

Towns County Sports

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Lady Indians and Indians fall at Tallulah Falls to improved teams

TCHS Homecoming rescheduled for this Saturday vs George Walton Academy

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Tallulah Falls - In a week when three games were scheduled for each team, the Towns County Lady Indians and Indians Varsity basketball teams were limited to just one game each due to winter weather on Friday and Saturday with games at Commerce on Friday and Saturday's TCHS Homecoming games against Providence Christian of Lilburn being postponed.

Homecoming has been rescheduled for this Saturday, Jan. 30th when Towns County plays host to George Walton Academy.

The Providence game will be made up on Thursday with the varsity games getting underway at 6 p.m.

The teams got in the scheduled games at Tallulah Falls on Tuesday where both bands of homestanding Tallulah Indians, both much improved as compared to recent seasons, pulled away from competitive games at the end for decisive wins over the Lady Indians and Indians.

The Lady Indians have an overall 4-14 record and the Indians 7-11, including 3-4 for both teams in Region 8-A with six games remaining to be played during this week and next and the Region 8-A Tournament to follow the week after that.

Five of the remaining games will be at home with last Saturday's home game against Providence Christian to be played on Thursday.

On Friday, Towns will host Lakeview Academy at 7 and 8:30 p.m..

George Walton visits Hiawassee on Saturday for Homecoming.

**Lady Indians 53
Tallulah Falls 76**

At Tallulah Falls, the Lady Indians took what would turn out to be their only lead of the game in the first minute of play on field goals by Kristen Byers and Savannah Dyer for a 4-0 advantage.

Although Tallulah would use a 15-2 run for a 15-6 lead by the 2:27 mark of the first quarter, the Lady Indians would close to within four points by the end of the first quarter, to within three on two occasions in the second, and force two brief ties in the third before seeing Tallulah extend a four-point advantage over the final eight-and-a-half minutes of the game for the deceptive margin of victory of 76-53.

Kristen Byers and McClure sank two field goals for four points each in first quarter play and Jocelyn Byers sank a trey with 33 seconds left to get the Lady Indians within 18-14 after one quarter.



Sophomore Madison McClure drives for two. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



Junior Major Moss goes up strong at Tallulah. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

A trey by Madison Landress and a deuce by Dyer had the Lady Indians within 22-19 by the mid point of the second quarter and two free throws by Landress, one by Dyer, and two by McClure reduced Tallulah's lead to 27-24 with 1:48 left but Tallulah led 30-25 at intermission.

A putback basket by Kristen Henson and a trey by Jocelyn Byers in less than a minute at the start of the third quarter gave the Lady Indians a 30-30 tie and Landress matched a Tallulah trey with one of her own for a 33-33 standoff at 5:47.

After that, Tallulah struck for six straight points for a 39-33 lead which was cut in half by a Jocelyn Byers trey at 3:41 and McClure sank a trey at 1:01

for just a 45-41 Lady Indian deficit.

The Tallulah Lady Indians would score the final three points of the third quarter for a 48-41 lead entering the fourth, however, and go on a 12-2 run at the start of the fourth for a 60-43 lead at 4:22 on the way to the 76-53 victory.

Landress and McClure each scored four points in the fourth quarter for the Lady Indians.

Scoring leaders for the game for the Lady Indians were Landress and McClure with 13 points each, Jocelyn Byers with 9, Dyer with 8, and Kristen Byers with 7 while McClure led in assists with 6 and was followed by Henson and Kristen Byers with 2 each.

The Tallulah Ladies im-



The Towns County guys getting ready for their game at Tallulah Falls. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



Senior Jocelyn Byers attacks the basket and draws a foul at Tallulah Falls. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

proved their overall record to 11-7, including 4-5 in Region 8-A, by week's end after taking a decisive win at Hebron Christian on Thursday. The trio of Nyah Williams, Aida Roberts, and Tajah Kidd scored 34, 25, and 11 points respectively in providing all but six of Tallulah's points. Roberts is a junior returning from last year with Williams and Kidd being newcomers to this year's vastly improved team.

**Indians 42
Tallulah Falls 61**

The first quarter of the Indians' game at Tallulah Falls on Tuesday featured five ties but just one lead change as Tallulah took three leads of two points each during the first minute-and-a-half of play and the Indians a pair of two point leads and a three points advantage during the final 5:25.

Highlights for the Indians included two tying deuces by Zach Davenport, two deuces by Will De Vries for two point leads, and a trey by Colton Shook for a 13-10 Towns lead which became 13-12 by quarter's end.

The second quarter would not be kind to the Indians, however, as Tallulah opened with the first five points for a 17-13 lead and responded to an old fashioned three point play by Davenport for just a 17-16 Indians deficit at 5:06 with a 13-0 run for a 30-16 lead at 10:3 seconds.

But a deuce by Davenport, who scored all five of his team's points in the second quarter, had the Indians within



Will Travis (30) and Will Devries battle in the paint. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

30-18 at intermission. The Indians got within 36-25 at 4:48 of the third quarter on a field goal by Davenport and two free throws by De Vries and then a basket by Adam Barrett, two more free throws by De Vries, and another deuce by Davenport had them within 40-32 at 1:21, and still easily within striking distance.

But Tallulah had a 45-34 lead by quarter's end and then broke away in the fourth quarter for the 61-42 victory.

Davenport included a trey in providing seven of the Indians' eight points in fourth quarter play.

Scoring leaders for the game for the Indians were Davenport with 21 points and

De Vries with 12 while Major Moss led in assists with 3 and was followed by De Vries and Cole Ledford with 2 each.

The Tallulah Indians completed an impressive week of play when they traveled to Dacula on Thursday and defeated Hebron Christian 67-53 after having fallen to the Lions 72-58 just 16 days earlier at Tallulah.

The two wins give Tallulah an overall 11-8 record, including 7-2 in Region 8-A. The Indians were led in scoring against the Indians by juniors Michael Van Hooser, Josey Keene, and Michael Weidner with 23, 20, and 10 points respectively.

Eastgate Lions new boys basketball team



Assistant Coach Ryan Moody, #14 Colton Wood 7th grade, #34 Brian Moore Freshman, #12 Nile Anderson Senior, #35 Dawson Rutherford Junior, #2 Samuel Utt Senior, #24 Ethan Moody Sophomore, #33 Seth Utt Junior, #4 Jaron Utt Freshman, #44 Colin Lynn Freshman, #53 Caleb Lynn 7th grade, Head Coach Brandon Wood

There is a great deal of excitement about the improvement of the Towns County High School Boys basketball team, and for good reason. Coach Benson has the Indians playing well, and they are competitive in virtually every game; win or lose. There is, however, another high school in Hiawassee, and their basketball team is also turning some heads. The Eastgate Life Academy Lions are having a great season in only their second year of organized sports, and their accomplishments are worthy of recognition.

Last year, in their inaugural season, the Eastgate Lions rallied from a difficult start, filled with all of the growing pains that can be expected from a group of young men new to organized basketball, to finish the season at

the .500 mark. They pulled together after a 1-8 start, and won a pair of post season tournaments to end the year. Many thought that year two would be a struggle after the Lions lost their leading scorer and rebounder to graduation, but they began proving those beliefs wrong right away, with a stunning victory over MACA in the season opener. Things have only progressed from that point, and the Lions find themselves second in the GICAA North conference with a 15-6 record, and a very good chance to qualify for the state tournament, with hopes of hosting a first round game.

Led by volunteer head coach, Brandon Wood, and Seniors Samuel Utt and Nile Anderson, these Lions are having a season straight from the pages of a Hollywood script. It is not unusual for

ELA, with its enrollment of 35 students K-12, to face a team with 10 times that many students, but nothing seems to shake this team or their coach. As someone close to the team, I have heard Coach Wood tell his players on a number of occasions, that only five players can take the court, so do not worry about the size of the opponent's school, or roster. As a testament to his character, and coaching ability, his team gives every ounce of effort that they can muster, and on fifteen occasions this season, that has been enough. They play with a quality that can only be described as determination, and even if the Lions are smaller than their opponent physically, they more than make up for it with the enormous size, and quality, of their hearts...the hearts of Lions.



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