

# Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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## Scrimmage: Lady Indians fall in overtime to Gilmer County

By Jerry Kendall  
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The Class A Towns County Lady Indians Varsity Basketball Team came out on the short end of an overtime battle in a preseason scrimmage game against Class AAAA Gilmer High School of Ellijay last Saturday afternoon in the Towns County Gym.

They battled foul trouble and injury during the game but still managed to get the game into overtime where the Lady Bobcats took a quick lead and used excellent free throw shooting to extend the lead for a 67-55 victory.

With the regular season getting underway with three games for the Lady Indians this week, they will be looking to continue a run of unprecedented success extending back to the 1990's. Under Head Coach Jim Melton, they have compiled an overall 303-130 record in 15 years with four Region Championships and three trips to the State Final Four included. Prior to that, the Lady Indians compiled an 84-25 record in four years under Head Coach Robbie Stancil, including the first four of six straight Sub Region Championships, through the 1998 season.

Melton took over the team during the 1999 season and the Lady Indians extended the run of consecutive Sub Region Championships to six before this tournament was discontinued in 2001. The last six years have been especially remarkable for the Lady Indians with their winning 152 games while losing just 31 through last season.

The Lady Indians lost two productive seniors from



Senior Eryn Cochran (10) drives the paint in the first half of the scrimmage with Gilmer County. She would later sign with Columbus State. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

last year in the persons of post players Emily Anderson and Dadrion Blythe but returned their top three scorers in Junior Stephanie Patton with a 19.5 points per game average, Senior Eryn Cochran at 13.2 points per game, and Senior Kellsie Cowart at 9.0 points per game.

The Lady Bobcats sank their first four shots in springing out to 6-0 and 8-2 leads less than two minutes into the game and held a 12-4 advantage by the 3:57 mark of the first quarter. The Lady Indians rallied to within 12-11 with 2:35 on the clock but trailed 17-12 by quarter's end with six different players having put points on the scoreboard.

The Lady Indians forced

17-17, 19-19, and 22-22 ties in second quarter action but could never get a lead until Sophomore Jocelyn Byers struck for two treys at the 2:32 and 2:09 marks for a 25-25 tie and a 28-25 Lady Indian lead which became 39-27 by intermission. Byers completed an 11-point quarter with a deuce and then a long trey at the buzzer with senior Bailey Sutton including a trey among 7 points and Cowart added five in the quarter.

Byers' fourth trey of the game and two free throws had the Lady Indians ahead by scores of 42-33 and 44-36 by the 3:44 mark of the third quarter but points were hard to come by after that, largely due to hopefully short duration

injury problems for Patton and Cochran and foul problems for Cochran. Patton missed much of the first half and was hampered when playing the last half due to a hopefully slight knee injury in the first quarter and Cochran experienced some difficulty with a previously injured ankle.

The Lady Indians held a 48-44 lead entering the fourth quarter and led 50-47 on two free throws by Cowart at 5:45 but Cochran, who had three fouls the first half and another in the third quarter, was lost on fouls at the 5:36 mark.

A Lady Cat field goal at 5:08 cut the Towns lead to 50-49 and another at 3:04 got Gilmer ahead 51-50. Two free throws by Patton at 2:48 had



No. 25 Jocelyn Byers mixes it up in the paint. The sophomore led the Indians with 17 points. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

the Lady Indians back in front 52-51 at 2:48 but the Lady Cats reclaimed the lead on a field goal at 1:48. Cowart tied the score with a free throw at 1:26 with Gilmer holding the ball for one shot, a 3-point attempt which was in and out of the basket with 3 seconds to go and the game went to a 4-minute overtime.

A 3-point play at 3:30 of the overtime period got the Lady Cats a 56-53 lead and a field goal at 3:05 gave them a 58-53 advantage they extended with 9-for-10 free throw shooting the remainder of the game in taking the 67-55 victory. Free throw shooting was a problem for both teams other than the late success for Gilmer as the Lady Cats had sunk just 4-of-13

attempts the first three quarters before going 10-for-11 overall in the fourth and the Lady Indians made just 15-of-31 for the game.

The Lady Indians were led in scoring by Byers with 17 points with other leaders being Cowart with 12, Sutton with 7, and Cochran and Patton with 5 each while Cochran and Cowart led in assists with 7 and 2 respectively, according to your reporter's unofficial tally.

Lady Indians seeing action but not previously mentioned were Senior McKenzie Moss, Juniors Karlie Albach and Madison Johnson, and Sophomore Savannah Dyer.

Sophomore Brooke Smith was sick and not available for the game.

## Youthful Indians have bright moments in scrimmage with Gilmer County

By Jerry Kendall  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

The Towns County Indians Varsity Basketball Team took it on the chin in a preseason scrimmage matchup with Gilmer High School of Ellijay last Saturday afternoon in the Bill P. Kendall Gymnasium but there were very positive moments when considering the circumstances of the game.

The Indians lost just two seniors in the persons of Joseph Gibson and Ryan Tallent from last year's team but senior Aaron Dodson has moved to Florida and they were also forced to play without the services of junior point guard Dallas Manus.

Manus has been his team's scoring leader as both a freshman and sophomore as well as their floor leader from his point guard position but he has been sidelined by a stretched ligament above this ankle and will be unavailable for several weeks, hopefully returning by at least the Battle of the States Tournament in late December. The absence of Manus' 10.4 points per game and the 7.6 average of Tallent left Juniors Trace Moss at 5.8 and Boone Moss at 5.4 as the top returning point producers.

With the loss of the size and all around admirable skills of Dodson and the temporary loss of Manus, the Indians are left with just two productive seniors in Garrett Bradshaw and Slade Davenport and the aforementioned Juniors Trace Moss and Boone Moss, leaving them in the unique



The Indians battle the Bobcats for a rebound in the early stages of the scrimmage last Friday. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

situation of having six freshmen, up from a very successful middle school season a year ago, completing the roster. The Indians have often called on freshmen for extended service through the years and the game against Gilmer proved to be the case with as many as four freshmen in action at the same time on several occasions during the game.

The Indians were stung by six treys by three different Bobcats in first quarter action with the resulting eighteen points largely accounting for a 25-6 Gilmer bulge after one quarter. The Indians were much more competitive after that as Bradshaw scored

the first five points of the second quarter and Boone Moss four late points as Gilmer increased their 19-point first quarter margin by just two points to 42-21 at intermission.

The third quarter saw Trace Moss strike for two deuces and a trey for seven points as the Bobcats used just a 15-12 advantage in the quarter for a 57-33 lead entering the fourth quarter. The Indians then outscored the Bobcats 12-10 in the fourth quarter with Freshman Adam Barrett taking the lead with seven points as Gilmer closed out a 77-45 victory.

Adam Barrett took the lead in scoring for the game with 10 points with other leaders being Boone Moss with 9, Bradshaw and Trace Moss with 7 each, and Davenport with 5. Leading in assists, according to your reporter's unofficial tally, were Bradshaw, Davenport, and Freshman Major Moss with 3 each and Trace Moss with 2. Other Indians seeing significant and promising action but not mentioned above were Freshmen Darringer Barrett, Kobe Denton, Will DeVries, and Brady Moss.

It is quite a step for even outstanding players such as the current group from middle school to even JV play but it is especially difficult to jump over JV play to fast paced varsity play which was the task assigned the six Indian freshmen. There was much to be admired by their performance against Class AAAA Gilmer, a team which compiled a 24-5 record last year and returned two of three double digits scorers as seniors this year. These two seniors, who averaged 21.1 and 10.6 points per game last year scored 27 and 14 points against the Indians and a junior added 14 more with these three players providing 55 of the Bobcats' 77 points.

## Wrestling season put on hold after tragedy strikes in Franklin County

By Mason Mitcham  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

After a tragedy last Saturday took the life of a Franklin County wrestler, Indian Wrestling Coach Jeff Stowers made the decision not to participate in the dual meet scheduled for the 15th, in which Franklin and Towns were both scheduled to take part.

Franklin's 195-lb wrestler was involved in a car crash that eventually ended his life. Stowers called Franklin County's Coach Rider, and out of respect for the memory and the family of the wrestler, called off the tournament. Whether or not they will reschedule remains to be seen.

"It's terrible for a kid like that to lose his life," Stowers said.

Upcoming in Towns County's schedule is the Panther Classic, held at Blairsville on Nov. 23rd. Shortly after that, on Dec. 6th, Towns will host the King of the Mountain tournament.

King of the Mountain is the first home tournament of the season, and Coach Stowers is looking forward to it. The King of the Mountain tournament will allow the Indian wrestlers to show off their skills in front



With the King of the Mountain and the season fast approaching, Coach Jeff Stowers closely monitors practice. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

of a home crowd.

"It's a good time," he said. "It's a chance to get people from all around." Towns will have nine teams coming to compete, flocking in from both North Carolina and Georgia, so like most wrestling tournaments, King of the Mountain will be a day-long affair.

This week of preparation has been hectic. With the end of the football and cross country seasons, Stowers has plenty of

athletes to get up to speed, but he's still waiting on his wrestlers involved in the school's drama program, who won't get to practice until this week.

Hydration tests have been administered, so now Stowers is focusing on getting everyone in the routine of training. They'll definitely be working hard to get in "wrestling shape" for their next match, which is in Asheville, NC on Dec. 19th.

## Towns County High School Basketball Schedule

Date	Time	Location	Game Type
Nov 19	6:00 PM	Blue Ridge, NC	Home
Nov 22	6:30 PM	Hayesville, NC	Away
Nov 23	6:00 PM	Winder-Barrow (8-A-AAAA)	Apalachee Tournament
Nov 26	6:00 PM	Apalachee (8-A-AAAA)	Apalachee Tournament
Dec 03	6:00 PM	Tallahul Falls (8A-A)*	Away
Dec 06	7:00 PM	Lakeview Academy (8A-A)*	Away
Dec 07	6:00 PM	Union County (8B-AA)	Home
Dec 14	6:00 PM	Pinecrest Academy (8A-A)*	Home
Dec 17	6:30 PM	Blue Ridge, NC	Away
Dec 19	6:00 PM	Union County (8B-AA)	Away
Dec 20	7:00 PM	Mount Paran Christian	Away
Dec 26	7:00 PM	Battle of the States Christmas	Tournament
Dec 27	TBA	Battle of the States Christmas	Tournament
Dec 28	TBA	Battle of the States Christmas	Tournament
Jan 03	7:00 PM	Commerce (8A-A)*	Home
Jan 10	6:00 PM	Athens Christian (8B-A)*	Away
Jan 11	6:00 PM	Athens Academy (8B-A)*	Home
Jan 14	6:00 PM	Hebron Christian Academy (8B-A)*	Home
Jan 17	7:00 PM	George Walton Academy (8B-A)*	Away
Jan 21	6:00 PM	Prince Avenue Christian (8B-A)*	Away
Jan 24	7:00 PM	Providence Christian (8B-A)*	Home
Jan 28	6:00 PM	Commerce (8A-A)*	Away preview
Jan 31	7:00 PM	Lakeview Academy (8A-A)*	Home
Feb 01	6:00 PM	Pinecrest Academy (8A-A)*	Away
Feb 04	6:00 PM	Tallahul Falls (8A-A)*	Home-Senior Night
Feb 11	TBA	Region Tournament 1st Rd	@Commerce
Feb 12	TBA	Region Tournament 1st Rd	@Commerce
Feb 13	TBA	Region Tournament 1st Rd	@Commerce
Feb 14	TBA	Region Tournament Semi-Final	@Commerce
Feb 15	TBA	Region Tournament Finals	@Commerce

\* - denotes Region Game

## TOWNS CO. WRESTLING 2013

Date	Opponent	Location	Time/Leave
11/15	Franklin Co.	Carnesville	5:30/2:45
11/19	Asheville School	Asheville	5:00/2:00
11/23	UC Panther Classic	Blairsville	TBA
12/3	White Co./N. Hall	Cleveland	5:00/3:30
12/6-12/7	King of the Mountains	Home	TBA
12/13	Union Co., Franklin, Rabun, Hayesville, Hart Co.	Home	4:30
12/14	Rumble on the Ridge	Blue Ridge	TBA
12/19-12/21	Disney Duals	Orlando, FL	TBA
1/3-1/4	Area Duals	Holy Innocents	TBA
1/9	Hart Co./	Hartwell	5:00/2:30
1/10***	Rabun Co.	Home	5:00/3:45
1/11-1/12	State Duals	Macon	TBA
1/15	Rabun Co.	Clayton	5:00/3:30
1/17	Rabun Gap	Home	6:30
1/18	Union Co.	Home	TBA
1/21	Robbinsville	Robbinsville	TBA
1/24	Hayesville	Home	6:00
1/25	N.E. GA Championships	Toccoa	TBA
1/31-2/1	Area	Commerce	TBA
2/8	Sectionals	Mt. Vernon	TBA
2/14-2/15	State Tournament	Macon	TBA

\*\*\* Tentative based on Qualification for the State Duals