

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Indians, Lady Indians Basketball win region home games

By Jeremy Foster
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Last week, the Towns County Indians and Lady Indians Basketball Teams saw more court-scoffin' action on Friday, Dec. 9, at home against Union County High School for a pair of non-conference games.

The Ladies were up first, suffering a tough loss by only 4 points in a 50-46 Union victory.

"We had a terrible third quarter and fell behind," Girls Head Coach Shea Taylor said. "The girls kept playing hard, and we had a chance to tie the game with one minute remaining but missed a layup."

Top performers were senior Sarah Shook with 13 points and 5 rebounds; junior Breelan Sieveking with 10 points, 4 rebounds and 3 assists; senior Tabitha Barnes with 12 points and 3 steals; junior Laura Mauldin with 2 points and 10 rebounds; and sophomore Kaleigh Beaver with 7 points and 9 rebounds.

Team stats: Union County hit 34% from the floor on 20-of-59 shooting. The Lady Indians went 18 of 54 (33%) overall and hit 1/3 of their shots across the board, going 7 of 21 (33%) from 3-point range and 3 for 9 (33%) at the charity stripe. The Lady Panthers sank 4 of 19 (21%) from deep and 6 of 11 (55%) at the line.

The rebounding battle was nearly even as Union collected 38 boards (14 offensive) and Towns County hauled in 36 (11 offensive). The Lady Panthers held a 24-18 scoring edge in the paint and a 22-6 margin on points off turnovers -- committing 16 while forcing Towns into 21.

The boys lost an even closer game 54-53 against Union, which came down to the wire and featured plenty of heart on the court. The loss put the Indians and Panthers at even in the cross-town rivalry after Towns won earlier in the season at Union, 34-29.

Towns County led for three quarters, but Union stayed within reach, using full-court pressure to overtake the Indians late in the fourth quarter, with junior Zane Floyd's last attempted field goal going in and out of the bucket to ce-



Senior Tabitha Barnes had 12 points on four 3-pointers during the 8th-ranked Lady Indians' contest vs. Union. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

ment a Union win. "Coach (Corey) Garrett always does a great job with Union, and they came prepared to play," Head Coach Brian Hunnicutt said. "We played really well for three quarters, but they were feisty, and we could never put them away."

"They surged at the beginning of the fourth, which put them in position to win. Hats off to Union. I'm proud of our kids' effort. We always play hard; we just had some mental mistakes that we couldn't overcome. We didn't handle their pressure well, and that's on me as a coach."

"I'm proud of the boys, and we'll go back to work and come out fighting in the next one." Floyd and junior Tanner Cunningham had 12 points apiece against Union, while sophomore Julian Mosley had 8 points and 8 rebounds.

Team stats: Towns County hit 43% (23 for 53) of its field goals, connecting on 6 of 17 from long distance and 1

of 2 (50%) at the line. Union made 39% (19 of 49) of its attempts, going 6 of 18 (33%) from downtown and 11 for 17 (65%) at the line.

The Indians out-rebounded the visitors 33-25 overall and held a 12-11 edge on the offensive glass. Points in the paint went to Towns County 28-24, but the Panthers forced 17 turnovers compared to only 12 giveaways, resulting in an 18-12 points-off-turnovers advantage.

On Saturday, Dec. 10, Towns County hosted conference matchups against Lincoln County High School, and both home teams notched one in the win column, moving the Lady Indians to 1-0 and the Indians to 3-0 in region play.

The Ladies took to the court first and brought their A-game to earn an outstanding 69-21 victory.

Top performers were Sieveking with 19 points and 4 steals; Shook with 9 points, 5 rebounds and 4 assists; Barnes with 11 points; Mauldin with 9



Junior Zane Floyd bounced back with a 31-point outburst during Saturday's region win over Lincoln County. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

points and 9 rebounds; Beaver with 10 points and 7 rebounds; and freshman Scotlyn Fain with 6 points and 3 steals. "We were happy to win our first region game of the season, and these girls bounced back from a tough one Friday night," Coach Taylor said. "We have to stay focused and get ready to head to Aquinas (this) Friday night. I'm proud of these girls as they continue to work hard every day."

As noted above, the Towns County Indians also won their home game against the Red Devils, securing an impressive 66-39 win.

Lincoln County was a

return to conference play after the Indians went 2-0 in their first two region games. Following the heartbreaking Union loss, Towns had to rebound quickly against an athletic and gritty Lincoln County team.

The Indians jumped out at the beginning of the game and never looked back, and Coach Hunnicutt noted that, unlike Friday, Towns handled Lincoln's pressure well and often broke the press and hit layups.

Floyd had an amazing night with 31 points, 9 rebounds, 5 assists and 5 steals, also adding 3 blocked shots. Cunningham pitched in 14

points and 8 rebounds. Junior Gage Rogers, senior Jon Dockery and Mosley also enjoyed excellent games.

"This was a really big game for us," Hunnicutt said. "We needed to show that we could rebound from the gut punch of losing to Union the night before. We knew Lincoln would try to physically play us tough and control us. However, our boys responded and dominated the glass and the paint."

"Zane stepped up and played like a big time player, and all of our boys really did a great job of handling the pressure, scoring in the paint, and controlling the boards. Couldn't be more proud of the team."

"(Junior) Connor Chastain is coming off of pneumonia, and the kid does nothing but fight his heart out and play really well. Gage, Tanner and Julian are monsters in the paint. We've got a tough week (this) week with two games in Augusta against tough region opponents."

Next court action will be on Wednesday, Dec. 14, in a girls-only away game against Summit Charter, North Carolina, starting at 6 p.m.

On Friday, Dec. 16, Towns County will face off against Aquinas away, featuring all-division action of boys and girls, with JV playing at 3:30 p.m. and Varsity at 6:30 p.m.

Then, the boys will compete away at the Georgia School For Innovation And The Classics on Saturday, Dec. 17, tipping off at 1 p.m.

Of course, both teams are looking forward to the regionally renowned Battle of the States Christmas Tournament, set to run Wednesday, Dec. 28, through Friday, Dec. 30, inside the Bill P. Kendall Gymnasium.

Visit www.townscountyathletics.com for more information, and Go Indians!

Wrestling: Three Indians place at Habersham's Raider Invitational

By Jeremy Foster
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Staff Writer

This past Saturday, Dec. 10, the Towns County Indians Wrestling Team traveled to Habersham County High School for the popular Raider Invitational Tournament.

Through true grit and mettle, medals were earned by the following athletes: sophomore Alex Moran, Fourth Place in the 157-pound weight class division; senior Brandon Bowling, Third Place at 150 pounds; and junior Mason Deal, Second Place in the finals of the 132-pound division.

Next up, the Indians will see more mat action starting at 5 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 16, away against Murphy, North Carolina, and again the following day Saturday, Dec. 17, in another away match at Stephens County High School for the Arrowhead Classic starting at 8 a.m. Go Indians!



Towns County wrestling in action during a recent match. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



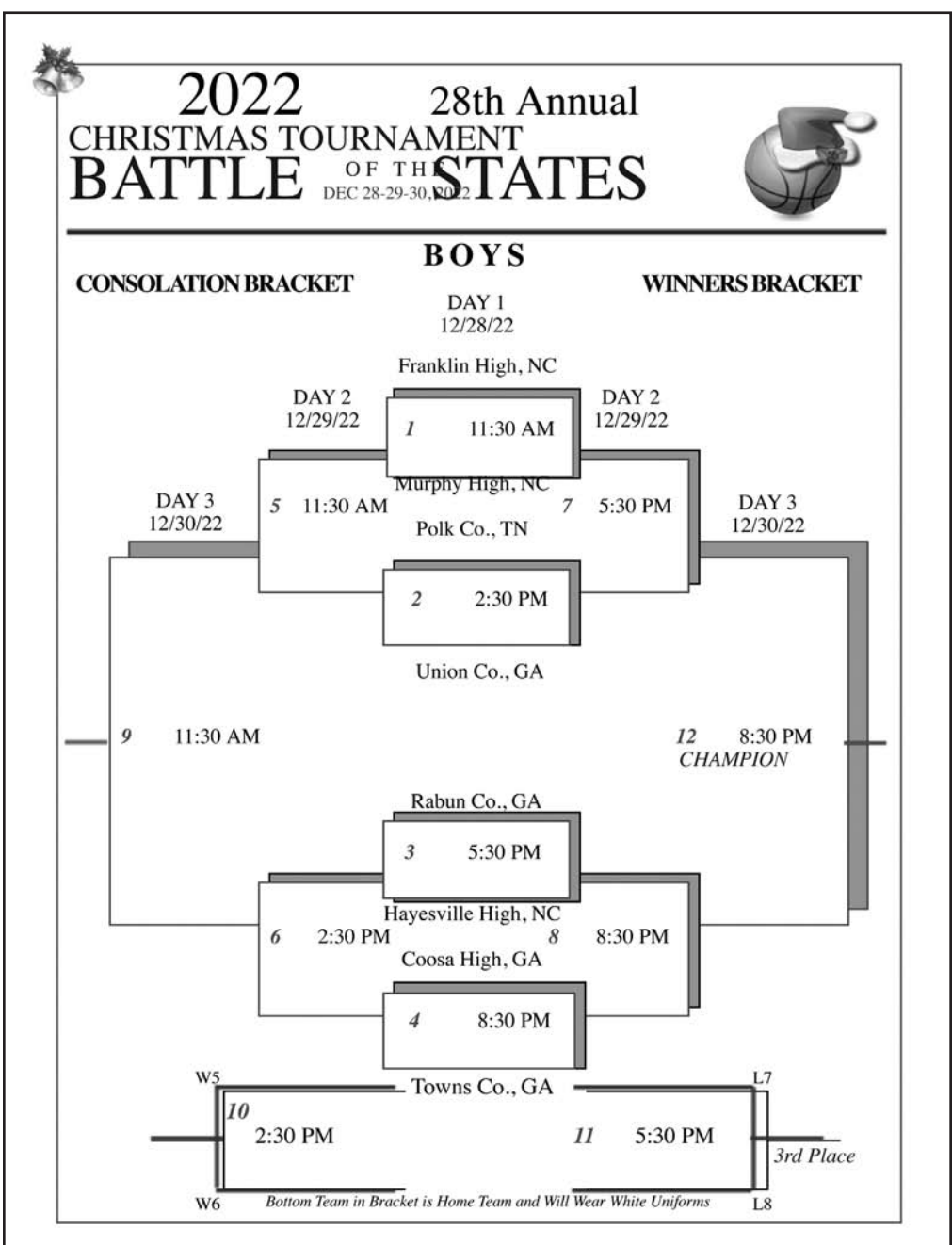
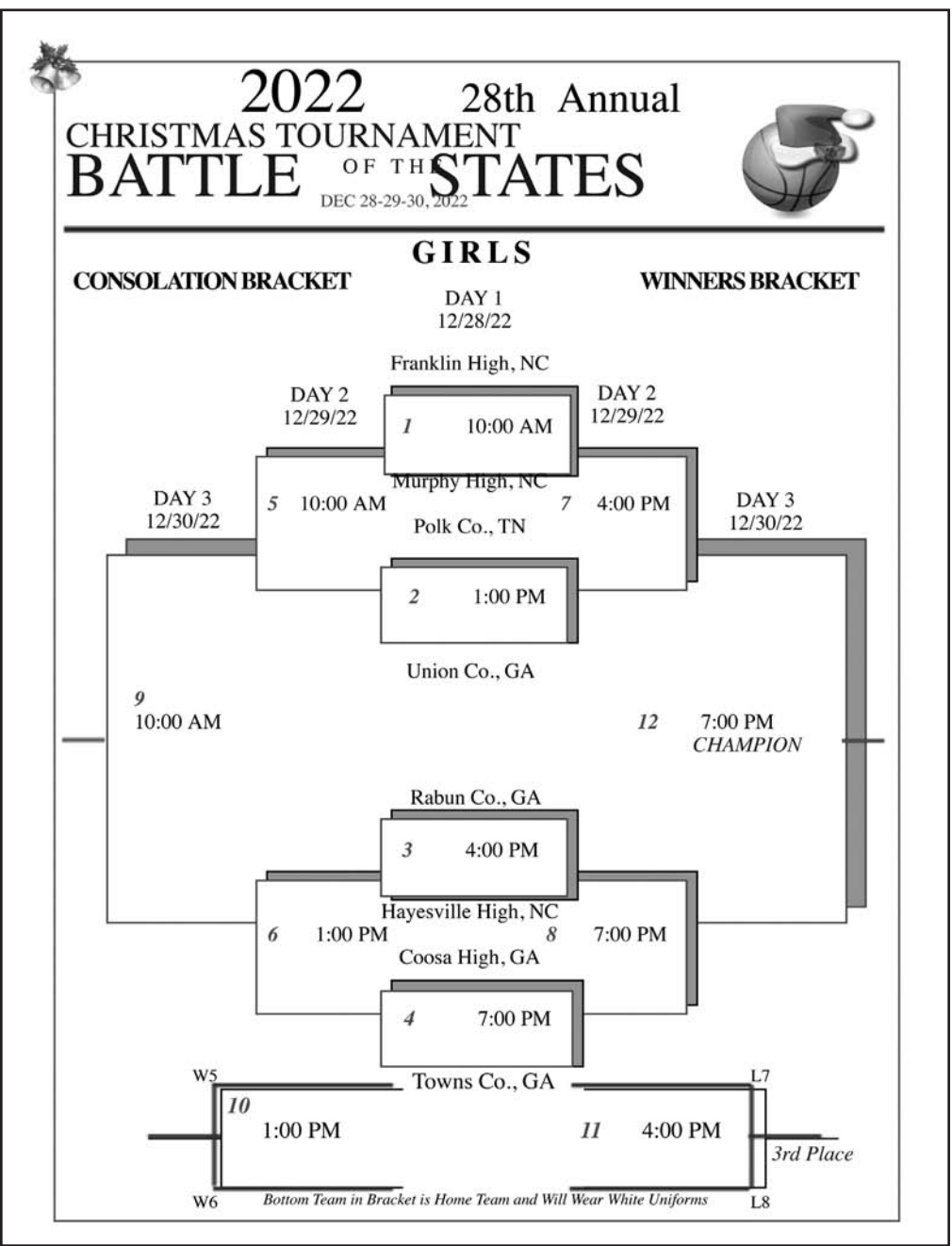
Towns County sharpshooter junior Tanner Cunningham matched Zane Floyd's team-high 12 points during Friday's Union County game. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

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TCHS Battle of the States Christmas Tournament brackets set for 2022



Photos: Towns County vs. Union County, Lincoln County at home

Photos by Lowell Nicholson and Todd Forrest

