

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Indians rally from early deficit for win over Polk County in BOTS first round

By Jerry Kendall
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The Towns County Lady Indians Varsity Basketball Team brushed aside early ties of 2-2 and 4-4 by going on a 19-0 run between the 5:04 mark of the first quarter and 6:29 of the second for a 23-4 lead and the visiting Wild Kittens of Benton, Tenn. could never mount a serious challenge in a 65-33 Lady Indian victory.

The Saturday night win in the first round of the Battle of the States prep tournament in the Towns County Gym set the stage for a confrontation with the Piedmont, Ala. Lady Bulldogs in the second round on Monday of this week.

The Lady Bulldogs from Piedmont used a 22-8 run in the fourth quarter in rallying past Lumpkin County 37-30 after the Lady Indians from Dahlonega held a 22-15 lead after three quarters.

At press time, the winner of the game between the Lady Indians and Piedmont was scheduled to face the winner of a Monday matchup between Union County and Hayesville in the championship game on Tuesday with the two losers to face each other in a game for third place.

Coverage of the second



Sophomore Madison Landress puts up a running jumper for the Lady Indians vs Polk County. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

and third round games will be included in next week's Herald. Field goals by Misty Lindemuth and Jocelyn Byers got the Lady Indians early 2-0 and 4-2 leads and then an old fashioned three point play by Lindemuth got them a 7-4 lead they would never relinquish at the aforementioned 5:04 mark of the first quarter.

Lindemuth spent much of the remainder of the game on the

bench in foul trouble after that but Byers had a huge offensive output in the game, including pouring in a total of seven points in the first quarter and nine in the second as the Lady Indians led 18-4 after one quarter and 29-19 at intermission.

The Wild Kittens did make a brief run at the Lady Indians in the second quarter when they included a pair of treys in a 10-2 spurt for a 25-14



The Lady Indians and the Polk Co. Lady Wild Kittens battle over a loose ball. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

deficit but they would never get closer than the ten point deficit at intermission. The Lady Indians retook control of the game in the third quarter when they opened on a 6-0 run for a 35-19 advantage and answered back to back baskets by Polk with an 11-0 run and an eventual 46-26 lead entering the fourth quarter and the eventual 65-33 victory. Byers continued her of-

fensive explosion with seven points in the third quarter and four in the fourth but with significant help from Karlie Albach with six in the third and Savannah Dyer with six in the fourth. Byers wound up with 27 points for the game with three treys included for easily her top single game career point total and the top individual total for the Lady Indians this year. Other scoring leaders

were Albach with 12 points, Dyer with 8, Lindemuth with 7, and Madison Johnson with 5. Your reporter tallied assists for six different Lady Indians in the game with leaders being Kristen Henson with 4 and Albach with 2. SCORING: Byers 27, Albach 12, Dyer 8, Lindemuth 7, Johnson 5, Carroll 2, Henson 2, Landress 2

Indians rally from early deficit for opening round win over Polk County

By Jerry Kendall
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Staff Writer

It was a good night for the Towns County Indians Varsity Basketball Team last Saturday when they overcame early deficits in rallying past Polk County of Benton, Tenn. 55-48 in the first round of the Battle of the States Tournament in the Towns County Gym.

The victory was their second of the season and placed them in the semi-finals of the tournament against Piedmont, Ala. High School on Monday of this week.

Piedmont qualified for the semi finals by virtue of a 65-58 win over Lumpkin County of Dahlonega with the winner of the game between the Indians and Piedmont to face the winner of a Monday matchup between Hayesville and Hokes Bluff, Alabama, in the championship game on Tuesday.

Losers of the two Monday games will face each other for third place on Tuesday. Coverage of the second and third round games will be included in next week's



Senior Marcus Ledford goes up strong vs Polk. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Herald. Hot three point shooting by Polk County the first nine and a half minutes of the game got them off to a fast start as they led 8-1 by the 4:12 mark of the first quarter and 17-8 by quarter's end.

The Indians reduced the 8-1 margin to 8-5 on back to back field goals by Zach Dav-

enport and Dallas Manus by the 3:45 mark and an Adam Barrett field goal had them within 11-8 with 2:06 left.

The Wildcats sank their fourth and fifth treys of the quarter the final 1:05, however, for the nine point lead entering the second quarter.

The Indians closed to within 17-12 less than a minute



B. Moss (22) and A. Barrett (25) own the paint. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

into the second quarter on two free throws and a field goal by Barrett but the Wildcats' sixth trey at 6:34 gave them a 20-12 lead with just two free throws the only points not made from behind the 3-point arc to that point.

They cooled off after that, sinking just two more treys the remainder of the game and

the Indians made a move the remainder of the second quarter, finishing on a 16-8 run for a 28-28 standoff at intermission with two treys by Manus and two ducies by Barrett highlighting the run.

The Indians took leads of 30-28 and 32-30 on baskets by Barrett and Boone Moss by the 6:22 mark of the third

quarter and a Major Moss field goal at the 3:18 mark gave them a 36-35 lead they would not relinquish with a field goal and two free throws by Darringer Barrett providing the four point margin of 40-36 entering the fourth quarter.

The Indians, for all practical purposes, put the game away with an 11-5 run the first three minutes of the fourth quarter on a deuce by Davenport, two free throws and a trey by Manus, and field goals by Will DeVries and Boone Moss with the Wildcats not able to get closer than 52-47 after that as the Indians took the 55-48 victory.

Scoring leaders for the Indians for the game were Adam Barrett and Manus with 13 points each, Boone Moss with 8, and Davenport and Major Moss with 6 each while DeVries, Manus, and Boone Moss contributed 4 assists each and Major Moss followed with 3, according to your reporter's tally.

SCORING: A. Barrett 13, Manus 13, B. Moss 8, Davenport 6, M. Moss 6, D. Barrett 4, DeVries 4, Ledford 1

Towns County wrestling grabs third at Landmark Christian Tournament

By Shawn Jarrard
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Staff Writer

Fairburn - The Towns County Indians wrestled their way to third place out of 17 teams at the Landmark Tournament at Landmark Christian School on Friday, Dec. 19, and Saturday, Dec. 20.

"I think we just got to a tournament where everything was kind of clicking, and we just wrestled really well," said Head Coach Jeff Stowers. "We had some great individual performances."

Nine Indians entered the tournament and eight of them placed, rounding out two remarkable days of competition.

Junior Daulton Rogers finished in first place at 170 pounds; senior Kyle Davis also finished in first place, at 220 pounds; junior Thomas Mitchell placed second at 113 pounds; sophomore Peyton Smith took third place honors at 120 pounds; sophomore Nick Shook won fourth place at 160 pounds; Junior Keanu Nguyen finished fourth at 145 pounds; senior Cruz Shook placed fifth at 182 pounds; and sophomore Morgan Gay finished fifth at 195 pounds.

"Daulton Rogers was voted by the coaches as the wrestler of the tournament, so he won the Most Outstanding Wrestler Award for the whole tournament, and beat some quality people," said Coach Stowers. "And even our kids that lost a couple of matches wrestled well, they just wrestled somebody that happened to be a little bit better on that day."

Coach Stowers said that the team made very few mistakes.

"We wrestled pretty consistently all day and stayed in pretty good position, and when you do that, you give yourself a chance to win," said Coach Stowers. "Had we had our full lineup, I feel like we probably could have won it. But with the flu and the injuries



The Towns County Indians wrestling squad after claiming third at Landmark Christian tournament that was held the weekend before Christmas. They will be back in action in Cherokee, NC on Saturday before returning to Georgia for a match at East Jackson in Commerce.

that we've got that we're trying to work through and those kinds of things, I just think that we did what we had hoped to do, which is get to a place where we could show up and everybody wrestle consistently, and that's what we did."

Towns County finished a close third behind Landmark Christian and Mt. Vernon, teams that won first and second place respectively, before settling into Christmas break.

"We gave everybody last week off, probably against our better judgment, but we felt like it was a good time to, with the flu going around and the injuries that we've had, to give some folks some time off," Coach Stowers said.

With one week left on Christmas break, the team's challenge will be to come together after a week off and get back into

the swing of things.

"And really, we've got two weeks to get to the point where we can try to be one of the best eight teams in the state, and that's kind of what we've been looking for all year," said Coach Stowers of Area and State Duals. "We've got the tournament this weekend to kind of get back into competition mode, and then we've got a match next Tuesday to try to get our dual match stuff together - and then go see what we've got."

The Indians will compete in the Cherokee Tournament in North Carolina this Saturday, Jan. 3.

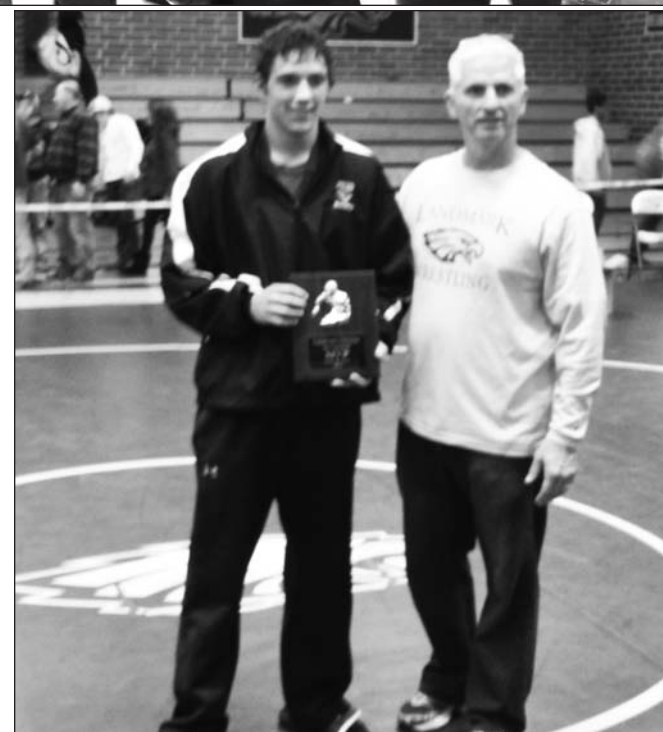
"It's an interesting format," said Coach Stowers of the Cherokee Tournament. "Everybody gets thrown into a pool, really, and then you wrestle off to get into the eight-man bracket. We haven't been to one like this in a long time, so it's going to be a good chance to

get a lot of kids some mat time.

"We're taking everybody, our JV and our varsity, and just throwing them all in the same bracket, so it'll be a chance to get everybody a lot of matches. And that's what we're looking for, to kind of knock the rust off and get back in competition mode."

Following the Cherokee Tournament will be a match against East Jackson, East Hall and Cedar Shoals at East Jackson Comprehensive High School on Tuesday, Jan. 6, and then Area Duals on Jan. 10, with State Duals on Jan. 16-17.

"The goal is to get everybody back in match mode and get their mind right, so that when we start school on Monday, we get back into our routine and start doing what we do, and get ready to go down to Athens Christian and try to qualify for State Duals," said Coach Stowers.



Daulton Rogers was named Most Outstanding Wrestler as voted on by the tournament coaches.