

Towns County Sports

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Indians defeat Commerce, Tallulah, lose close one to Hebron in final week

By Jerry Kendall
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Towns County Indians Varsity Basketball Team completed its regular season play last week by playing three games in four nights, falling to a late scoring run at home to Hebron Christian Academy on Tuesday but rebounding on a decisive win at Commerce in a weather related makeup game on Thursday and then surviving a late scoring run for a home court victory over Tallulah Falls on Senior Night on Friday.

The week's work left the Indians with an overall record of 11-13, including 7-6 in Region 8A, and was noteworthy in the fact that this is their first season to reach double digits in wins since current Towns County School Superintendent Darren Berrong led them to a 13-16 record and a trip to the state tournament in 2005.

The Indians almost pulled off double digits wins a year ago when they showed much improvement and finished with a 9-17 record, setting the stage for this year's continued success against very challenging schedules both years.

At newspaper deadline time, the Indians are scheduled to face George Walton Academy at 5:30 pm on Monday in the Region 8A Tournament at Athens Academy. The winner of that game will then face Athens Christian, the top seeded team from Sub-Region 8-A South, on Tuesday with the winner of that game to make it to the tournament semi finals on Friday at Athens Academy with the region championship game to follow on Saturday.

Weather concerns have placed some doubt on whether the Monday and especially the Tuesday games can be played as scheduled.

Indians 72, Commerce 47 – The game at Commerce was quite a battle for the first quarter and a half with the Tigers not looking like a team in search of its first win of the season. The first quarter saw just one tie and five lead changes with the Tigers leading 14-13 at quarter's end but with the first four minutes and eight seconds of the second quarter an uncommon display of a competitive game as there was neither a tie or a lead change on nine of ten scoring occurrences



Kevin Reardon



Adam Penland

with two ties and seven lead changes.

Zach Davenport had the hot hand during these ultra competitive minutes as he scored the Indians' first six points of the first quarter and included a three point play among seven of the first nine Towns points of the second after Adam Barrett scored four of the last seven in the first. Davenport still wasn't done in the early production as he came up with a steal and made a long pass to Will De Vries at the aforementioned 3:52 mark for the basket giving the Indians a 24-23 lead they would not relinquish. By intermission, the Indians had pulled away to a 36-27 lead with De Vries scoring ten points, Davenport nine, and Major Moss going four for four at the foul line in second quarter action.

Davenport added nine more points and Barrett five in the third quarter with the Indians

extending their lead to 51-38 and seven different Indians put points on the scoreboard in the fourth with Barrett and Bradley Benson leading with five each and Moss contributing four as they closed out the 72-47 victory.

Eight different Indians put points on the scoreboard for the game with Davenport taking scoring honors with 25 points and other leaders being Barrett with 13, De Vries with 12, Moss with 11, and Benson with 5 while six different Indians contributed at least one assist with Moss leading with 5 and Davenport following with 2.

Indians 48, Tallulah Falls 44 – The first quarter of the Friday game against Tallulah Falls was a real battle with just one tie of 5-5 but six lead changes. Highlights for the Indians included Will De Vries including a trey in scoring nine of the Indians' first thirteen points and Zach Davenport play-



Jake Pyrlik / photos by Lowell Nicholson

ing a key role in propelling the Indians ahead 21-16 by the end of the first quarter.

With the Tallulah Indians leading 16-13, Davenport sank two free throws at 1:06 and made a three points play at 41.6 seconds, giving the Towns Indians an 18-16 lead which they would hold until near game's end when Tallulah edged ahead for just eight seconds. A trey by Colton Shook as time expired ending that first quarter gave the Indians some breathing room with the lead of 21-16.

Davenport used a deuce, two free throws, and a trey for seven second quarter points and a 28-23 Towns lead by the 5:12 mark but, incredibly, that would end the scoring for the Indians in the quarter. Fortunately for the Indians, Tallulah would struggle in a tough physical battle the remainder of the quarter as well, sinking only a field goal at 4:58 and a drive to the basket for two points at the halftime buzzer as they edged to within 28-27 at intermission.

Tallulah's scoring struggles would continue throughout the third quarter while the Indians managed nine points, highlighted by two free throws and a trey for five points by De Vries for a 37-29 Towns lead entering the fourth quarter.

Tallulah managed a drive to the basket for two points and a 37-31 deficit at 7:37 of the fourth quarter but the defensive battle would continue with that field goal being the only fourth quarter points by either team until De Vries sank two free throws at 4:34 for a 39-31 Towns lead.

This set the stage for a

sudden rally by Tallulah after the visiting band of Indians had managed just four points between the 4:58 mark of the second quarter and the 4:24 mark of the fourth when they began an 11-2 run ending at 1:02 for a 42-41 advantage.

The Towns Indians proved to be up to the task at hand, however, as they came through with several clutch plays and free throws after that. Major Moss sank two free throws at 54.2 seconds for a 43-42 Towns lead, Adam Barrett hit two charity tosses at 33.5, and Moss added the second of two attempts at the foul line at 19.0 seconds for a 46-42 Towns lead.

Tallulah followed with a deuce at thirteen seconds, cutting the Towns lead to 46-44, but Moss beat Tallulah's full court press and found Barrett open for the clinching layup at eight seconds. A trey attempt by Tallulah as time expired missed the mark and the Indians had a hard fought and thrilling 48-44 victory.

De Vries led the Indians in scoring with 16 points and was followed by Davenport with 15, Barrett and Moss with 6 each, and Shook with 5. Moss led in assists with 5 and was followed by Davenport with 2, according to your reporter's tally. Tallulah Falls was led in scoring by junior Josey Keene with 13 points.

The Tallulah Indians took out the wrath of their close loss to the Indians by including incredible fourteen for twenty one three point shooting, after going just three for twenty one against the Indians on Friday, in a 76-44 win over Prince Avenue in Tallulah Falls in a weather re-

lated makeup game on Saturday. Tallulah finished regular season play with an overall record of 13-12, including a 9-4 record for a tie with Athens Christian for third place in Region 8-A behind Lakeview Academy and Hebron Christian. Prince Avenue finished the season with a 12-9 overall record, including 7-6 in Region 8-A for a tie for fifth place with the Indians.

Hebron Christian Academy 57, Indians 55 - Hebron left the door open a bit by sinking just one of two free throw attempts at 7.9 seconds but the Indians couldn't put points on the scoreboard with their last possession and the Lions escaped with a 57-55 victory.

Baskets by De Vries, Jake Pyrlik, and Davenport got the Indians a 26-15 lead by the 4:49 mark of the second quarter and they then withstood a 6-0 Hebron run and a 26-21 score with field goals by Major Moss and Davenport wrapped around a trey by the Lions for a 30-24 advantage at intermission. Davenport's shot was on a drive and reverse layup as time expired.

The Indians rallied after that, pulling to within one point on three occasions, but not able to overcome the decisive Lions run. A three point play by De Vries at 1:18 got the Indians within 51-50, De Vries matched three for four free throw shooting by the Lions with a trey at twenty four seconds for a 54-53 score, and Barrett matched two Hebron free throws with a field goal at thirteen seconds with the Indians still facing a one point deficit at 56-55.

The Lions, who feature eight seniors and five juniors on their roster, finished the week with an overall record of 18-7, including 10-3 and second place in Region 8-A behind Lakeview Academy.

Lakeview finished regular season play with a 21-4 overall record, including 13-0 in region play after taking just a 57-54 win over Hebron on Friday in Dacula.

Scoring leaders in the Hebron game for the Indians were De Vries with 21 points, Davenport with 12, Barrett with 10, and Moss with 6.

Moss led in assists with 6 and was followed by Davenport with 5 and Cole Ledford with 2. The Lions were led in scoring by seniors Kobe Wharton with 23 points, Connor Holiday with 12, and Luke Crawford with 10.

Lady Indians overwhelmed at Commerce, fall to late runs to Hebron, Tallulah

By Jerry Kendall
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Towns County Lady Indians Varsity Basketball Team completed regular season play last week in competitive home court losses to Hebron Christian Academy on Tuesday and Tallulah Falls on Friday while struggling to an overwhelming loss at Commerce on Thursday.

The Lady Indians completed regular season play with an overall 4-20 record, including 3-10 for a tie with Providence Christian for eighth place in Region 8-A.

At newspaper deadline time, the Lady Indians are scheduled to face Providence at 4:00 pm on Monday in the Region 8-A Tournament at Athens Academy. The winner of that game will then face Athens Christian, the top seeded team from Sub-Region 8A South on Tuesday with the winner of that game to make it to the tournament semi finals on Friday at Athens Academy with the region championship game to follow on Saturday.

Weather concerns have placed some doubt on whether the Monday and especially the Tuesday games can be played as scheduled.

Hebron Christian Academy 56, Lady Indians 54 – In the Hebron Christian game on Tuesday, the Lady Indians sprinted out to an 11-3 lead by the 4:34 mark of the first quarter and then 15-7 by the 3:21 mark, led by six points by Kristen Henson and four by Jocelyn Byers, before the visiting Lady Lions finished the quarter on a 10-1 run for a 17-16 lead by quarter's end.

The Lady Lions then extended their lead to 21-16 in less than two minutes at the start of the second quarter only to see a pair of treys by Byers elevate the Indians to a 22-21 advantage at 5:32.

After the Lady Lions took a pair of one point leads by the 3:11 mark, a deuce by Henson and a trey by Byers lifted the Lady Indians to a 29-25 lead at intermission.



Jocelyn Byers



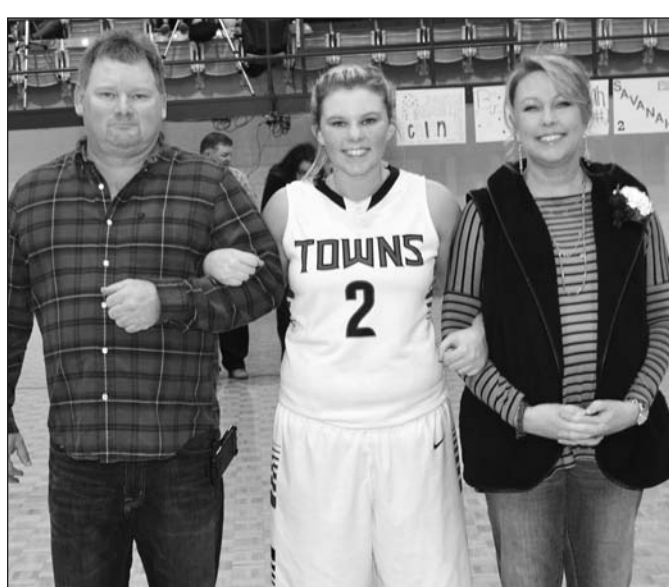
Brianna Shook

The four points Towns lead at the start of the third quarter would be the biggest lead of the quarter as the Lady Lions opened the stanza with a trey for just a 29-28 deficit and there would be two ties and three lead changes by the 2:58 mark when the Lady Lions would take a 38-37 lead on a trey and hold the advantage the remainder of the quarter, including by a 42-41 margin by quarter's end.

The Lady Indians were led in scoring for the quarter by Kirsten Ledford with five points and Kristen Byers with four.

The Lady Indians opened the fourth quarter with a 10-1 run, highlighted by four points each by Ledford and Kristen Byers, for a 51-43 lead at 3:36 but the Lady Lions followed with a 13-1 run of their own for a 56-52 lead which became a 56-54 victory after Ledford sank a Lady Indian field goal at the final buzzer.

Scoring leaders for the game for the Lady Indians were Jocelyn Byers with 13 points, Ledford with 12, Henson and Kristen Byers with 10 each, and Madison McClure, who entered the scoring column in every quarter, with 8. Fresh-



Savanah Dyer



Savanah Dyer, Jake Pyrlik, Adam Penland, Brianna Shook, Kevin Reardon, Jocelyn Byers/ photos by Lowell Nicholson

man Lea Neumyer led the Lady Indians in assists with 6 and was followed by Jocelyn Byers, Henson, and McClure with 2 each, according to your reporter's tally.

The Lady Lions were led in scoring by senior Yarimel Ramirez with 20 points, junior Alyssa Elliott with 12, and senior Athena Hawkins and freshman Payton Johnson with 10 each.

Tallulah Falls 55, Lady Indians 34 – The Lady Indians gave the Tallulah Falls Lady Indians quite a battle for the first half and into the third quarter on Senior Night last Friday in the Towns County Gym, including holding a lead for nearly a minute and a half near intermission.

The Lady Indians got within 3-2 on a field goal by senior Savannah Dyer at 5:58 of the first quarter, within 5-4 on a drive for two points by senior Jocelyn Byers at 5:13, and to within 8-6 on Dyer's second basket of the quarter at 2:29 before Tallulah pulled out to a 12-6 lead by quarter's end.

With Tallulah leading 13-8 near the mid point of the first quarter, the Lady Indians struck for a 6-0 run between the 4:36 and 2:58 marks on a free throw by Dyer, a trey by Byers, and a deuce by Sophomore Madison McClure but Tallulah used a trey and a deuce the final 1:15 of the quarter for an 18-14 lead at intermission.

The Lady Indians remained within striking distance

until near the mid point of the third quarter on a deuce by Dyer for a 20-16 deficit at 6:54 and a McClure trey getting them within 24-19 at 4:47 but Tallulah finished the quarter on a 12-1 run the final 4:22 for a 36-20 lead entering the fourth quarter.

Tallulah then pulled away in the fourth quarter for a 55-34 victory despite the Lady Indians having six players enter the scoring column with junior Madison Landress leading the way with five points.

The Lady Indians were led in scoring for the game by Dyer with 9 points, Jocelyn Byers with 8, and Landress and McClure with 5 each while junior Kristen Henson led in assists with 3 and was followed by Jocelyn Byers and McClure with 2 each.

Junior Aida Roberts led Tallulah in scoring with 23 points. The Tallulah Ladies completed their season on Saturday with a surprising 42-35 home court loss to Prince Avenue, finishing with an overall 13-11 record including 5-8 for a sixth place finish in Region 8-A.

Commerce 63, Lady Indians 20 – It was a tough game from start to finish for the Lady Indians in their weather related makeup game at Commerce on Thursday.

A long deuce by Kristen Henson gave the Lady Indians a 2-2 tie at the 6:55 mark of the first quarter but the home standing Lady Tigers embarked on an 11-0 run for a 13-2 lead by the 3:55 mark and they proceeded on to lead 19-5, 26-8, and 48-16 at the quarter breaks in taking a 63-20 victory.

Kristen Byers took the scoring lead for the Lady Indians with 5 points and was followed by five teammates who scored 3 points each.

The Lady Tigers were led in scoring by sophomore Asia Jones with 14 points and senior Brasha Jones and freshman Autumn Mathis with 10 each as they improved their overall record to 16-5 and their Region 8A record to 11-1 with the win.