

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Football: Red zone struggles doom Indians vs. rival Hayesville, NC

By Daysha Pandolph
Staff Writer
Towns County Herald

In a compelling season opener at home, the Towns County Indians faced off against rival Hayesville North Carolina, ultimately falling short in a 35-2 final.

Hayesville jumped out to a 14-0 halftime lead, finding paydirt on its first two possessions. Meanwhile, Towns County failed to convert its two first-half red zone trips.

"It's still early; there's a lot of growth between games one and three," Towns County head coach Jason Roquemore noted. "We're playing some young kids and that showed Friday."

The game began with Towns facing a strong defensive front from Hayesville. Towns' initial three-play series went backward, resulting in a punt. Following Hayesville's 12-play scoring drive covering 53 yards, culminating in a 1-yard touchdown run, the quarter ended with the Yellow Jackets on the move once again.

Early in the second, Hayesville managed another 1-yard touchdown run, extending their lead to 14-0. Towns followed with a nine-play drive that reached the Yellow Jackets' red zone, but things went quickly south after a Yellow Jackets' sack, eventually forcing an Indians' punt from plus territory.



Senior QB Connor Chastain leads the TCHS captains onto the field on Friday. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Towns' defense delivered a stop, halting a seven-play series and bringing on Hayesville's first punt. Towns made a persistent effort in an eight-play drive covering 55 yards, but unfortunately, despite their efforts, a blocked field goal attempt prevented them from converting their progress into points, preserving Hayesville's 14-0 lead as the teams cleared the field for halftime.

As the football teams re-entered the field for the second half, Hayesville executed a three-play, 69-yard drive for a 7-yard touchdown run, increasing their lead to 21-0. Following another Indians'

punt, Hayesville's momentum continued with a three-play, 49-yard drive and another touchdown, extending the margin to 28-0. Towns' three-and-out resulted in a punt. The Jackets, on the other hand, orchestrated a series of plays that covered 60 yards, culminating in a 9-yard touchdown run, bumping their lead to 35-0.

In the fourth quarter, Towns demonstrated their tenacity with a 13-play, 77-yard drive. Although a fumble halted their progress inside the 5-yard line, their commitment to the game was discernible as the Indians' defense continued to fight and avoided the shutout with a late safety.

Despite the loss, the Towns County Indians left the field determined to build on their experiences and improve in future games.

Roquemore adds that while the score may not have indicated such, the team played well.

"Defensively, we made Hayesville earn everything," he said. "Offensively we showed that we can be explosive."

Junior wide receiver Julian Mosley turned in a breakout performance with 12 catches for 154 yards.

Senior quarterback Connor Chastain went 13-for-20 with 164 yards; sophomore back Dustin Barrett rushed 15



Julian Mosley caught 12 passes for 154 yards. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

times for 30 yards. Hayesville ended the night with 268 total yards led by 192 rushing. Towns County's 164 passing yards accounted for the bulk of their 180 total yards of offense.

In regards to the Friday, Aug. 25 contest at Greensboro's Lake Oconee Academy, Roquemore looks forward to getting another opportunity for growth.

"We'll have a great week of preparation, and the kids just have to trust the process," Roquemore said. "All of our goals are still in front of us."

Kickoff is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. The Indians won last year's meeting 23-0 in

Hiwassee.

The Towns County High School Band took the field for their first performance of the year under the direction of the new band director, Tim Skinner. This season's show is titled "Bond, James Bond" and includes selections from the renowned film series.

"We have come such a long way in such a short time," commented Skinner. "I only see great things happening in the near future with these students." He credits the administration, the parent organization, and of course, the community, for supporting the band as they pioneer to new heights.

Lady Indians club Class 4A Cedar Shoals 15-0

By Daysha Pandolph
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Lowell Nicholson Field came to life on Wednesday, Aug. 16 as the Towns County Lady Indians showcased their talent and resilience in a contest lasting merely an hour against Cedar Shoals, ending with a score of 15-0 in four innings.

Leading the Lady Indians at the plate was Elizabeth Edwards, who went 3 for 4 with 3 RBIs and two runs scored. Alaina Murphy chipped in two hits and scored three runs, while Scotlyn Fain and Jacie Cross each contributed a hit, both scoring.

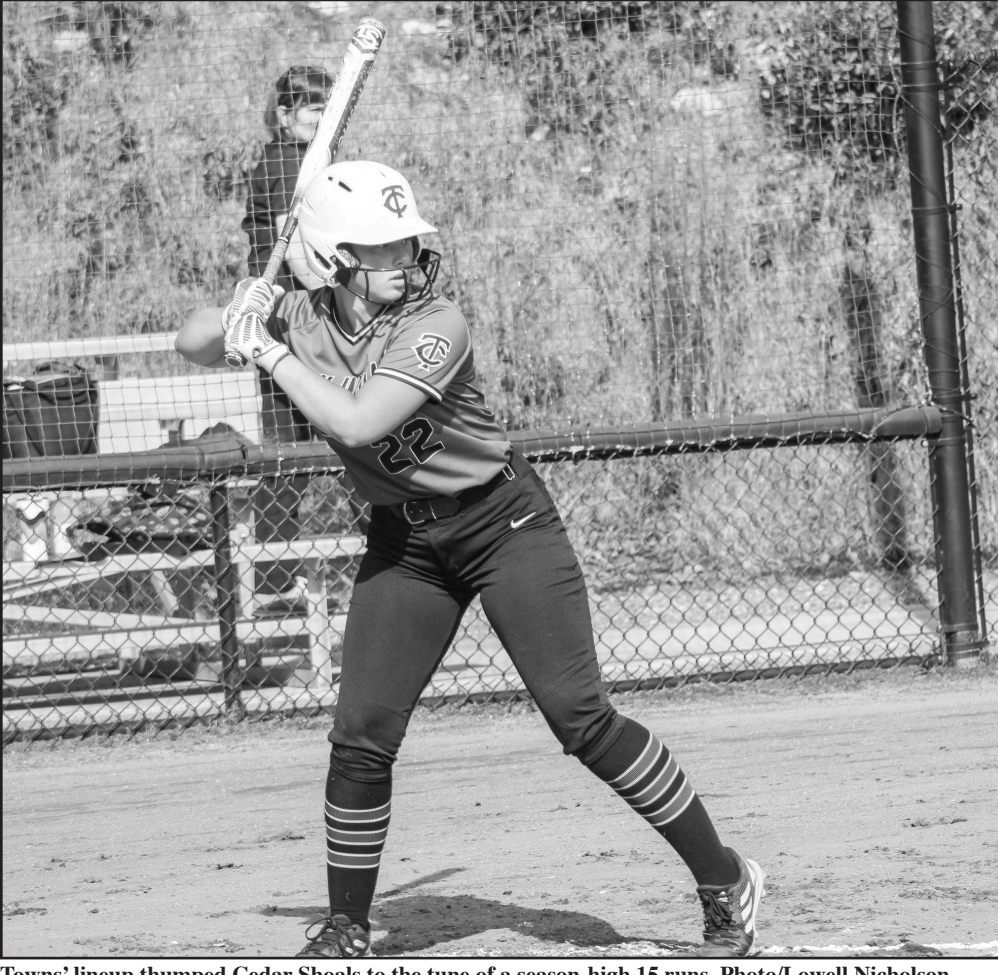
Several other girls also contributed to the win, such as Hope Chastain with a hit, 2 RBIs, and a run scored. Reagan Rogers earned an RBI as well, and scored one run. Chloe Sutton and Alexa Key each scored one run, and Zoe Phillips scored two. Finally, pitcher Jacie Cross got the win, going 4 innings and allowing no hits while striking out two.

At only the fourth game this season, the team is already facing adversity, with several experienced players unable to participate due to injury. But this hasn't stopped them from starting off strong.

"That's probably the most impressive thing about the win today," commented Coach Clay Livingston. "We had some young girls step in and play well. That's a big deal."

The team's victory sets an optimistic tone for the rest of the season, with Livingston looking forward to their continued improvement. He notes that the biggest challenge they face at this point is simply having so many novices.

This isn't a concern, however, largely due to the leadership shown by four seniors: Laura Mauldin, Edwards, Zoe Phillips and Chastain, who have taken the initiative to mentor the younger girls and ensure they



Towns' lineup thumped Cedar Shoals to the tune of a season-high 15 runs. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

are focused and prepared before each game.

On Aug. 17, the team lost a tough game vs. Athens Christian 9-6. Livingston attributes this loss to a bit of over aggressive play in an attempt to get lead runners from the opposing team out when they should have settled for an easier alternative.

"I think the girls will continue to learn and get better from these situations," he added in regard to the loss.

With a promising roster and a series of exhilarating matchups scheduled for the weeks ahead, the team is set to captivate fans with their unwavering spirit and skill.

During the season's opening week, the Lady Indians fell 9-0 to North Murray and 10-6 vs. Fannin County.

"We did a lot of good

things from which to build off of in both games, especially vs Fannin," Livingston said. "We had a ton of good at bats with nothing to show for it because we hit so many on the screws right at somebody."

Cross went the distance vs. North Murray while Chastain and Fain worked three innings apiece vs. Fannin.

"Our pitching was good," Livingston said. "They will only get sharper as the season goes along."

Edwards and Mauldin had one hit apiece vs. North Murray.

"Alaina Murphy was absolutely robbed of one that was smoked into the gap and the left fielder made a great catch," Livingston added. "There were many other good at bats. We were very tough with two strikes

on us and put a lot of balls in play, unfortunately, mostly right at the defense."

Against Fannin, a six-run third innings proved too much to overcome.

"We had a chance to get out of the inning and didn't make the play," Livingston said. "If we can limit the big innings better this year, that will make a huge difference for us."

Drew Livingston and Cross recorded two hits and an RBI each. Edwards and Mauldin reached on a hit and drove in one apiece. Chastain, Murphy, Halie Arrowood and Philips also contributed at the plate.

"The entire line-up contributed offensively," Coach Livingston said. "We will need to continue that to get back into the playoffs and make some noise there."

Football: TCMS Indians pound Pickens 39-8 in '23 season opener

Towns County Middle School Indians' football team started their season off with a bang with their 39-8 win over Pickens County on Tuesday, Aug. 15.

Tucker Engert came out strong with three touchdowns, 160 yards rushing, and 81 yards passing.

Additional on-field leadership was provided by Jayden Turnage with 143 rushing

yards and 2 touchdowns.

Sam Sarafin contributed a touchdown and 81 receiving yards, and Alphonso Gianpola had 28 rushing yards that also resulted in a touchdown.

TCMS Indians Head Coach Jeff Stowers said, "I couldn't be more happy for the kids; they have worked hard all summer and it was fun to watch it pay off for them on the field."



The Towns County Middle School Indians football team prepares to take the field ahead of last week's 39-8 blowout victory over Pickens.