

# Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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## In first game back after quarantining, Indians fall 55-7 in Commerce

By Chad Stack  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

COMMERCE – The Boys in Blue started region play last week, traveling to Commerce to take on the 5-1 Tigers on Friday, Oct. 23.

Midway through the 2020 season and the Indians were 2-3 heading into Friday's matchup, having fallen most recently to Lakeview Academy Oct. 2, after which they had a bye week.

During the team's bye week, two Indian football players tested positive for COVID-19, and Towns County High decided to quarantine the entire team for two weeks, just in case.

This forced the Indians to have to cancel their home conference game against Lincoln County on Friday, Oct. 16, due to the quarantine. Unable to practice for a full two weeks left the Indians just four days to prepare for the 5-1 Commerce Tigers and their potent high-scoring option offense.

Starting the game Friday, the Indians won the toss and elected to defer, giving the Tigers the ball. Commerce returned the opening kickoff to the 34-yard line, only to fumble at the start of the drive for a three-yard loss to the 37.

Following the fumble, the Tigers and their high-powered option offense put together two big runs to find the end zone, and the Big Cats took an early 7-0 lead over the Indians with 9:50 left in the first quarter.

The Indians started their



Towns County takes the field at Commerce on Friday night following a two-week hiatus. Photos by Lowell Nicholson

first possession of the game from the 20-yard-line, but after a fumbled snap, the Boys in Blue found themselves facing a second-and-21 after an 11-yard loss.

Senior Quarterback Mason Thomas completed a pass to junior running back Kyle Oakes for a 15-yard gain to put the Indians in third and manageable.

Thomas completed an-

other pass to senior wide receiver Hayden McClure for 6 yards and a Towns County first down. The quarterback continued to spread the ball around, completing another pass to junior wide receiver Collin Crowder for an 8-yard gain.

The Tigers defense held the Indians the next two plays, forcing them to punt the ball.

After a booming punt from Thomas that put the Tigers

back to their 10-yard line, Commerce managed to find the end zone again to extend the team's lead to 14 with 5:34 left in the first quarter.

From their own 20-yard line, the Indians continued to put the ball through the air, with another pass from Thomas to Crowder for a 9-yard gain. Oakes then caught a pass for 3 yards, giving the Indians a fresh set of downs.

After another 9-yard pass to Crowder, Oakes came up short of a first down twice, putting the Indians into a fourth-and-inches situation. With nothing to lose, the Indians coaching staff decided to trust their offense and go for it, and for his third run up the middle, Oakes earned a fresh set of downs.

Continuing on the ground, Thomas ran for 6 yards on a

designed quarterback keeper, taking the ball to midfield. He then connected with McClure for 7 yards and another Towns County first down.

Keeping things going, Thomas found junior Jake McTaggart for a 17-yard gain and an Indians first down at the Commerce 27-yard line at the end of the first quarter.

In the beginning of the second quarter, facing a fourth-and-9, Thomas dropped back to pass and hit Oakes for a 26-yard touchdown pass to put the Indians on the board.

Following a good point-after attempt by senior Nick Houser, the Indians cut Commerce's lead back down to 7 with 11:08 left in the half, though the Tigers held the Indians scoreless for the rest of the half and put up a 41-7 score before heading into halftime.

The Indians started the second half with the ball but were unable to find the end zone, ultimately falling to the Tigers with a final score of 55-7.

Thomas threw 17-for-23 and 161 yards, with a score through the air. Oakes carried the ball 11 times for 25 yards and made eight catches for 65 yards and a touchdown. McClure caught four passes for 35 yards, and Crowder brought in four for 33 yards. McTaggart finished with a catch for 17 yards.

The Indians will travel to Greensboro for another region matchup to take on the 1-6 Greene County Tigers on Friday, Nov. 6, at 7:30 p.m.



## Softball: Towns eliminated at Region 8-A Tournament



Senior Natalie Smith

The Lady Indians dropped a pair of games to Lake Oconee Academy and Washington Wilkes during the Region 8-A Public Softball Tournament earlier this month.

In a 5-2 loss to Lake Oconee, Remington Parker and Laura Mauldin each went 1-for-2

with Mauldin knocking in a run. The second loss was an 8-7 defeat to Washington Wilkes.

Rylie Livingston finished 2-for-4 with 2 RBIs. Jayce Young scored twice during a 1-for-3 performance and Remington Parker was 1-for-4.

## Local Racing Report: Tri-County

By Blake Lynch  
Racing Reporter  
Towns County Herald

**Brasstown, NC** - Tri-County Racetrack hosted the biggest race of the season - the Tarheel 50 - \$10,000 Super Late Models and \$1,200, 602 Thunder Series.

Here are the top five from each division.

**Street Stock** - Coming in first was No.14 Charles Devine Jr.. In second was No.91 Clint Watkins. Coming in third was No.169 Jim Weller. In fourth was No.12 Roger Beaver. Placing fifth was No.01 Jacob Lynch.

**FWD** - Coming in first was No.19r Sean Rice. In second was No.21T Trenton Moss. Coming in third was No.33 Josh Deese. Placing fourth was No.3 Jason Young. Coming in fifth was No.192r Robby Lynch.

**602 Thunder Series** - Coming in first was No.44

Bobby Elkins. In second was No.88 Ricky Smith. Coming in third was No.28 Michael Barnett. Finishing in fourth was No.35 Dillion Daves. In fifth was No.51 Randy Dillard.

**Super Late Models** - Coming in first was No.76 Brandon Overton. Second went to No.25 Shane Clanton. Finishing in third was No.17m Michael McDowell. Coming in fourth was No.7 Ricky Weiss. In fifth was No.7m Donald McIntosh.

## Learn to play Pickleball

Learn to play Pickleball: Beginner's Lessons every Saturday, 10 AM (weather permitting). No charge and all equipment provided. Courts are located behind the Health Department. For more information contact: blairsvillepickleball@gmail.com.