

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Football: Union County pulls away with 45 unanswered points

By Todd Forrest
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Union County (2-0) used 45 straight points, 28 in the opening quarter, to put the Indians away in the first meeting in three years between the neighboring rivals.

Junior wide receiver Kyle Morlock led the Panthers with a career-high 6 catches for 132 yards and a score while junior quarterback Pierson Allison completed 11-of-19 for 223 yards and 2 touchdowns in his first road start.

The Indians (1-1) were led by Alan Gillis' 82 yards and a score on six carries to go with one catch for 4 yards. Bradshaw completed 3-of-6 passes for 31 yards while rushing for 21 yards on nine carries.

Thanks to Gillis, Towns County seized momentum early on but was unable to maintain the energy level that accompanied them out of the gates.

On the opening drive of the contest, the Indians quickly turned things around after suffering a 1-yard loss, a false start penalty and a sack that dropped them into a 3rd-and-19. Towns County senior quarterback delivered a perfect throw on a wheel route to freshman Collin Crowder for an 18-yard pickup.

Looking at 4th-and-1 from their own 39, Gillis went in motion and took a handoff from Bradshaw and burst into the middle untouched for a 61-yard touchdown run, electrifying the standing room only crowd at Frank McClure Stadium.

Trailing for the first time since game eight of last year, Union County's brand new starting quarterback Pierson Allison was dealt his first dose of adversity and didn't flinch.

The Panther offense needed only four plays to tie the game at 7-7 with a 33-yard go route to Morlock capping off the drive with 7:54 remaining in the opening quarter.

An offsides penalty on Union and a hold on Towns had the Indians in a 2nd-and-13 on the ensuing drive when senior cornerback Ean Harkins jumped in front of a pass intended for Will Travis at the 41-yard line. Harkins would return the pick 15 yards to the Indians' 26.

On the first play of the series, Allison hit fellow-junior Cayden Rich for 21 yards down the sideline. With a 1st-and-goal at the five, senior Chad Buzzard took a handoff and hurdled a defender at the goal line for a 14-7 lead.

The turnover bug bit once again when senior Kanon Hemphill jarred the ball loose from Bradshaw in the backfield before



Towns County takes the field in front of a packed house at Frank McClure Stadium on Friday night. The Indians rode the wave of emotion to an early 7-0 lead but Union County eventually pulled away. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

pouncing on the fumble at the Towns County 30.

Two plays later, the Panthers were back in the end zone following a 9-yard keeper by Allison and a 21-yard reverse by junior receiver Sawyer Drake, who was seeing his first action of the season after suffering a shoulder injury in July.

Trailing 21-7 with 4:21 left in the first, Towns County was hanging on by a thread until a pair of Indian penalties backed them up into another 3rd-and-20. This time, Union's defensive line pressure forced Bradshaw to throw off his back foot and Harkins picked off his second pass of the quarter and returned it 22 yards for the score.

The ensuing Towns County possession received a boost from a Garrett Oakes kick return to midfield but the drive eventually stalled on 4th-and-3 at the Panthers' 35.

Facing a 4th-and-2, Union County was able to move the chains with a 3-yard give to Buzzard. Later, a 3rd-and-goal pass fell incomplete and senior Brian Smith was sent onto the field for a 27-yard field goal - giving the Panthers a 31-7 advantage with 5:56 left before halftime.

A 7-yard run by Tyler Swanger and a 5-yard keeper by Bradshaw had Towns on the

move but a no-gain on 3rd-and-4 brought on the punt team as the clock ticked under 3:30 to play in the second.

Union set up shop at its own 41 with 3:18 remaining in the half and they immediately went back to Morlock, moving them into Indian territory with a 19-yard completion. On the very next play, Morlock came down with a jump ball at the 10-yard line. A give to Buzzard and a keeper by Allison put Union at the one, where Buzzard plowed his way to pay-dirt for a 38-7 halftime lead.

A running clock in the second half limited the number of offensive possessions in the second half as Union took the third quarter kick and returned it to the Indians' 44-yard line.

After advancing inside the Towns County 15, Allison coughed up the football after a scrambling around, unable to find an open receiver. He was eventually swallowed up by a swarm of Indians back at the 22, where Swanger dove on the loose football.

Towns County's eventually turned it over on downs after they converted a pair of fourth downs -- the first on a short run, the second a pass interference on Union.

Starting from their own

41 with just over 6 minutes remaining, Buzzard tore off runs of 8 and 13 yards to move inside Indian territory. Two incompletions and a no gain put Union in a 4th-and-10 but Drake took a screen pass to the house from 37 yards out to wrap up the scoring at 45-7.

Towns County's final possession netted a quick first down before Union recovered a fumble on the final play of the game.

Swanger rushed 12 times for 34 yards and caught one pass for 9 yards. Crowder had nine rushes for 23 yards, plus one catch for 18 yards. Blaine Rogers carried four times for 16 yards; Reace Hampton had 7 yards on two carries.

Oakes had 6 tackles and Wesly Calhoun had 5.5 tackles. Gillis and Swanger added 4 tackles apiece.

Swanger and Danny Reagan combined for a sack.

Towns County will host Andrews, NC on Friday at 7:30 p.m.

The Wildcats are 1-2 with a pair of one-sided losses to Smoky Mountain, North Carolina and Tellico Plains, Tennessee. Their lone win came by a 45-0 score over Gladiator Sports Academy from Asheville, North Carolina.



Towns County's offense moved the ball but three straight first half turnovers were too much to overcome. Photos/Lowell Nicholson

Local Racing results: Blue Ridge Motorsports Park

By Blake Lynch
Staff Writer
Towns County Herald

BLUE RIDGE - Blue Ridge Motorsports Park hosted a race Saturday, September 1st, with \$800 to win in front wheel drive. Here are the top five results in each class.

Street Stock - Coming in first place was No.14 Charles Devine Jr. Finishing second place was No.9 Jim Twigg. Finishing in third place was No.69 Jim Weller. Coming in fourth place was No.01 Jacob Lynch. Finishing fifth was No.2 Alton Ames

Limited - Coming

in first place was No.16 Wesley English. Coming in second place was No.4 Trig Parris. Coming in third place was No.12 Daniel Wilson. Finishing in fourth place No.4 Danny Ledford. Finishing in fifth place was No.000 Johnny Gulizia.

Modified Street - Coming in first place was No.17 Brad Thomas. Finishing in second place was No.81 John Howard. Coming in third place was No.4 Jacob Parris. Finishing in fourth place was No.88 Ricky Smith. Coming in fifth place was No.28 Dannie Parris.

Hot Shots - Coming in first place was No.22 Tucker Anderson. Coming in second

place was No.32jr Franklin Burk Jr. Finishing in third place was No.6 Colton Herbert. Finishing in fourth place was No.8 Ricky Queen. Coming in fifth place was No.55 Chase Norton.

Crate - Coming in first place was No.7 Jason Deal. Finishing in second place was No.24 Seth Wimpey. Coming in third place was No.812 Ricky Weeks. Finishing in fourth place was No.78 Mathew Brocata. Finishing in fifth place was No.12 Drew Deaver.

Beginner 602 - Coming in first place was No.E-7 Evan Winkler Jr. Coming in second place was No.25 Jacob Hamby. Finishing in third

place was No.8 Colby Parris. Coming in fourth place was No.41 Jeff Holloway. Coming in fifth place was No.9 Jordan Talent.

Pony - Coming in first place was No.32 Franklin Burk. Finishing in second place was No.43 Tain Ross. Finishing in third place was No.8 Johnny McClure.

FWD - No.14 Charles Devine Jr won the \$800. Coming in second place was No.K3 James Klaucke. Finishing in third place was No.05 Bradley Herbert. Finishing fourth place was No.32 Logan Exum. Finishing in fifth place was No.94 Mason Mark.

VFW Golf League news

The VFW Golf League plays each Thursday at the Chatuge Shores Golf Course. It is open to all members of the VFW and American Legion regardless of post affiliation.

We had great weather this week and 10 teams took to the course for a competitive round of golf. The winners of this week's competition were Kenny Price, John Harkins, Carolyn Crayton and her husband Steve. Together they scored a blistering round of 61 which is 11 strokes under par. Way to go!

The league cookout will be at the VFW post next Thursday (9-6-2018) after league play. No RSVP required. T(Sep5,G)SH

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

Chatuge Shores Ladies attend Butternut Creek Ladies Invitational



L-r: Barbara Boswell, Glenda Geddings, Mary Mott, Claudia Rinaldo.

Some of the Chatuge Shores Ladies attended the annual Butternut Creek Ladies Invitational. The theme for this year was the "Rockin' 50s and 60s". Four of our ladies wore the 'Yellow Hair Betty Boop' style while blowing their bubble gum bubbles. The crowd loved it and even Elvis showed up to perform for the ladies. All who attended had a 'blast'.



Franklin Burk Jr.