



# Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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## Indians lose a close one at Union, win big at Andrews

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The Towns County Indians continued an encouraging run of late last weekend as they played Class AA Union County down to the wire before losing a four point decision on Friday and then took a one sided victory at Andrews on Saturday. The week's work left the Indians with an overall 2-7 record but with two victories and three very competitive losses among their last five games. A Tuesday game scheduled at Riverside Military Academy in Gainesville was postponed due to bad weather.



DJ Rogers drives for a decisive basket against the Panthers Photo by Lowell Nicholson.



Brandon Henderson plays keep away from Union Photo by Lowell Nicholson.

**UNION RALLIES PAST INDIANS** – The Indians traveled to Class AA Union County on Friday after having absorbed a 59-31 loss to the Panthers in Hiawassee on December 4 but with the aforementioned successes under their belts. The Panthers were without the services of two starters due to illness but with four wins against Class AAA teams included in a 6-0 record entering the game and nine seniors on their roster still a most formidable opponent. The Indians would surprise everyone by leading for nearly all of the first three quarters and with Union only able to put the game out of reach on two free throws with 2.6 seconds left in the game.

A trey by DJ Rogers exactly a minute into the game had the Indians off to a 3-0 lead which would become as much as 10-2 on five points each by Rogers and Bradley Swanson but 10-5 after one quarter following a late three point play by the Panthers. The Indians then had their biggest lead of 21-12 on three for four free throw shooting by Ryan Tallent by the 2:02 mark of the second quarter and a late put back by Tallent set the Towns lead at 23-17 at intermission.

A pair of field goals by Swanson had the Indians ahead 27-19 by the 6:13 mark of the third quarter but the Panthers rallied with eight straight points for a 27-27 deadlock with 2:05 on the clock. The Indians got the lead back by a 30-27 margin on a free throw by Tallent and two more by Swanson at the 1:46 and 1:16 marks and led 30-29 entering the fourth quarter.

Two free throws and a trey had Union ahead 34-30 by the 5:02 mark of the fourth quarter with the Indians reducing four point Panther leads on a baseline drive for two by Brandon Henderson at 3:53 and on a steal and basket by Rog-

ers at 1:57 for a 36-34 Union lead. The Panthers missed a one and one free throw attempt with 52.6 seconds on the clock and the Indians ran some clock before a 3-point attempt for a one point lead missed the mark with fifteen seconds left. Henderson matched two Panther free throws made at 13.9 seconds with a put back at the four second mark for a 38-36 score but the Panthers put the game out of reach with two more charity tosses with 2.6 seconds on the clock for a final score of 40-36.

Scoring leaders for the game for the Indians were Swanson with 16 points, Rogers with 10, and Tallent with 6 while Devin Henderson led in assists with 3. The Panthers stung the Indians with thirteen treys in their win at Towns County but the Indians sank four—two each by Rogers and Swanson—as compared to just two by the Panthers in this game.

**BALANCED INDIAN SCORING ATTACK DOOMS SHORTHANDED ANDREWS** – The Indians got a break in their pre-season scrimmage game with Andrews last month as the Wildcats played without the services of their football players who were still in the North Carolina state playoffs and they got another unexpected break on Saturday night. The Wildcats and Robbinsville Black Knights got in an on the

## Lady Indians stay perfect defeat Union an Andrews

By Jerry Kendall  
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The Towns County Lady Indians Varsity Basketball Team continued their good fortune last weekend with road victories at Union County on Friday night and at Andrews on Saturday, extending their unbeaten record to 9-0 for the season. A scheduled Monday night home contest with Class AAAA Lambert High School of Gwinnett County was postponed due to bad weather.



Jordan Moss tries to maintain control in last week's win over Union County Photo by Lowell Nicholson.



Gabby Arencibia and Angie Hughes do battle underneath the basket Photo by Lowell Nicholson.

**MOSS LEADS TERRIFIC TEAM EFFORT AT UNION** – The Lady Indians have consistently displayed the ultimate definition of a team in having numerous team members rise to the occasion for productive performances this season with no less than eight team members reaching double figures in scoring in at least one game. While four year starter Jordan Moss was easily identifiable as the driving force in the Union County game with potent scoring and a monstrous game on the boards, eight of her teammates stepped forward to score between three and six points and provide all the other ingredients for success.

The Lady Panthers have proven to easily be the Lady Indians' most formidable opponent to date as they entered the game with a 4-2 record with the two losses being to undefeated teams, including by a 51-50 score to the Lady Indians in Hiawassee less than two weeks ago. In their most recent game, they fell by just a 49-43 score at Chestatee High School in Hall County, the undefeated and third ranked team in Georgia in Class AAA. With the losses to the Lady Indians and Chestatee ending a 4-0 start for them, the Union ladies were certainly anxious to defend their home turf and avenge the earlier loss to the Lady Indians.

As is often the case with two strong teams having faced each other numerous times from middle school forward, the game started out as a low scoring affair. A Dadrion Blythe basket just forty seconds into the game gave the Lady Indians a 2-0 lead which Union matched at 6:51 of the first quarter for a 2-2 score.

free throws at 5:48. A trey by Ben Pong, an Ali Bleckley basket, two long deuces by Kindle Moss in less than half a minute of playing time, two free throws each by Jordan Moss and Lindsay Patton, and a quarter closing basket by Jordan Moss finished off a 19-5 second quarter for the Lady Indians for a 27-15 lead at intermission.

Union twice closed to within seven points by the 3:28 mark of the third quarter but a deuce and a trey by Davilyn Blythe highlighted the remainder of the quarter as the Lady Indians extended their halftime lead by a point for a 40-27 advantage entering the fourth quarter. The Lady Panthers opened the final quarter with 6-0 run for just a 40-33 deficit but a trey by Pong and a Jordan Moss basket on the pass of the game from Kindle Moss seemingly had the Lady Indians safely ahead 45-33.

Union mounted one last challenge, however, including a pair of treys in a 9-1 run which had them knocking on the door 46-42 at the 1:36 mark. Jordan Moss sank the first of two free throws four seconds later, however, and Cochran slipped inside for the offensive rebound and a put back when the second attempt was missed for a 49-42 Lady Indian lead with a minute and a half remaining. A steal by Jordan Moss led to another free throw by the senior and a 50-42 lead at the 1:17 mark. The Lady Indians then closed out the game by sinking six straight free throws—two each by Cochran, Arencibia, and Jordan Moss—in the final minute of play for a 56-43 victory.

5 each. Leading in assists were Cochran with 3 and Jordan Moss with 2.

**ARENCEBIA PACES ROMP AT ANDREWS** – The Lady Indians exploded out to 15-0 and 18-2 leads at Andrews on Saturday night behind the hot shooting of Gabby Arencibia who included a long deuce and two treys in an eight point performance. The scoring pace slackened considerably in the second quarter, however, as a 19-4 Towns advantage became 25-8 at intermission.

When the Lady Wildcats scored the first six points in less than a minute at the start of the third quarter for just a 25-14 deficit, the turn of events seemed to arouse the Lady Indians. They exploded for fifteen straight points and a 40-14 lead by the mid point of the quarter and led 47-22 by quarter's end.

Arencibia again included a pair of treys in an eight point performance and Jordan Moss added six points as six different Lady Indians entered the scoring column and freshmen guards Makayla Underwood and Eryn Cochran provided four and three assists respectively during the quarter. Six different Lady Indians then put points on the scoreboard in the fourth quarter as they closed out a 64-29 victory.

Arencibia led the Lady Indians in scoring for the game with 19 points but with strong support from among Jordan Moss with 12 points, Underwood with 9, Dadrion Blythe with 8, and Ali Bleckley with 6. Nine of eleven Lady Indians playing in the game had at least one assist according to your reporter's unofficial tally with Cochran and Underwood tied for the team lead with 4 each, and other leaders being Jordan Moss and Ben Pong with 3 each.

## Indian JV's lose a squeaker, win a squeaker

By Jerry Kendall

The games couldn't have been much closer for the Towns County Indian JV's Basketball Team in a split decision last weekend at Class AA Union County on Friday and at Andrews on Saturday. Both games ended with the losing team having a chance for a tie on the last shot of the game, a trey attempt by the Indians at Union County and a two point field goal attempt by the Wildcats at Andrews. The Indians completed the week with a very promising 3-5 record as they have been very competitive with a very young roster in each of the losses.

The Indians opened the second half with a trey by Grant Arencibia and a deuce by Garrett Bradshaw for just a 30-20 deficit but the Panthers still led 37-23 on a field goal at the 3:30 mark despite a second basket by Bradshaw. The Indians made their move, beginning at the 3:15 mark, however, finishing the quarter on an 11-7 run highlighted by nine points by Arencibia on two additional treys and three free throws when fouled on a 3-point attempt.

The Indians continued their rally in the fourth quarter with a largely different cast of characters than in the third quarter. A steal and drive for two by Brett Barrett, a Ryan Tallent put back, a Dallas Manus trey, another Tallent basket, and a Slade Davenport field goal had the Indians knocking on the door, trailing by just 48-45 with 1:50 on the clock.

The Indians had several chances to close the gap even further but couldn't connect and the Panthers made one of two free throw attempts at 1:32 and 27.2 seconds which were matched by an Austin Wood put back with twelve seconds left for a 50-47 score. After the Panthers missed two free throws with 10.6 seconds left, the Indians got off a potential game tying 3-point attempt which missed the mark with the Panthers holding on for a 50-47 victory. The Indians had finished the game on a 24-13 run, not sufficient for the victory

but very impressive, especially when considering the number of players stepping forward and contributing to the run.

Eight different Indians put points on the scoreboard in the game with leaders being Arencibia with 14, Manus with 8, Tallent and Bradshaw with 6 each, and Parker with 5. Leading in assists were Manus with 3 and Davenport and Aaron Dodson with 2 each. Stetson Hedden missed the two weekend games while on a Christmas break mission trip.

**ANDREWS** – In a game with distinct similarities to the Union County game, the Indians instead found themselves losing a significant lead but holding on for a nail biting victory at Andrews. After an early deficit of 5-0, the Indians rallied to within 8-5 after one quarter and led by as much as 15-10 on the way to a 15-12 lead at halftime. Five points by Luke Parker in the second quarter and a trey in each quarter by Dallas Manus were highlights of the first half for the Indians.

The Indians seemed to take control of the game in the third quarter with five Indians putting points on the scoreboard. Treys by Manus and Grant Arencibia had them leading 21-14 early in the quarter and back to back treys by Aaron Dodson late in the quarter gave them a 29-20 lead which became 31-20 entering the fourth quarter.

The Wildcats struck

for the first eight points of the fourth quarter for just a 31-28 deficit and followed two Ryan Tallent free throws with a deuce and trey for a 33-33 tie near the three minute mark. Arencibia, who would end a string of leading or tying for the lead in scoring in all seven prior games as a JV player, responded almost immediately with the shot of the game, however, sinking a trey, drawing a foul, and sinking the free throw for a 37-33 Indian lead.

The Indians left the door open for the Wildcats with two for eight free throw shooting after that but a charity toss by Dodson following an Andrews basket gave the Indians a 38-35 lead at 2:26 which became just 38-37 on a Wildcat basket near the forty five second mark. A Manus free throw at 14.3 seconds increased the Indian lead to 39-37 and it held up for the Indian victory when a final two point attempt from the baseline by the Wildcats missed the mark.

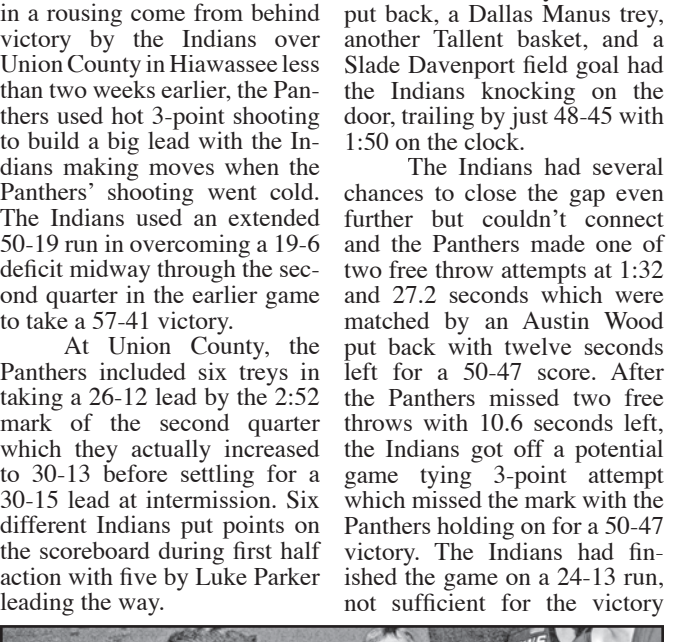
Once again, eight Indians entered the scoring column with leaders being Manus with

11 points, Dodson and Arencibia with 7 each, and Parker with 5. Manus also led the team in assists with 3. A surprising statistic left one to wonder how many times a team can win a game when sinking just three

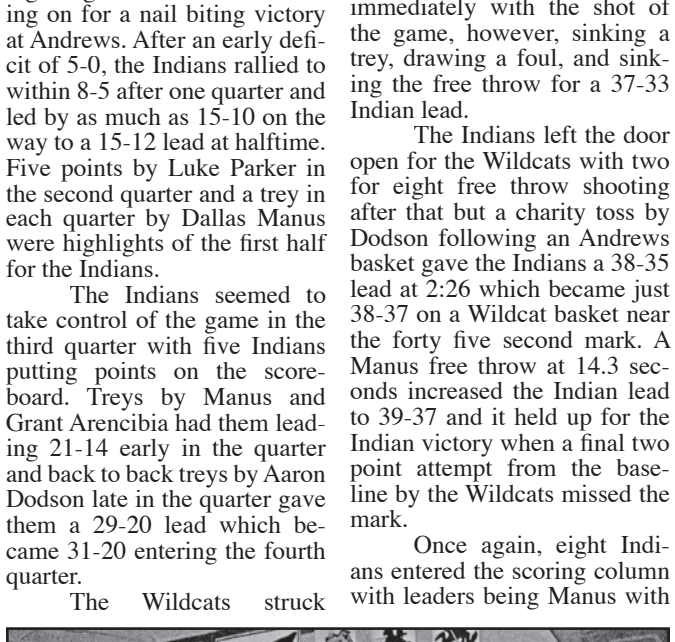
2-point field goals in a game but that was the case in this contest. The Indians sank just three with all coming in the first half but seven treys with five of those in the last half and twelve free throws in 24 attempts.

### BASKETBALL INDIVIDUAL SCORING

UNION COUNTY	ANDREWS
<b>Lady Indians (Grade)</b>	<b>Lady Indians (Grade)</b>
Jordan Moss (12) 17	Gabby Arencibia (11) 19
Ben Pong (11) 6	Jordan Moss (12) 12
Dadrion Blythe (10) 6	Makayla Underwood (9) 9
Eryn Cochran (9) 6	Dadrion Blythe (10) 8
Lindsay Patton (11) 5	Ali Bleckley (11) 6
Davilyn Blythe (10) 5	Kindle Moss (11) 4
Gabby Arencibia (11) 4	Lindsay Patton (11) 4
Kindle Moss (11) 4	Crystal Bishop (12) 2
Ali Bleckley (11) 3	<b>Indians (Grade)</b>
<b>Indians (Grade)</b>	Bradley Swanson (12) 18
Bradley Swanson (12) 16	DJ Rogers (12) 12
DJ Rogers (12) 10	Devin Henderson (12) 10
Ryan Tallent (10) 6	Brandon Henderson (11) 10
Brandon Henderson (11) 4	Dakota Barrett (11) 4
<b>Lady Indians (Grade)</b>	Brett Bradshaw (12) 3
Kellsie Cowart (9) 8	Corbin Gilfilian (12) 1
Stephanie Patton (8) 8	Ryan Tallent (10) 1
Emily Anderson (10) 4	<b>Lady Indian JV's (Grade)</b>
Destiny Blythe (9) 4	Stephanie Patton (8) 23
McKenzie Moss (9) 4	McKenzi Moss (9) 14
Eryn Cochran (9) 3	Elizabeth Turner (9) 7
Elizabeth Turner (9) 3	Kellsie Cowart (9) 5
Bailey Sutton (9) 2	Destiny Blythe (9) 4
<b>Indians (Grade)</b>	Emily Anderson (10) 1
Grant Arencibia (8) 14	<b>Indian JV's (Grade)</b>
Dallas Manus (8) 11	Dallas Manus (8) 11
Ryan Tallent (10) 6	Aaron Dodson (9) 7
Garrett Bradshaw (9) 6	Grant Arencibia (8) 7
Luke Parker (10) 5	Luke Parker (10) 5
Slade Davenport (9) 4	Ryan Tallent (10) 4
Austin Wood (10) 2	Brett Barrett (9) 2
Brett Barrett (9) 2	Garrett Bradshaw (9) 2
	Slade Davenport (9) 1



Ryan Tallent does the dirty work for the Indians against Andrews on Saturday.



Garrett Bradshaw fights for a rebound against the Wildcats in North Carolina Photo by Lowell Nicholson.

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