

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Cross Country: Boys and Girls Teams qualify for Nov. 2 State Tourney

Sports Special
Towns County Herald

MILLEDGEVILLE – The Towns County High School Boys and Girls Cross Country Teams have punched their tickets to the State Championship Meet in Carrollton on Saturday, Nov. 2.

Both teams needed to achieve Top Four finishes at the Oct. 24 Area Meet in Milledgeville to earn a spot at the State Championship, and both teams did just that, with the boys coming away in Second Place and the girls finishing fourth.

The boys have been very successful all season long, and they brought the same competitiveness to the Area Meet, which featured seven teams in attendance.

Liam King led the Indians, earning Fifth Place overall with a time of 17:52 for the 3.1-mile course.

Jensen Brown was close behind, finishing sixth with a time of 18:01. Rounding out the Top Five placers for Towns County were Peyton Barrett at 18:58, Luis Quijada at 19:06 and Blythe Smith at 19:17.

The girl's race was equally competitive.

Alison Markham again led the Lady Indians, achieving a solid Sixth Place finish with a time of 23:20.

Freshman Jayden Taylor had another impressive showing, finishing second for Towns County with a time of 24:29. Rounding out the Top Five Lady Indians were Bazya Smith at 25:26, Kayla Peacock at 28:01 and Gali Quijada at 28:04.

The JV race took place just before the varsity races, and it served as the perfect opportunity to showcase many of the up-and-coming runners from around the Area.

Towns County took First Place in the JV race, with freshman Mason Yeomans earning



The Towns County Cross Country boys placed second and the Towns County girls came in fourth at last week's Area Meet at Georgia Military College.

First Place overall with an impressive time of 19:53 over the same course as the varsity.

Another freshman, Curtis

Markham, placed fourth with a time of 24:07. Rounding out the Top Five for the JV squad were freshman Cody Ashe at

22:19, freshman Eli Fulford at 22:23 and eighth-grader Jay Gimsley at 23:14.

Saturday's State Cham-

pionship Meet will consist of the Top Four varsity boys and girls teams from each of the four different Areas. Towns

County's boys will run at 2 p.m., and the girls will run at 2:45 p.m.

Indians look ahead to Senior Night game against Lakeview on Friday Night

By Chad Stack
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

COMMERCE - The Boys in Blue fell to 0-8 on the season after a 56-16 loss to the Commerce Tigers on Friday, Oct. 25.

Commerce won the coin toss and deferred to the second half, and Towns County received the opening kickoff. The Indians struggled in the opening drive, earning back-to-back false start penalties to put them way behind the chains.

Following the two penalties, the Indians were forced to punt from deep in their own end zone.

The Tigers' triple-option offense scored first after a 35-yard punt from sophomore quarterback Kyle Oakes, giving them a 7-0 lead with 8:32 left in the first quarter.

The offensive struggles continued for the Indians for the duration of the half, and the Tigers took a 44-0 lead before heading into the locker room.

But the Boys in Blue fought hard in every game, Head Coach Jason Roquemore said, and even down 44 points, they continued their fight Friday night.

On the opening drive of the second half, junior defensive back Garrett Oakes set the tone on defense after intercepting a Tiger pass for a 46-yard touchdown.



The Indians return home on Friday for Senior Night vs Lakeview Academy. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

With the Indians already down 38 points, Roquemore signaled for a 2-point conversion, and Oakes ran a quarterback keeper for two-and-a-half yards to tack on the extra points.

This put the Tigers' lead over the Indians at 44-8 with just over seven minutes left in the third quarter.

On the ensuing drive, Commerce answered back with a score of their own. After the missed extra-point attempt, the Tigers led 50-8 midway through

the third quarter.

Garrett Oakes then fielded a 35-yard kickoff return to give the Indians great field position, and the Indians started their drive from midfield after a facemask penalty against Commerce added 15 more yards to Oakes' 35-yard return.

Facing a third-and-5, Oakes was flushed out of the pocket but threw an interception as he tried to connect with his brother for the first down.

Following the intercep-

tion, the Tigers quarterback took off for 37 yards to find the end zone one last time in the closing minutes of the third quarter to put the Tigers up 56-8.

On Towns County's next drive, Commerce forced the Indians to punt the ball, but soon after, junior middle linebacker Nick Houser got into the backfield and sacked the Tigers signal-caller for a 9-yard loss, forcing Commerce to punt the ball themselves.

Garrett Oakes took the

punt return for 19 yards to give the Indians possession at midfield.

The Boys in Blue continued to fight as the final minutes of the game quickly ran down, and the Indians put together a nice drive to give Towns County another touchdown as the clock hit zeros.

Just as he'd done before, Oakes kept the ball to convert for 2 extra points, diving across the goal line to bring Towns County's final score to 16 points.

The quarterback went 10-for-14 through the air for 33 yards, and he also converted a pair of 2-point conversions.

Junior Andrew Conrad hauled in two catches for 15 yards, and senior running back Dakota Edge had two receptions for 5 yards and rushed for 2 yards on the ground.

Junior Reace Hampton had 17 yards on the ground and one catch for 3 yards. Oakes finished with five catches for a total of 10 yards but made a spectacular play on defense that resulted in a touchdown.

The Indians will return home Friday, Nov. 1, as they look to take on Lakeview Academy at Frank McClure Memorial Stadium for Senior Night. Kickoff starts at 7:30 p.m.

Local dancers win awards in Knoxville



Mai Lim (L) and Kaylee Dillard (R) participated last weekend at 24/7 Dance Convention representing North Georgia Dance Arts. Both girls studied extensively through the weekend and Mai Lim was awarded runner-up for "Non-Stop Dancer." Mai and Kaylee will be featured in the "Nutcracker" presented by North Georgia Dance Arts Sunday 2 PM, December 22, tickets available at the door. Order your tickets in advance at tututix.com. NT/Oct30,G1/SH