

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

www.townscountyherald.net • E-mail: tcherald@windstream.net

Lady Indians rally past Class AAAA's Gilmer in scrimmage

By Jerry Kendall
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Towns County Lady Indians basketball team served notice last Tuesday that the upcoming season just may be business as usual.

Despite the loss of three starting seniors to the college ranks from last year's 23-7 Region 8-A Championship squad, the Lady Indians came from behind to knock off Gilmer County.

The regular season opener scheduled at Rabun County for last Friday was postponed until Jan. 26 due to the Wildcats' football team making the Class AA State Playoffs with a game at Heard County.

The Lady Indians came charging from behind for a 64-55 home court victory over a quite formidable opponent, the Gilmer Lady Bobcats of Ellijay, in a pre-season scrimmage. The Lady Cats compiled a very successful 19-11 record last year in Class AAA and look for continued success this year as they are elevated to Class AAAA under new classification procedures.

The game proved to be a bit of a struggle for the Lady Indians for the first two-and-a-half quarters of the game as they trailed, with the exception of 2-2 and 3-3 ties, from eight seconds into the game until past the mid-point of the third quarter, largely as a result of some cold shooting early and turnovers.

Gilmer led by such scores as 11-3 and 15-6 in the first quarter, 17-8 and 24-16 in the second, and 26-21 and 31-26 in the third before the Lady Indians seized control of the game during the final 12-and-a-half minutes.

The Lady Indians remained within striking distance the first half behind 6 first quarter points by junior Eryn Cochran and 4 each by Cochran, senior Dadrian Blythe, and junior Kelsie Cowart in the second with Gilmer leading



Sophomore Stephanie Patton heated up in the second half as Towns County connected on 28 free throws in their comeback.



Junior Bailey Sutton launches a three-ball against Gilmer.



Kelsey Cowart and Dadrian Blythe look on as Alyssa Pyle battles for a rebound.



Misty Lindemuth fights for the board against two Lady Bobcats.



Junior guard Eryn Cochran takes it strong to the hoop.

15-8 and 24-21 at the first two quarter breaks. After a quiet first half, sophomore Stephanie Patton came alive in the third quarter as she turned a steal into two free throws at the 7:28 mark, triggering an 18-7 run for a 39-33 Lady Indians lead by the 2:18 mark of the quarter.

Two baskets and a free throw by Cowart highlighted the early portion of the rally as she got the Lady Indians within 31-30 by the 3:59 mark of the third quarter with Patton then stunning the Lady Cats as she did so often to various teams as a freshman. She nailed a trey at 3:18 for the Lady Indians' first lead of the game of 33-31 and followed a tying Gilmer basket with two additional treys for nine points in a minute of playing time and a 39-33 Towns

lead at 2:18. Cochran matched a five point third quarter finish by the Lady Cats by taking the ball coast-to-coast for a field goal and driving to the basket for a three point play with the Lady Indians leading 44-38 entering the fourth quarter.

The Lady Indians appeared to have seized control of the game when they opened the final quarter with two free throws by Cochran and one by Cowart followed by a fourth trey by Patton for a 50-38 lead with 5:44 on the clock but, the Lady Cats wouldn't go away. A trey and two free throws had them back within 50-43 at 5:13 before a Blythe basket at 4:30 gave the Lady Indians a bit of breathing room and Cowart responded with a field goal at 2:37 for a 55-47 Lady Indians

lead after the Lady Cats edged to within 53-47.

The final Gilmer challenge of four straight free throws for just a 56-51 deficit at the two minute mark was answered by continued excellence at the foul line by the Lady Indians. Three for four accuracy by both Cochran and Patton and a 2-for-2 trip to the line by Cowart more than offset a free throw and 3 by Gilmer during the final 1:35 of the game as the Lady Indians closed out the 64-55 victory.

Leading the scoring parade for the Lady Indians for the game were Cochran with 23 points, Patton with 19, Cowart with 14, and Blythe with 6 while they featured a balanced assists effort with leaders being Cochran, Cowart, and

sophomore Misty Lindemuth with 2 each. The Lady Indians often punished opponents with accurate free throw shooting a year ago and they continued this pattern against Gilmer. They sank 28 of 39 attempts for 71.8 percent accuracy for the game compared to also excellent 13 for 20 shooting for 65 percent accuracy for the Lady Cats.

Most of the overall advantage for the Lady Indians at the foul line came in the final quarter when they responded to a futile effort by Gilmer to get back in the game by sinking 13 of 18 attempts in protecting their lead.

Cochran set a school record for most free throws made in a game last year at Dawson County with a 19 for 20 effort

and led the way in this game with 11 for 13 accuracy.

While most of the scoring in this game was provided by the four returning players with easily the most prior varsity experience, basketball is a team game and this element was much in display as the other Lady Indians seeing action played vital defensive, rebounding, and ball handling roles throughout the game.

Others not previously mentioned and seeing varying amounts of vital playing time and who can be expected to contribute to the scoring column as the season progresses include senior Emily Anderson, juniors Bailey Sutton and McKenzie Moss, and sophomores Karlie Albach and Alyssa Pyle.

Indians drop scrimmage with Gilmer; Rabun County game postponed

By Jerry Kendall
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Towns County Indians basketball team gave their fans a preview of the upcoming 2012-13 season in a home court scrimmage game last Tuesday against Gilmer.

The Indians provided several brief scoring runs but eventually fell by a 75-38 score to the Class AAAA Bobcats from Ellijay. The scheduled regular season opener at Rabun County on Friday night was postponed until January 26 due to the Rabun football team playing in a first round state playoff game at Heard County on that evening.

The Indians hung tough with the Bobcats for most of the first quarter after the Cats opened an early 7-2 lead. The Indians actually took a 2-0 lead less than 30 seconds into

the game on a put back basket by sophomore Boone Moss and two baskets each by juniors Stetson Hedden and Slade Davenport had them within 18-12 by the 2:21 mark of the first quarter.

A trey by senior Ryan Tallent then had the Indians within 21-15 at the half minute mark but the Bobcats used an Indian turnover for a late field goal and a 23-15 first quarter lead which they extended to 39-17 by the mid point of the second quarter. The Indians used a tip in and two free throws by Moss and a late three point play by junior Garrett Bradshaw to advantage in outscoring the Bobcats 7-6 the final three minutes of the second quarter with Gilmer holding a 45-24 lead at intermission.

The Indians continued the mini rally at the start of the third quarter as field goals by Moss, sophomore Dallas Manus, and Garrett had them



Sophomore Dallas Manus goes to his left hand in the lane. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

within 49-30 by the 5:40 mark but the Bobcats had their way the remainder of the quarter as they broke away for a 71-32 lead entering the mercy rule shortened fourth quarter.

The Indians outscored the Bobcats in that fourth quarter 6-4 with a steal and field goal and a trey by Bradshaw for five points highlighting the action for the Indians.



Senior Ryan Tallent fires away from three-point range. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Eight different Indians entered the scoring column with leaders being Bradshaw with 12 points and Moss with 8. Leading in assists were sophomore Cruz Shook with 3 and Moss

with 2. Other Indians seeing action but not mentioned earlier were senior Joseph Gibson, junior Aaron Dodson, and sophomore Trace Moss.

Towns County Middle School boys split with Lakeview Academy

By Joe Collins
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Towns County Middle School boys basketball teams hosted the Lakeview Lions last Thursday and came away with a split.

The sixth and seventh grade team dominated the court against the Lions in a 47-24 thrashing, while the eighth grade lost a close one 44-40.

The first game of the night was the sixth and seventh grade boy's team squaring off with Lakeview in a game that saw the Indians hitting the fast break well off the defensive boards. Head Coach Duncan Weekley had his guys primed and moving the ball up and down the court with skilled ball handling and some sharp passing.

Weekly had his team in the face of the Lions all during the game with a solid man defense that yielded several turnovers. The big guys blocked out well and controlled the



Elbows were flying at the Towns County vs Lakeview game last week. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

boards on both ends of the court giving the young Indians the victory 47-24 and a 3-1 overall record for 2012. The scoring leaders so far this year for the sixth and seventh graders are Zack Davenport with 36 and Trent Bradshaw with 32.

The last game of the night saw the eighth grade Indians hit the court against

a well-structured Lions team with some solid athletes. They had a good-sized pivot man who handled himself very well against our strong forward and center with some good ball handling guards who were quick and aggressive. TCMS matched up against the Lions well but couldn't close the deal down the stretch as the game

got rough and the officiating deteriorated. It was a battle until the final buzzer with the fans becoming so loud you could barely hear the referee's whistle

The Indians came out being very aggressive moving the ball and sticking their man on defense. The Indians first points of the game came on a

free throw by Adam Barrett, who ended the game with 6 points and 5 rebounds, with 5:28 left in the first quarter.

The Lions pressured the Indians with a full court man defense that was attacked well by the Indians. A great fast break and an assist by Major Moss to Chayton McClure with 3:37 left in the first quarter got the Indians to within two points and a great rebound and lay-up by Adam Barrett tied the game at 5-5 with 3:05 left in the first quarter.

The Indians aggressive ball handling was getting the Lions into foul trouble and they took advantage of the situation. Adam Barrett hit Kobe Denton with 2:33 left in the first quarter to take the lead for the first time in the game 7-5. Denton then caused a turnover on the in bounds pass by the Lions and hit a left hand hook shot to take the lead 9-5. Poor rebounding on the defensive boards led to the Lions evening up the score 9-9. The teams swapped points a couple more times and the first quarter ended with the Lions leading 13-11.

Will DeVries came out running in the second quarter and recovered his own shot and scored to tie the game 13-13 with 6:48 left in the third quarter. Denton then hit on a fast break to give the Indians the lead 15-13 and added to his game total 8 points and 3 boards. DeVries then got busy and increased his point total for the game to 8 points, along with 9 rebounds, and hit back-to-back shots to give the Indians the lead 22-16 with 3:25 left in the second quarter. The Indians were doing a poor job of controlling the defensive boards and the Lions pulled to within two points at half - 27-25.

The Indians came back after the half and were slow to get started and allowed the Lions to out score them by six points in the third quarter. The Lions were able to tie the game with 5:39 left in the third quarter. Moss and Daringer Barrett began to get aggressive as the fourth quarter started and the Indians were able to pull to within one-point with 4:59 left

See TCMS, Page 11A