

Towns County Sports

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Lady Indians crush two opponents, record stands at a gaudy 15-1

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Business as usual continued last week for the Towns County Lady Indians Varsity Basketball Team as they easily took the measure of Athens Christian on their home court on Friday and Athens Academy on the road on Saturday. The victories extended the Lady Indians' season record to 15-1, including 6-0 in Region 8A with a confrontation with Region 8A newcomer George Walton Academy of Monroe, also undefeated in region play, to have been completed on Tuesday of this week prior to this article going to print.

ATHENS CHRISTIAN
With just a 2-7 record entering the game and two one sided losses to the Lady Indians

last year, the Athens Christian Lady Eagles probably entered last Friday's game with some anxiety with the Lady Indians sporting a 13-1 record entering the game. If so, they didn't really show it in the early moments of the game or actually the first half for that matter as they forced an early 2-2 tie and trailed by just 10-6 before a 7-0 finish gave the Lady Indians a 17-6 lead after one quarter.

Still, the Lady Eagles didn't go quietly as they closed as much as a 20-8 deficit to just 24-15 at the 2:48 mark of the second quarter only to see the Lady Indians close on a 6-0 run this time for a 30-15 lead at intermission. Five Lady Indians put points on the scoreboard in the first quarter and another had joined them by halftime with a five point first quarter by

Makayla Underwood and a six point second by Ali Bleckley leading the way.

Lindsay Patton and Gabby Arencibia provided seven and six points respectively in the third quarter as the Lady Indians led 47-24 after three quarters. Seven players entered the scoring column in the fourth with Patton leading with five as the Lady Indians broke the game wide open for a 67-30 victory.

Patton, who easily averaged in double figures in scoring last year, reached double digits for the first time this year with a team leading 16 points after missing several games and then seeing limited playing time while recovering from July knee surgery. Eleven of twelve Lady Indians seeing action in the game entered the scoring column with Kelsie Cowart not scoring but contributing two assists. Other scoring leaders for the Lady Indians in addition to Patton were Gabby Arencibia with 11 points, Bleckley with 8, Jordan Moss and Underwood with 7 each, and Eryn Cochran with 5. Leaders in assists were Underwood with 4 and Arencibia and Cochran with 3 each. Dadrion Blythe returned to limited action in this game after missing playing time with a hurting foot.

ATHENS ACADEMY – If Athens Christian entered the contest with the Lady Indians with some anxiety on Friday, one might have expected the Lady Spartans of Athens Academy to enter the Saturday game on their home court with much confidence. The Lady Spartans entered the game with a 12-2 record and ranked ninth in the Georgia Prep Country Coaches Poll, ahead of the Lady Indians who made the poll for the first time last week in the No. 10 spot. The Lady Indians are also ranked tenth in the Atlanta Journal and Constitution poll but with Athens Academy being unranked in this poll.

To be realistic, the Georgia Prep Country Poll may have deserved a bit of scrutiny when considering that Athens Academy had defeated Athens Christian by just a 37-33 score early in the season and recently lost to Hebron Christian 47-33, two teams the Lady Indians easily defeated in the last seven days. It's likely that the Lady Spartans were much aware of these comparisons but difficult match ups can sometimes bring about surprising results in games between two teams.

On this afternoon, however, it required little time for the Lady Spartans to realize they had their hands full as the Lady Indians used their in your face full court pressure and red hot shooting to take an 18-0 lead at exactly the four minute mark of the first quarter. Five Lady Indians contributed to the early salvo with Jordan Moss leading the way with eight points in the run. The Lady Indians cooled off after that for a couple of minutes but finished on a 6-0 run highlighted by a Gabby Arencibia trey, her second of the quarter, at the



Gabby Arencibia throws up a trey against Athens Christian Photo by Lowell Nicholson

buzzer for a 24-6 advantage.

A Ben Pong trey gave the Lady Indians a 27-6 bulge just fifteen seconds into the second quarter before the Lady Spartans gave the Lady Indians their best shot, rallying to within 27-16 at 5:22. A three point play by Moss just fifteen seconds later, however, triggered a 15-4 Lady Indian run for a 42-20 Towns lead at intermission and the Lady Indians coasted to a 53-27 lead after three quarters and an eventual 69-40 victory with nine different Lady Indians putting points on the scoreboard the last half.

Moss scored 15 of her team leading 19 points the first half while Arencibia used six treys in accounting for her 18 points for the game with other scoring leaders being Lindsay Patton with 7 points and Ali Bleckley and Eryn Cochran with 6 each. Your reporter

credited six assists to four different Lady Indians during the opening 18-point run and 18 for the team for the game with

leaders being freshmen guards Cochran and Makayla Underwood with 5 each and Pong with 3.



Lindsay Patton hit a deuce on Friday against Athens Christian Photo by Lowell Nicholson



Eryn Cochran tosses in a deuce against Athens Academy on Saturday Photo by Lowell Nicholson



Jordan Moss gets caught up in traffic against Athens Christian Photo by Lowell Nicholson



Ali Bleckley tries a little body English to get the basketball to drop against Athens Academy Photo by Lowell Nicholson

Indian JV's overwhelmed by Athens Christian, lose a close one to Athens Academy

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The Towns County Indians JV Basketball Team was in action on Friday and Saturday of last week, being overwhelmed at home by a high powered Athens Christian squad and then losing a low scoring affair at Athens Academy. The two losses leave them with a 3-8 record on the season with all contests being competitive except for the Athens Christian game.

ATHENS CHRISTIAN - The Athens Christian JV Eagles featured the sixth graded eighth grader in the country from Franklin County and a team full of high powered talent probably capable of defeating many varsity teams on Friday in racing past the Indians by a 76-23 score. As mentioned in the varsity article, the Eagles of Coach Ron Link have made a practice of attracting high powered athletes not only from areas in and around Athens but two from the Bahamas and another from Germany on their roster in the last three years. From this view, the Eagles have become one of a handful of schools around Georgia making a mockery of the competitive spirit of high school athletics.

That being said, the Eagles scored the first eight points of the game and led 19-6, 37-13, and 61-15 at the quarter breaks in taking the 76-23 victory. The Indians put points on the scoreboard in each quarter with highlights being five on a trey and a deuce by Dallas Manus in the first and six on two treys by Grant Arencibia in the second.

Arencibia and Manus led the Indians in scoring for the game with 9 points each while Slade Davenport led in assists with 2.

ATHENS ACADEMY - In a unique low scoring game for each team, the Indians fell at Athens Academy Saturday afternoon by a 30-25 score. They took an early 2-0 lead on a field goal by Slade Davenport and then a 5-2 advantage on a trey by Grant Arencibia which became a 7-3 lead after one quarter. The home standing Spartans then scored the first ten points of the second quarter for a 13-7 lead but Ryan Tallent and Arencibia struck for back to back treys at the 4:19 and 3:19 marks for a 13-13 tie.

After the Spartans responded with a deuce at 3:06, it appeared the officials at Athens Academy may have applied obstructions to each of the goals. The Indians would



Indians Junior Varsity front court players go for the ball against Athens Academy Photo by Lowell Nicholson



Slade Davenport goes for the loose ball against Athens Academy Photo by Lowell Nicholson



Dallas Manus drives the lane for two against Athens Academy Photo by Lowell Nicholson

sink just two well spaced free throws and a single field goal from the 3:19 mark of the second quarter until the 2:25 mark of the fourth but with the Spartans not doing much better.

A trey by Arencibia at that 2:25 mark got the Indians within 21-20 and 3 for 4 free throw shooting by Dallas Manus had them within 27-25 with 1:27 on the clock. The Indians would not score again, however, until the last shot of the game as the Spartans sank a field goal at exactly the one minute mark for a 27-23 lead and three of six free throw attempts for a 30-23 lead which

became a 30-25 Athens victory.

One might expect that defensive prowess by each team kept the score low and that must be considered part of the reason for such cold shooting but defense doesn't explain five for fourteen free throw shooting by the Indians and just five for sixteen accuracy by the Spartans.

Arencibia and Tallent led the Indians in scoring for the game with 9 and 5 points respectively while Manus led the team in assists with 2 according to your reporter's unofficial tally.

Community and Southern Bank make a difference for "Come Grow with Us" Campaign

"Making a difference, one customer at a time" is more than a slogan at Community and Southern Bank. Their recent generous donation to the GMRE-Center Community Council's "Come Grow with Us" campaign is further evidence of their commitment to make a difference in their community. The bank has a mission to create value for their customers by developing long-term relationships, built with competitive products that meet the community's financial needs and are delivered with superior service.

The Community and Southern donation is the culmination of a year-long effort to support the work of the Community Council. Initially they shared Market President, Jason Karnes, with the council to lead this year's campaign. As campaign chair, Karnes has been deeply involved in all aspects of the work since late last summer.

Every step along the way Jason has had the support of this entire management team in successfully carrying out the duties of campaign chair. In presenting the Community and Southern donation Market President Karnes said, "This is the essence of our community bank. We believe our community involvement helps everyone. We are pleased to continue our financial support of the Council's initiatives."

In accepting the Com-



C&S Bank Market President, Jason Karnes, (right) presents their "Come Grow with Us" donation to Superintendent Joe Garner

munity and Southern check GMRE-Center Superintendent, Joe Garner, stated, "We are fortunate to have supporters like C&S and Jason. We are most thankful for the many contributions this year and their ongoing commitment to our community."

The "Come Grow with Us" campaign has achieved almost 75% of its goal of \$60,000 which will permit the Council to fully fund the three initiatives of Student Education, Adult Outreach and Preservation Projects. If you are a business looking for a way to support your community or an

individual who has benefited from the Council's work, you can make a donation to the campaign by visiting our secure site at www.gmrec.uga.edu.

The Georgia Mountain Research and Education Center is part of the University of Georgia and its Community Council programs, which are 100% funded by community donations, serve Fannin, Towns and Union counties in Georgia and Cherokee and Clay counties in North Carolina. For more information on the Center and the Community Council programs call the Center at (706) 745-2655.