

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Indians looking to fine-tune performance ahead of home opener



Towns County quarterback Kyle Oakes hands off to Dakota Edge. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

By Chad Stack
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This football season features some big changes for the Towns County Indians Varsity Football Team, including a brand-new coach in Jason Roquemore, 15 fewer seniors from last season, and play on a \$1 million artificial turf field at home.

And while the Boys in Blue struggled against the AAA Lumpkin County Indians in their pre-season scrimmage, losing 41-7 away on Friday, Aug. 16, the game gave Roquemore and his coaching staff the chance to get a feel for how the team was adjusting to several new players and a new offense.

"We played a team that I knew going in was going to be bigger, they were going to be stronger, but I wanted to see how our kids were going to react to that," Roquemore said. "Were we going to just fold up shop because the first time something bad happens it's here-we-go-again type of deal."

The Indians won the coin toss and elected to receive the ball, and just after the kickoff, sophomore quarterback Kyle Oakes called the play in the huddle. Oakes handed the ball off to senior running back Dakota Edge for a 6-yard gain, but the play ended up in a turnover after a forced fumble.

However, after the turnover, the Indians goal-line defense proved to be too much, as they held the Lumpkin County Indians scoreless after four attempts inside the 5-yard line.

The Boys in Blue were held scoreless in the first half but showed several positive things throughout the game, and especially in the third quarter.

Opening the third quarter, Oakes connected with his older brother, junior Garrett Oakes, for a 22-yard touchdown pass. Kyle Oakes finished the night with 11/17 passing for 65 yards, 14 rushing yards, one interception and one touchdown.

Garrett Oakes had six catches for 45 yards and a TD. Edge carried the ball 14 times for a total of 33 yards.

Senior Chris Boggus had one catch for 2 yards, Andrew Conrad had three catches for 12 yards and Reace Hampton had a catch for 6 yards.

The Indians finished the night with 87 yards of total offense and one touchdown, but now with actual game film, they can go back and watch as a team and correct the things that can be fixed, Roquemore said.

Senior Shane Sparks went down early in the first quarter with an injury and did not return to the game Friday. The offense would have likely fared better with Sparks on the line giving QB Oakes more time to make his reads and throw the ball.

The injury to Sparks also

hurt the boys on the defensive side of the ball, as he is the captain of the team and the team's playmaker on defense, Roquemore said.

Everyone is hopeful Sparks will be able to return to play soon.

Senior linebacker Hampton lead the team with eight tackles Friday night, and quarterback Kyle Oakes also played on the defensive at the safety position and finished with six tackles.

Roquemore said he saw several things he and the staff were very pleased with, but also saw some things that they will continue to work on in practice.

Overall, Roquemore said he felt good about where they were as a team, adding that he was very proud of the way the Indians continued to fight Friday night after being down 35-0 at half time.

"I was extremely impressed with the team's fight and their will to get better," Roquemore said. "They came out after half time and put together a nice drive for a touchdown. My staff and I have worked with them all summer about overcoming adversity."

The Indians will host their season opener on their brand-new field at Frank McClure Memorial Stadium on Friday, Aug. 23, at 7:30 p.m. as they look to defeat the Yellowjackets from Hayesville, North Carolina, for the fourth year in a row.

Lady Indians bounce back with big 15-0 win against the Lady Storm



Rylie Livingston scores for the Lady Indians during their victory over Providence. Photo/Chad Stack

By Chad Stack
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The Lady Indians Varsity Softball Team bounced back from an 0-2 season start with a dominant offensive performance on Thursday, Aug. 15, at Lowell Nicholson Field.

Providence Christian Academy traveled to Hiawassee on Thursday for a regional matchup against the Lady Indians.

Starting on the mound for the third game in a row was the team's ace, junior Kennedy Henson.

The Lady Indians were able to get a quick three outs in the top of the first with a double play followed up with Henson striking the next batter out.

In the bottom of the first inning, leadoff batter and junior Remington Parker hit a single, which was followed with a double play after junior Jayce Young hit a fly ball.

With two outs, the offense for the Lady Indians started after Henson was walked and senior Sophia Shook hit a ground ball down the third baseline.

The Providence Storm third baseman overthrew first base for what should have been an easy out, and Shook turned the Storm error into an RBI triple.

Junior Abby Mauldin continued the offense for the Lady Indians with an RBI single scoring Shook to take a two-run lead. Sophomore Rylie Livingston got on base with a single to put Mauldin in scoring position at

third base.

After sophomore Alyssa Moss got hit by a pitch to load the bases, freshman Jenna Durham singled to left field, scoring Mauldin and Livingston for a four-run lead. Junior Kenzie Livingston was thrown out at first for the third out.

Henson continued her command on the mound, holding the Lady Storm scoreless through all four innings, pitching a shutout.

After the Lady Indians scored four runs in the bottom of the first, they kept their offense going throughout the game, scoring another 11 runs for a 15-0 win after the Lady Storm were unable to score in the top of the fourth.

Henson and Shook are going to improve as a tandem steadily as the former gets in shape on the mound, Head Coach Clay Livingston said.

Henson missed most of last year due to a basketball injury her freshman year, and she was not able to get on the mound until late in the 2018 season.

"I told the girls after the game that the biggest difference between the first two games and the Providence game was not the opponent, but it was us," Livingston said. "We don't control who we play, what they do. We control our effort and our attitudes."

Added Livingston, "Our effort is never in question, and our attitudes were much better versus Providence in that we played a lot looser and faster. We have some young girls in the lineup that are just going to get better and better in all facets of the game. And as

a team, we are going to get better and better with our communication and working together."

During the opening week, the Lady Indians seemed to struggle to hit the ball, but with another week of practice and coaching, the offense really picked up, Livingston said.

Eleven of the Lady Indians were able to generate offense against the Storm: Parker was 1-for-2, Young was 1-for-3 with 2 RBIs, Henson was 1-for-1 with an RBI, Shook was 1-for-3, Mauldin was 2-for-3 with RBIs, Rylie Livingston was 2-for-3, Moss was 1-for-1 with an RBI, Durham was 1-for-1 with an RBI, Kenzie Livingston was 1-for-2 with an RBI, senior Jessica Taylor went 1-for-1 with an RBI, and sophomore Lilly Landrum was 1-for-1 with an RBI.

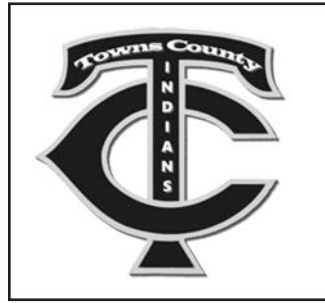
"I thought we swung the bats well and played solid defense behind Kennedy," Coach Livingston said. "We had two great pinch-hit at-bats from Jessica Taylor and Lilly Landrum that drove in runs, which is something we will be counting on from those two. We feel good about where we are as a team right now."

The Lady Indians were also scheduled to play the Rabun County Lady Wildcats on Tuesday, Aug. 13, but the game was canceled due to rain and will be rescheduled.

The Lady Indians hosted the Commerce Lady Tigers at home on Tuesday, Aug. 20, at 4:30 pm in a game that occurred after press time.

TCHS implementing spectator procedure changes at home football games

Towns County Herald
Sports Special



Towns County High School is excited about the new FieldTurf installed on the football field and the resurfacing of the track. In order to keep our facilities in excellent condition and to enhance security and safety measures, we are installing some changes for spectator entrance for football games at Frank McClure Memorial Stadium.

1. There will be two entrances into the stadium:

(1) the main admission entrance from the main school parking lot, following the sidewalk up the hill between the High School gym and Bus Garage

(2) entrance at the High School batting cages, all spectators that park in the elementary parking lot will walk up the access road that leads from the elementary school to top level of football stadium. Spectators that park in the baseball parking lot on first base side of field will drive up the access road. Admission gate for both walkers and drivers will be located at the batting cage area. NOTE: There will no longer be an admission entrance at the fieldhouse area.

2. For safety concerns, the elementary playground will be closed during football games. No children or students will be allowed on the playground during this time. Parents are asked to make sure their children to do go to this area. School officials and law enforcement will monitor this area and send children back

to the stadium bleachers. Announcements will be made during the game as a reminder.

3. Before and during the game, the entire track area will be closed to spectators and visitors. No one will be allowed to walk on the track or watch the game from the track. Authorized personnel only will be on the track and field area during the game. Again, this is for safety and security purposes and a GHSA policy.

4. No food or drink will be allowed on the track or FieldTurf.

5. The Towns County Indians football team will use the fieldhouse side of the field as the HOME side. Therefore, this side of the field and track will be closed to all spectators and visitors. Again, the admission gate that has been at the fieldhouse in previous years will no longer be used as an entrance into the stadium.

We are excited about the many changes and upgrades at Frank McClure Memorial Stadium, with the new FieldTurf, resurfaced track, and repurposed seating. We look forward to seeing and hearing you cheering and supporting our student-athletes.

Please refer to attached map of TCHS athletic field and entrances.

