

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Floyd's late-game heroics lift Indians past Tallulah Falls, 51-50

By Daysha Pandolph
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In a thrilling December matchup that kept fans on the edge of their seats, the Towns County boys' basketball team emerged victorious over Tallulah Falls by a score of 51-50 last Tuesday, Dec. 19.

Senior Zane Floyd sealed the win with a spectacular buzzer-beater shot with time running out.

While the game eventually came to be a nail-biter, the first quarter moved slow with little scoring. Tallulah Falls took an early one-point lead, which they managed to extend to two points by halftime. This set them at a 26-24 advantage over Towns County.

In the third quarter, however, Towns County surged forward to peak at an 11-point lead. As the game progressed into the fourth quarter, Tallulah Falls showed off their resilience and determination with a remarkable comeback, gradually chipping away at the deficit until they had seized the lead in the game's final minutes.

With the tension growing and the clock winding down, all eyes fell on Towns County senior Connor Chastain, who hit a 15-footer to put his team ahead by 2 points with less than a minute remaining on the clock. However, with only 8 seconds remaining, Tallulah Falls responded swiftly with a



Senior Zane Floyd vs. Tallulah Falls. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

3-pointer and a 50-49 lead. In a last ditch effort to win the game, Towns County went the length of the court and senior Zane Floyd rose to the occasion, hitting an outstanding 12-foot runner to put Towns County ahead by a point with 2 seconds left. Tallulah Falls was unable to pull off any sort

of last-second comeback, finalizing Towns County's hard-fought victory.

Chastain led the team in scoring with a total of 13 points and five rebounds, followed by Floyd, who contributed 11 points and nine rebounds. Gage Rodgers also made a mark last Tuesday, scoring 9 points and



Senior Connor Chastain led the Indians with 13 points in the win over Tallulah Falls on Tuesday, Dec. 19. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

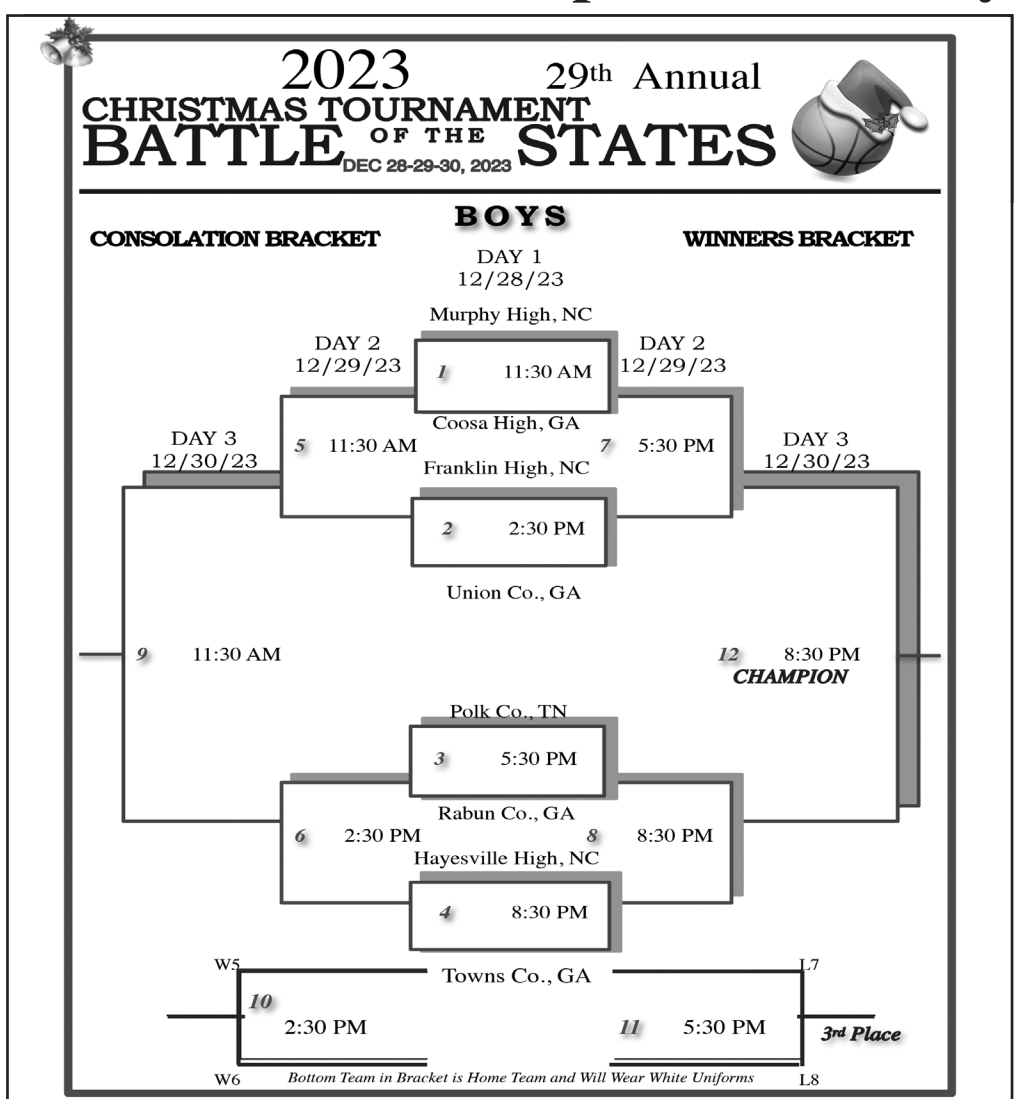
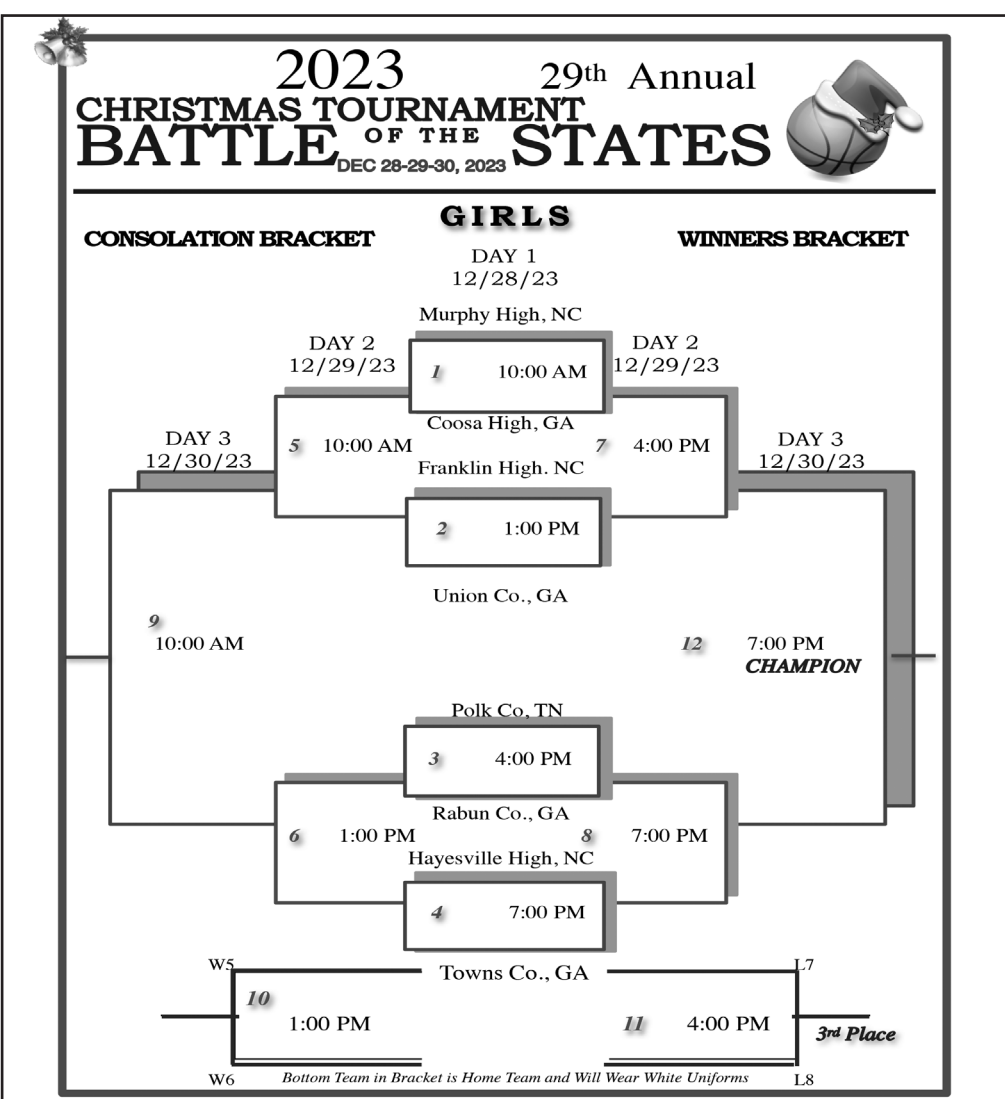
with six rebounds.

Looking ahead, Towns County will gear up for the Battle of the States Christmas

Tournament, which will kick off on Dec. 28 at Towns County High School. The tournament will span until Dec. 30 and

feature eight teams from three different states, with Towns County first battling Hayesville, North Carolina at 8:30 p.m.

29th Annual Battle of the States Christmas Tournament tips off Thursday



By Daysha Pandolph
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Coming up this December 28-30, Towns County High School will host the 29th annual Battle of the States Christmas Tournament. From 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. each day, fans can watch eight different boys and girls teams match up for many action-packed competitions.

The teams come from three different states – Georgia, North Carolina and Tennessee. Rabun County, Union County, Coosa and, of course, Towns County, will represent Georgia this December, with Murphy, Hayesville and Franklin rep-

resenting North Carolina. Polk County will travel down from Tennessee as well.

All 16 teams are fairly local and skilled at the sport, which is sure to make this year's tournament one to remember. Brian Hunnicut, the boys' basketball coach at Towns County, expects fans to be on the edge of their seats the whole weekend.

"It is always considered one of the premiere Christmas tournaments around, because it's always great competition," commented Coach Hunnicut. "We've got a lot of teams right around us that are playing in the tournament that will bring a lot of fans and bring a lot of

excitement.

"It's also very good basketball," he shared. "I know – on the boys side at least – there are five or six teams that could win the tournament. Every team can beat anybody or get beat by anybody."

Daily tickets will be for sale on-site at the tournament, but that doesn't mean fans should wait until the last minute to show up. Historically, the Towns County gym packs out by the late afternoon each day of the Battle of the States.

"And as you know, we have a pretty large gym as far as seating capacity," said Coach Hunnicut, "and usually from about 4 p.m. on, it's full. So it

is a great atmosphere. There are a lot of fans watching a lot of teams that they have watched for decades."

"It's always considered, by participating teams, fans, coaches and visitors, one of the (best) tournaments they ever go to. I strongly encourage anyone who has never been to show up. It's just a great three days of good basketball."

But even with so many great teams lined up to play this year, Hunnicut stays true to his values as the boys' basketball coach.

"We always have three goals that do not change," he said. "And that is to win the Battle of the States Champion-

ship, to win the Region Championship, and then to make a deep run in the state playoffs.

"The first one every year is always to win the Battle of the States Christmas Tournament, and it's huge. It's a chance for bragging rights, and it's just a good chance to see good basketball. Towns county has done a tremendous job of being the host school for 29 years, and everyone loves that. So getting to perform well in that tournament is just a sense of pride and accomplishment for the (entire) county."

And not only does the tournament satisfy the needs of eager players and spectators, it also raises money to support

the high school athletic department and graduating seniors. All of the proceeds from the ticket booth will go straight back into the basketball and other sports programs, with a portion going towards the Battle of the States Scholarship. This scholarship supports seniors who plan to further their education after high school.

Towns will tip off their involvement in the tournament as they face Hayesville, NC in an opening round matchup.

Due to an early printing deadline for the New Year's holiday, game coverage for the 2023 Battle of the States will be published in the Jan. 10 edition of the Towns County Herald.