

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Football: Indians suffer 34-27 home loss; season ends away Friday

By Chad Stack
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The Boys in Blue hosted the Social Circle Redskins Friday night at Frank McClure Memorial Stadium for their last home game of the season.

Heading into the game, the Indians were coming off a blowout win at Greene County that gave them a 3-4 record, and they were hoping to carry that momentum into Friday's matchup.

Social Circle won the coin toss and elected to defer until the second half, giving Towns County the ball to start the game Nov. 13.

Junior Collin Crowder returned the opening kickoff to the Towns County 34-yard line, but the Social Circle defense forced a quick three-and-out, and the Indians punted. The Redskins blocked the punt to get the ball at the Towns County 35-yard line.

In their opening drive, the Redskins struck first with a 12-yard touchdown pass to take an early 7-0 lead with 10:14 left in the first quarter.

The Social Circle defense forced a turnover on downs as the Indians faced a fourth-and-inches, but the Indians defense got a stop of their own with a turnover at the Social Circle 48-yard line.

Following a Towns County first down, the Redskin defense forced another turnover on downs to take possession at their 46-yard line, but the Indians got the ball right back on downs at the Towns County 28-yard line.

Senior Quarterback Mason Thomas connected on a pass to junior Wide Receiver Jake McTaggart for 10 yards and an Indian first down on the ensuing drive. Then Thomas dropped back to pass again but pulled the ball down and took off for a 9-yard gain.

Junior Running Back Kyle Oakes ran the next handoff up the middle for 3 yards and another Indian first down at midfield. At the end of one, the Social Circle Redskins led the Towns County Indians 7-0.



Clockwise: Towns County Football seniors. Indians take the field one final time at home. Towns County Cheer seniors Photos/Lowell Nicholson

To start the second quarter, Indians QB Thomas hit McTaggart for a 47-yard touchdown pass to get the Indians on the scoreboard. Senior Nick Houser put the ball through the uprights for a good point-after attempt, and the Indians tied the game 7-7 with 11:52 left in the first half.

And it remained tied until Social Circle added another 7 points to take a 14-7 lead over the Indians with just over a minute remaining in

the half. Crowder returned the kickoff to the Towns County 44-yard line to give the Indians excellent field position, and on the ensuing play, Oakes took a handoff for 24 yards and a first down at the Social Circle 32-yard line.

As the Indians attempted to tie things back up at the close of the half, Thomas threw an interception inside the end zone while looking for McTaggart for another touchdown.

Social Circle began the second half with the ball, but the Indians defense were able to force a quick three-and-out, and the Redskins punted.

Towns County took over first-and-10 from the 50-yard line. Sophomore Running Back Seth Gillis carried the ball for an 18-yard gain and an Indians first down, which Oakes followed up with a 10-yard run to give the Boys in Blue another first down.

Gillis ran for a 10-yard

touchdown, and after a missed point-after attempt, the Indians found themselves trailing Social Circle 13-14 with just under 10 minutes left in the third.

The Redskins scored another touchdown to take a 21-13 lead with 5:02 left in the third quarter, which senior Wide Receiver/Kick Returner Garrett Oakes answered right back with an 85-yard run for a kick-return touchdown.

Unfortunately, the Indi-

ans 2-point try failed, and they remained behind 21-19 with just under five minutes left in the third quarter. Next, Social Circle scored on a 50-yard run to extend their lead to 28-19 in the third.

In the fourth quarter, the Redskin defense held the Indians to a three-and-out, forcing them to punt from their own end zone, and Social Circle returned the punt for a touch-down to take a 34-19 lead with 7:06 left in the fourth.

Towns County added another score with a pass from Thomas to Crowder with 5:26 remaining in the game, and after a 2-point conversion, the Indians trailed by just 7 points.

Unable to find the end zone again to tie things up and force overtime, the Indians fell to the Redskins 27-34, putting their season at 1-3 in the region and 3-5 overall.

Thomas was 17 of 28 for 208 yards, two touchdowns and an interception through the air.

Crowder finished with seven catches for 114 yards and a score, while McTaggart hauled in four catches for 68 yards and a touchdown.

Gillis rushed nine times for 48 yards and a score, and Oakes carried the ball 13 times for 55 yards.

Leading the defense with eight tackles, one sack, two tackles for a loss and three quarterback hurries was Gillis, followed by senior Peyton Ivester with seven tackles and one pass breakup.

McTaggart finished with six tackles, one sack, two tackles for loss and four quarterback hurries. Crowder had seven tackles, one tackle for a loss and one pass breakup, and Oakes added five tackles and a pass breakup.

All told, Towns County finished with 208 yards passing, 93 yards rushing, five kick returns for 156 yards and a touchdown.

The Indians will travel to Wilkes County Friday, Nov. 20, to take on Washington-Wilkes Tigers for their final game of the 2020 season. Kickoff is at 7:30 p.m.



The Towns County offense racked up 208 yards passing and 27 points on Friday. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Towns County Basketball Season Tickets

Due to Covid-19, reduced seating capacity, and social distancing, TCHS Basketball will be selling season passes for the 2020-21 eleven (11) home games. Season passes will be \$50.00 per seat. This does not include the Battle of the States Christmas Tournament.

We are planning a "Pick Your Seat" day to secure your reserved seat for all TCHS basketball games.

TCHS basketball fans will have an opportunity to secure these seats on **Thursday, November 19, 2020** at the TCHS High School Gym from 7:00 -8:30pm. **Masks are required for this event.**

Guidelines for basketball games at TCHS Gym for the 2020-21 season:

- Masks are required for admittance and must be worn at all times, except when eating or drinking.
- Seating capacity will be "reserved seats" at 45% total capacity.
- Seats will be in groups of 2, 3, or 4.
- Seats not available for use will be zip-tied closed all season.
- NO tickets will be sold at the door on game days.
- Single game tickets will be \$6.00 and sold online (if available).
- Elementary age children must sit with their parents. All elementary age children must be accompanied by an adult.
- Middle School students are allowed to sit in the "Student Section" with the High School students if they purchase their ticket on game day at school for \$3.00 each (as available, seating is limited). Parents that do not want their middle school student to sit in the "Student Section" must purchase a season pass (\$50.00) for their child to sit with them.
- High School students will have the opportunity to purchase game day tickets at school for \$3.00 each and High School students will sit in the "Student Section".
- Absolutely no child or student will be allowed to "roam" freely in the gym. No student will be allowed to "hang out" on the stairs, in the gym lobby, or any area of the gym. All spectators are asked to return to their seats after visiting the restroom or concessions and refrain from standing along the railings.
- Season Passes are non-refundable.

Next week's Towns County Herald will feature a complete Towns County High School basketball preview.