

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Indians fight hard but lose season opener against rival Yellow Jackets

By Chad Stack
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Staff Writer

The Boys in Blue hosted the Hayesville Yellow Jackets of North Carolina for their season opener at the newly renovated Frank McClure Memorial Stadium on Friday, Aug. 23.

The Indians were excited to finally get the chance to play on the new \$1 million artificial turf field for the first time, and they took to it charging out of the team's new tunnel – a 20-foot inflatable blue football helmet – Friday night under new Head Football Coach Jason Roquemore.

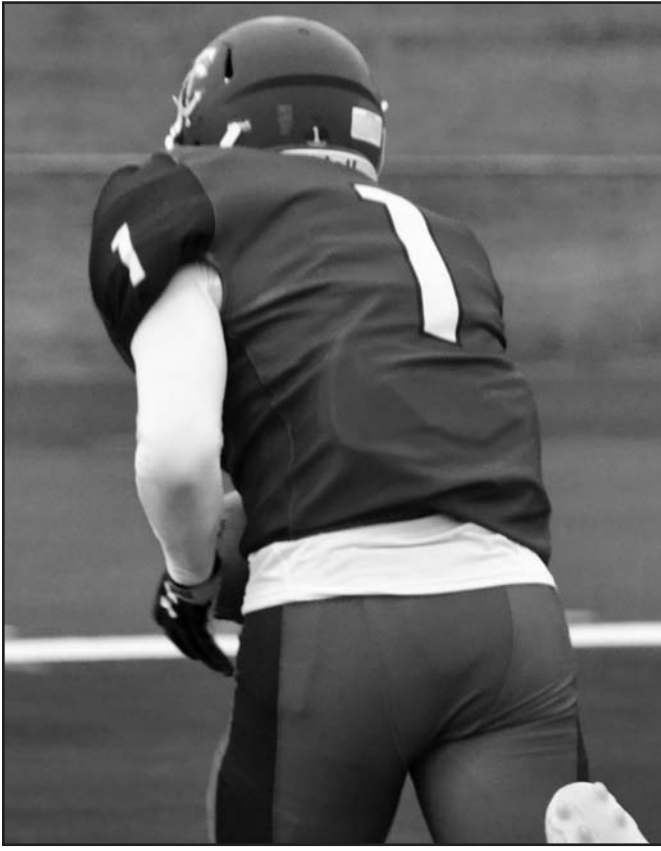
The Indians won the coin toss and elected to receive the ball, and senior Andrew Conrad took the opening kickoff 20 yards to the 25-yard line.

Sophomore Kyle Oakes started for the first time as the Indians' signal-caller that night, and the first play from scrimmage was a wide receiver screen to his brother, junior Garrett Oakes.

Oakes took off for 23 yards to midfield after he shook off the first Yellow Jacket defender who was in the backfield to make the play.

The very next play, the third in the game, Oakes dropped back to pass and hit senior running back Dakota Edge for a 43-yard touchdown. The touchdown was negated due to an illegal motion penalty, however, and the Boys in Blue would never recover.

"We had a good plan, the kids did a good job early on executing," Roquemore said. "We got what we thought we were going to get.



Dakota Edge (1) scored from 43 yards out on the game's opening series but a penalty wiped away the touchdown for the Towns County offense (right). Photos/Lowell Nicholson



"We were able to take advantage of some things, and then after the first series, we got the touchdown called back. And for whatever reason, we had a tough time consistently stringing together drives."

After the score was wiped off, the Indians were forced to punt. As the Indians were in punt formation with Oakes 7 yards back, the long snap went over his head, and he was forced to fall on the ball, giving the Yellow Jackets possession inside the Towns County 30-yard line.

The Yellow Jackets moved the ball inside the 5-yard

line, and Hayesville running back Cable Krieger strolled into the endzone for a 3-yard touchdown.

Coupled with a good extra point attempt, Hayesville took a 7-0 lead with 7:22 left in the first quarter.

Throughout the night, the Boys in Blue were able to make plays here and there, but they were unsuccessful in moving the ball down into the red zone again.

"I thought our kids improved," Roquemore said. "If you look back at last week's tape and the tape from Friday night, our kids are grading

higher and our kids are getting better."

Hayesville had a 21-0 lead at the end of the first half, and the Indians came out after halftime and forced the Yellow Jackets to punt the ball away.

During the third quarter, senior wide receiver Chris Boggus caught a short out route and was hit hard. Boggus was unable to get up after the hit and was taken off the field by EMTs.

To let everyone know that he was OK, Boggus gave a thumbs-up as he left the field, and Roquemore said after the game that the senior was doing

well and looking forward to practice Monday.

The Yellow Jackets scored another touchdown on a 35-yard run down the sideline to take a 28-0 lead with 5:51 left in the third quarter. Hayesville ended the Indians' three-game win streak against them Friday night by beating Towns County 35-0.

"Just like I told them on Friday, this is all part of the process," Roquemore said. "There's nothing wrong with our fight, and there is nothing wrong with our want to. We just have to continue to work."

Edge carried the ball 10

times for 46 yards and made one catch for 3 yards.

Kyle Oakes rushed for 34 yards and completed 12 of his 23 passes for 79 yards.

Garrett Oakes had two carries for 8 yards and nine receptions from his brother for a total of 73 yards.

Boggus and senior Reace Hampton each had a catch for 3 yards.

The Indians will hit the road this week as they head to Gilmer County to take on the Bobcats on Friday, Aug. 30, at 7:30 p.m.



Every Friday night Towns County Cheer squad can be found on the sidelines doing their best to keep Frank McClure Stadium fired up for Indians football. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



The Towns County High School marching band provides the soundtrack to each and every football season with their performances and pep music before and during the game. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Lady Indians hit the road after tough region loss at home last week

By Chad Stack
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Staff Writer

The Lady Indians fell to 1-2 in the region after a tough 12-3 loss to region toppers the Lady Tigers of Commerce on Tuesday, Aug. 20, at Lowell Nicholson Field.

Commerce finished last year ranked first in the region and Top 10 in the state, with a 14-2 region record and 22-7 overall.

Currently, Commerce and George Walton are tied for first in the region, followed by Prince Avenue Christian and the Lady Indians, who are in the second and third spots.

Heading into Tuesday's match, the Lady Indians had a region record of 1-1 after routing Providence Christian Academy 15-0 in just four innings on Thursday, Aug. 15.

The Lady Tigers traveled to Towns County with a 4-1 record to start region play for them.

Lady Indian junior Kennedy Henson started on the mound for the fourth straight game on Tuesday. Henson has been improving on the mound every day, said Head Softball Coach Clay Livingston.

Henson struck out the leadoff Lady Tiger batter for the first out, and freshman third baseman Jenna Durham fielded a ground ball cleanly to throw the next batter out at first for the second out.

After the second out, Henson continued her dominance on the mound, striking out the third batter to end the top of the first.

Going into the bottom of the first, the Lady Indians were looking to build on their



Abby Mauldin in the field and Sophia Shook sliding safely into home during Towns County's home loss to Commerce last week. Photos/Lowell Nicholson

offense from the week before when they scored 15 runs, Livingston said.

Leading off at the plate Tuesday was junior Remington Parker, followed by junior Jayce Young, both of whom hit ground balls but were unable to beat the throw at first.

Henson stepped up to the plate with two outs and was able to get on with a base-hit single. Senior catcher Sophia Shook struck out during her first at-bat for the third out, with both teams scoreless to start the

second inning.

The leadoff batter for the Lady Tigers hit a pop-up that landed in a gap in right field for a base-hit single, and Henson walked the second batter after the Lady Tigers' baserunner stole second on a wild pitch.

With two runners on first and second, Henson gave a hit to allow Commerce to take a two-run lead in the second.

The Lady Indians would give up one more run before they could end the top of the second to get back on offense.



"We had two bad innings," Livingston said. "One, we gave up three unearned runs, and another bad inning, we gave up six total, but only two of them were earned runs."

The Lady Indians were able to generate three runs for the game, all in the third inning, and several of them hit the ball well, but they were unable to put the ball in play much last week.

Young finished 1-for-3 with a run scored, while Shook went 1-for-3 with a two-RBI

double and a run scored.

Henson was perfect at the plate, going 3-for-3 with a run scored. Henson pitched a complete game, too, going seven innings on the mound, giving up six hits and four earned runs, and striking out three batters.

The Indians hosted Fannin County at Lowell Nicholson Field for a non-region competition that occurred after press time on Monday, Aug. 26, when they faced a 1-9 Lady Rebel team that had just suffered a 3-2

region loss to North Hall.

Following the game against the Lady Rebels, the Lady Indians traveled to Athens on Aug. 27 to take on a regional opponent in Prince Avenue Christian, also after press time.

Ending a three-game slate, Towns County will head to Dacula on Thursday, Aug. 29, for another region matchup against the 3-3 Lady Lions of Hebron Christian, with a game time of 5 p.m.