

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Football: Indians unable to recover from early deficit at Lakeview

Towns County enters bye week at 2-3, host Lincoln County on Oct. 16

By Chad Stack
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Staff Writer

Gainesville – Following a tough overtime loss the week before that resulted in an early 2-2 season record, the Indians were looking to get back into the win column after traveling to Lakeview Academy on Friday, Oct. 2.

Before the game, Indians Head Coach Jason Roquemore surprised his team with brand-new all-white uniforms, which gave the Boys in Blue a unique look for their fifth game of the year.

Lakeview Academy won the toss and elected to receive the ball to start Friday night's gridiron matchup, and the Lions took the opening kickoff to their own 38-yard line.

The new-look Indians defense forced a quick three-and-out after 6-foot-7-inch junior transfer Jake McTaggart from Hayesville High School in North Carolina got back-to-back sacks.

Following a good Lions punt that went out of bounds at the Towns County 10-yard line, the Indians started their first drive from deep in their own territory.

Junior Kyle Oakes, who is third in rushing in the state with 630 yards on the season, started things off with a 7-yard run to put the Indians in second-and-3. Another 5-yard run from Oakes gave the Indians a first down from their own 23-yard line.

Senior quarterback Mason Thomas and Oakes failed to connect on a bad exchange, giving Lakeview the ball at the Towns County 21-yard line.



Junior Kyle Oakes accounted for both Towns County touchdowns while posting another 100-yard performance. Photo/Chad Stack

Lakeview Academy scored on a 21-yard touchdown pass to take a 7-0 lead following the point after attempt with 8:22 remaining in the first quarter.

The Lions defense then forced a three-and-out, and the Indians had to punt the ball back to Lakeview, which put together another scoring drive to take a 14-0 lead with 4:08 left in the first quarter.

Towns County started its first touchdown drive of the game in the second quarter after forcing Lakeview Academy to punt. Junior Hayden McClure caught a wide receiver screen, taking it all the way to the Lions

24-yard line to put the Indians within striking distance.

After being tackled for no gain, Oakes took the next handoff for 22 yards and a first down at the Lions 2-yard line. He finished the drive with a 2-yard touchdown run to give the Indians their first score of the night.

Following a blocked point-after attempt, the Indians trailed Lakeview Academy 6-14 with 8:54 left in the half.

Senior Payton Ivester picked off a Lakeview pass at the Towns County 3-yard line to prevent a Lions touchdown, leaving the Indians in possession

but backed up against their own goal line.

Unfortunately, the Boys in White fumbled in their own end zone, and Lakeview Academy recovered for a touchdown to take a 21-6 lead going into the halftime.

The Indians started the second half with the ball but were unable to put points on the board in the third quarter, and the Lions took a 31-6 lead to end the third.

Great plays by McTaggart, Ivester and the rest of the Indians defense not only held the Lions scoreless in the fourth, but also forced a fumble

with 4:24 left in the game that led to another Towns County touchdown.

The Indians offense took the field on their own 14-yard line, and Oakes found the end zone one more time, bringing the final score to 12-31 and the team's season record to 2-3.

Mason Thomas threw 12-for-23 with 59 yards passing, had five rushes for 3 yards, committed three fumbles and was sacked twice.

Also on offense, Kyle Oakes carried for 181 yards and two touchdowns, while Junior Collin Crowder finished the game with four catches for

42 yards. In his debut with the Indians, McTaggart finished the night with six tackles, four tackles for loss, four quarterback hurries and one and a half sacks.

Continuing on defense, senior Connor King had five tackles, two tackles for loss and one and a half sacks, while sophomore Seth Gillis led the defense with nine tackles, and Ivester had two tackles, one interception and two pass breakups.

Up next: The Indians are off this week before diving into Region 8-A with traditional powerhouse Lincoln County paying a visit to Frank McClure Stadium on Oct. 16.

The contest will mark the first-ever meeting between the Red Devils and Towns County. Under the direction of first-year coach Lee Chomskis, Lincoln is currently 2-2 on the year with losses to Class AA's ninth-ranked Jeff Davis and Class AAA's Harlem.

The two wins were a pair of low-scoring slugfests -- a 7-6 victory over Westside-Augusta followed by a 13-7 win over Laney.

The Red Devils are coming off an Elite 8 appearance a year ago after missing the playoffs for the first time in 45 years in 2018 -- a season that witnessed just the third losing record in program history.

Before joining Lincoln County, Chomskis spent 13 seasons at Vidalia, compiling a 101-45 record with two Region titles and one Elite 8 berth.

He began his coaching career at Evans in 2001, winning just three games in two seasons at the helm.

XC: Towns County races the best of the best at Unicoi State Park

By Todd Forrest
Towns County Herald
Sports Editor

Helen - Towns County Cross Country battled a loaded field and rainy conditions at Unicoi State Park on Tuesday, Sept. 29.

The Runner's Fit Mountain Invitational, initially scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 1, was split into two races to reduce the number of runners participating at once. As a result, Towns County, and 15 other squads from across north Georgia, drew the Tuesday meet.

The Towns County men placed 10th out of 16 teams with 231 points -- 18 points back of ninth-place Lumpkin County and 20 points better than 11th-place Habersham Central.

Senior Liam King paced the Indians with a 13th place finish, crossing the finish line at 18 minutes, 2 seconds. Senior Jenson Brown came in 21st at 18:21 and fellow-senior Jordan Lovelace was 52nd at 19:48.

In 63rd was senior Luis Quijada with a time of 20:37; sophomore Curtis Markham placed 82nd at 21:37; freshmen Jay Grimsley (22:01) and Drew Sofield (22:15) finished 90th and 92nd, respectively.

The Towns County ladies also placed 10th with 253 points -- finishing 42 points back of ninth-place Tallulah Falls.

Leading the way for the Lady Indians was junior Allison Markham in 39th with



Senior Liam King led Towns with a 13th-place finish in Helen. A time of 24:30. Sophomore Jayden Taylor was 41st at 24:43; junior Bazya Smith came in 61st with a time of 28:12; junior Kayla Peacock

was 66th at 30:33; sophomore Morgan Pierson came in 67th at 31:21 and junior Gail Quijada finished 68th at 31:27.

Primitive Weapons Deer Hunting Season Opens Oct. 10

Deer hunters, the week-long primitive weapons deer hunting season opens Saturday, Oct. 10.

Last year, almost 30,000 hunters took to the woods with muzzleloaders, bringing in more than 6,000 deer, according to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Division (WRD).

"Fall is here and it's time to zero in your muzzleloader, because primitive weapons season is just around the corner," said Charlie Killmaster, state deer biologist with the WRD Game Management Section. "So few hunters take advantage of hunting with muzzleloaders compared to firearms, but it is like the calm before the storm. And, if you do head to the woods during this week-long season, be sure to take a kid hunting with you, and remember they can use any modern rifle during the primitive weapons season."

Over one million acres of public hunting land is available to hunters in Georgia, including more than 100 state-operated wildlife management areas. Many areas offer special hunts throughout the season, including primitive weapons hunts.

Dates and locations for hunts are available in the 2020-2021 Georgia Hunting Seasons and Regulations guide (<http://www.eregulations.com/georgia/hunting/>).

Youth, under 16 years of age, may hunt deer with any legal deer firearm during Primitive Weapons Season, including during any



Brian Roland at Dixon Memorial WMA wildlife management area primitive weapons hunts.

Quick Basics: During the primitive weapons season, hunters may use archery equipment, muzzleloading shotguns (20 gauge and larger) and muzzleloading firearms (.44 caliber or larger).

The season bag limit is 10 antlerless deer and two antlered deer (one of the antlered deer must have at least four points, one inch or longer, on one side of the antlers). Special regulations apply to archery-only counties and extended archery season areas.

All deer hunters, including archers, are required to wear a minimum of 500 square inches of daylight fluorescent orange above the waist during primitive weapons season. Scopes and other optical sighting devices are legal for muzzleloading firearms and archery

equipment.

To pursue deer in Georgia, hunters must have a valid hunting license, a big game license and a current deer harvest record (available in the Outdoors GA app or as a paper copy print-able from your license account). Licenses can be purchased online at www.GoOutdoorsGeorgia.com, by phone at 1-800-366-2661, or at a license agent (list of agents available online).

Once you harvest a deer, you must report it within 24 hours through Georgia Game Check. Deer can be checked on the Outdoors GA app (useable with or without cell service), at www.GoOutdoorsGeorgia.com, or by calling 1-800-366-2661.

For more information, visit <https://georgiawildlife.com/hunting/hunter-resources>.