

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Lady Indians defeat ACS; 8-A Tourney delayed to this week

By Jerry Kendall
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Commerce - Just as speculated in last week's Herald, the Region 8-A High School Basketball Tournament experienced weather related delays last week with Towns County winning their opening game on Saturday but forced to wait until Monday and Tuesday of this week for the final two rounds.

They gradually took control of the game in grinding out a 51-33 victory over Athens Christian in a loosely called and often rough game at Commerce High School.

The win over Athens Christian earned the Lady Indians a confrontation with state ranked George Walton Academy on Monday in which George Walton came away victorious, 62-37.

George Walton will now meet Lakeview Academy on Tuesday at 7 pm for the Region title, with Towns and Commerce meeting in the consolation game at 4 p.m.

The Lady Indians opened the Athens Christian game by taking a 5-0 lead on an inside basket by Misty Lindemuth and a trey by Bailey Sutton by the 5:46 mark and then led 7-5 on two free



Eryn Cochran takes a hard foul against Athens Christian during the Region 8-A Tournament. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

throws by Kellsie Cowart at the 3:40 mark, but the Lady Eagles rallied for a pair of three point leads and a 12-11 advantage after one quarter.

Five different Lady Indians put points on the scoreboard in first quarter action for the Lady Indians.

The Lady Eagles again led by three at 14-11 on a field goal just 19 seconds into the second quarter but the Lady Indians embarked on a 10-0

run for a 21-14 lead by the 4:36 mark.

A free throw by McKenzie Moss at 7:13 gave them a 14-14 tie and another by Cowart at 6:39 a 15-14 lead they would never relinquish but have challenged for most of the second quarter.

With the Lady Indians' lead having been reduced to 21-17 at the 1:58 mark, they put some distance between themselves and the Lady



Things get physical in the paint for senior Kellsie Cowart, who still led the Lady Indians with 15 points. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Eagles on treys by Karlie Albach and Cochran the final 1:23 of the quarter for a 27-17 lead at intermission.

Again, five different Lady Indians put points on the scoreboard in the quarter with Cochran and Cowart leading with five each.

Cowart was exceptional at the foul line as she sank five of six free throw attempts in the second quarter and seven of eight attempts total in the

first half.

The Lady Indians appeared to be taking control of the game when they opened the third quarter with a 6-0 run, highlighted by two field goals by Cowart, for a 33-18 lead.

However, it required two free throws by Cowart and a basket by Savannah Dyer in the final 3:04 for the Lady Indians to extend their 10 point halftime lead by just

a point to 37-26 entering the fourth quarter.

The Lady Eagles had struck for six straight points on drives to the basket, reducing the Lady Indians' lead to 33-24 with 3:18 left in the third.

The fourth quarter pretty much belonged to the Lady Indians as they used baskets by Madison Johnson, Sutton, and Cowart for a 43-29 advantage by the 4:53 mark and Lindemuth struck for six straight points during a 7-2 finish as they came away with a decisive 51-33 victory.

Scoring leaders for the Lady Indians for the game were Cowart with 15 points, Cochran with 11, Lindemuth with 8, and Sutton with 7 while Cochran led in assists with 9 and was followed by Sutton with 2, according to your reporter's tally.

The Lady Indians sank one more deuce and two more treys than the Lady Eagles, while easily holding the advantage at the foul line with 70 percent accuracy (16-for-23), including six of their last seven the final 4:08 of the game in protecting and extending their lead, while the Lady Eagles sank just 6-of-15 (40 percent) attempts for the game.

Indians' season ends with tournament opening loss to George Walton

By Jerry Kendall
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Commerce - The Towns County Indians Varsity Basketball Team battled to the closing minutes of their weather delayed Region 8-A Tournament opening game last Friday but came up a bit short in a 60-53 loss to George Walton Academy of Monroe at Commerce High School in Commerce.

George Walton, as the sixth seeded team in Sub-Region 8-A South, defeated Sub-Region 8-A South fifth seed Prince Avenue Christian 58-46 in a play in game on Monday to qualify for facing the Indians, the fourth seed from the North, on Friday.

George Walton drew the task, with their win over the Indians, of facing Athens Christian, the state ranked and undefeated top seed in the region, on Saturday and fell by just a 61-50 score, ending their season just one night later than the Indians.

In a similar situation last year, Sub-Region 8-A South fifth seed George Walton edged past the Indians in overtime on the Indians home court by a 51-48 score in overtime and nearly pulled off the upset of the season the next night when Athens Christian, the top seed from the south, was forced to score the final ten points of the game for just a 52-47 victory over the Bulldogs.

Athens Christian went on to reach the Class A Private State Final Four where they lost by just a 60-55 score to eventual state champion Greenforest Christian.

In this year's only regular season competition between the Indians and George Walton last month in Monroe, the Indians led for nearly all of the first half,



Dallas Manus soars for two vs George Walton. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

including by a score of 18-13 at intermission, only to see the Bulldogs take control of the game in the third quarter when they broke away to lead by as much as 41-23 in the third quarter on the way to a 56-40 victory.

At Commerce last week, however, the Indians were very competitive throughout the game as they roared back from an early deficit to lead from late in the first quarter through all of the second, most of the third, and briefly in the fourth before falling to a late scoring run by the Bulldogs in an eventual 60-53 loss.

A field goal by Boone Moss in the first minute of the first quarter had the Indians ahead 2-0 but the Bulldogs struck for a 12-0 run by the 4:51 mark for a 12-2 lead, raising concern that the Indians might be headed for a one sided defeat. That would not be the case, however, as it was then their turn and they struck for a 12-1 finish a field

goal by senior Garrett Bradshaw, a trey by junior Trace Moss, two field goals by junior Boone Moss, and a trey by junior Dallas Manus for a 14-13 lead at quarter's end.

They weren't through, however, as they opened the second quarter on an 11-2 run, highlighted by treys at the start and finish by Manus with a trey by freshman Kobe Denton and a drive for two points by freshman Major Moss in between. This gave the Indians an overall dynamic 23-3 run between the 4:09 mark of the first quarter and the 5:35 mark of the second for a 25-15 Towns lead.

Unfortunately, the Indians would cool off after that, sinking just two free throws by Bradshaw the remainder of the quarter but with the Bulldogs not doing much better as they used just a trey and free throw to edge to within 27-19 at intermission.

A putback basket by Major Moss and two free throws by Trace



Boone Moss hauls in an offensive rebound. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Moss sandwiched around a George Walton trey had the Indians still leading 31-22 by the 6:18 mark of the third quarter but the Bulldogs used two treys to advantage in a 10-0 run for a 32-31 lead at the 3:57 mark.

As in the second quarter, points would be hard to come by for both teams the remainder of the quarter but two free throws at 2:20 by Boone Moss got the Indians back ahead 33-32. A putback basket by the Bulldogs at the half minute mark, however, had them leading 34-33 entering the fourth quarter.

Field goals by Bradshaw and Trace Moss had the Indians ahead 37-34 by the 6:26 mark of the fourth quarter before a trey and free throw by the Bulldogs gave them a 38-37 lead with 5:37 left. The Indians would get their last lead of 40-38, as it turned out, on a drive for an old fashioned three point play by Manus at the

5:23 mark.

A Bulldog trey at 5:11 and drive for two points at 4:43 had the Bulldogs ahead 43-40 but Major Moss sank two free throws at 4:05 for just a 43-42 Indian deficit. A three point play by the Bulldogs at 3:50 triggered a 9-0 run, however, as the Bulldogs held a sudden 52-42 lead with just 2:17 left.

The Indians didn't quit and distinguished themselves by reducing the ten points deficit to seven the final two minutes of the game with treys by Manus at the :35 and :26-second marks getting them to within 58-50 and then the final margin of 60-53.

The Bulldogs left the door open a bit for the Indians by sinking just eight of 17 free throw attempts the final 2:31 of the game.

Scoring leaders for the Indians were Manus with 18 points, Boone Moss with 10, Trace Moss with 9, Major Moss with 7, and Bradshaw with 6 while Major

Moss led in assists with 5 with other leaders being Manus with 3 and Bradshaw with 2 according to your reporter's tally.

The George Walton game marked the final appearance for the Indians for senior Garrett Bradshaw who emerged as a full time starter as a senior after serving primarily in a backup role in prior years.

In addition to his statistical contributions to the team, Bradshaw distinguished himself, in this reporter's view, by playing hard in every game and truly enjoying the competition. Numerous relatives of current Indians have played key roles in earlier successes for the Lady Indians and Indians with Bradshaw certainly being no exception.

Prior close relatives seeing action with distinction for the Lady Indians and Indians include his great uncle James Bradshaw all the way back to the late 1960's and more recently cousins Sheri Bradshaw and Kevin Bradshaw and brother Brett Bradshaw. And he has a younger brother, Trent, who shows much promise for the future, most recently as a member of the Towns County Middle School Indians Basketball Team.

Many thanks for his basketball contributions and best wishes for his future endeavors are extended to Garrett Bradshaw from this reporter and the Towns County Herald.

The Indians completed their season with an overall 2-24 record but restricted for much of the season by injuries to key players as detailed throughout the season. With most of their fire power returning and especially with the presence of an extensive and outstanding freshman class, the future looks bright for the Indians.

Lady Indians to appear in Class A Public State Tournament next week

By Jerry Kendall
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Towns County Lady Indians Basketball Team will make their fourteenth appearance in the state tournament in the last sixteen years under Head Coach Jim Melton when they open the Class A Public portion of the State Tournament in first round play next Monday, Feb. 24, at a time and place to be determined.

Winners of that round of play will get right back into action on Wednesday, Feb. 26, with winners of the second round games to play in the State Semi-Finals on Saturday, March 1, with times and locations of these games also to be determined.

Postponements of region tournaments over much of the state last week due to snow and ice have necessitated the unusual situation of playing the first three rounds of the state tournament in just six days.

The two teams making it through these three rounds will face each other in the state championship game to be played on March 6 at 3:00 pm at a place yet to be announced and televised on Georgia Public TV if prior television patterns are followed.

Seedings for the Class A Public State Tournament will be determined this week after the newspaper deadline with the



Towns will leave it all on the floor in the playoffs. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Lady Indians "on the bubble" as to whether they will host their first game or go on the road based solely on a power points system in effect for Class A Public and Private.

They were tied for ninth place in power points as of last week with teams finishing among the top eight hosting first round play.

The Lady Indians' fortunes would rise significantly, however, if winning the region tournament this week as schools winning region tournament championships are elevated to the top of the list and they would of a certainty host their first game and, if victorious, have an excellent shot at hosting their second game. This is true

in effect this year for the second time, there will be sixteen public schools included in their division of the state tournament and sixteen private in their own division for a total of thirty two Class A teams included.

As Region 8-A Champions last year, the Lady Indians were seeded second in the state and hosted Calhoun County and Claxton in the first two rounds, winning both games and making it to the Class A Public State Final Four in Fort Valley where they lost a close game to Gordon Lee, who defeated Randolph-Clay in winning the State Championship.

The power points formula gives teams five points for a win plus a point for each win by their opponent with points totaling a third of the number of wins by a winning opponent also awarded to each losing team.

The number of points are then added up and divided by the number of games played to establish a power ranking.

Thank you to the community

The Towns County Indians Varsity Baseball team would like to say thank you to Ingles and all of those who supported the baseball program during the celebrity bagger fundraiser in December.

Were it not for businesses like Ingles and the many in-

dividuals who were willing to donate, we would not be able to provide many of the essentials needed to play the game. Again, thanks you and we hope to see you again next time.

Chris Vardo
TCHS Head Baseball Coach

Local 12 year-old qualifies for State Swimming Championships

Young Harris resident, Brendan Bowman is off to the State 14&U Short Course Championships to be held at the Georgia Tech Aquatic Center on Feb. 21-23. Bowman, who is a member of the Blairsville-based North Georgia Rapids, recently qualified in 2 events: the 50 yard Freestyle and the 50 yard Breaststroke.

"I am so excited to have qualified for the State Meet. This is all pretty new to me, as I have only been swimming about a year and a half. I love this sport, and I have enjoyed training to get to this point," said Bowman. Coach Barry Gay is the coach of the Rapids and has been instrumental in teaching him the fundamentals of the sport during that time.

A student at the Georgia Cyber Academy, Bowman travels to Daytona Beach, Fla often to see family. While in Daytona, he trains with the Daytona Beach Speed, coached by Olympian Ryan Lochte's dad and sister, Steve and Kristen Lochte. Sports are a way of life in the Bowman household, as his mom, Lori Carroll-Bowman, attended the University of Florida on a track scholarship and his dad, Greg Bowman, played football and baseball at Yale University. "My



Brendan Bowman mom trained at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, and I would love to do that as well, someday," said Bowman. "Coach Gay told me that if I continue to train hard and perfect my strokes that I can go far," Bowman continued.

All swimmers at the 2014 Georgia 14 & Under Short Course Championships must be registered with USA Swimming and Georgia Swimming and must have achieved the required qualifying time standard in each event, since Feb. 22, 2013.

2014 baseball and softball registration

The Towns County Recreation Dept. will be holding registration for softball and baseball for ages 8 thru 14 thru February 22nd.

The cost for registration will be \$45. Sign-ups will be held at the new Towns County Rec-

reation Center. Our hours of operation are Monday thru Friday 9 a.m. till 8 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. till 4 p.m.

If you have any questions please call the Recreation Department at 706-896-2600.