

# Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports



www.townscountyherald.net • E-mail: tcherald@windstream.net

## Lady Indian JV's get easy win, another in overtime

By Jerry Kendall  
Towns County Herald

The Towns County Lady Indian JV's Basketball Team used differing paths last weekend but got two victories over the Athens Christian Lady Eagles at home on Friday and over the Athens Academy Lady Spartans on the road on Saturday. An easy win on Friday was followed by a one point victory in overtime on Saturday which extended the Lady Indians' record for the season to and excellent 7-2.

**ATHENS CHRISTIAN** – The Lady Indians scored the first five points and the final twelve of the first quarter for a 17-2 lead on Friday over Athens Christian with six points by Davilyn Blythe and four by McKenzi Moss among six Lady Indians who put points on the scoreboard. Elizabeth Turner led her team with four points in the second quarter as the Lady Indians extended their advantage to 30-12 by intermission.

It was more of the same the second half as Stephanie Patton contributed four points in the third and five in the fourth while Emily Anderson scored four in the fourth as the Lady Indians led 42-14 after three quarters on the way to a 55-24 victory. All eight Lady Indians seeing action in the game entered the scoring column by the end of the second quarter.

Leading scorers for the game for the Lady Indians were Patton with 15 points, Blythe with 12, and Anderson, Moss, and Bailey Sutton with 6 each. Leaders in assists were Patton with 4, Kellsie Cowart with 3, and the trio of Blythe, Moss, and Bailey Sutton with 2 each.

**ATHENS ACADEMY** – The easy victory on Friday was followed on Saturday by a fierce battle against the Athens Academy Lady Spartans in a game that was literally not decided until the final horn in overtime. The Lady Spartans scored the first five points of the game and had what would be their biggest lead of 9-2 by the 4:28 mark of the first quarter but the Lady Indians rallied to within 13-12 on two free throws by Kellsie Cowart with 6.7 seconds on the clock. Cowart had six points in the quarter while Stephanie Patton and McKenzi Moss contributed treys to the Lady Indians' cause.

A three point play by Patton reduced a 17-12 lead to two and a trey on the last shot of the half by Davilyn Blythe got the Lady Indians within 21-20 at intermission. A Bailey Sutton trey got the Lady Indians their first lead of 23-21 just twenty five seconds into



Bailey Sutton drives for two in the win over Athens Christian Photo by Lowell Nicholson



Elizabeth Turner puts up a deuce against Athens Christian Photo by Lowell Nicholson

the third quarter with the Lady Indians holding small leads of no more than four points or tied until the end of the fourth quarter with two very brief exceptions.

The Lady Spartans managed a 37-36 lead for twenty seconds and a 39-37 advantage for fourteen seconds in the fourth quarter and there were six ties following the Sutton trey, including by a 32-32 score entering the fourth quarter and a 46-46 standoff at the end of the stanza. A Patton free throw negated the first of the two Athens leads for a 37-37 tie with 3:45 on the clock and a three point play by Destiney Blythe at 2:38 gave the Lady Indians a 40-39 lead.

A second field goal and a second free throw by Destiney Blythe and three for four free throw shooting by Patton had the Lady Indians still ahead 46-44 by the 43.6 mark but the Lady Spartans tied the score with a field goal with twenty four seconds left. Both teams got off shots for the lead in the closing seconds but the Lady Indians missed a trey attempt and the Lady Spartans missed a two point attempt with two seconds on the clock and the game going to overtime.

A Cowart free throw at 1:51 of overtime got the Lady Indians a 47-46 lead but the Lady Spartans had what ap-

peared to be a shot well off the mark bank off the top of the backboard and into the basket with forty two seconds for a 48-47 Athens lead. That was still the score after the Lady Indians missed two free throws at 35.4 seconds and the Lady Spartans missed two at 20.0 seconds but with the Lady Indians up to the task of late heroics.

Destiney Blythe drove the left baseline and dished a pass off to Cowart who put what turned out to be the game winning basket on the scoreboard with eight seconds on the clock. The game was still in doubt, however, until the final horn as the Lady Spartans called a time out at 5.7 seconds, drove the length of the court, and missed a last second field goal attempt with the Lady Indians holding on for a thrilling 49-48 victory.

There were heroines galore in this game with contributions not reflected in the offensive categories reported in the newspaper but the offensive statistics will have to suffice in the absence of rebounding and defensive statistics. Scoring leaders were Patton with 15 points, Cowart with 11, Davilyn Blythe with 7, and Destiney Blythe with 6 while Patton and Cowart also led in assists with 3 and 2 respectively according to your reporter's unofficial tally.



Bradley Swanson lifts a shot against Athens Academy on Saturday Photo by Lowell Nicholson

## Heartbreak multiplied by two for Indians

By Jerry Kendall  
Towns County Herald  
tcherald@windstream.net

It's not unusual during the course of a basketball season at all levels of play for a team to have to endure a heart-breaking loss on occasion. It is much less likely for this to happen on back to back nights, however, but that is what happened to the Towns County Indians Varsity Basketball Team last Friday at home and Saturday on the road. The Indians came within an eyelash of handing Athens Christian a one point loss on Friday and they took Athens Academy into overtime on Saturday but came away without a victory both times.

The only consolation for the Indians is that their fans, including this reporter, could not be more proud of the team's effort and success against the two high powered private schools from the Athens area if they had come away with a victory in one or both games. The two losses leave the Indians with an overall record of 3-13, including 2-4 in Region 8A.

**ATHENS CHRISTIAN** – The visiting Eagles from Athens Christian, prone to bringing in highly regarded players from far and near, featured a second transfer from the Bahamas in some three years who scored twenty three points in leading his team to a 56-55 victory over the Indians on Friday night. From this view, it seems to be an admission by Athens Christian Head Coach Ron Link that he is not quite up to the task of building a successful team from among the home grown students attending his school.

At any rate, the Indians took a 1-0 lead on a free throw by DJ Rogers and forced a 3-3 tie on a basket by Bradley Swanson by the 6:15 mark of the first quarter only to see the Eagles lead by as much as 20-7 on the way to a 20-12 lead after one quarter. The Indians closed to within 26-19 at 3:56 of the second quarter on two free throws by Dakota Barrett but the Eagles finished the quarter on a 9-2 run for a 35-21 lead at intermission.

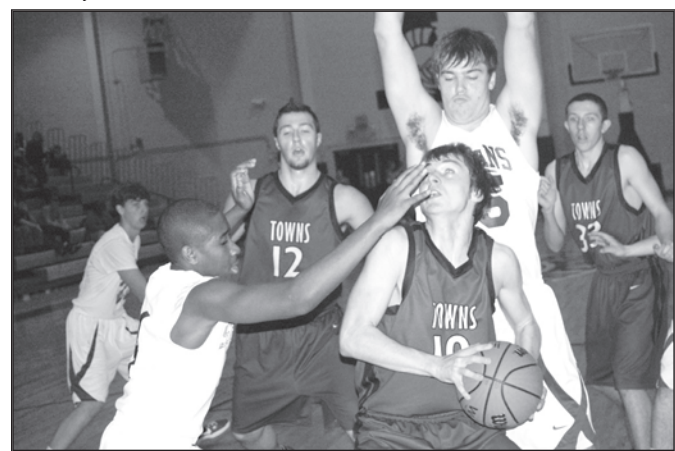
Swanson had the hot scoring hand for the Indians with eleven first half points and he triggered a 16-9 run the final 7:07 of the third quarter with eight points as the Indians rallied from their biggest deficit of 39-21 to within 48-37 entering the fourth quarter. Two Swanson free throws got the Indians within 48-39 half a minute into the fourth quarter but the Eagles countered with a field goal and went into a stall when they got the ball back with a 50-39 lead and more than six minutes remaining in the game.

The strategy backfired, beginning at 4:10 however, when the Eagles were charged with an offensive foul. Brandon Henderson drove to the basket for a field goal at 4:01 and followed a missed one and one free throw attempt by Athens with two free throws of his own at 3:19 for just a 50-43 Indian deficit. The Eagles sank a free throw at 3:17 for a 51-43 lead but Corbin Gilfilian sank two charity tosses at 2:26 for a 50-45 score and he was sent to the foul line again at 2:13. The first attempt was good and when the second was missed, Brett Bradshaw tipped the ball in the basket and the Indians were suddenly within 51-48 with 2:12 on the clock.

The Eagles sank one of two free throw attempts at 1:57 for a 52-48 lead but Devin Henderson sank two when fouled on a putback attempt at 1:36, pulling the Indians to within 52-50. The Eagles sank a field goal at 1:22 for a 54-50 lead but a razzle-dazzle inbound pass play from Devin Henderson from the side of the



Brandon Henderson gets the inside pass against Athens Academy Photo by Lowell Nicholson



DJ Rogers navigates traffic to put up a deuce against Athens Academy on Saturday Photo by Lowell Nicholson

court to Swanson for a reverse layup got the Indians back to within 54-52. The Eagles followed with two free throws at 28.6 seconds for a 56-52 lead and when the Indians missed a trey attempt near the fifteen second mark, it appeared the Eagles had the upper hand.

They missed two free throws at 9.9 seconds, however, and Swanson claimed the rebound, dribbled down court and nailed a trey from the top of the circle with four seconds left. The Indians called time out with 3.2 seconds on the clock and just a 56-55 deficit. The Eagles then threw the ball out of bounds down court with the Indians getting possession of the ball under their goal with no time having run off the clock and just a 56-55 deficit. They got off a good inside shot for the potential win but the ball rolled off the rim. They then regained possession of the rebound but couldn't control it quickly enough to get off another shot and the Eagles held on for the one point win.

Leading scorers for the Indians were Swanson with 26 points, Brandon Henderson with 10, and Bradshaw with 8 while Bradshaw, Devin Henderson, and Swanson tied for the lead in assists with 2 each.

**ATHENS ACADEMY** – The Indians had to travel actually into the edge of Oconee County on Saturday for a confrontation with the Athens Academy Spartans. The Spartans had lost a 50-37 decision on Friday night at Lakeview Academy for their first loss in Region 8A after five straight wins against region opponents and an 8-6 overall record.

The Spartans got a quick 3-0 lead on a free throw and field goal but the Indians finished the first quarter on a 13-5 run highlighted by two treys by Bradley Swanson and another by Devin Henderson for a 13-8 lead which became 16-8 at 6:14 of the second quarter. The Indians had a lengthy dry spell after that with the Spartans forcing a 16-16 tie at 2:49 but the Indians rebounded with a 6-2 run the final 2:09 of the quarter for a 22-18 lead at the half.

The Indians claimed three separate eight point leads of 28-20, 30-22, and 34-26 by the 2:49 mark of the third quarter but Devin Henderson went to the bench with his fourth foul at 2:21. The Spartans took full advantage, using their very aggressive defense in the absence of one of the Indians' top ball handlers in pulling to within 35-34 entering the

fourth quarter. The Indians rebuilt a seven point lead of 41-34 on six straight free throws by Swanson between 6:42 and 5:06 but the Spartans answered with a trey and two free throws for just a 41-39 Indian lead at 4:29.

Swanson and Brandon Henderson wrapped field goals around a Spartan basket for a 45-41 Indian lead at the three and a half minute mark with Devin Henderson returning near the four minute mark. The Spartans used a field goal and a steal for a three point play, however, for a 46-45 lead at 1:59 but of greater significance was the loss of Devin Henderson with his fifth foul on the play.

After the Indians missed a field goal attempt, the Spartans sank one of two free throws at 1:17 for a 47-45 lead but Swanson got through the Spartans' defense and assisted Brandon Henderson on a game tying basket at 1:08. The Spartans held the ball for one shot but missed a trey near the end of regulation and Brandon Henderson blocked a putback attempt at the buzzer, sending the game to overtime.

The Spartans took the opening tip in the overtime period but missed on a field goal attempt with the ball being tied up on the rebound and the Indians gaining possession. The Spartans used their aggressive defense to steal the ball coming inbounds, however, and took a 49-47 lead on a putback at 3:28. They then stole the inbounds pass again, ran some clock, and sank two free throws at 1:05 for a 51-47 lead and once again stole the Indians' inbounds pass, sinking two more free throws at 1:01 for a 53-47 lead.

They finally got caught for holding on the Indians inbounds attempt after that with Swanson sinking two free throws for a 53-49 score, still with 1:01 on the clock. The Indians could get no closer, however, with the Spartans sinking three of four free throw attempts compared to two by Swanson the rest of the way for a 56-51 final score.

Swanson led the Indians in scoring with 27 points with other leaders being Brandon Henderson with 10 and DJ Rogers with 7. Devin Henderson led the team in assists with 4 and was followed by Brett Bradshaw and Swanson with 3 each and DJ Rogers with 2 according to your reporter's unofficial tally.

## Help HRWC plant trees on Butternut Creek



Young Harris College Conservation Biology students came out on October 20, 2010 to help remove invasive plants along Butternut Creek at the Union County Farmers Market.

Butternut Creek benefited greatly last fall from the hard work of caring folks who collectively volunteered more than 75 hours at the weekly workdays held by the Hiwassee River Watershed Coalition at the Union County Farmer's Market. HRWC would especially like to thank Ellen Cowgill, Barry Varian, Jacob Dorn, Skeeter Biltswich, Brenda Hull, and the fall 2010 Conservation Biology class from Young Harris College for pitching in on one or more of the workdays. Thanks to the work of all of these folks, as well as two YHC Bonner Leaders, Ethan Burch & Nathan Hughes who have been working with HRWC this year, the invasive plant removal is complete on the right bank of the stream.

On Saturday, January 22nd from 1 - 4 p.m., weather permitting, another workday will be held. This time, volunteers will be planting native trees and shrubs.

Once again, we need your help! Come out for one hour, three hours, or any



Now that large, nonnative and invasive, Chinese Privet plants have been removed from along Butternut Creek, native trees will be planted on Saturday, January 22nd.

amount of time in between to volunteer. The Union County Farmers Market is on Old Smokey Road behind Home Depot in Blairsville. Bring a shovel and gloves if you have them; if not, HRWC will provide them along with snacks, coffee and water.

HRWC is a local non-profit organization whose mission is to facilitate water quality improvements in streams and lakes in the upper Hiwassee River basin, which includes the Nottely River and its tributaries.

For 15 years, HRWC has delivered stream restora-

tion and other voluntary water quality improvement projects, workshops and environmental education programs, and an active volunteer monitoring program in Towns and Union counties in north Georgia and Clay and Cherokee counties, N.C. Visit us on the Internet at www.hrwc.net for details.

For more information about the upcoming volunteer workday or how to get more involved with the Butternut Creek project, contact HRWC Restoration Coordinator, Tony Ward at restore@hrwc.net or call 828-837-5414 x203.

NTUJan19/22/CA