

# Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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## Lady Indians defeat Athens Academy, George Walton, tied for first in 8-A

By Jerry Kendall  
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Last week was a very good one for the Towns County Lady Indians varsity basketball team as they came charging from behind during the last minute and a half for a huge home court victory over Athens Academy on Friday after trailing by as many as fifteen points in the third quarter and they dominated from start to finish in taking a decisive victory at George Walton Academy in Monroe on Saturday. They did not play on Tuesday as the Indians traveled to Riverside Military Academy in Gainesville where there is no girls team.

The victory elevated the Lady Indians' overall record to 9-8 and their Region 8A record to 3-0 which is good for a tie for first place with Lakeview Academy of Gainesville within the region.

The Athens Academy Lady Spartans saw their record fall to 11-6 overall, including 3-1 in the region, while the George Walton Lady Bulldogs fell to 7-11 overall and 1-5 in the region with their losses to the Lady Indians on Friday and Saturday.

**Lady Indians 46, Athens Academy 42** - After opening their game with Athens Academy with a 5-0 lead highlighted by deuces by sophomore Vanessa Floyd and senior Kenzlee Denton and holding a 7-4 lead on a Floyd deuce at the 2:50 mark of the first quarter, the Lady Spartans closed the quarter with a 10-0 run for a 14-7 lead at quarter's end.

The Lady Indians opened the second quarter with a field goal by sophomore Kennedy Henson and four for four free throw shooting by Floyd for just a 14-13 deficit but then found points hard to come by until past the mid point of the third quarter. The Lady Spartans



The Lady Indians celebrate their Homecoming Night victory over Athens Academy on Friday night. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

finished the quarter on a 10-3 run for a 23-16 lead at intermission and opened the third with an 8-1 run for a bulging 32-17 lead.

After cold shooting had resulted in just the seventeen Lady Indian points in more than two and a half quarters, however, the Lady Indians came alive when Henson sank treys at the 2:58 and 2:03 marks and they followed a deuce by the visitors with a trey by junior Sophia Shook and two free throws by senior Demya Allen for just a 34-28 deficit at 29.7 seconds.

The Lady Spartans interrupted the rally with a trey at the third quarter buzzer and added a free throw at the 7:23 mark of the fourth in seeming to regain control of the game with a 38-28

advantage. Not so, however, as a trey by senior Taylor Cornett and deuces by senior Kristen Byers and Floyd between just the 6:45 and 4:41 marks had the Lady Indians within 38-35.

Once again, the Lady Spartans responded after missing two one and one free throw attempts with an off balance field goal and two free throws for a 42-35 lead at 2:12 but that would be their last points in the game. The Lady Spartans had handled the Lady Indians' signature pressure defense pretty well until crunch time when the Lady Indians' last ditch defensive efforts took its toll on the Lady Spartans, beginning with a steal near mid court and a pull up jumper by Floyd for a 42-37 score

at exactly the one and a half minute mark that had them on the way to a stunning finish.

Henson was fouled and sank two free throws at 1:06 when fouled on a drive for the basket and she then repeated the drive and two free throws after the Lady Indians forced an out of bounds turnover at 50.9 seconds with the Lady Spartans holding just a 42-41 lead. A steal by Allen led to a trey by Floyd at twenty eight seconds for a sudden 44-42 Towns lead but the Lady Indians were still not through with their heroics.

Floyd came up with another steal near the twenty seconds mark and Henson clinched the win with two more free throws at 17.6 seconds, giving her six for six

accuracy between the 1:06 and 17.6 seconds marks and a 46-42 lead which became the final Lady Indians margin of victory.

Seven different Lady Indians put points on the scoreboard and collected multiple rebounds with scoring leaders being Henson with 18 points and Floyd with 15 while leaders in assists were Henson with 5 and Cornett and Floyd with 2 each. Leaders in rebounds were Henson with 10; Byers, Cornett, and Floyd with 4 each; and seniors Demya Allen and Kenzlee Denton with 3 each. The Lady Indians had an edge at the foul line where they sank fifteen of twenty three attempts as compared with nine for twelve for the Lady Spartans. Sophomore Ali Rumpel

with 15 points and freshman Meredith Reynolds with 14 led Athens Academy in scoring.

**Lady Indians 50, George Walton Academy 28** - It was pretty evident from the start that the George Walton Lady Bulldogs were in for difficulty against the Lady Indians' very aggressive but clean full court pressure and the Lady Indians added deadly three point shooting to the mix as they dominated from start to finish in taking a 50-28 victory over the Lady Bulldogs not really as close as the final score would indicate.

Sophomore Kennedy Henson wrapped deuces around a trey by senior Kenzlee Denton for a 7-0 Towns lead barely two minutes into the game and by quarter's end, sophomore Vanessa Floyd had added eight points with a pair of treys included with one coming at the buzzer. It was more of the same in the second quarter when Henson and Floyd each included two treys and a deuce for eight points each and a 33-12 Towns lead at intermission.

The Lady Indians would add just five points in the third quarter and twelve in the fourth with a pair of treys by junior Sophia Shook and a pair of free throws closing out the Lady Indians scoring by sophomore Lady Indian JV player Maci Walls being the highlights as they closed out a 50-28 victory.

Scoring leaders for the Lady Indians were Floyd with 21 points, Henson with 16, and Shook with 6 while five different Lady Indians contributed at least one assist with leaders being Henson with 6, Shook with 3, and senior Taylor Cornett with 2. Leading scorers for the Lady Bulldogs were sophomore Marnie Couch with 9 points and senior Grace Short 7 with each scoring five points in the fourth quarter.

## Indians fall to Riverside, Athens Academy, and George Walton

By Jerry Kendall  
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It was a difficult time for the Towns County Indians varsity basketball team last week when they fell in competitive games at Riverside Military Academy and at home to Athens Academy, two of the top teams in Region 8A, before traveling more than a hundred miles to Monroe where not much went well for them as they fell to George Walton Academy.

The week's work left the Indians with an overall 7-11 record, including 1-3 in Region 8A although overall 3-4 against region opponents with three of the games not counting for region tournament seeding.

Riverside finished the week with an overall 13-4 record, including 4-1 in the region with the loss being to Prince Avenue Christian School when they had missing players who had gone home for the Christmas holidays.

Athens Academy finished the week with an overall record of 10-2 and like Riverside with a 4-1 record in the region with the loss being by a 57-49 score to Riverside on Saturday following their win over the Indians on Friday. George Walton completed the week with just a 5-13 overall record but 2-3 in region play with the three losses all being by six points or less.

**Riverside Military Academy 67, Indians 54** - The Indians' game on Tuesday at Riverside Military Academy in Gainesville proved to be a difficult matchup for the Indians against a senior laden team thought by some close followers of the region to be the top contender for first place this year and easily the quickest team the Indians have faced this season.

Legendary retired Fannin County high school coach Johnny Farmer once told your reporter how difficult it is to face much quicker opponents as adjusting to the quickness can't be experienced in practice prior to the game with similar quickness not present on your own team, resulting in what might be described as on-the-job training with such tasks as passes and other routine actions carried out in prior games no longer routine.

Such a situation was experienced by the outstanding 2017 TCHS team which traveled to Calhoun County in deep south Georgia and saw the ultra quick state's second seeded and eventual state runnerup team explode out to a 29-5 lead only to see the Indians learn from their own on-the-job training in going on an extended 30-16 run themselves and pulling within ten points before the Cougars regained some control of the game and pulled away for the victory.

Such was the situation for this year's band of Indians as they rallied from an early second



L-R: Will Travis at George Walton Academy on Saturday and Brett Denton vs Athens Academy on Friday. Photos/Lowell Nicholson

quarter deficit of 22-9 for a brief lead late in the second quarter. A quick early basket by sophomore Kolby Moss gave the Indians a 2-0 lead, two free throws by senior Brett Denton got them a 5-4 advantage at the 4:38 mark, and a deuce by senior Will Travis had them within 8-7 at 3:21 but the Eagles went on a 14-2 run interrupted only by a basket at the first quarter buzzer by senior Trevor Bradley for the aforementioned Riverside 22-9 lead.

But here came the Indians with an outstanding run of their own highlighted by the play of freshman Collin Crowder and Moss along with timely contributions of three free throws by Travis and a trey by sophomore Aidan Berrong. Crowder initiated the run with two free throws at 6:27 for a 22-11 score and added a deuce at 3:43 before striking for a deuce at 1:55 and an old fashioned three point play at 1:03 for just a 30-29 Indians deficit.

Moss included a deuce and three for four free throw shooting during the run before ending it with a baseline drive and left handed floater for a 31-30 Towns advantage at the nineteen seconds mark.

The Indians faced some bad luck, however, when an Eagle 3-point attempt caromed off the backboard and into the basket as time expired for their only trey of the game and a 33-31 lead at intermission. Crowder scored nine points and Moss seven during the Indians' 22-8 run between the 6:27 and nineteen seconds mark of the second quarter.

The Eagles used a 9-2 run of their own, interrupted only by a Moss putback basket, for a 42-33 lead at the 3:42 mark of the third quarter but the Indians used two baskets by Moss and one each by Travis and Crowder during an 8-2 run in edging to within 42-39 at 2:13 and 44-41 at the 1:37 mark.

The Eagles responded, however, with the final two deuces of the third quarter and the first

two of the fourth for a 52-41 lead the 7:15 mark of the fourth quarter but the Indians would hang tough for most of the remainder of the game, pulling to within eight points on four occasions.

Two free throws at 5:55 and a coast to coast run for a deuce by Berrong had the Indians within 56-48 at 5:29, two free throws by Crowder within 58-50 at 4:25, a free throw by Moss at 2:44 for a 59-51 score, and two charity tosses by Moss at 1:36 had them still within striking distance at 61-53 at 1:26. But the Eagles finished the game by sinking four of six free throw attempts and a deuce in completing a 67-54 victory. Junior Jacob Kinsey ended the scoring for the game when he sank a free throw at the 24.1 seconds mark.

Scoring leaders for the game for the Indians were Moss with 19 points, Crowder with 15, Travis with 8, and Berrong with 7 while Moss led in assists with 4 and was followed by Berrong with 2. It was noteworthy that the Indians went an outstanding twenty three for twenty eight at the foul line with Crowder being seven for seven. The Eagles were led in scoring by sophomore Shad Dabney with 17 points but with at least forty six of their remaining fifty points being scored by seniors with leaders being 6'5" Khalid Duke with 15 and 6'4" Issac Teasley with 12.

**Athens Academy 58, Indians 53** - After facing easily the quickest opponent this season in Riverside, the Indians faced in Athens Academy perhaps the biggest size disadvantage of the season in two sophomores, 6-6" Hugh Laughlin and 6'5" Deion Colzie as compared to just one super tall Indian in the person of 6'5" senior Will Travis.

Sophomore Aidan Berrong opened the scoring for the Indians with a trey and a 3-0 lead at the 6:34 mark of the first quarter and Berrong led a scoring charge leading to a 21-8 lead by the 1:13



mark as he included a second trey and two for two free throw shooting among ten points in the early charge. He got lots of help, however, as sophomore Kolby Moss sank a pair of treys for six points and senior Will Travis a trey and a deuce for five.

Points were harder to come by for the Indians the remainder of the game but they used the early run in holding the early lead until early in the third quarter, including by scores of 21-11 after one quarter and 28-24 at intermission. A trey by senior Trent Bradshaw got the Indians a 24-12 lead early in the second quarter and two deuces by freshman Collin Crowder had them ahead 26-17 at 5:13 and 28-22 at 1:06.

The third quarter would see three ties and four lead changes highlighted for the Indians by six points by Travis on a trey, a deuce, and a free throw with the Indians clinging to a 40-39 lead at quarter's end. The first six minutes of the fourth quarter would see one tie and four lead changes, ending in a three point play by Crowder

at the 2:05 mark for a 50-49 Indians lead with a deuce by senior Brett Denton, a trey by Moss, and a deuce by Travis keeping the game close prior to that.

The Spartans responded, however, by using a deuce and five for seven free throw shooting for a 56-50 lead at the 32.3 seconds mark with a deuce and free throw by Moss by the 16.3 second mark having the Indians with 56-53 but two for four free throw shooting by the Spartans the final 14.7 seconds got them a 58-53 victory.

Leading scorers for the game for the Indians were Moss with 14 points, Travis with 13, Berrong with 12, Crowder with 7, and Denton with 4 while Berrong and Moss contributed 3 assists each and Crowder and Denton 2 each. Leaders in rebounds were Travis with 8, Crowder with 5, and Denton and Moss with 4 each. The game was decided at the foul line where the Spartans went fifteen for twenty seven while the Indians sank five of just seven attempts. Scoring leaders

for the Spartans were senior Larry Jang with 22 points, Colzie with 13, senior Barrett McLanahan with 10, and Laughlin with 9.

**George Walton Academy 55, Indians 28** - In a game pretty much dominated by very effective George Walton defense accompanied by much colder than usual shooting by the Indians when getting good shots, the Indians overcame an early 4-0 deficit for a 7-4 lead on the strength of a trey by senior Trent Bradshaw and two deuces by senior Will Travis at the 5:21 mark of the first quarter.

The Bulldogs would finish the quarter on a 12-1 run, however, for a 16-8 lead by quarter's end and withstand a low scoring second quarter by both teams for a 21-14 lead at intermission. A deuce and free throw by Travis and Bradshaw's second trey would account for all six Indians points as they held the Bulldogs to five points in second quarter play. Most any team is happy to hold an opponent to just twenty one points in a half as did the Indians in this game but not to score just fourteen themselves.

With just a seven points deficit, the Indians certainly had hopes of improving their lot the second half but it wasn't to be as George Walton used an 18-7 third quarter advantage, with all seven Indian points scored by Travis, for a 39-21 lead entering the fourth quarter which they extended to 55-28 by game's end. Sophomore Kolby Moss scored four of the Indians' seven points in the fourth quarter.

Travis led the Indians in scoring with 15 points for the game and was followed by Bradshaw with 6 and Moss with 4 while senior Brett Denton led in assists with 4 and Moss added 2.

Freshman Collin Crowder took the lead for the Indians in rebounds with 10 and was followed by Travis with 8, Moss with 6, and Bradshaw with 4.

The Bulldogs were led in scoring by senior Breelan Holston with 26 points, sophomore Amari Gill with 11, and senior Jason Rockmore with 10.

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