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Indians get win at Riverside, fall short at Tallulah Falls and Fannin

By Jerry Kendall
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The Towns County Indians Varsity Basketball Team was on the road for three games last week and got one win at Region 8A Region foe Riverside Military Academy in Gainesville but suffered some misfortune along the way and came up short at Region 8A opponent Tallulah Falls and at Class AAA Fannin County in Blue Ridge. The week's work left the Indians with an overall record of 6-2, including 2-1 in Region 8A.

Tallulah Falls 84, Indians 73 – The Indians went on the road last Tuesday to face Region 8A foe Tallulah Falls with both teams sporting undefeated records, the only teams in the region still undefeated, with the Indians at 5-0 and Tallulah at 6-0.

Tallulah would use three potent scoring runs, one in each of the first three quarters with the Indians able to challenge throughout the game with scoring runs of their own but never quite able to overcome for a lead as Tallulah came away with an 84-73 victory.

After the Indians took a 1-0 lead before the clock started due to a scorebook error, Tallulah used an aggressive full court press and deadly shooting, including three treys, for an 18-4 run and an 18-5 lead in just two and a half minutes between the 7:20 and 4:50 marks of the first quarter.

Incredibly, that momentum would not continue, however, as Tallulah went stone cold, failing to score during not only that final 4:40 of the first quarter but a minute and nineteen seconds into the second as well with the Indians mounting a scoring surge of their own in tying the score at 18-18 with 7:13 left in the second quarter.

Colton Shook got the Indians off and running on their overall 13-0 surge for the tie with a trey, two for two free throw shooting, and a deuce between just the 4:16 and 3:01 marks of the second quarter with the Indians forcing the 18-18 deadlock on a putback basket by Will De Vries.

Unfortunately, a second dominant Tallulah run similar to the first was on the horizon as they struck this time for an 18-2 run and a 36-20 lead by the 4:25



Zach Davenport goes up strong for two during the win at Riverside Military Academy last week. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

mark of that second quarter and the Indians would be forced to play catch up the remainder of the game.

A trey by Zach Davenport at 3:52 again reversed the trend for the Indians as Davenport scored ten points from that point forward in the second quarter as the Indians again rallied, this time on a 16-6 run to within 42-36 by intermission. De Vries and Major Moss each contributed four points during second quarter play for the Indians.

A Davenport basket seconds into the third quarter had the Indians within 42-38 but Tallulah went on a third scoring run, this time by a 17-4 margin in building a 59-42 lead by the 1:26 mark before Shook reduced the lead to 59-45, on a late trey, entering the fourth quarter.

The fourth quarter at Tallulah turned out to be quite a battle with the Indians rallying once again from a 61-45 deficit after two free throws following the technical, using a 21-9 run between the 6:33 and 2:07 marks for just a 70-66 deficit. The first portion of the run was highlighted by two treys and a three point play by

De Vries and a trey by Davenport in getting the Indians to within 68-59 by the 3:10 mark.

After Tallulah sank a deuce for a 70-59 lead, Logan Cowart sank two field goals and a free throw and Shook two free throws for a 7-0 run and the aforementioned four points deficit of 70-66. A three point play by Tallulah was then followed by a free throw by Trent Bradshaw and a field goal and two free throws by Davenport with each of these three events getting the Indians within six points, including by a 77-71 score with 52.2 seconds left. Tallulah would sink seven of eight free throw attempts between 46.9 and 15.7 seconds, however, for an 84-71 lead which became an 84-73 margin of victory for Tallulah after a late Cowart field goal.

Indians 57, Riverside Military Academy 50 – The Indians traveled to Gainesville on Friday for a Region 8A contest with Riverside Military Academy and they were off and running with an early trey by Will De Vries for a 3-0 lead which became 10-2 before the homestanding Eagles mounted a rally for a 14-14 tie near quarter's end. Zach

Davenport responded with two free throws and a field goal the final 58.6 seconds, however, giving the Indians an 18-14 lead they would never relinquish entering the second quarter.

Davenport wound up with a trey among nine points and De Vries a trey and dunk among five while Will Travis sank two deuces for four points in first quarter action. The second quarter proved to be a defensive battle with De Vries including two treys among all eight Indian points as they led 26-18 at intermission.

Nine points, including a trey, by Davenport and four by Logan Cowart had the Indians leading 39-27 entering the fourth quarter when the Eagles showed some life but not enough to overcome a powerful second half by Davenport who added fourteen points in the fourth quarter on three deuces and eight for eight at the foul line.

The Eagles had shown difficulty in putting points on the scoreboard the first three quarters but came alive in the fourth by including three treys in outscoring the Indians 23-18.

It appeared the Indians

were in control of the game with a 51-41 lead by the 2:13 mark but a trey, two free throws, and a deuce between the 2:05 and thirty eight seconds mark had them knocking on the door with just a 51-47 deficit. A quick foul sent Davenport to the foul line at 37.1 seconds where he sank two clutch free throws and added a second pair with De Vries sinking two of four attempts as the Indians regained control in closing out a 57-50 victory.

Davenport wound up with a career high 32 points and was followed by De Vries with 15 and Cowart and Travis with 4 each as Davenport also led in assists with 5 and Cowart and De Vries added 2 each. Leading rebounders against the quick and physical Eagles were De Vries with 10 and the trio of Cowart, Colton Shook, and Travis with 3 each. Sophomores Darrell White with 13 points, Isaac Teasley with 12, and Khalid Duke with 11 led the Eagles in scoring for the game.

Editor's Note: For Jerry Kendall's report on the extremely questionable technical fouls on Major Moss, you can read entire article at nganews.blogspot.com. Due to limited space in the

paper, the article will be posted online.

Fannin County 67, Indians 56 – The Indians traveled to Blue Ridge on Saturday for a rematch with Class AAA Fannin County after the Indians took the measure of the Rebels by a 62-53 score in Hiawassee on November 29. The Rebels got a 5-0 lead on a trey and a deuce just forty one seconds into the game and maintained mostly small leads throughout most of the game in taking a 67-56 home court victory.

The Indians managed just one lead of 12-10 on a Zach Davenport trey with forty eight seconds on the clock in the first quarter but the Rebels tied the score at 12-12 with seventeen seconds left and opened the second quarter as they had the first with a trey for a 15-12 lead they would never relinquish.

Each time the Rebels would threaten to put some distance between themselves and the Indians, the Indians would find a way to keep the score close but never able to get another tie or take another lead.

The Rebels led by as much as 23-16 in second quarter action but just 24-21 at intermission and by as much as 36-27 and 44-34 in the third quarter but just 44-39 by quarter's end and 44-41 early in the fourth.

The fourth quarter would see the Rebels' biggest early leads of 50-41 and 53-45 but with the Indians still knocking on the door with just a 57-52 deficit with 1:35 on the clock. But six for eight free throw shooting and a pair of deuces by the Rebels enabled them to extend their lead to 67-56 by game's end.

Top individual Indian scoring totals by quarter included six points by Will De Vries and five by Zach Davenport in the first, seven by De Vries and six by Logan Cowart in the third, and ten by Davenport and four by Cowart in the fourth.

Leading the scoring for the Indians were Davenport with 21 points, De Vries with 15, and Cowart with 13 while Davenport also led in assists with 3 with Cowart, De Vries, and Colton Shook close behind with 2 each. 16 and was followed by De Vries with 8, Will Travis with 6, and Davenport with 5.

Lady Indians come close to first W at Tallulah, overwhelmed at Fannin

By Jerry Kendall
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With Riverside Military Academy having no girls team, the Towns County Lady Indians Varsity Basketball Team was in action just two times last week with road games at Region 8A foe Tallulah Falls on Tuesday and at Class AAA Fannin County on Saturday.

They remained in contention for their first win of the season until the closing minutes in a 62-50 loss at Tallulah before falling to a scoring flurry at Fannin County by a 66-35 score.

Tallulah Falls 62, Lady Indians 50 – The Lady Indians fell behind and trailed by such scores as 8-0 and 10-2 by the two minutes mark of the first quarter but rallied to within 13-9 by the 6:55 mark of the second on a trey by Kristen Henson, Kristin Byers' second field goal, and free throws by Kenzlee Denton and Kirsten Ledford. Tallulah appeared to regain control after that, however, as they finished the second quarter on a 15-4 run for a lead at intermission of 28-13 which would become their biggest lead of 30-13 on a field goal just eight seconds into the third quarter.

The Lady Indians would come alive after that, however, in pretty much dominating the last half with a pair of scoring runs getting them within striking distance of Tallulah. A trey by Henson less than a minute into the third quarter triggered the first strong scoring run of 14-4 by the 2:38 mark for just a 34-27 deficit highlighted by a deuce by Henson, a trey by Madison McClure, and an old fashioned three point play by Denton which ended this run.

Tallulah regained a bit of control for awhile after that, leading 40-31 entering the fourth quarter and 45-33 less than a minute into the quarter. The Lady Indians would strike quickly after that, however, with McClure and Taylor Cornett sinking treys by the 6:06 mark and a field goal by McClure and two free throws by Ledford following two Tallulah free throws having them knocking on the door with just a 47-43 deficit with 4:12 still on the clock.

Ledford answered a trey and field goal by Tallulah with a field goal and free throw in keeping the Lady Indians in strong contention with just a 52-46 deficit with 2:06 on the clock but Tallulah would sink eight of ten free throw attempts and a field goal the final 1:46 of the game in extending their lead to a final margin of victory of 62-50. Five



The Lady Indians remained within striking distance at Tallulah but couldn't narrow the gap enough to make a serious run. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

different Lady Indians put points on the scoreboard during the fourth quarter with McClure leading with seven and Ledford scoring five.

Scoring leaders for the game for the Lady Indians were McClure with 13 points, Ledford with 11, and Byers and Henson with 8 each while Byers led in assists with 4. Leading scorers for Tallulah were sophomore Nyah Williams with 25 points and senior Aida Roberts with 22. The Tallulah Ladies completed the week with victories over Hebron Christian and Providence Christian for a 5-5 overall record.

Fannin County 66, Lady Indians 35 – The Fannin County Lady Rebels proved to be quite a challenge for the second time this season for the Lady Indians as they led by scores of 20-10, 35-15, and 51-22 at the quarter breaks in taking a 66-35 victory. The first quarter wasn't without a strong challenge for while the Lady Indians, however.

The Lady Indians reduced a 6-0 Fannin lead to 6-5 on a trey by Kristen Henson and a drive for two points by Kirsten Ledford and then a deuce and trey by Taylor Cornett wrapped around a deuce by the Lady Rebels had the Lady Indians within 14-10 with 2:27 left in the first quarter but the Lady Rebels struck for six straight points for the aforementioned 20-10 advantage at quarter's end.

Other highlights for the Lady

Indians during the game included a trey among five points for Madison McClure in the second quarter and she added four more in the fourth while Henson added her second trey of the game in the third.

McClure included six for eight free throw shooting among her team leading 11 points with other scoring leaders being Henson with 8 points, Ledford with 6, and Cornett with 5 while McClure also led in assists with 2. Starting guard Kristin Byers was sick and missed this Lady Indians game. Scoring leaders for the Lady Rebels were senior Katie Mosley with 20 points and junior Hope Franklin with 14.

Previous week's games
Fannin County 60, Lady Indians 22 – The Lady Rebels of Fannin County sprang out to a 7-0 lead by the 5:43 mark of the first quarter on Tuesday and led by scores of 20-5, 30-11, and 51-16 at the quarter breaks in taking a 60-22 victory. The Class AAA Lady Rebels improved their record to 2-2 with the win after having defeated Hiwassee Dam but falling to Class AAAA Gilmer and Pickens.

Highlights in the game for the Lady Indians were a trey by Lexi Ledford near the end of the first quarter, four points in the second by Kristin Byers, a trey and a deuce for five points for Kristen Henson in the third, and six for eight free throw shooting for six points by Madison McClure in

the fourth.

Scoring leaders for the game for the Lady Indians were McClure with 8 points and Henson and Ledford with 5 each while Byers led in assists with 2. The Lady Rebels were led in scoring by junior Hope Franklin with 11 points and senior Katie Mosley with 8.

Providence Christian 53, Lady Indians 40 – After a long trip to Lilburn to face the Providence Christian Lady Storm, the Lady Indians got off to a difficult start with Providence extending just a 4-3 lead near the five minutes mark of the first quarter to 15-5 by quarter's end and then pretty much playing on even terms with the Lady Indians in the second quarter for a 33-21 lead by intermission.

Seven different Lady Indians put points on the scoreboard in the first half with Kirsten Ledford leading the way with five. The Lady Indians closed to within 15-9 on a trey by Sophia Shook, 19-11 on a field goal by Kenzlee Denton, 20-13 on a deuce by Ledford, and 22-15 on a putback basket by Erika Spano during less than four minutes at the start of the second quarter before the Lady Storm extended the margin to the aforementioned 33-21 advantage at halftime.

The Lady Indians then made things especially uncomfortable for the Lady Storm in the third quarter when they opened with a 12-3 run for just a 36-33 deficit by the 2:42

mark and they had several chances to improve their run but went cold and didn't score the remainder of the quarter with a lone field goal by the Lady Storm at the fifty two seconds mark giving them a 38-33 lead entering the fourth quarter.

The most impressive portion of the third quarter Lady Indian run was provided by field goals by Shook and Kristin Byers, two free throws by Madison McClure, and a field goal by Ledford for eight straight points between the 4:52 and 2:42 marks with Ledford leading in scoring for the quarter with five points.

Unfortunately, the Lady Storm would open the fourth quarter with two treys in less than a minute and add a coast to coast run for two more points and a 46-33 lead just over two minutes into the fourth quarter and then add five additional points after a Ledford basket for a 51-35 lead by the 3:43 mark. A Ledford field goal and two free throws by Byers had the Lady Indians within 51-40 at 2:24 but they would not be able to dent the scoreboard again as the Lady Storm took a 53-40 victory.

Ledford entered the scoring column in all four quarters and took scoring honors for the game with 14 points with other leaders being McClure with 6 and Shook with 5 while McClure led in assists with 2. Scoring leaders for the Lady Storm were juniors Tamia Francis with

25 points and Mary Beth Kindig with 15. The Lady Storm have been quite competitive this year in compiling a 4-4 record with one of the losses being by just a 53-49 score to Galloway of Atlanta who has a 4-1 record.

Union County 68, Lady Indians 33 – Not much went well for the Lady Indians the first half, nor for the Union County Lady Panthers for most of the second quarter for that matter, on Saturday night in the Towns County Gym as the Lady Panthers broke out to a 15-2 lead after one quarter and led 26-5 at intermission. After the Lady Panthers sank their first two free throw attempts and the Lady Indians their first a minute and six seconds into the second quarter, the two teams combined for just one point, by the Lady Panthers, on one for nine free throw shooting for an 18-3 score until the 2:28 mark of the quarter.

At that point, a Lady Panther inadvertently banked in a trey and the Lady Panthers sank five of six free throws the final 1:43 of the quarter while Madison McClure, who sank two early first quarter free throws for the Lady Indians, sank the Lady Indians' only first half field goal on a drive for the basket with nine seconds on the clock for the previously referenced 26-5 score.

The struggles by both teams during first half play are mentioned only to commend them for how they rebounded in the second half, looking as though two new teams had entered the game. The Lady Panthers again outscored the Lady Indians during the third quarter but just by a 17-15 margin for a 43-20 lead entering the fourth quarter.

Kristen Henson led the third quarter run by the Lady Indians by sinking two treys and a deuce for eight points and Kirsten Ledford added five with Ledford continuing her good work beginning the night before at Providence Christian with eight more in the fourth quarter as Union closed out the 68-33 victory.

Ledford led the Lady Indians in scoring for the game with 13 points and was followed by Henson with 8 and Lexi Ledford and McClure with 4 each. Six different Lady Indians contributed assists with Kristen Ledford leading with 2 according to your reporter's tally.