

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Lady Indians roll past Blue Ridge, NC and Winder-Barrow

By Jerry Kendall
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The Towns County Lady Indians Varsity Basketball Team survived the loss of a top player to injury last week by racing past Blue Ridge High School of Cashiers, North Carolina, on Tuesday and Winder-Barrow High School of Winder on Saturday. The two victories, which were actually not as competitive as the 91-31 and 50-32 scores would indicate, give the Lady Indians an early season 2-0 record.

After the enjoyment for your reporter of informing readers last week of the signing of Eryn Cochran to a basketball scholarship to Columbus State University, there is an unfortunate task this week of informing the same readers that Cochran has been sidelined for up to nine weeks due to a ligament injury in her ankle. She actually injured the ankle during a preseason scrimmage game against Gilmer but with the expectation and hope at the time that the injury wasn't too serious with little or no loss of playing time.

This was not to be the case, however, as she must go through a period of healing, rehab, and gradually returning to playing condition. The injury to Cochran leaves both TCHS varsity teams in the unfortunate situation of having their star point guard out of action at the same time due to similar injuries. And word comes from Union County that their star player, Lauren Zollinger, is also out of action for an extended time due to a severe knee injury.

Like the Indians, who lost junior point guard Dallas Manus prior to their scrimmage game, the Lady Indians must proceed



Stephanie Patton takes on five Winder defenders on her way to the hoop. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

with their season and they served notice last week that they still have some fire power with two very decisive victories. And for a bit of a bright side for both the Lady Indians and Indians, the losses to injury result in additional playing time for younger and inexperienced players who can be better prepared to contribute to their teams in various roles after the return of their injured teammates.

Lady Indians 91 Blue Ridge 31 – It was a mismatch from start to finish on Tuesday when the Lady Indians played host to Blue Ridge as they scored the first thirteen points of the game and never looked back in

leading 26-6, 50-13, and 83-21 at the quarter breaks in taking a 91-31 victory. All ten Lady Indians dressed for the game saw extensive action and all entered the scoring column. With senior Bailey Sutton sidelined, in addition to Cochran, for this game due to illness, freshman Madison Landress was promoted to the varsity from the Lady Indian JV's and she saw lots of productive and promising action.

Karlie Albach had the Lady Indians off and running with a putback basket just eighteen seconds into the game and she added a trey at the 6:09 mark for a 5-0 lead with Stephanie Patton contributing twelve points and



Towns County Coach Jim Melton and his Lady Indians' quest for a State Championship is underway. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Kelsie Cowart five by the end of the first quarter. Patton went on to score seven points while playing just under half of the second quarter and fifteen in just over half of the third while Jocelyn Byers added fourteen in the two middle quarters and Mckenzi Moss seven during the same time frame.

Patton included five treys among her team leading 34 points while Byers included three treys among her 17 points for the game. Other scoring leaders were Albach and Cowart with 9 points each, Moss with 8, and Brooke Smith with 5. Leaders in assists, according to your reporter's unofficial tally, were Byers with 5, Misty Lindemuth with 3, and Patton,

Moss, and Smith with 2 each.

Lady Indians 50 Winder Barrow 32 – The Lady Indians traveled to Bethlehem in Barrow County on Saturday to participate in a tip off tournament with their opening night opponent being Class AAAAA Winder-Barrow. Some natural anxiety for the Class A Lady Indians facing off against a much larger school far from home didn't last too long as Stephanie Patton took the ball coast to coast for a basket less than a minute into the game and they were on their way to 5-0, 9-2, and 17-4 first quarter leads.

Patton included a trey among nine points in the first quarter and included another

trey while adding five more in the second as the Lady Indians held a 31-9 lead at intermission. Karlie Albach contributed a trey in each of the first two quarters while Kelsie Cowart contributed four points in the first quarter and Savannah Dyer four in the second.

When Albach opened the third quarter with a trey for a 34-9 Lady Indian bulge, it appeared the Indians might be headed for a one sided score reminiscent of the blow out against the much smaller Blue Ridge school four nights prior. But it is often difficult to continue momentum with a huge lead and this proved to be the case in this game as the Lady Indians managed only a Bailey Sutton field goal between the 7:13 and 53.2 seconds marks as the Lady Bulldogs edged to within 36-21 with 1:47 on the clock.

Two free throws by Patton at that 53.2 mark not only got the Lady Indians ahead 38-21 after three quarters but was the start of a 14-2 run, giving them a 50-23 lead by the 2:54 mark of the fourth quarter. With the less experienced Lady Indians finishing the game, the Lady Bulldogs ended the contest on a 9-0 run the final 2:21 in reducing the final margin for the Lady Indians to a still decisive 50-32 victory.

Scoring leaders for the game for the Lady Indians were Patton with 19 points, Albach with 11, Sutton with 7, and Cowart with 6. Patton also led in assists with 6 while Misty Lindemuth took second honors with 2. Speaking of Lindemuth, the hustling junior hasn't yet produced a lot of points, a typical trait for her in the past, but she has been a force on the boards and in making good things happen in other areas of the game in the early going.

Towns County drops a heartbreaker to Blue Ridge, NC in triple overtime

By Jerry Kendall
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Towns County Indians Varsity Basketball Team was in action just one time last week due to the postponement of their scheduled game at Hayesville on Friday as a result of the Yellow Jackets football team still being in the playoffs. The Indians hosted Blue Ridge High School of Cashiers, North Carolina, on Tuesday and saw an encouraging performance come to a disappointing end when the Bobcats sank a layup at the buzzer ending the third overtime in taking a 62-61 victory.

It was one of those occasional agonizingly close games bringing about numerous thoughts of "what might have been" in the closest game from start to finish in your reporter's memory. Better free throw shooting or just one of those key field goal or free throw attempts by the Indians that seemed destined to fall in the rim while similar shots by the Bobcats seemed to find a way into the basket could have led to a win long before the third overtime.

But maybe the Bobcats may have thought the breaks on the shots went against them and they didn't do too well at the foul line either so the game can be a learning experience for the future.

At any rate, the game saw the Indians lead by no more than four points, on two occasions in the second quarter and on one in the first overtime, while the Bobcats led by no more than four points with this one advantage being at intermission. Further there were sixteen ties and fifteen lead changes with the Indians actually leading for much of the game but by the smallest of margins.

Trace Moss had the hot scoring hand from start to finish for the Indians. The sharp shooting junior included a trey in each of the first two quarters among seven points in each quarter as the Indians led for most of the half. Senior Slade Davenport included a trey among seven points the first half as Moss and Davenport accounted for twenty one of their team's twenty seven points.

Although the Indians led for most of the first half, the Bobcats scored the final five points of the first quarter in just twenty two seconds for a 16-14 lead and they scored the final six in the second in just fifty seconds for a 31-27 lead at intermission. The Indians responded to the two late Bobcat quarterly surges with a 9-3 start in the second quarter and a 7-1 start to the third.

The third quarter saw an interesting scoring flurry of four straight treys by the two teams when treys by Trace Moss at 4:47 and 3:17 were matched by treys by the Bobcats at 3:49 and 2:45 for four lead changes in barely more than two minutes with a



The Towns County Indians take it inside during a recent contest. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

32-31 Blue Ridge lead becoming 38-37. Still another lead change came at the 1:58 mark on a Garrett Bradshaw basket for a 39-38 Towns lead but a log deuce by the Bobcats at 1:02 had them back ahead 40-39. A free throw by Will Devries for the Indians at 37.4 seconds forced a 40-40 tie entering the fourth quarter.

A trey by Boone Moss just twelve seconds into the fourth quarter had the Indians ahead 43-40 but a 6-1 run had the Bobcats back in front 46-44 and they slowed the game down after that, only to sabotage their strategy by missing three straight one and one free throw attempts. The Indians took advantage of the misses as a trey by Trace Moss at 2:11 gave the Indians a 48-48 tie and a Blue Ridge field goal at 1:03 was quickly matched by one by Boone Moss at fifty one seconds for a 50-50 standoff.

The Bobcats opted to go for one shot but walked with 2.1 seconds on the clock and the game went to a four minute overtime. A free throw and a trey by Trace Moss had the Indians ahead 54-50 by the 2:56 mark of the first overtime but a putback basket and two for four free throw shooting by the Bobcats had them even at 54-54 with 2:19 left.

A Trace Moss basket at 2:11 and one by Devries at 1:20 gave the Indians leads of 56-54 and 58-56 but the Bobcats matched these shots each time with the last one coming at forty seconds. Neither team could put points on the board after that and the game went to a second overtime as a result of a 58-58 score.

The second and third overtimes would see the Bobcats, who had their top ball handler on the bench with five fouls by this time, slow the game down again with few points put on the scoreboard. The Bobcats got a roller to fall in the basket for a 60-58 lead just six seconds into the second overtime but free throws by Devries at 3:44 and

3:05 evened the score at 60-60 and that would be the score at the end of the overtime period. The Bobcats held the ball until turning it over at eleven seconds but the Indians couldn't score and the third overtime period resulted.

With the slowdown tactics continuing, the Indians drew first blood on a free throw by Devries, for the fifth straight Indian point by the freshman back to late in the first overtime, with 1:01 left for a 61-60 Towns lead. During the five points run, Devries gave the Indians a lead on two occasions and forced a tie on another. The Indian lead held up until the Bobcats claimed a rebound after a missed Indian free throw at 6.7 seconds and took the ball the length of the court for a layup at the buzzer and a heart stopping 62-61 victory.

Trace Moss included six treys among his team leading 31 points with other scoring leaders being Davenport and Boone Moss with 9 each, and Devries with 7. Leading in assists were Bradshaw, Devries, and Boone Moss with 3 each and Kobe Denton, Major Moss, and Trace Moss with 2 each. The Indians sank just nine of thirty free throw attempts during the game while the Bobcats hit eight of twenty but just five of fifteen after three for five accuracy the first quarter.

Individual Scoring (Grade)

Trace Moss (11)	31
Slade Davenport (12)	9
Boone Moss (11)	9
Will Devries (9)	7
Garrett Bradshaw (12)	3
Adam Barrett (9)	2

Indians own Asheville; place fourth at Union County Classic

By Mason Mitcham
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Asheville, NC - The Towns County Indians wrestling team traveled away to face off against Asheville and Asheville School on Tuesday and fought their way through the challenging Union County Panther Classic tournament on Saturday.

The Indians beat Asheville handily. Asheville forfeited five weight classes, giving Towns 35 free points. In the classes that Asheville was able to wrestle, Towns dominated, winning the majority of their matches in under two minutes. Career Mercer, Vonya Baldwin, Russell Cox, Logan Quinton, Nick Shook, Daulton Rogers, and Landon Henry all pinned their opponents, winning six points in each case. Mercer (106), Baldwin (138), Cox (145), and Quinton (152) all won in the first round. The final score was 57-18.

The Asheville School team proved to be only a little tougher. They forfeited six positions and 36 points. Baldwin, Austin Stephens, Shook, and John Galusha won for Towns County. The final score was 53-24.

On Saturday, Towns traveled to the Union County Invitational, where they placed a respectable fourth out of nine teams, including Murphy, Hiawasee Dam, and Mount Pisgah.



The Indians were finally able to take down someone besides a familiar face in Asheville and Blairsville. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

With a cumulative 50 points, Towns came in just behind Clarke Central, with 106 points, Flowery Branch with 98 points, and Madison County with 82 points.

At 106, Thomas Mitchell took fourth place. Russell Cox won 4th at 145. Logan Quinton took fourth at 152. Nick Shook and Kyle Davis at 160 and 195, respectively, took second place. At the 138-lb weight class, Vonya Baldwin won first place.

It only took a few minutes. Baldwin racked up over seven points on Union County opponent Chase Stancil before sticking him for a second-period pin. Coach Jeff Stowers has high

hopes for Baldwin, who placed sixth at the individual state meet last year.

"He's one of our senior leaders," Stowers said. "He's a good kid. He works hard. He wrestled pretty well today."

Stowers also added that Baldwin is going to be important to Towns County's effort to place in the state tournament this year. The Union County Classic was only the first tournament Towns will compete in this winter. As the season progresses, Stowers will have more chances to work off the pre-season rust to get his team in shape for a chance at the State podium.

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