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Indians lose competitive region battles to Prince Avenue and Social Circle



Dallas Manus is off to the races against Social Circle. Photo by James Reese.

By Jerry Kendall
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In a week featuring transition for the Towns County Indians Varsity Basketball Team, they fell just short of victory in very competitive games against Prince Avenue Christian School near Athens on Tuesday and against Social Circle on their home court on Friday. The Indians completed the week with an overall record of 2-19, including 1-9 in Region 8A with four region games remaining on their schedule.

The week was marked by a return to action for senior Brandon Henderson on Tuesday and freshman Cruz Shook on Friday after significant time on the disabled list for both. On the other hand, the Indians lost the services of two teammates during the same week. Sophomore Brett Barrett suffered torn ligaments in his ankle during the JV game at Prince Avenue while senior Dakota Barrett was sidelined by a meniscus injury to his knee by Friday.

INDIANS AT PRINCE AVENUE

At Prince Avenue on Tuesday, the first quarter was one of ups and downs for the Indians as they fell behind 7-0 by the 6:35 mark, rallied for a 9-9 standoff at 3:06, but fell behind 19-9 by quarter's end on

a three point play with one second on the clock. Rylan Albach led the game tying rally with a trey and field goal with a basket by Boone Moss forcing the tie.

A Ryan Tallent basket and a three point play by Dallas Manus wrapped around a pair of Wolverine free throws had the Indians within 21-14 less than two minutes into the second quarter but they found themselves trailing 25-14 with 4:17 on the clock. Once again, the see saw element entered as the Indians struck for an 8-2 run and just a 27-22 deficit with 2:15 still remaining in the second quarter. The run was highlighted by a field goal and two free throws by Albach and a trey by Grant Arencibia at that 2:15 mark.

Surprisingly, neither team would score after that prior to intermission with the score remaining at 27-22. After the Wolverines opened the third quarter with a trey for a 30-22 lead, the Indians gradually mounted a rally, largely by scoring three points at a time on a three point play by Dakota Barrett and a pair of treys by Arencibia for just a 35-33 deficit at 1:38.

The Wolverines extended their lead to 37-33 by the end of the quarter, however, and opened the fourth with a field goal for a 39-33 lead but the



Grant Arencibia goes up high against Social Circle. Photo by James Reese.



Brandon Henderson takes it to the rim against Social Circle. Photo by James Reese.

Indians wouldn't go away for awhile. They rallied to within 39-36 on a Brandon Henderson field goal and three times to within four—on two free throws and then a field goal by Albach followed by a field goal by Henderson—by the 3:41 mark.

The Wolverines seemed to have the game safely in hand by a 50-42 score on two free throws and a put back basket by the three minute mark but Arencibia gave the Indians a

glimmer of hope with a trey at 1:21 for just a 50-45 Indians deficit. The Indians would not score again, however, and the Wolverines extended their lead with 5 for 6 free throw shooting during the final minute of play for a 55-45 victory.

Scoring leaders for the game were Albach with 13 points, Arencibia with 12 and Henderson with 6 while Albach also led in assists with 6.

INDIANS VERSUS SOCIAL CIRCLE

The Social Circle game on Friday proved to be a real battle for all of the first quarter and for more than a quarter at the start of the second half but pretty much a struggle for the Indians otherwise. The Indians overcame an early 4-0 deficit to force two ties and take a pair of one point leads, including at quarter's end.

First quarter highlights included four for four free throw shooting by freshman Boone Moss with each of the two trips to the foul line giving the Indians the aforementioned ties. Fellow freshmen Dallas Manus and Grant Arencibia also got into the act with Manus taking the ball coast to coast for a 6-5 Indians lead and Arencibia getting the second of 11-10 on a trey as time expired.

A pull up jump shot by Ryan Tallent had the Indians within 14-13 at the 5:38 mark of the second quarter but the visiting Redskins used a pair of treys in triggering a 14-2 finish for a 28-15 lead at intermission. The Indians came alive in the third quarter, however, as they used a strong start and potent finish in rallying for just a 33-29 deficit entering the fourth quarter.

A field goal by Moss and a jumper and two free throws by Tallent got them within 28-21 by the 4:32 mark and they responded to a 5-0 Social Circle run for a 33-21 Redskins lead with an 8-0 run to end the quarter. Freshman Cruz Shook started the run with a trey and



Boone Moss shoots a freethrow against Social Circle. Photo by James Reese.



Rylan Albach drives the lane against Social Circle. Photo by James Reese.



Ryan Tallent readies to launch a three against Social Circle. Photo by James Reese.

another Arencibia trey finished it with three seconds on the clock this time for just the four point deficit.

A Brandon Henderson three point play at 7:25 of the fourth quarter had the Indians within 35-32 but the Redskins went on a 13-1 run giving them a 48-33 lead with 3:11 left. A put back basket by Moss and two treys by Arencibia then accounted for an 8-3 Indians run and a 51-41 deficit with 1:38 left but the Redskins extended the lead with six for eight free throw shooting and a field goal for a final margin of victory of 59-45.

Scoring leaders for the Indians for the game were Arencibia with 12 points, Moss and Tallent with 10 each, and

Henderson with 6 while six Indians contributed at least one assist with Rylan Albach leading with 2.

After hosting Tallulah Falls on Tuesday of this week, the Indians travel to Lakeview Academy in Gainesville this Friday, host Riverside Military Academy of Gainesville on Saturday, and travel to Commerce next Tuesday in closing out regular season play. The Region 8A Tournament is scheduled to begin the following week on Monday, February 13, with play in and first round games being held at George Walton Academy in Monroe and the Semi Finals and Finals on Friday and Saturday at Lakeview Academy.

NASCAR 2012

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

All about NASCAR, Danica, and the Busch Boys

The state of NASCAR, Danica Patrick, and the Busch boys was the central theme during this year's Annual Media Tour in Charlotte.

Brian France and Mike Helton, the two top dogs in the NASCAR organization said they intend to build on the success of 2011 as the new season begins with the Feb. 26 Daytona 500.

"The sport is in a very good place and we're going to work even harder to achieve the very best things for the sport of NASCAR well into the future," said France.

France pointed to initiatives begun a year ago – a simplified points structure in all three national series and a "Wild Card" twist in the Chase for the NASCAR Sprint Cup that placed a greater emphasis on race victories – which culminated in what France called "a championship battle that will be talked about for decades to come."

While the 2012 season will be one of continuity rather than major change, NASCAR will introduce electronic fuel injection into the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series and implement rules designed to restore traditional "pack racing" at Daytona International Speedway and Talladega Superspeedway.

"We have had a breathtaking number of close finishes at those tracks, but the fans want a mixture of styles including a return to a more traditional 'pack racing' and that close-by-side competition that's unique to Talladega and Daytona," France said. "NASCAR and the teams are working hard on this and based on the test earlier this month, we're encouraged that we're making progress."

"The industry has never been more united in growing the sport."

France said the organization is "very encouraged" by increased television ratings across its three national series – Sprint Cup, Nationwide and Camping World Truck Series. He also pointed to attendance gains at a number of venues.

"While we are still in a tough economic climate that is still difficult, we are pleased with some positive steps we saw last year," he said.

NASCAR will continue to fine drivers who do not speak well of the sport, but the penalties will no longer be secret.

"If you challenge the integrity of the sport, we're going to deal with that," France continued. "What's really interesting is I can't tell you how many owners or drivers come up to me and



Brian France and Mike Helton

say, 'Thanks for doing that because some of these comments were irresponsible and unhelpful to growing the sport.' Now, having said that, you can be critical of things you don't think we're doing well, in particular a race call. You can say, 'I don't think I was speeding; I disagree with that.' We understand that. It's when you go after the integrity of the sport is where we will step in, and they will be public.

"In the past two years, Denny Hamlin, Brad Keselowski and Ryan Newman were punished for making comments that NASCAR deemed detrimental to its brand. Keselowski privately was fined \$25,000 for criticizing the switch to fuel injection during a fan forum at the NASCAR Hall of Fame last November. When news of the penalty leaked, it drew plenty of derision from fans and news media.

"In terms of going public with it, we didn't have a real strong position on that. It seemed to bother some people in November when we talked about this. So we didn't feel strongly (about the fines being private). If (making them public) is something that people think is a good thing, we were happy to do it."

As usual, Danica Patrick was swarmed over by the media. She said she is skipping the Indy 500 and temporarily giving up on her dream of winning it to run the Coca-Cola 600 at Charlotte and use the Memorial Day weekend to focus on NASCAR. She is also beginning to start reading and believing her own P/R.

"The cars are very fast, as you guys saw at the test, so I feel good about that race," she said. "I feel good about Daytona and I think there's a real chance, if luck falls our way, [that we can] perhaps win. A guy like Trevor Bayne last year showed that."

Patrick will be in the spotlight all season and will struggle at times as she continues to ad-

just to stock cars. We'll have to see how well she can hang in there during the actual races.

Maybe after a couple years she will be ready to challenge for a win.

While Kyle Busch is trying to clean up his act after being suspended for a Cup and Nationwide race late last year, Kevin Harvick, who had a couple run-ins with him, didn't hesitate to express his dislike for his biggest rival and to continue to stoke the fire.

"He's just such a jerk most of the time," Harvick said. "... He's really the only guy in the sport, the one guy that I just don't like."

Busch must try his best to stay out of trouble this season – and Harvick knows that – but he has never backed down from anyone and likely won't stand for Harvick continuing to ridicule him.

If Harvick continues to be a thorn in his side, Busch likely will strike back, stirring up more trouble and continuing the long-running feud.

Kurt Busch also was a hot during the media tour, with much talk about him losing his ride at Penske Racing at the end of last year and his outlook for 2012 at Phoenix Racing.

Though Busch is driving for an underfunded, single-car team, don't be shocked if he does much better than expected.

Phoenix Racing has Hendrick Motorsports cars and engines and has hired several experienced crewmen. Don't be surprised if Busch wins a couple of races and maybe gets into the Chase.

Racing Trivia Question: Who won the 2011 Daytona 500?

Last Week's Question: What year was the first Daytona 500 held? **Answer:** 1959. It was won by Lee Petty.

You may contact the Racing Reporter at hodges@race500.com. NT(Feb1,1)ac

BASKETBALL INDIVIDUAL SCORING

PRINCE AVENUE	Lady Indians (Grade)	Trace Moss (9)	7	Brandon Henderson (12)	6
Stephanie Patton (9)	14	Stetson Hedden (10)	4	Dallas Manus (9)	3
Gabby Arencibia (12)	11	Dallas Manus (9)	3	Cruz Shook (9)	3
Ali Bleckley (12)	9	Boone Moss (9)	3	Rylan Albach (12)	1
Lindsay Patton (12)	7	Grant Arencibia (9)	2	PACE ACADEMY	
Eryn Cochran (10)	4	Aaron Dodson (10)	2	Lady Indians (Grade)	
Kellsie Cowart (10)	3	Jordan Jacobs (11)	2	Eryn Cochran (10)	11
Dadrian Blythe (11)	2	Austin Wood (11)	2	Gabby Arencibia (12)	8
Bailey Sutton (10)	2	Adam Plott (11)	1	Dadrian Blythe (11)	8
Emily Anderson (11)	1	SOCIAL CIRCLE		Ali Bleckley (12)	7
Alyssa Pyle (9)	1	Lady Indians (Grade)		Stephanie Patton (9)	6
Rylan Albach (12)	13	Stephanie Patton (9)	17	Kellsie Cowart (10)	5
Grant Arencibia (9)	12	Gabby Arencibia (12)	14	Lindsay Patton (12)	2
Brandon Henderson (12)	6	Ali Bleckley (12)	14	Lady Indian JV's (Grade)	
Dakota Barrett (12)	3	Eryn Cochran (10)	4	Karlie Albach (9)	7
Dallas Manus (9)	3	Kellsie Cowart (10)	4	Alyssa Pyle (9)	7
Ryan Tallent (11)	3	Lindsay Patton (12)	4	Bailey Sutton (10)	6
Aaron Dodson (10)	2	Emily Anderson (11)	2	Elizabeth Turner (10)	6
Boone Moss (9)	2	Dadrian Blythe (11)	2	Emily Ledford (9)	5
Stetson Hedden (10)	2	Bailey Sutton (10)	2	McKenzi Moss (10)	3
Indian JV's (Grade)		Indians (Grade)		Destiny Blythe (10)	2
Brett Barrett (10)	7	Grant Arencibia (9)	12	Madison Johnson (9)	2
		Boone Moss (9)	10	Misty Lindemuth (9)	2
		Ryan Tallent (11)	10	Taylor McCarter (9)	2

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