrimmage and came out on the short end of a 61-49 decision on the strength of a 13-1 run by Andrews the final 3:32 of the third quarter.

The game was scheduled too late to inform readers of the change in last week's Herald after scrimmages on tap at Highlands on Friday were cancelled by the Highlands teams.

The opening minutes of the game proved to be an offensive struggle for both teams as they battled to a 2-2 standoff until the final 3:20 of the first quarter when the Lady Cats struck for six straight points and an 8-2 lead only to see a trey by senior Jocelyn Byers and an old fashioned three point play by sophomore newcomer Madison McClure the final 1:30 force an 8-8 standoff at quarter's end.

The second quarter would see the Lady Indians take a 9-8 lead, on a free throw by junior Kirsten Ledford, which was followed by three lead changes and two ties with Andrews holding a 25-21 lead by intermission.

Six different Lady Indians put points on the scoreboard in that second quarter with two free throws by junior Kristen Henson giving them their only other lead of the first half by a 13-12 score with 5:04 on the clock.

After a quick basket in the third quarter gave the Lady Cats a 27-21 lead, the Lady Indians embarked on a 13-6 run by the 3:42 mark for their third lead of the game by a 34-33 score. The scoring run was led by the trio of Byers with a field goal and three assists, fresh-



Lady Indians during a scrimmage game with Andrews, NC Photos by Lowell Nicholson

man Lexi Ledford with three field goals for six points, and Kirsten Ledford with a field goal and the two free throws which provided the lead.

Andrews would follow,

however, with the aforementioned 13-1 run, which was aided significantly by a trip to the bench with four fouls for Byers at the 2:10 mark, giving the Lady Cats a 46-35 lead en-

tering the fourth quarter.

The final quarter would see a return for Byers and six points in the quarter but the Andrews lead reached as much as 14 points on two occasions

early in the quarter and as few as nine on three occasions the final 4 minutes on a trey by Byers, a field goal by freshman Lea Neumyer, and two free throws by Kirsten Ledford.

A common occurrence in early season basketball play is foul trouble for individual players and teams overall and this was the case for both teams in this game resulting in lengthy parades to the foul line.

The Lady Indians could have helped themselves with better free throw shooting than their 20-for-37 accuracy but the Lady Wildcats could have placed some distance between themselves and the Lady Indians themselves with better shooting than their 24-for-44 totals.

The Lady Wildcats actually left the door open for the Lady Indians a bit by cooling off at the foul line the final 3:50 of the game with just 5 for 16 accuracy but the Lady Indians couldn't take sufficient advantage to close the gap.

Nine different Lady Indians entered the scoring column during the game with leaders being Byers with 16 points, Kirsten Ledford with 10, and Lexi Ledford with 6.

Byers also led in assists with 5 and Henson followed with 2, according to your reporter's unofficial tally.

Dealing with the play of Lady Wildcat senior post player Tiffany Holloway proved to be a difficult task for the Lady Indians in this game as she scored 23 points and contributed numerous rebounds and blocked shots for her team.

Lady Indians not mentioned above are senior Savannah Dyer, juniors Madison Landress and Madison Stroud, and freshmen Kristen Byers, Taylor Cornett, Kenzlee Denton, and Erica Spano.

The Lady Indians and Indians will open regular season play this Saturday, November 21, when they host Class AAA Lumpkin County at 6:00 pm and they will also face Class AA Social Circle at home next Tuesday, November 24 at 6:00 pm.

Indians overwhelm Nantahala, NC in preseason scrimmage

By Jerry Kendall
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

An anticipated trip to Highlands last Friday night for a scrimmage game did not occur for the Towns County Indians Varsity Basketball Team as the Highlanders canceled the game due to scheduling problems and a home game with Nantahala was substituted on Thursday too late to inform readers of last week's newspaper of the change.

The game against Nantahala turned out to be a very successful debut for new Indians head coach Rob Benson as the Indians broke away the final four minutes of the first quarter and withstood two second quarter scoring spurts by the Hawks in breezing to an 82-55 victory.

The win came against a Nantahala team which returned all varsity players from last year's team which compiled a 7-14 record.

And the Indians pulled off the impressive win without the presence of two top returning members of last year's team, junior Darringer Barrett and sophomore Zach Davenport.

Barrett is recovering from serious injuries sustained in an automobile accident several months ago but hopes to be able to return to action as early as December while Davenport missed the game as a precautionary measure in allowing time for a sprained thumb to heal.

The visiting Hawks used three treys in building an 11-7 lead by the 4:33 mark of the first quarter before the Indians finished the quarter on 15-0 run for a 22-11 lead.

Junior post player Adam Barrett had the hot, early hand for the Indians as he poured in twelve of the Indians' first fifteen points before sitting out much of the remainder of the game in foul trouble.

Junior Will de Vries, who gave the Indians the lead for good at 12-11 on a trey just past the mid point of the first quarter, finished the quarter with six points and poured in 14 more in the second for a whopping twenty points at intermission.

And freshman Will Travis quickly made his presence known with the final basket of the first quarter and the first of



the second in an impressive high school debut.

The Hawks continued to make their presence known in second quarter play despite the Indians' offensive heroics, using two treys in each of a pair of 8-0 runs in pulling to within 26-21 at the 4:53 mark and then within 38-32 at 1:32 before the Indians scored the final six points on two free throws by de Vries and baskets by junior Major Moss and senior Jake Pyrlik for a 44-32 lead at intermission.

The Indians extended their lead to 68-48 by the end of the fourth quarter and took an 82-55 victory in spite of three more treys by the Hawks in the third quarter and two in the fourth, giving them twelve for the game compared to six for the Indians.

The Indians held the upper hand otherwise, however, as they sank 24 deuces compared to just six for Nantahala and they also held a sizeable advantage at the foul line with 16-for-28 accuracy compared to 7-for-10 for the Hawks. Scoring

highlights the last half for the Indians included 10 points by Pyrlik and nine each by de Vries and junior Colton Shook.

Scoring leaders for the Indians for the game were de Vries with 29 points, Barrett and Pyrlik with 14 each, Shook with 9, Moss with 7, and Travis with 6.

Moss took the lead in assists with 8 with other leaders being sophomore Cole Ledford with 3 and Shook and sophomore Evan Berrong with 2 each, according to your reporter's unofficial tally.

Members of the team in addition to those mentioned above are senior Kevin Rear-don, sophomore Bradley Benson, and freshman Brett Denton.

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Towns County Indians vs Nantahala basketball pictures by Lowell Nicholson

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