

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Bradshaw shines as Indians dominate second half at Hayesville

By Todd Forrest
Towns County Herald
Sports Editor

Towns County used 27 unanswered points during the second half Friday to pull away 55-24 at Hayesville, North Carolina.

The Indians' 55 point scoring output marks the first time a Towns County offense has put up 50-plus on the road, breaking the previous road scoring mark of 49 points vs Georgia Military in October 2008.

At Hayesville, senior quarterback Trent Bradshaw accounted for five touchdowns to lead the Indians, who held a narrow 28-24 advantage at the halftime break.

Despite knocking off the rival Jackets for the third straight year, the victory felt somewhat bittersweet for Towns County, who lost head coach John Cornett to an ejection during the early stages of the second half.

Whether or not a suspension will accompany the ejection remains to be seen, but as the Indians begin preparation for Union County, even a one-game suspension could prove costly.

Cornett could avoid missing time if the Georgia High School Association (GHSA) reviews the evidence and feels the ejection -- issued by out-of-state officials -- wasn't warranted. And with two weeks between games, Towns County should have enough time to plead its case.

The controversy was initiated by an Indian touchdown with 9:06 left in the third. With a first-and-goal from the nine, Bradshaw pitched to senior Alan Gillis on an option play around the left end for the score. On the ensuing extra point, Towns was flagged as a 12th player raced off the field before the ball was snapped.

Upon questioning the call, Cornett drew an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty. Moments later, after things appeared to settle down, another flag came out for unsportsmanlike conduct and the Towns County coach was sent to the showers.

After collecting 35 yards worth of penalties and bringing up a 52-yard extra point try, the Indians elected to go for two and their Hail Mary 2-point pass was unsuccessful.



Towns County celebrates its 55-24 victory at Hayesville, North Carolina on Friday night. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Clinging to a 10-point advantage on the road without its head coach, Towns County was ripe for a late-game collapse, but led by a battle-tested senior class, the Indians circled the wagons and proceeded to put the Jackets away by quarter's end.

Towns County regained possession at the Hayesville 44 and four plays later, Blaine Rogers punched it in from 2 yards out and Wes Calhoun's extra point made it 41-24 at the 6:17 mark of the third.

After Hayesville took over at the 20 and converted a third-and-short, senior Will Travis picked off a Jacket pass near midfield. The interception was forced by pressure from defensive lineman Danny Reagan, who chased the quarterback out of the pocket, causing his off-balance throw to sail high off the receiver's fingertips and into the waiting arms of Travis.

Following a holding penalty and a short gain, Bradshaw tore off a 50-yard scoring run down the Jacket sideline - spotting the Indians a 48-24 advantage with 3:18 left in the third.

A quick three-and-out gave the ball back to the Indians but Bradshaw made a rare mistake when his pass was picked off and returned to the Towns

County 39-yard line. A first down hold pushed the Jackets back to their side of the 50, resulting in an eventual punt to open the fourth quarter.

Despite their worst starting field position of the night, Towns County delivered a dagger into the back of its rival with a six-play, 80-yard drive to put the game out of reach. The drive was highlighted by a 49-yard keeper by Bradshaw on 2nd-and-5 at the 25 that advanced the Indians inside the Jacket 30.

From there, carries by Colin Crowder and Tyler Swanger set up Towns with a 1st-and-goal from the five. Needing only 15-feet to put the game on ice, senior nose tackle Jake Parker lined up in the Indian backfield and needed only two carries up-the-gut to bully his way into the endzone.

With 8:26 remaining, the Indians could sense the victory as the home crowd began a mass exodus.

The Hayesville fans that stayed put were given something to shout about when Yellow Jacket head coach Ken Dockery was sent packing with 6:48 remaining.

Forced to punt following another three-and-out, Hayesville received a fresh set of

downs when Towns was flagged for roughing the kicker. With a first down at their own 38, a short completion turned into a 40-yard pickup, moving the Jackets inside the redzone for the first time in the second half.

Or so they thought. A penalty flag negated the big gain and the already frustrated Hayesville coach decided he'd had enough.

The Jackets eventually turned it over on downs and the Indian backups played out the final 4:53.

The Towns County offense was able to move the ball at will for most of the evening, including the game's opening drive that ended with a fumble near midfield that was scooped up by Hayesville and returned inside the 10.

Following a six-yard pickup on first down, the Indian defense stiffened and held the Jackets to a field goal.

The ensuing Towns County drive ended on 4th-and-2 when Bradshaw was forced out of the pocket then tripped up before picking the necessary yardage. Hayesville would hand it right back to the Indians when a fake punt resulted in a loss and Towns set up shop at the Jacket 41.

Faced with another fourth

down, Bradshaw rolled right but ran out of real estate, so he changed direction and broke loose down the Hayesville sideline for a 42-yard touchdown run.

Trailing 7-3, the Jackets responded with a kick return to the 44. Six plays later, a short completion on 4th-and-3 went for 33-yards and a score when the receiver stiff-armed an Indian defensive back and raced down the sideline for the go-ahead touchdown.

Towns would trail for exactly 59 seconds thanks to a kick return to midfield. Three plays later, a 30-yard scamper by Bradshaw gave the visitors a 14-10 lead. Hayesville wasn't finished, however, as they used a 32-yard completion on third down to move inside Indian territory. Facing a 3rd-and-6 from the 10, senior quarterback Dwain Cook found a sliding Blake McClure in the endzone to put the Jackets back on top at 17-14 with 4:56 left in the half.

That would be their final lead of the night as Towns answered with two touchdowns in 94 seconds.

The first was a 59-yard deep ball to Travis with 4:04 remaining. On the ensuing Hayesville drive, Cook tried to answer

but he overshot his target and Garrett Oakes ran under the pass and returned the interception to the Jacket 27 where Hayesville was flagged for a late hit - moving the offense to the 12.

A short gain by Swanger on first down was followed by a 10-yard strike to Travis in the back of the endzone with 2:30 on the clock.

A three-and-out by the Indian defense brought Bradshaw onto the field with 1:24 left in the half. The drive stalled and Hayesville took over with excellent field position following an intentional grounding penalty and a blocked punt.

On the first play, Cook fired a 14-yard touchdown completion, making it a 28-24 game at the break.

The second half opened with the Indians defense forcing a three-and-out then stopping another fake punt attempt. Starting from the Jacket 36, Bradshaw carried twice for two and 14 yards; Swanger rushed once for 10 and Gillis took the option toss to the house from nine yards out for a 34-24 lead.

Game notes: Towns County's 55 points are the second most in school history behind last October's 56-13 win over Lakeview.

Prior to 2017, the Indians had only broke 50 once, coming vs Hebron in 2008. They have now done it twice in the last three regular season games.

The Indians are off this week, giving Cornett and staff an extra week to prepare for another rivalry game. This time, Union County visits Hiwassee for the Towns County home opener.

The Panthers were off last week but host East Hall on Friday in Union's season opener. East Hall is coming off a blowout loss to in-county rival Flowery Branch.

Meanwhile, Hayesville goes on the road to face Copper Basin, Tennessee, who is coming off a 42-0 loss to its down-river rival Polk County, Tennessee.

Statistics: Bradshaw 13 carries, 197 yards, 3 TDs. PASS-ING: 6-for-11, 102 yards, 2 TDs.

Travis 4 receptions, 83 yards, 2 TDs; INT. Rogers 6 carries, 34 yards, TD; 7 tackles. Swanger 8 carries, 44 yards; 1.5 sacks. Oakes 3 tackles, INT. Parker 3.5 tackles, 1.5 sacks, TD run.

Lady Indians fall to Union; win nail-biter vs Providence

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Editor

Towns County Fastpitch picked up a region win against Providence Christian Academy during the first week of regular season play, defeating the Storm 15-14 at home on Thursday, Aug. 16.

Unfortunately, the Lady Indians lost their first game of the season the day before, on Wednesday, Aug. 15, against the Union County Lady Panthers.

"I knew it would be a rough start for us," said Rowland. "We have two girls that just had ACL surgery, my starting pitcher (Kennedi Henson) and one of my starting outfielders (Kenzie Livingston). So, we knew it would be a little rough.

"Over the summer, I had three pitchers come in who never really pitched before. I knew that Kennedi, my pitcher from last year, I knew she'd be out for quite a while. So, we started pretty early in the summer working on that.

"We went into Union County, and I knew it was going to be a tough game. Didn't know how tough they were going to be until they stepped out there, and we ended up getting beat 15-0 in four innings -- a phenomenal ball team over there. The new coach, coming in, he's done a really, really good job with his team."

Lady Indians 15, Providence 14 - Rowland was pleased with the team but would have preferred a more comfortable win in Towns County's region opener.

"We're still working the jitters out, just trying to see what we've got to work with, and how I need to structure practice to get us ready," said Rowland. "Totally different story from Union, though. We came out, our bats were hot. We ended up scoring 15 runs, which, that's kind of what you want every game.



Sophomore pitcher Natalie Smith delivers to the plate vs Union County. Photo/Todd Forrest

Without their ace, Henson ready to go, the Lady Indians are relying on a pitching-staff-by-committee approach.

"Again, our pitching, we went through two pitchers, and it's really just building our pitchers' stamina up. They're not used to pitching full games. I was talking to Barry Churchill, my assistant, and we're getting better and better every game and every practice. Our pitchers are up to about 70 pitches that we're good through. Once we hit that 70-pitch mark, we're kind of fatiguing a little bit, and that's when we swap them out.

Putting up 15 runs is always nice but it wasn't just the bats that came around, the gloves were making some critical plays.

"It was a totally different ballgame as far as offense goes. We were hitting the ball, running bases well. We did what we needed to do to win the ballgame. I would love for it not to be that close, but I guess it was an exciting game for people to watch."

"We almost went into extra innings if not for Lea

Neumyer making the game-ending out with a phenomenal throw from centerfield and getting the girl down at third base.

They had already scored, which would have made it 15-15, and if she didn't get that force out with bases loaded, we would have been tied up going into extra innings."

Lady Indians 0, Union County 15 (4 inn) - Union

County scored nine runs in the first inning to put the game out of reach immediately.

The Lady Panthers tacked on four more in the second and two in the fourth to end the game after four innings.

Henson accounted for the only Towns County hit of the day - a single in the bottom of the fourth.

Register now for youth basketball

Towns County Recreation Department Basketball registration: August 1st - September 21st - \$60. Late Registration: September 22nd - October 5th - \$75. The Towns County Recreation Department would like to invite you to participate in our annual Basketball season with GRPA. There will be evaluations held the second week of October. If you are interested in coaching, please fill out a coaching application at the Towns County Recreation Department and complete a mandatory background check only after you have been selected as a coach.

Divisions: 8u: Ages 7 - 8 born September 2nd, 2009

to September 1st, 2011. 10u: Ages 9 - 10 born September 2nd, 2007 to September 1st, 2009. 12u: Ages 11 - 12 born September 2nd, 2005 to September 1st, 2007.

Please register online at www.TownsCountyRec.com or register in person at the Towns County Recreation Department. Towns County Recreation Department will be providing jerseys & shorts that players will be able to keep at the end of the season.

If you have any questions please contact Matthew Youngblood or Tyler Garrett at (706) 896-2600 or by email at TCRecreation2600@gmail.com. T(Aug22,F)SH

Ridges Ladies Golfers love golf



(L-R): Diana Azor, Karen Whittaker, and Claudia Mahaffie; not pictured: Judy McCully

It's for the love of golf that we put ourselves out there each week and today's game Fore Play, worked well for the three, threesome groups that played. Three net best balls on all par four holes and two net best balls on all par three holes. Course difficulties did not impede the days winners who came in with a solid 141. They were: Diana Azor, Claudia Mahaffie, and Judy McCully. Runners up scored 148 respectively.

Our birdie girls were Diana Azor with a chip-in bird on

the par three #5 hole and also on par 5 #14 hole. Karen Whittaker enjoyed a chip-in birdie on the par four #4 hole.

A collective lunch was offered in the Ridges Grill Lounge where everyone enjoyed lunch, libations and laughter!

Non-member women are always welcome to play on Thursdays league day with a verifiable handicap. USGA Rules of Golf prevail. Please call The Ridges pro shop for additional details at 828-389-9000 option 1. T(Aug22,G)SH

14th Annual Scott Hogged Memorial Youth Conservation & Education Day In Memory of Josh Ritz August 25, 2018

FREE EVENT

FISHING HUNTING OUTDOOR EDUCATION SAFETY

Pre-Registration, Information, and Directions at: www.scotthoggedyouthday.com
For other information call 828-837-2210 ext 4 Brasstown, NC
Gates open at 7:30AM
Event Starts at 9:00AM

FREE WILD GAME LUNCH
A Day of Learning About the Outdoors.

AGES 5-18

Logos for: IWA, US, Hiwassee River Bass Club, Mountain County Rod & Gun Club, Murphy Shooting Teams, Hiwassee Dam 4-H, Shooting Team, and others.