

Moss: it's all in the genes...continued from page 1

following three years of play at Towns County Middle School, has excelled at the varsity level for the Lady Indians for some three and a half years.

She did double duty with the JV's and varsity for awhile as a freshman but quickly earned generous amounts of varsity playing time, including as a starter, with JV play rather quickly discontinued. A measure of her success aside from this personal accomplishment is the fact that her teams have compiled a sparkling 88-18 record in the 106 games she has performed as a Lady Indian. She has missed just one game since becoming a member of the team, that being a 69-24 victory over Athens Academy during her sophomore year.

With all her accomplishments, it is stunning to realize that Moss is a very young high school senior who will not turn eighteen years old until August 16. She was barely eligible at the time to start to school as a first grader and would just be a high school junior if some two weeks younger. On the other hand, she would have just been in eighth grade at the time of her vital contributions to the Lady Indians' 28-4 record and a state final four appearance as a freshman in 2008.

Moss scored 228 points as a freshman, 216 as a sophomore, and 336 as a junior before adding 204 in just thirteen games this year entering last Saturday's home game with Hebron Christian Academy of Dacula. This left her just 16 points short of the coveted career total and the opportunity to reach it in front of the hometown fans although she was not aware that she was near the milestone.

With the game well in hand Saturday night, Moss would normally have sat out the fourth quarter but with her being just 5 points shy of 1,000 and six days until the next game, Lady Indians Head Coach Jim Melton returned her to the game. After sinking an early free throw and getting to within four points of the total, she showed reluctance to shoot the ball so Melton informed her late in the game that she was four points away from 1,000 and told her to go out and take her shots.

She actually had no opportunity to sink a field goal as she was fouled three times prior to attempting a shot, going to the foul line for one and one opportunities. She missed a one and one opportunity at 1:48 but sank two at the 1:34 mark and

two more at 37.6 seconds to reach the magic total with the announcement being made by TCHS Principal Roy Perren and a standing ovation accompanying her leaving the game.

Moss has become the 18th Lady Indian known to reach 1,000 career points since 1965 when Diana Barnard (Hazlewood) reached the total while 12 Indians are known to have reached this total, beginning with Bob Bryson in 1955. She is the first since Nikki Winn to reach 1,000 points at TCHS with Winn reaching the magic number as a junior during Moss' freshman year of 2008 and continuing on to become the school's verifiable all-time career scoring leader the next season.

In view of the innumerable accomplishments of the extended Moss family in basketball, it is a bit surprising for your reporter to realize that Jordan becomes only the fourth Moss or descendant known to reach 1,000 points. The only other player with the Moss surname to reach this total was Martha Moss (Hufstetler), a first cousin of Jordan's grandfather, Jack Moss. Martha completed four years as a superstar for the Lady Indians through the 1979 season, reaching 1,000 points during her junior year of 1978. Ad-

ditionally, the mother of Terry Gribble of the Class of 1965 and the grandmother of Keisha Taylor (O'Hearn) of the Class of 1997 carried the Moss name prior to marriage.

In itself, the fact that numerous other relatives have played with distinction for the Lady Indians and Indians but fallen short of 1,000 points provides evidence of the difficulty in reaching this total. Indeed, to reach 1,000 points requires not only a distinct talent to consistently put the ball in the basket but having the opportunity to play on a regular basis for at least three full years in most cases as well as remain relatively free of injury and illness. Often, a player capable of successful play as a freshman and sophomore may fall short of the opportunity due to a veteran presence on their team.

One need go no further for evidence of this than Jordan's father, Kevin Moss, who saw no action as a freshman and little playing time as a sophomore during the 1977 and 1978 seasons with junior and senior laden teams ahead of him. He appeared in nine games as a sophomore, scoring 34 points that year, but stepped to the forefront as a junior and senior for the 1979

and 1980 seasons as one of the Indians' premier post players of all time. He finished second in scoring as a junior with 328 points and as the top scorer for his team as a senior with 362 points on well balanced scoring squads both years for a grand total of 724 points.

Kevin's brother, Ketron, the father of Lady Indian junior Kindle Moss and freshman McKenzie Moss, provides an extended example of lack of playing time until late in his high school career. He was nearly two years younger than Kevin but just one grade behind him in school so he played a year ahead of where he could easily have been as in the case of Jordan referenced above. He had a large junior and senior presence ahead of him during his sophomore and junior years of 1979 and 1980 but became a top flight starter as a senior on an Indian state tournament team in 1981. While the score book for that year is missing, he is recalled by long time fans to have been not only a very capable scorer on a well balanced team but one of the top rebounders ever for the Indians.

Before leaving coverage of the memory lane exploits of Kevin and Ketron Moss, an

extension should be made to the mention of the current presence of their daughters with the Lady Indians. Kevin's eighth grade son, Boone, and Ketron's sixth grade son, Major, are starters for an overall quite young but very promising Towns County Middle School Indians Team. There isn't nearly enough space to cover the exploits of the Moss family in the sporting world of Towns County in this article since the 1963 school year when ultra-gifted Freshman Kyle Moss came on the scene, triggering decades long Moss contributions alive and well today.

Congratulations upon reaching such a noteworthy milestone and best wishes in the future are extended to Jordan Moss from this reporter and the Towns County Herald. Much appreciation also is extended for the countless hours of dedication and hard work she and her teammates have provided in reaching most formidable individual and team successes. It appears likely that participation in college athletics will be in Jordan's future whether in basketball or perhaps soccer, her other sport of excellence at TCHS, with her fans looking forward to following these exploits.

Authors to hold book signing at Mountain Regional Library

Brenda Kay Ledford and Blanche L. Ledford will sign copies of their book, *Simplicity*, at Mountain Regional Library in Young Harris, GA on Saturday, January 15; 11 AM-2 PM.

Step back to a simpler

time with this mother and daughter. Meet the folks they loved, capture the beauty of Appalachia, feel the old-time ways. Experience planting by the signs, storytelling on the front porch, possum hunting, wearing sinful red shoes, shin-

digs, and mountain politics.

Their work has appeared in *Lights in the Mountains*,

Echoes Across the Blue Ridge, *Southern Mist*, and other publications.

Towns County Friends of the Library plan for new year

Towns County Friends of the Library have their new slate of officers for 2011. Serving as Co-Presidents are Marilyn Pierce and Barbara Hale; Vice President, Doris Tilly; Treasurer, Jim Reynolds; Recording Secretary, Melanie Beighley; Corresponding Secretary, Maureen Gustafson; Membership, Jane Farrell; Book Bunch, Barbara Hale; Publicity, Janice Cochran and E-Coordinator, Jan Roberts. These officers are ready and willing to serve the libraries of Towns County and encourage all to join in to help with this important community service. Many of the new books for the libraries are purchased with proceeds from the Friends of the Library Book Sales held in April and August. Book Sale dates for 2011 are April 14th,

15th and 16th and August 18th, 19th and 20th.

Book Bunch will hold the sixth annual Anniversary meeting with a dutch treat lunch at Moschetto's Restaurant in Young Harris on January 19th at 12 noon. The book choice is *The Great Gatsby* led by Maureen Gustafson. Everyone is invited. Please RSVP to Barbara Hale at bhale@brmemc.net if you plan to attend.

The next Friends of the Library meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 3rd at the Mountain Regional Library at 10:30 a.m. New members are always welcome and all members are encouraged to attend and get more involved with helping our libraries. The community benefits when we join together to help our libraries. T0Jan12,F6)CA



Brenda (left) and Blanche Ledford

Brenda is listed with A Directory of American Poets and Fiction Writers. She received the Paul Green Award from North Carolina Society of Historians for her three poetry chapbooks.

Simplicity was released by Catawba Publishing Com-

pany of Charlotte, NC, in December. For more information, go to: catawbapublishing.com/bookstore/book/179. This book is available locally at: Phillips & Lloyd Book Shop, Hayesville, NC; The Book Nook, Blairsville, GA; and The Cherokee County Museum, Murphy, NC.