

# Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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## Indians survive late challenge for victory over Hiwassee Dam, NC

By Jerry Kendall  
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In a game giving several indications of a comfortable win, the Towns County Indians Varsity Basketball Team bent but didn't break last Tuesday night when they held off a strong challenge in the closing minutes for a hard fought 73-67 victory over the Hiwassee Dam Eagles in the Towns County gym.

The win gave the Indians a 1-0 record after falling in the final seconds of play in a preseason scrimmage against Andrews, NC -- not counting as part of their season record -- on the prior Saturday.

The Indians were beset with foul problems within the first four minutes of the first quarter with this pattern continuing throughout the game and often affecting the Indians' ability to maintain consistency.

The Indians got a quick lead on a trey by senior Trent Bradshaw at the 7:25 mark of the first quarter but the Eagles led for most of the remainder of the period, although by no more than three points, including a 12-10 score at quarter's end with Bradshaw and sophomore Kolby Moss each contributing 5 points.

There were four lead changes and two ties by the 4:41 mark of the second quarter before a field goal by sophomore Aidan Berrong got them a 22-20 lead at the 4:33 mark, that they would have challenged late in the game but not overcome. Berrong's bas-



Sophomore Kolby Moss sizes up an Eagle defender. Moss would pour in a game-high 24 points in the win. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

ket triggered a 13-3 Indians' scoring run for a 33-23 lead by the 1:39 mark which became 36-27 at intermission.

Scoring leaders for the Indians in second quarter action were Moss with 10 points, senior Brett Denton with 9, and senior Will Travis with four.

The Indians opened the third quarter on a 10-0 run for a 46-27 lead at the 4:49 mark with Moss contributing six of the points in the run, and a trey

by Bradshaw and a deuce by Denton -- more than matching two baskets by the Eagles -- for the Indians' biggest lead of the game of 51-31 at the 3:20 mark.

Maybe the Indians' good fortune in exploding out to the seemingly comfortable lead brought about some overconfidence as the Eagles went on a 12-1 run for just a 52-43 deficit entering the fourth quarter before they opened the final quarter with a 7-2 run for an

overall 19-3 charge to trail by just a 54-50 margin with 6:29 on the clock.

The Indians seemed to regain control with an 11-3 run for a 65-53 lead at 3:47 with Travis contributing five of the points but here came the Eagles again as they battled back with a trey and a three point play beginning a 9-0 run for a slender 65-62 Towns lead at 1:47.

The Indians struck back, however, on field goals by

Bradshaw, Berrong, and senior Dylan Shook in just 20 seconds of playing time between the 1:02 and 42-second marks for a sudden 71-62 Towns lead.

Berrong sank two free throws during the final 19 seconds while the Eagles used three free throws on a surprising foul call with 9 seconds left before adding an uncontested field goal at the buzzer as the Indians closed out a 73-67 victory.

Scoring leaders for the Indians were Moss with 24 points, Denton and Travis with 13 each, Berrong with 11, and Bradshaw with 10 while six Indians contributed at least one assist with leaders being Berrong with 3 and Moss with 2.

Leaders in rebounds were Moss with 10 and Denton with 5.

Additional members of the Indians team not mentioned in the articles for this week and last are seniors Trevor Bradley and Alan Gillis, juniors Dakota Edge and Jacob Kinsey, and freshman Collin Crowder. Gillis is currently sidelined by a knee injury but with hope that he can join the team soon.

With the exception of Moss, the Indians struggled at the foul line in their close loss to Andrews three days prior but they sank an excellent 25-of-34 attempts in this game with Moss sinking 14-of-16 attempts and Berrong 7-of-10.

The Eagles also displayed excellent free throw accuracy by sinking sixteen of twenty two attempts.

The Eagles were led in scoring by Reece Howard, who included 14 fourth quarter points among his team leading 20, and he was followed by Collin Davis with 19 and Connor Davis with 13.

After travelling to Union County (0-1) on Tuesday for their only games this week, the Lady Indians and Indians will be on the road twice next week, traveling to Lumpkin County on Tuesday, Nov. 27 at 6 p.m. and at Athens Christian at 7 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 30.

## Lady Indians get decisive opening win over Hiwassee Dam

By Jerry Kendall  
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The Towns County Lady Indians Varsity Basketball Team got their regular season off to a rousing start with a 46-33 victory over the visiting Hiwassee Dam, NC Lady Eagles last Tuesday in a game not as close as the final score would indicate.

The victory gives the Lady Indians a 1-0 record following a convincing 59-22 scrimmage victory not counting as a part of their season record just three days earlier against Class AAAAA Johnson High School of Gainesville.

Most of the first half of the game was quite a battle between the Lady Indians and Lady Eagles with the Lady Eagles leading for much of the first fourteen minutes before the Lady Indians broke the game open on a 27-2 scoring explosion in just 10 minutes and 40 seconds of playing time between the 2:40 mark of the second quarter and the end of the third.

The Lady Eagles initially used the towering presence and strength of Katie Gibson who scored six of the points in an opening 8-2 run by Hiwassee Dam by the 4:43 mark of the first quarter.

The Lady Indians tied the score on treys by sophomore Kennedy Henson and junior Sophia Shook by the 2:43 mark and a field goal by senior Kristen Byers and free throw by Shook during the final 33 seconds gave the Lady Indians an 11-8 lead by quarter's end.

The Lady Eagles then repeated the first quarter start with an 8-2 run at the start of the second quarter for a 16-13 advantage at the 2:55 mark but here came the Lady Indians.

A trey by senior Taylor Cornett at 2:40 got the Lady Indians a 16-16 tie and a putback basket by Shook at 1:53 gave them an 18-16



Vanessa Floyd grabs a rebound vs Hiwassee Dam, NC. The sophomore would lead the Lady Indians with 11 points and 6 rebounds. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

lead they would never relinquish with these two baskets only being the start of the aforementioned 27-2 run. Cornett added a second trey and senior Kenzlee Denton a deuce by halftime for a 10-0 finish to the quarter when the Lady Indians held a 23-17 lead.

Six different Lady Indians put points on the scoreboard during a 17-1 third quarter for a 40-18 Towns lead entering the fourth quarter.

Sophomore Vanessa Floyd led the third quarter charge by including a pair of treys among her team leading 7 points for the

quarter. The first five minutes of the fourth quarter was a low scoring period with the Lady Indians holding a 44-24 lead before the Lady Eagles finished the game on a 9-2 run during the final 1:16 of the game for the final Towns margin of victory of 46-33.

The Lady Indians featured a balanced scoring attack for the game with leaders being Floyd with 11 points, Cornett with 10, Henson with 8, and Byers and Shook with 6 each while six different Lady Indians contributed at least one assist with leaders

being Byers, Cornett, Henson, and Shook with 2 each. Floyd led in rebounds with 6 and was followed closely by Denton with 5.

Brittany Davis led the Lady Eagles in scoring with 10 points with seven of those coming in the final quarter.

After travelling to Union County (1-0) on Tuesday for their only games this week, the Lady Indians and Indians will be on the road twice next week, traveling to Lumpkin County on Tuesday, Nov. 27 at 6 p.m. and at Athens Christian at 7 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 30.

## Towns County Middle School takes two from Martins Creek, NC



The Towns County Middle School Indians and Lady Indians each earned a home win on Thursday, Nov. 15, against Martins Creek. The girls won 43-14, while the boys won 61-8. Photo/Lowell Nicholson