

# Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

www.townscountyherald.net • E-mail: tcherald@windstream.net

## Indians start season 0-2 after falling 56-12 to Bobcats in Gilmer County

By Chad Stack  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

**Ellijay** - The Boys in Blue traveled to Ellijay to take on the 4-A Gilmer County Bobcats for the first time in 22 years on Friday, Aug. 30.

The Gilmer County Bobcats lead the series 4-0 all-time against Towns County. The last time these two teams met on the gridiron, the Bobcats defeated the Indians 38-6 in 1997.

Coming off a tough loss against Hayesville last Friday 35-0, the Indians were looking for their first win under new Head Coach Jason Roquemore in Gilmer County Friday night to even their season record to 1-1.

Before the Aug. 30 game in Ellijay, the Bobcats went 0-31 in the last three seasons, with their most recent loss just a week ago, losing to the Fannin County Rebels 41-9.

The Boys in Blue received the ball first after the Bobcats won the coin toss and deferred to the second half.

Junior Garrett Oakes was back deep to receive the kick, and he fielded the ball at the Indians' 20-yard line with an excellent return to the Towns County 38-yard line for an 18-yard return.

On second and 10, sophomore quarterback Kyle Oakes connected with his brother Garrett Oakes for a 6-yard screen pass.

Facing a third and four, from the shotgun, QB Oakes ran a zone read, pulling the handoff back from the belly of senior running back Dakota Edge for a quarterback draw to gain 4 yards and an Indian first down.

Senior Seth Nichols fumbled the ball after catching a screen pass from Kyle Oakes, turning possession over to the Bobcats inside Indian territory.

The Bobcats moved the ball 10 yards after the young Towns County defensive line jumped offside.

Following two false starts, Gilmer County scored with a run up the middle for a 32-yard touchdown. The Bobcats took an early 6-0 lead with 10:20 left in the first quarter after missing the extra point.

Garrett Oakes proved to be dangerous in the return game, always taking the return past the 30-yard-line to put his team in excellent field position.



Indians quarterback Kyle Oakes scrambles for yards at Gilmer on Friday night. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

With four of the five offensive linemen as freshmen and sophomores, the protection for Kyle Oakes was short-lived.

The Bobcats defense pressured Oakes all night, forcing him to throw on the run. Oakes connected with his brother Garrett Oakes for a 62-yard touchdown pass with 2:10 left in the first half.

After the failed two-point attempt, the Indians kicked off to the Bobcats with just over two minutes in the second quarter.

After receiving the kickoff, the Bobcats made their way down inside the Towns County 27-yard line. On a second down and four, Edge forced his way into the backfield to tackle the Bobcats running back for a 1-yard loss. Facing a third down with just 15 seconds left in the first half, and up 49-6, the Gilmer County head coach called a timeout.

Following the timeout, the Bobcats connected for a 30-yard touchdown pass with 0.8 seconds left in the second quarter, running the score up to 56 with the good point after attempt.

Coach Roquemore ad-

ressed the Bobcats head coach at midfield heading into half-time, passionately expressing his displeasure with the timeout call to design a touchdown pass with 15 seconds left in the first half while already being up 43 points.

In the second half, however, the Boys in Blue were able to get back on the board with a 16-yard quarterback draw from Kyle Oakes.

The Indians defense held the Bobcats scoreless in the second half, and Gilmer County defeated the Indians 56-12.

The key takeaway from the game was that the Oakes brothers showed they can be a dangerous duo, and they were very impressive, even in defeat Friday.

Kyle Oakes finished 7-of-16 for 138 yards passing with a TD, and he rushed for another TD.

Garrett Oakes ended the night with five catches for 114 yards and a score. Senior Seth Nichols had one catch for 4 yards, and Junior Reace Hampton hauled in one catch for 22 yards.

The Indians will travel to Union County to take on the Panthers on Friday, Sept. 6, at 7:30 p.m.



Garrett Oakes hauls in a pass in the first half. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



Towns County brings down a Bobcat ball carrier at Gilmer County. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

## Lady Indians win at home against Lady Rebels; Shook hits 2-run homer in Athens

By Chad Stack  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

The Lady Indians defeated the Fannin County Lady Rebels at home on Monday, Aug. 26, at Lowell Nicholson Field.

Last week's Monday home game came after a disappointing 12-3 region loss to the Commerce Lady Tigers on Tuesday, Aug. 20.

The Lady Indians were able to bounce back, however, with a 5-2 win over the Lady Rebels, and Towns County's junior ace Kennedy Henson dominated on the mound.

Henson pitched a complete game to retire nine batters and give up two hits, one earned run and one unearned run. Henson was perfect at the plate, going 2-for-2 with an RBI single.

Junior Jayce Young was 1-for-3 at the plate, also driving in a run. Senior Sophia Shook finished the day 1-for-2 at the plate with an RBI of her own, as the Lady Indians defeated the Lady Rebels 5-2.

Also last week, the Lady Indians hit the road Tuesday, Aug. 27, for a regional matchup against Prince Avenue Christian.

The Lady Indians struggled defensively against the Lady Wolverines, giving up eight unearned runs and making seven errors.

"This was our worst defensive day yet," Head Coach Clay Livingston said. "But I was really proud of their will to not give up. They fought hard to make it a game."

Henson pitched six innings on the mound, giving up five hits, one earned run and retiring eight batters.

Shook went 2-for-4 at the plate with a 2-run home run to help the Lady Indians get back into the game Tuesday.



Sophia Shook and Coach Livingston with Shook's two-run homerun ball last week. Photo/Facebook

Henson was 2-for-4 with two doubles, and Young finished 1-for-4 with a base clearing three-RBI double in the 9-5 loss against Prince Avenue Christian.

The Lady Indians are a young team, Livingston said, that is extremely talented, and they will continue to learn from

their mistakes. They are always battling and working hard every day to get better, and it shows, Livingston said.

In their third contest last week, Towns County traveled to Dacula for another region game against Hebron Christian Academy's Lady Lions on

Thursday, Aug. 29.

The Lady Indians lost 5-1 in a hard-fought game against the Lady Lions.

Henson pitched six innings on the mound, allowing five hits and four earned runs in Thursday's loss.

She went a perfect 2-for-2 at the plate, with two



Kennedi Henson delivers a pitch vs Fannin. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



Rylie Livingston competes in a doubleheader in Chestatee on Saturday, Sept. 7.

walks and an RBI. Sophomore Rylie Livingston was 1-for-3, and freshman Jenna Durham also finished 1-for-3 at the plate Thursday.

The Lady Indians ended their three-game road trip at Lilburn on Tuesday, Sept. 3, to take on Providence Christian Academy at 4:45 p.m. in a game

that occurred after press time.

This week, the Lady Indians will host Prince Avenue Christian at Lowell Nicholson Field on Thursday, Sept. 5, at 4:45 p.m.

Towns County will compete in a doubleheader in Chestatee on Saturday, Sept. 7.