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Big plays and turnovers derail Indians in final tune-up game

Towns opens the season with a visit to Hayesville, NC this Friday night and need your support

By Todd Forrest **Towns County Herald** sports@nganews.com

In their second scrimmage contest of the 2016 season, the Towns County Indians found themselves in an early 18-0 hole to Butler High School after fumbles ended four of the Indians' first five drives of the game.

Early in the fourth quarter, the Class AA Bulldogs extended their lead to 25-0 when they scooped up a fumble and returned it 15 yards for the score.

The turnover would be Towns County's seventh and final turnover of the game as the final 9 minutes began to go the Indians' way.

Unfortunately for the home team, it was too little,

With 8:54 to play, Dalton Key pounced on a Butler fumble at the Bulldogs' 22-

Setting up shop just outside the redzone, the Indians found paydirt two plays On the first play of

the series, quarterback Trent Bradshaw found receiver Major Moss for a 21-yard hookup - giving Towns a 1st and goal at the 1-yard line.

From there, Russell Cox would punch it in for the score at the 8:08 mark.

Moss' point after split the uprights and the Indians were on the board - trailing

A holding penalty forced Butler into a punting situation on the ensuing possession. Taking over at their own 30 with 5:31 to go, Bradshaw and the offense went back to work. This time they gashed the Bulldogs with a steady dose of running back Andy Chambers, whose 38the drive alive.

Later in the series, Chambers broke free for 26 yards on 3rd and 15 to give Towns a 1st and goal at the 7-yard line.

bers was good for 3 yards on first down before Bradshaw capped off the drive by powering his way into the end-

zone from four yards out. Trailing 25-14 the Inpossession until just 12 ticks

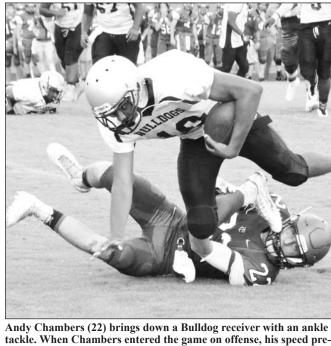
were left on the clock. On the first play of the game, the Butler tailback took a pitch to the right and raced 80 yards for the score - putting the visitors on top at 6-0.

Towns County's opening drive lasted five plays before they coughed up the football at their own 44-yard

Luckily for the Indiopening quarter jitters, the Bulldogs were battling issues



Towns County's Luke Woody (53) lays the lumber to a Butler ball carrier. Photo/Todd Forrest



sented matchup issues for the visitors. Photo/Todd Forres



Quarterback Trent Bradshaw avoids the blitzing Bulldog defense to get a pass off downfield. Photo/Todd Forrest

of their own as they were the 18. penalized seven times in the

The yellow hankies yard pickup on 4th and 6 kept helped Towns force a turn-bend-but-don't-break phiover on downs but on their losophy. first play, the offense put the ball on the ground once more and Butler was in business on the Indians' 16 yard line.

A 9-yard run was fol-Another give to Cham- lowed by a 7-yard carry to the house and Butler was on ensuing offensive series with

As the first frame came to a close, Towns was stopped flag brought up a 2nd-and-30 on a 4th and 3 from the Bull- where the Bulldogs returned dogs 47-yard line. However the favor with an interception dians were unable to regain the defense would force a at the Towns 34. punt and the Indians got the ball back at their own 19.

That's where the turnball back to Butler at the

the 11, the Bulldogs connected on an 11-yard scoring strike to extend their lead to 18-0 with 7:34 left in the

Another Indians fum-

Youth football splits with Andrews at new venue

But this time around, the Indians defense would bail out the offense with a

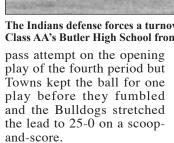
A 10-yard carry made it 1st and goal, but two plays later, senior defensive back Kobe Denton picked off a Butler pass in the endzone.

Bradshaw opened the a 14-vard completion but a sack and a block-in-the-back

With the defense facing a 4th-and-6, the Indians forced a fumble inside the over bug would bite again 10-yard line, but offense when a fumble handed the handed the ball right back with another fumble.

Facing a 3rd and 4 from to want possession as linebacker Nic Shook scooped up a loose ball off a mishandled snap by the quarterback with 7 seconds to play before the intermission.

The third quarter ans, as they worked out their ble on the second play of the proved non-eventful as the series awarded the visitors two teams exchanged punts. with prime field position at Colton Shook snared a Butler



With the exception of the turnovers, the Indians Hayesville. went toe-to-toe with a very athletic Butler squad from

Butler High School, located in Augusta, has sent two players to the NFL since 2000. Ben Troupe - a tight end from the University of Florida, played in the NFL from 2004-2008.

Most recently is Carlos Rogers - a Pro Bowl defensive back from Auburn who ended a 10-year NFL career in 2014. Next week, the Indians

Neither team seemed travel to rival Hayesville, NC for the 21st meeting between the two schools that are only separated by Lake Chatuge. Towns' lone win over

the Yellow Jackets came in 2009 by a score of 48-12. However, the two schools haven't met in the regular season since 2013 - a 20-0 Hayesville victory.



The Indians defense forces a turnover during the first half of last Friday night's scrimmage contest with Class AA's Butler High School from Augusta. Photo/Todd Forrest

Is an upset brewing

In the two years that fans need to flock across the Hayesville and Towns were state line on Friday night, on hiatus, the Yellow Jackets pack the stands, and provide the Blue and White with a won a total of five games, home game atmosphere and while the Indians currently field what is arguably its afterwards, return home to Georgia as witnesses to one most talented team since that '09 squad that throttled of the biggest wins in the program's history.

Kickoff is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Friday so be over in Clay County this Friday night? The Indians there and be loud in support and their new coach have a of your Indians, who have chance to make a statement in been working all summer Week 1, so all Towns County long for games like this.



Russell Cox drops into pass coverage. Photo/Todd Forrest

Local 9&U travel baseball

team opens its season at 6-0



Towns County Herald Sports Special

Towns County Youth Football opened its 2016 season at its new stadium at the Towns County Recreation Department by hosting the Andrews Wildcats for four games last Saturday.

The Towns County Mites and Midgets each won their game with the Mites holding to an 8-6 defensive battle and the Midgets hanging a 14-0 shutout on the opposition.

The Midgets, coached by Damon Crowder may be small in number, but they are large at

fensive play that only allowed four first downs during the entire Collin Crowder led the

defense with six tackles, Kyle Oakes had five, Grant Ingram and it was a game of firsts. Caleb Bradley each had three.

with two tackles, while Keenan Henderson and Joshua Betting had one tackle each. The offensive line was

amazing," said Coach Damon Crowder. "Their blocking allowed us to move the football down the field for two touchdowns by Oakes and Collin

"All the coaches are proud That showed in their de- of these 12 young men, that took



the team against a much bigger team and never once gave up. They fought until the end and held them off for the win."

During the Mites' 8-6 win,

First game, first drive, Christian Wade finished and the first win for Head Coach Joseph Goble.

On the opening drive, quarterback Conner Chastain dropped back for a shuffle pass to Jensen Goble, who gained 37 yards. Then the next play resulted in 32 more yards, which moved the Indians inside the 5-yard line.

Braylin Radar took the carry up the middle for six and Jensen Goble added the 2-point conversion for an 8-0 lead.

"It was a textbook drive," said Coach Goble. "I'm very thankful for Coach Chastain's planning and play calling.

What held this team together was the defense. Coach Moss had his defense on target. If it wasn't Dawson DeVane it was Landon Eller in the backfield shaking things up.

Walker Underwood and Matthew Chastain stopped the middle runs and Braylin Radar stopped the outside runs.

In other action, the Pee Wees lost 24-16 and the Termites

Next week, all four youth teams will be in action at Franklin, NC beginning at 11 a.m.

The Mountain Storm youth baseball team has started the year on a high note going 6-0.

The team has taken home first place finishes in their first two tournaments which were played in Loudon and Knoxville, TN. Players from Blairsville, Murphy, NC and the surrounding area make up the team.

The team will compete throughout the year against some of the best baseball talent in the

If you would like to help sponsor the team or would like more information, please feel free to email the team at mtnstormbaseball@yahoo.com