

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Towns Basketball celebrates Senior Night, maintains hot streak

By Jeremy Foster
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Towns County Indians and Lady Indians Basketball continued to dominate over the weekend, adding to their impressive winning streaks while also hosting Senior Night to recognize the upcoming student-athlete graduates in their final year of high school basketball.

The boys and girls won their third straight week of games, springboarding both teams to No. 1 in Region 8-A.

On Tuesday, Jan. 24, in a home game against Hiwassee Dam, North Carolina, the sixth-ranked Lady Indians secured a victory at 53-46, and they were joined by the boys with a compelling 78-34 win of their own.

Girls team standouts were junior Breelan Sieveking with 18 points, 5 assists, 5 rebounds and 4 steals; senior Sarah Shook with 11 points, 4 rebounds and 3 steals; sophomore Kaleigh Beaver with 10 points, 10 rebounds and 4 steals; freshman Scotlyn Fain with 8 points and 5 rebounds; and juniors Laura Mauldin and Emma Lallement each rebounding for 6.

"Hiwassee Dam is a good team, and this is a great win for us," Girls Head Coach Shea Taylor said. "We came out playing well for three quarters then slowed down a little bit late in the fourth and turned the ball over several times; moving forward, we know what needs more attention."

Regarding his team's win, Towns County Head Coach Brian Hunnicutt said the game "went extremely well."

"We lost to them by 2 (points) in the second game of the year at their place," Hunnicutt said. "It was a tough game – we gave up a lead, but all around it was just a great team effort. We've been playing really good basketball lately, and Hiwassee Dam was another example of that; they are certainly no pushovers."

Next up was Senior Night in Bill P. Kendall Gymnasium on Friday, Jan. 27. The girls played Summit Charter High of North Carolina, earning a resounding 49-18 victory, while the boys won against the Georgia School for Innovation and the Classics with a 72-52 score.

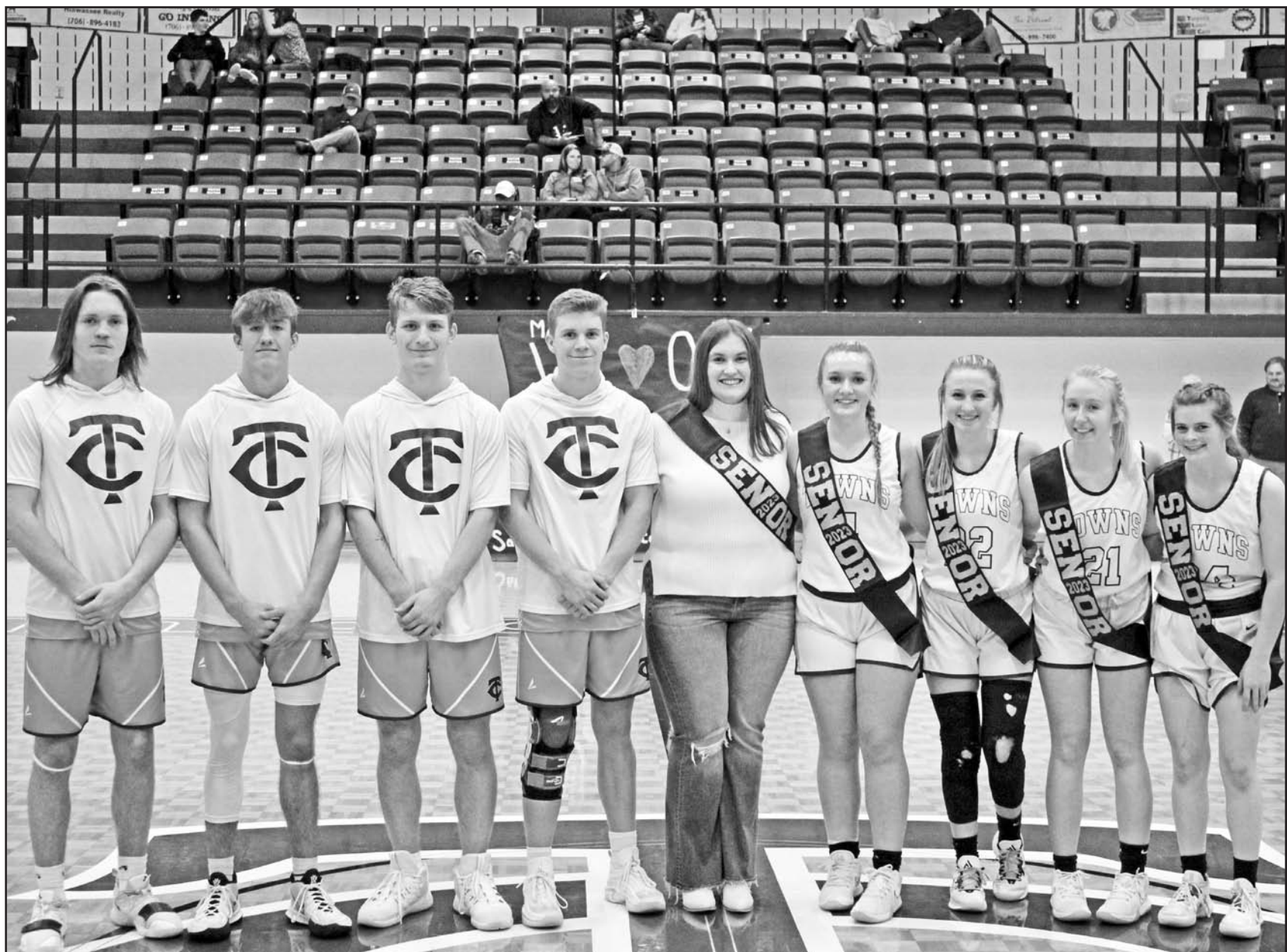
Seniors were recognized between the boys and girls' games, escorted onto the court by their families and given gifts from the coaches.

Lady Indian seniors are Sarah Shook, Tabitha Barnes, Morgan Pierson, Maddy Lewis and Team Manager Jacey Wood.

Indian seniors are Grant Ingram, Layne Rouse, Jon Dockery, and Chance Schmeltz, who got to do an honorary layup before the boys' game due to having to sit the game out from injury.

"I have been playing basketball since fourth grade," said Shook, "and it's really sad because my best friends are made through basketball, and I think it's really going to hit me on our very last home game."

"I really appreciate all the love and support the younger girls are showing us, and I hope next year they are



Towns County High School honored its senior basketball players during a home game on Friday, Jan. 27. Outgoing Lady Indians are Tabitha Barnes, Maddy Lewis, Morgan Pierson, Sarah Shook and team manager Jacey Wood. The Towns County men's team recognized 12th graders Jon Dockery, Grant Ingram, Layne Rouse and Chance Schmeltz. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

going to have just as much success, and I'm still going to come watch them."

"It's really hard to leave all your best friends, but after I graduate, I want to go the University of North Georgia and pursue a degree in travel nursing and see where the world takes me."

Speaking on the Senior Night win, Coach Taylor said the game was "a great tribute to our seniors who show up to work hard every day at practice, the games and in class."

"They give this team all they've got, so we're very proud of them," Taylor said. "It's going to be hard to replace this group, and I will miss them like crazy. We wish them luck as they go on to college and life."

Regarding his soon-to-be-graduating student-athletes, Coach Hunnicutt said, "I couldn't be prouder of these seniors."

"Grant Ingram and Layne Rouse have been with the program for four years and were in it when the State Championship happened and in the Elite 8 last year," Hunnicutt said. "So, to be able to step in and add Jon Dockery and Chance Schmeltz as first-

time players this year, they've been able to carry the torch of what the past few teams have done as far as the success we're having."

"More important than that, they are great young men and a lot of fun to coach. They do everything I ask of them and are great leaders. They are going to leave big shoes to fill next year, but we enjoyed so much having them and look forward to finishing this year out with them."

After the game, senior Boys Team Captain Grant Ingram shared his emotions.

"I have been playing basketball since I was about 7 years old, and it's sad knowing that next year I won't be able to play with everybody," Ingram said. "But I will always come back to watch Towns County Basketball. It's a blessing and part of my blood."

"If I don't go anywhere to try and play soccer for college, then I'm planning on going to a technical school for electrical (engineering)."

The last game of the week was on Saturday, Jan. 28, in a pair of home games against Aquinas, and the girls won 46-28 and the boys won a nail-biter 61-60.

Coming up this week on Friday, Feb. 3, the teams will play at home against Warren County, with Varsity action beginning at 5 p.m. Then the players will travel to Lake Oconee Academy, with

JV Boys starting at 4:30 p.m. and Varsity at 6 p.m.

Next week's region road trip to Greene County has been rescheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 8.

The action gets under-

way when the Lady Indians varsity takes the floor at 5:30 p.m. with the guys to follow. There will be no junior varsity games at Greene County.

Go Indians!

Ira Weaver American Legion Post 121 schedules Veterans Affairs Seminar and Patriots Golf Tournament



The American Legion Blairsville Post 121 has various upcoming events focusing on one or more of its Four Legion Pillars.

On Saturday, Feb. 11, focusing on Veterans Affairs and Children and Youth Pillars, Veterans and their families and friends can enjoy bowling beginning at 1 pm in Galaxy Bowling of Blairsville. The focus on the veteran provides an opportunity to get out and become involved with people of like-mind and similar experiences. The cost is \$15 for shoes and three games.

For the Children and Youth Pillar portion, the Post will have information on scholarships available. "Older Veterans may be wondering why this is important," noted Mike Merritt Post Commander, "but if your grandchildren or another Veteran's children are college-bound, the American Legion has various scholarships available that they may qualify to apply for."

The Post is hosting a seminar on Thursday, March 23 in the View Ballroom at the Butternut Creek Golf Course

which centers on Veterans Affairs. "The seminar is a great opportunity for veterans to get info about services in the area that may be beneficial to them," said Kathy Merritt, Senior Vice Commander. "We're

going to have the Veterans Administration, Red Cross, Comfort Keepers, AVITA, Union County Transportation, AirMed, Trout Unlimited and more," she added.

Additionally, there will be a couple of opportunities to see how veterans can volunteer for organizations within the community. These opportunities allow the veteran to engage with the community in other ways that may be of interest to them.

The event is free to all veterans and includes lunch and morning coffee and goodies provided by United Community Bank, Abide Coffee and G&G. Many of the surrounding businesses are also providing goodies for door prizes. Veterans can register at legionpost121.org.

Recently, the Merritts interviewed with Pat Malone for "This Week In Blairsville" on WJRB 95.1 FM. The interview will air Saturday at 10 AM and 11:30 PM and Sunday at 12:30 AM, 1:30 PM and 11:30 PM this weekend. Mike focused on wrapping up last year's activities, the strategic plan and the budget, and Kathy closed with what's next for the Legion. Tune in to hear in their own words the great things happening with Post 121.

Early registration for the American Legion "Putting With Patriots Golf Tournament" can be found on legionpost121.org. All proceeds go towards Veteran outreach programs and activities. The cost is \$100 per person and the event is scheduled for Fri-

day, June 23 at the Butternut Creek Golf Course. "We will have coffee/Danish, boxed lunches, swag bags, 19th Hole Celebration, awards ceremony for winners, and door prizes," explained Nancy Kunz, Post tournament director. "If you're interested in sponsoring a hole sponsorship is \$100 or \$200 for Hole Sponsor Plus which allows you to have a tent and table so you can pass out coupons, swag and other goodies while you promote your business to the golfers," she said. Please contact Nancy at alpost121@gmail.com for more information.

All members, and interested veterans, are encouraged to attend the next meeting on the third Tuesday, Feb. 21 at 6:30 PM in the Leon Davenport Veteran's Center, 78 Blue Ridge Highway. The Legion Auxiliary will also begin its meeting at the same time in the same building. The Sons of The American Legion and The American Legion Riders have moved their meetings to the Post meeting.

The American Legion is the largest and one of the oldest and most inclusive of all veterans' organizations worldwide and devotes itself to mutual helpfulness, mentoring youth, advocating patriotic honor, promoting strong national security, and continued devotion to fellow service members and veterans.

For more information on the meeting or any Post activities email the Post at alpost121@gmail.com or visit the website at legionpost121.org. NFEB1210CA

Towns County Recreation Department T-Ball, Softball, & Baseball Registration

Ages 5 to 14
\$60 for T-Ball
\$75 for Baseball
\$75 for Softball



Registration: January 16 - February 18
Late Registration: February 19 - February 24

\$10 late registration fee

You can register online at townscountyrec.com or in person.