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Lady Indians look to regroup in 2014 after winless B.O.T.S.

By Jerry Kendall
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Battle of the States Tournament turned out to be a tough event for the Towns County Lady Indians Varsity Basketball Team last week as defending Class A Public State Champion Gordon Lee of Chickamauga broke away from a one point halftime deficit for a thirteen point win in the opening game and they fell to defeat to Union County and Murphy in the second and third rounds.

The three losses leave the Lady Indians with a record of 6-7 as they prepare for the new year and most of their Region 8-A schedule.

The Lady Indians lost three games in two prior Battle of the States Tournaments and went on to enjoy successful seasons, including making the state tournament both times, so hopefully history will repeat itself this season.

**Gordon Lee 57
Lady Indians 44**

The Lady Indians took a 2-0 lead over Gordon Lee on a field goal by Stephanie Patton just a minute and two seconds into the game and Patton forced a 4-4 tie with two free throws with 4:59 on the clock but the Lady Trojans would use the imposing presence of 6'4" Katelyn Lee, not only as related to her 18 points scored in the game but her defensive presence inside as well, to lead by as much as 10-4 in the first quarter and by 10 points on two occasions in the second.

The Lady Indians would rally to within 10-8 after one quarter, however, and then overcome leads of 18-8 with 5:11 on the clock and 23-13 with 3:30 left for a 24-23 lead by intermission.

Patton provided six of the Lady Indians' first quarter points and 12 of their 16 in the second with Bailey Sutton contributing two field goals for four points in an 11-0 run the final 2:54 of the second quarter.

Two free throws by Patton with 11.8 seconds on the clock got the Lady Indians the aforementioned 24-23 lead at intermission.

A Savannah Dyer basket followed an early free throw and



Karlie Albach (left) nails a trey to give Towns a 5-0 lead over Union County. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



Stephanie Patton is fouled as she drives inside. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



Sophomore Savannah Dyer drives the baseline. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



Senior McKenzie Moss (23) releases a jumper during the Murphy, NC contest. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

field goal by the Lady Trojans for a 26-26 tie with 6:23 left in the third quarter but Gordon Lee struck for a 10-0 run for a third ten point lead of 36-26 by the 4:30 mark.

Once again the Lady Indians rallied on a trey and deuce by Karlie Albach, a drive for two points by Patton, and a Sutton field goal in a 9-4 run for just a 40-35 deficit entering the fourth quarter.

But the Lady Trojans again made a run of 8-0 for a 48-35 lead with 5:37 left. The Lady Indians would reduce the lead to single digits on two occasions after that, on field goals by Dyer and then Mckenzi Moss for a 50-41 Lady Trojans lead with 4:20 on the clock.

The two teams would sink just one field goal each after

that, however, with the Lady Trojans sinking five of twelve free throw attempts and the Lady Indians one of three for a final Gordon Lee margin of victory of 57-44.

Patton led the Lady Indians with 18 points with other scoring leaders being Sutton with 6 points and Albach with 5. Patton and Sutton also took the lead in assists 6 and 2 respectively.

**Union County 53
Lady Indians 25**

The Lady Indians got off to a 5-0 start against Union County on Friday and Karlie Albach answered two Lady Panther treys with one of her own, giving her six early points, for an 8-6 Lady Indian lead with

2:28 left in the first quarter. But it required two free throws by Bailey Sutton with 23.8 seconds left to lift the Lady Indians to within 12-11 at quarter's end.

Stephanie Patton then took the ball coast to coast for a field goal to get the Lady Indians within 14-13 with 6:46 left in the second quarter but the lady Panthers took control of the game after that as they finished the quarter on a 13-1 run for a 27-14 lead at intermission. They then opened the third quarter with a 9-0 run for a 36-14 lead which they extended to 45-21 entering the fourth quarter on the way to a 53-25 victory. Two field goals by Patton in the third quarter and two free throws and a field goal in the fourth by Savannah Dyer were the high individual quarterly point totals

for the last half.

Scoring leaders for the game were Albach and Patton with 6 points each and Dyer with 4 while Kellsie Cowart, Mckenzi Moss, Patton, and Sutton each contributed 1 assist.

**Murphy 56
Lady Indians 39**

In the Murphy game, the Lady Indians took early leads of 2-0 and 4-2 in the first minute of play on baskets by Mckenzi Moss and Kellsie Cowart and at the 4:53 mark an 8-6 lead on two free throws by Savannah Dyer but Murphy closed out the quarter on a 13-4 run for a 19-10 lead at the quarter break.

Two more free throws by Dyer seconds into the second quarter had the Lady Indians

within 19-12 but the Lady Bulldogs struck for nine straight points for a 28-12 lead which became just 28-19 at intermission as the Lady Indians closed the quarter on a 7-0 run themselves the final 1:26 on two free throws each by Misty Lindemuth and Madison Johnson sandwiched around a trey by Moss.

The Lady Dogs extended their lead, however, to 47-23 by the end of the third quarter and led 56-29 before the Lady Indians closed out the game with a 10-0 run highlighted by two baskets each by Lindemuth and Johnson.

Scoring leaders for the game for the Lady Indians were Lindemuth with 13 points, Moss with 10, and Dyer with 6 while Johnson led in assists with 3.

Manus' return not enough as Indians place eighth at B.O.T.S.

By Jerry Kendall
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The Towns County Indians Varsity Basketball Team celebrated the return of Dallas Manus from injury and nearly came away with their first victory of the season against Gordon Lee of Chickamauga in the opening round of the Battle of the States last Thursday.

Manus saw limited action but solid contributions as the Indians led for nearly the entire game but fell just short as the Trojans scored eight points in the final 1:20 of the game in overcoming a 49-47 Indian lead for a 55-49 victory.

The Indians then took it on the chin in the second round at the hands of Union County before staying within striking distance of Murphy, NC until the final 3:13 of the game when the Bulldogs finished on an 8-2 run for a 47-37 victory. Manus played less extensively in the Union County game and sat out the Murphy game the following day to avoid too much stress to his ankle with three straight days of games scheduled.

**Gordon Lee 55
Indians 49**

The Indians used a 7-3 run the final 2:36 of the first quarter in partially overcoming a flurry of early turnovers and deficits of as much as 7-0, 10-2, and 15-6, with the Trojans including three treys in their early success, for just an 18-13 Gordon Lee lead at the first quarter break. Boone Moss, Major Moss, and Trace Moss each contributed four points in first quarter action.

The second quarter was pretty much a standoff between the two teams as the Trojans led by as many as seven points by a 22-15 score 2 minutes into the quarter while the Indians closed to within 24-22 on back-to-back Boone Moss field goals by the 2:43 mark. The highlight of the quarter for the Indians, however, would have to be a coast-to-coast run and three point play by Dallas Manus, reducing the Trojans lead to 22-18 at 5:22. It was the



Dallas Manus returned to action for two games. Photo/Lowell Nicholson and Trace Moss getting them a 49-47 lead with a trey with 2:05 on the clock.

The two teams were scoreless for more than two minutes at the start of the third quarter but the Indians followed a Trojan field goal with an 11-0 run ending with a pair of Slade Davenport baskets wrapped around a Manus trey which gave the Indians their first lead of 31-30 with 3:04 on the clock. A trey by Trace Moss matched a tying trey by the Trojans for a 36-33 Indian lead at 1:06 and a Darringer Barrett basket at 21 seconds gave the Indians a 38-37 lead entering the fourth quarter.

The Trojans used back to back treys in a 10-4 run opening the fourth quarter for a 47-42 lead in just under 2 minutes of playing time but here came the Indians again.

The Trojans left the door open for the Indians by missing four straight free throws with two of them being one-and-one bonus attempts with well spaced field goals by Davenport and Boone Moss getting them within 47-46

The Indians couldn't quite close the deal, however, as turnovers would be costly after that with the Trojans getting even on a field goal at 1:20, taking a lead of 52-49 on a trey at the 50-second mark, and extending the advantage with three for four free throw shooting the final 18.1 seconds for a 55-49 victory.

Boone Moss led the Indians in scoring for the game with 16 points with other leaders being Trace Moss with 10 and Davenport and Manus with 6 each. The Indians had 15 assists, according to your reporter's tally, with leaders being Major Moss with 5, Manus with 3, and Barrett and Boone Moss with 2 each. The Indians actually sank two more field goals than Gordon Lee but were outdone from 3-point range 8-to-3 and at the foul line where the Trojans sank 7-of-14 attempts compared to just 2-for-7 for the Indians.

The Trojans went on to lead for nearly the entire game against defending Battle of the States Champion Dawson Coun-



Towns and Gordon Lee's boys was one of the most entertaining games of day one. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

ty in the second round with the Tigers not clinching the win until the final minute of play. Dawson then went on to defeat Hayesville 53-39 for their second Battle of the States Championship in a row. Meanwhile, Gordon Lee followed their near win over Dawson County by easily defeating Polk County 59-40 for third place.

**Union County 66
Indians 31**

It was a tough afternoon for the Indians against Union County on Friday after their near victory over Gordon Lee on Thursday night. Both teams got off to a very slow start with a trey by Trace Moss giving the Indians a 3-0 lead with 5:09 on the clock and the lead holding up until four free throws by the Panthers by the 3:53 mark gave them a 4-3 lead.

A second trey by Moss then had the Indians within 7-6 with 2:55 on the clock but the Panthers took control of the game after that, finishing the first quarter with a 9-2 run for a 16-8 lead after one quarter which became

39-16 at intermission and 55-20 after three quarters on the way to a 66-31 victory.

The Indians did have some bright spots during the game with Moss scoring 14 points the first half and Freshman Jackson Taylor sinking two treys in the fourth quarter with the first coming less than a minute after entering his first varsity game after being promoted from the JV's.

Trace Moss led the Indians in scoring for the game with 14 points with other leaders being Taylor with 6 and Darringer Barrett with 5 while leaders in assists were Garrett Bradshaw with 4 and Brady Moss with 2.

**Murphy 47
Indians 37**

In the Murphy game on Saturday, Trace Moss used a trey, a deuce, and a free throw in leading the Indians out to an 8-3 lead by the 3:38 mark of the first quarter and they extended the lead to 11-3 on a field goal and free throw by Boone Moss with 2:38 on the clock, but the Bulldogs would close to within 11-10 by quarter's end.

The Indians then overcame a 13-3 run by the Bulldogs at the start of the second quarter when Garrett Bradshaw had a hand in six straight points, on two free throws and a field goal and an assist to Major Moss, lifting the Indians to within 23-20 with the score being 25-20 at intermission.

Two quick Boone Moss field goals at the start of the third quarter had the Indians within 25-24 but the Bulldogs again extended their lead, this time to 39-30, by quarter's end with a late three point play by Kobe Denton highlighting late quarter action.

The Bulldogs then went scoreless nearly five minutes at the start of the fourth quarter with a trey by Trace Moss and a steal near mid court and drive for two by Major Moss getting the Indians within striking distance at 39-35. The Bulldogs responded, however, with eight straight points and a 47-35 lead which became 47-37 by game's end.

The Indians were led in scoring for the game by Boone Moss with 13 points, Trace Moss with 13, and Garrett Bradshaw with 5 while Bradshaw led in assists with 6.