

# Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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## Lady Indians win three games, finish regular season with 21-4 record

By Jerry Kendall  
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The Towns County Lady Indians Varsity Basketball Team closed out its regular 2013 season last week with three games in four nights and came away with victories in all three games.

The first two wins at home against Pinecrest Academy of Cumming on Monday and Commerce on Tuesday were of the decisive variety but the Lady Indians were forced to grind out a tense, come from behind victory in overtime in the final game at Providence Christian Academy in Lilburn on Thursday.

The three victories lifted the Lady Indians to a 21-4 overall record with the win over Commerce giving them their seventh straight season of at least twenty wins. The games against Pinecrest and Commerce were Sub-Region 8-A North wins where they completed an 8-0 regular season record. Providence, on the other hand, is in Sub-Region 8-A South where the Lady Indians finished with a 5-1 mark for an overall 13-1 record in the region.

The Region 8-A Tournament will be well underway by the time readers receive this edition of the Towns County Herald. The Lady Indians entered the tournament as one of two top seeds along with George Walton Academy of Monroe as the Lady Bulldogs finished with a 10-0 record in their sub-region which consists of six teams instead of five in the Lady Indians' sub-region.

The Lady Indians were scheduled to face the winner of a Monday game between Prince Avenue Christian and Tallulah Falls on Tuesday in the Towns County Gym. If victorious in that game, the Lady Indians will travel to Hebron Christian Academy in Dacula on Friday of this week at 4 p.m. to face the winner of a Wednesday game between Providence Christian,



Seniors Dadrian Blythe (left) and Emily Anderson (right) were honored at last week's Senior Night ceremonies. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

the second seed from Sub-Region 8A South, and Commerce, the third seed from Sub-Region 8A North. The winner of that game will then face the winner of the other semifinal game played on Saturday in the Region Championship Game at Hebron. Losers of the two semifinal games will play each other at 4 p.m. on Saturday at Hebron for third place in the region tournament.

Fans should take note that the Lady Indians are expected to enter the Class A Public State Tournament as early as Tuesday of next week, prior to the arrival of the next Towns County Herald, with schedules, times, and locations to be determined after region tournaments are completed around the state this week. This is the first year for Class A in Georgia to be split into public and private divisions with sixteen teams selected in each division. Region tournament results and power ranking formulas derived from regular season and region tournament play will be involved in the selection of teams to the state tournament and for seeding purposes. Those interested in

following the Lady Indians in state tournament play should be in touch with school personnel, players, or other fans for up to date information.

### Lady Indians 72 Pinecrest 26

The Lady Indians exploded out to a 24-0 lead by the 1:55 mark of the first quarter on Monday and led at the quarter breaks by scores of 25-5, 50-9, and 65-22 on the way to a 72-26 victory. Six different Lady Indians entered the scoring column by the end of the first quarter, nine by halftime, and all ten seeing action by the end of the game.

Stephanie Patton and Eryn Cochran scored 9 and 8 points respectively in the first quarter on their way to 12 points each by intermission with Emily Anderson and Kelsie Cowart each providing 6 points by the halftime break. Top individual point totals for the last half included 7 by Cochran and 5 by Bailey Sutton in the third quarter.

Leading scorers for the Lady Indians for the game were Cochran with 19 points,



Patton with 16, Sutton with 9, Anderson and Cowart with 6 each, and Dadrian Blythe with 5 while Cochran and Patton also took the lead in assists with 5 and 4 respectively. Leaders in rebounds were Misty Lindemuth with 10, Anderson and McKenzi Moss with 6 each, and Blythe and Sutton with 4 each. Cochran and Patton tied for the lead in steals with 6 each while Karlie Albach and Anderson added 3 each. Patton led in blocked shots with 3 with other leaders being Cochran and Alyssa Pyle with 2 each. Cowart played sparingly upon her return after missing the game at Lakeview Academy with a shoulder injury.

### Lady Indians 69 Commerce 27

As in the Pinecrest game, the Lady Indians got off to a quick start, taking an 8-0 lead by the 5:19 mark of the first quarter and holding a 15-3 lead by the 3:45 mark but saw a cold finish to the quarter having them ahead 15-5 at the quarter break. Stephanie Patton included three treys among eleven first quarter points.

Dadrian Blythe contributed six points in the second quarter when the Lady Indians extended their lead to 27-10 by intermission. They then broke the game wide open in the third quarter with three treys included among 15 points by Patton and 6 points by Eryn Cochran leading the way as they led 56-16 through three quarters.

In the mercy rule abbreviated fourth quarter, the Lady Tigers struck for three treys in an 11-0 run in just under two minutes of playing time by the 4:01 mark for just a 56-27 deficit but the Lady Indians responded with a 13-0 run of their own for the 69-27 victory. The final Lady Indian run was enabled by a 3-point play included among 5 points by Blythe, a trey included among 5 points for Alyssa Pyle, and a trey by McKenzi Moss.

Patton took scoring honors for the Lady Indians with 29 points in less than three quarters of playing time with other scoring leaders being Blythe with 15 points, Cochran with 6, and Pyle and Bailey Sutton with 5 each. Seniors Emily Anderson and Blythe took the lead in

rebounds in their final regular season home game with 7 and 6 respectively with Patton not far behind with 4. Cochran led in assists with 8 and was followed by Karlie Albach, Moss, and Patton with 2 each. Leading the way in steals were Patton with 6, Cochran with 4, and Sutton with 3 while Anderson and Patton led in blocked shots with 2 each.

### Lady Indians 43 Providence 41 (OT)

It didn't take long to learn from the veteran Providence Lady Storm on Thursday that their 15-7 record had been well earned with four of the losses having been to state ranked Class A teams and the other three to Class AAA, Class AAAAA, and Class AAAAAA teams. Indeed, two of the losses were to the Region 8-A leading George Walton Academy Lady Bulldogs who handed the Lady Indians their only region defeat of the season by a 58-56 score last month.

The Lady Storm, who included four seniors in their starting lineup, responded to a 2-0 Lady Indian lead on a Dadrian Blythe basket with eight straight points for an 8-2 lead by the 2:56 mark of the first quarter. The Lady Indians, who had struggled with turnovers and cold shooting to that point responded themselves with a 9-0 run between the 2:04 and 1:05 marks for an 11-8 lead which became 11-10 at the first quarter break.

The quick Lady Indian run was accomplished by two additional baskets by Blythe, a steal and field goal by Eryn Cochran, and a trey by Karlie Albach. Blythe then opened the second quarter with her fourth basket and Stephanie Patton followed a Lady Storm basket with a trey for a 16-12 Towns lead at the 5:25 mark but here came the Lady Storm again. They struck for six straight points for an 18-16 lead with another Lady Indian run to

See Lady Indians, Page 7

## Indians fall short in three Region 8-A losses

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The Towns County Indians came out on the short end of Region 8-A games last week at home on Monday and Tuesday against Pinecrest Academy of Cumming, Commerce, and at Providence Christian Academy of Lilburn on Thursday.

The losses left the Indians with a 3-22 overall record, including 2-8 in the sub-region and 2-13 overall in the region.

By the time this newspaper hits the newsstands and enters mail boxes, the Region 8-A Tournament will be well underway with play-in and first round games to be played in the Towns County Gym on Monday through Wednesday of this week.

The Indians finished fourth in their sub-region with two home court victories necessary to reach the semi-final and final rounds at Hebron Christian Academy in Dacula on Friday and Saturday.

The Indians were scheduled to host George Walton Academy of Monroe in a "play-in" game on Monday with the winner of that game facing Athens Christian, the top seed from Sub-Region 8-A South, in a first round game on Tuesday with the winner of that game to qualify for the region semifinals on Friday.

### Pinecrest 64 Indians 42

The first quarter of the home game against Pinecrest Academy was quite a battle as Boone Moss got the Indians a 2-2 tie on a jump shot and a 4-2 lead on two free throws by the 5:22 mark and added two more baskets for 8 points by quarter's end.

Dallas Manus also had a productive quarter as he included a free throw for a 12-12 tie and a trey as time expired among 6 points for a 15-15 standoff at the first quarter break.

The visiting Paladins opened the second quarter with a 7-1 run, however, for a 22-16 lead and followed a trey by Manus for just a 24-21 lead by



Coach Ken Hamilton presents Ryan Tallent (left) and Joseph Gibson (right) with basketball in honor of Senior Night ceremonies. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

using two treys in a 10-1 run for a 34-22 lead which became 38-25 by intermission. When the Paladins opened the third quarter with a putback basket for a 40-25 lead, it appeared they were taking control of the game but five different Indians each sank a field goal in a 10-0 run between the 6:22 and 4:23 marks and they were knocking on the door with just a 40-35 deficit.

A 5-1 answer by the Paladins gave them a 45-36 lead, however, and an eventual 50-40 advantage entering the fourth quarter. When Trace Moss came up with a steal and took the ball coast to coast for just a 50-42 Indian deficit just twelve seconds into the fourth quarter, there was hope that another Towns rally might be on the horizon. It was not to be, however, as that would be the last points the Indians would score as the Paladins finished on a 14-0 run the final 7:08 of the game and took a 64-42 victory back to Cumming.

Seven different Indians put points on the scoreboard, including six in the third quarter, with Manus and Boone Moss leading the way with 15 and 11 points respectively while six different Indians contributed at least one assist with Manus also leading in that category with 2.

### Commerce 65 Indians 50

The visiting Commerce Tigers threatened to dominate

the game on Tuesday when they included a trey as time expired in holding a 20-7 lead after one quarter and increased the advantage to 27-8 by the 5:36 mark of the second quarter and 29-10 by 5:09. Neither team dented the scoreboard for more than two minutes before Trace Moss put on a one man show for the Indians, outscoring the Tigers 10-3 in the final 3:02 of the quarter in rallying his team to within 32-20 at intermission.

Two free throws by Moss just 20 seconds into the third quarter, giving him 12-straight Indian points, had the Indians within 32-22 and an Aaron Dodson basket had them within 34-24 by 7:17 but the Tigers rallied themselves for a 42-25 lead by the three minute mark.

A trey by Dallas Manus got the Indians within 45-32 after three quarters but the Tigers took control of the game in the fourth, building a 59-37 lead by the 3-minute mark. The Indians used a trey by Garrett Bradshaw and two by Manus in a 13-6 finish in reducing the final Commerce margin of victory to 65-50.

Manus scored twelve of his team leading 16 points in the fourth quarter with other scoring leaders for the game being Trace Moss with 13 points and Ryan Tallent with 8 while Joseph Gibson, Manus, and Tallent led in assists with 2 each. Leading in rebounds were Bradshaw



## Stephanie Patton joins elite company at TCHS

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Towns County High School has been blessed with a very significant number of players known to have reached the career 1,000 points total in basketball with this accomplishment usually requiring three or four years of dedicated service. For quite some time now, your reporter has been aware that reaching the 500 points total for a single season is a far more challenging pedestal to reach than 1,000 in a career with recognition of this accomplishment long overdue for those who have reached this total.

Perhaps now is the time to rectify this oversight at the time of Lady Indian Stephanie Patton reaching the total in last Tuesday's home court win over Commerce. Making Patton's accomplishment especially noteworthy is the fact that she is the first sophomore known to reach 500 points after having become the first TCHS Lady Indian or Indian known to reach 300 points last year as a freshman. She also established a new record for a freshmen for either the Lady Indians or Indians last year by sinking 50 field goals from 3-point range for the Lady Indians' Region Championship Team.

Only seven prior Lady Indian sophomores are known to have reached the 400 points barrier over a period of fifty years while no Indian sophomores are known to have reached this total. It is likely, however, that Bob Bryson reached the 400 points total as a sophomore for the Indians during the 1954 season but the scorebook for that season is not available at present. Blair Barrett's 462 points during the 2003 season were the highest known total for a sophomore prior to Patton's exceeding that total this year.

Patton has now joined six Lady Indians and five Indians known to have reached 500 points during a single season with two Lady Indians, Amy Allen (Silvey) in 1985 and 1986 and Nikki Winn (Kendall) in



Stephanie Patton

2008 and 2009, reaching the total in both their junior and senior seasons. The only Indian known to have reached the 500 barrier as a junior was the aforementioned Bob Bryson who pulled off the feat in 1955 but fell short of the total as a senior when Carol Shook emerged as a potent scorer with Bryson and Shook becoming the only two teammates to average at least 20 points each per game for a TCHS team in the same year.

Other Lady Indians in addition to Allen, Winn, and now Patton known to have reached the 500 points barrier in a single season are Bonnie Huggins (Nicholson) in 1952, Pat Hooper (Smith) in 1961, Brandy McNabb (Warren) in 2000, and the previously mentioned Blair Barrett in 2005. Other Indians in addition to Bryson known to have reached 500 points in a single season are Bruce Wilson in 1962, John Nations in 1965, Eddie Rushton in 1975, and Heath Hooper in 2005.

Congratulations are extended to Stephanie Patton for joining an elite group of TCHS athletes and to all the prior Lady Indians and Indians previously unrecognized for reaching such a monumental points total in one season. There may be a few other Lady Indians and Indians who have scored 500 or more points in a single season but several scorebooks are missing for both teams with no means of identifying additional such accomplishments at this time.