

# Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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## Barnhart gets a look at team during scrimmage; Union up next

By Shawn Jarrard  
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The Towns County Indians showed plenty of intensity during their only scrimmage game of the year against Hayesville High School on Friday, Aug. 21.

And even though the Boys in Blue lost 20-3, they took the game as an opportunity to warm up for the season opener against Union County.

"Overall intensity wise, I like what I saw," said Indians Head Coach Billy Barnhart. "Especially defensively, I felt we came out with great intensity. I felt overall we played a really good game defensively. We could have wrapped up better at the line of scrimmage on No. 32 (Hayesville's Josh Harris), but overall, I felt defensively the intensity was there, and I felt they played hard all night long, and I'm proud of them and proud of the job they're doing, and where they've come defensively."

That's one of the few areas of improvement Coach Barnhart had for his Indians moving forward on defense, wrapping up better at the line of scrimmage.

"But overall, like I said, I'm really pleased defensively and really how they played," said Coach Barnhart. "Hayesville gave the offense opportunities, we just never did capitalize on the opportunities."

The Indians' one scoring drive came in Towns County's first possession after the halftime. The Yellow Jackets were up by one score, 6-0, heading into the half, and in the locker room, Coach Barnhart told his boys that the game was far from over.

In a succession of eight plays featuring fantastic footwork from quarterback Russell Cox and running backs Dylan Roberts and Kobe Denton, the Indians were able to take the ball from their own 29-yard-line to a fourth-and-goal position in the red zone, where Shea Underwood split the uprights directly down the middle for 3 points.

"We had two or three good drives in the first half, we just didn't finish them," said Coach Barnhart.



Towns County junior Walker Ross. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

"I felt we could come out after halftime and move the ball like we did. I wish we would have been able to score down there. I know we kicked the field goal, and I'm happy for Shea that we were able to kick the field goal and use him, but I would have liked to put 6 on the board there."

"I really felt that would have put the momentum swinging back to us, because Shea's money when it comes to PATs, so we would have gone up 7-6. I really felt that that would have rejuvenated our guys. I think the field goal did somewhat, but I think going up 7-6 really would have been a boost for them."

"But we capitalized, got 3 points, so I think they just - we've worked hard in the offseason, and I felt we're in a lot better shape than we were last year, and that they came out fairly fresh in the second half, and that contributed also."

Offensively, Roberts led the team with 10 rushing attempts for 77 yards, followed closely by Denton with his 12 attempts and 62 yards. In total, the team put up 193 rushing yards.

Denton returned one kickoff for 27 yards, and Dalton Bradley returned three for 48 yards.

Underwood punted the ball five times for an astounding 42-yard average, and had a kickoff average of 60 yards.

On the defensive end of the

scale, Nick Shook led the team in tackles with 19. Daulton Rogers had 13 tackles, a sack and broke up two passes, while Denton tackled the Yellow Jackets 12 times and broke up a pass as well.

Also with double digit tackles were Blake Silvers with 11 and Underwood with 10, and Underwood broke up three passes.

Walker Ross had eight tackles and a sack, Roberts had five tackles and a sack, and Dalton Key broke up two passes and had two tackles.

"Defensively, I think it was a whole defensive effort," said Coach Barnhart after the game. "Not one guy stands out to me right now - I just felt, defensively, it was an overall defensive effort, so I really can't think of anybody who stood out. I thought they all played well as a unit."

"Don't get me wrong, we've got to improve there, too, but I liked the aggressiveness of our defense a lot better than what it was last year, and I think as this season goes on it's just going to get better and better. We've got to produce some turnovers, which we weren't able to do tonight, which would have helped us at times."

Everyone who played Friday night walked away healthy, with the possible exception of Hank Chambers, who came out of the game late in the first half with



Junior running back Kobe Denton bounces outside in the first half. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



Junior linebacker Nick Shook smothers a Yellow Jacket ball carrier. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

a potential leg injury. Chambers returned for the second half, but didn't stay in long.

And even though the Indians lost the game, they can take heart in the fact that Hayesville was basically a warmup match.

"I told them that that's the great thing about it, it's just a scrimmage," said Coach Barnhart. "Even though you want to win - and we wanted to win tonight, we came out to win, we came out and played to win, but it's just a scrimmage. It was an opportunity to see where we're really at. We thought we knew where we were at, but we weren't quite there where we thought we were."

"This is a learning experi-

ence, and that's what we've got to do with this. We've got to take from this scrimmage, we've got to watch the film. We've got to correct our mistakes, and we've got to learn from it and get better, and get ready to go play Union next week, which is the first game of the season. This is just a scrimmage, and I know it hurts them - they don't like losing to Hayesville and I don't either, but it's just a scrimmage, and we've just got to learn from it and go on and get better."

The Indians will face the Panthers at Union County High School at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 28, and Coach Barnhart knows that the competition will be fierce. Regardless, his Indians will be playing to win.

"It's going to be a challenge, as it always is," said Coach Barnhart. "I know it's a rival, and they're a bigger school. They've got a great quarterback in Joseph Mancuso. They've got some good wide receivers, they're big up front on both sides of the ball. It's going to be a challenge for us, but I'm looking forward to the challenge."

"I'm looking forward to seeing how we're going to do. They're a good football team, they're coming off a great season last year, and I know they're looking for great things this year, so it's going to be a challenge for us. We've just got

to come out and work hard this week, get better and prepare for them, then go down there and play a great football game against a great football team."

The turnout for the scrimmage in Frank McClure Memorial Stadium last Friday was impressive, and both the band and cheerleading squad were on point throughout the entire game, keeping fans revved up and cheering the boys on.

"I appreciate the fans coming out and supporting our young men," said Coach Barnhart. "They deserve it, and it's not about me, it's about those guys and the work they put in. I just encourage the fans not to give up on these guys, and to continue to come out and support our guys every home game we've got, because they deserve it."

Playing on Thursday, Aug. 27, the Indians Freshman Football Team will debut in its season opener against Fannin County at home, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the high school.

### VFW Golf League news

This week's scramble was won by Mel Halfon, Greg Jacobson, Myron Grizio and Dean Swanson. Collectively, they scored 67 which is 5 strokes under par. Congratulations on your outstanding play.



Russell Cox drags a Yellow Jacket to the turf. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



Coach Barnhart (2nd from right) during a timeout. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

## Towns County Youth Football in action at Hayesville on Saturday

By Shawn Jarrard  
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Towns County Youth Football will face the Hayesville Yellow Jackets this Saturday, Aug. 29, in a series of games set to kick off at 11 a.m. at Hayesville High School.

The youth players are coming off a bye week to play fresh against their little Yellow Jacket counterparts, and the Midgets will be heading into their matchup having won 40-0 against Franklin to start the season.

"I don't know much about the Hayesville teams except that their Midgets won the Cracker Bowl last year, the championship," said TCYFL Director Jimmy Smith of the Smoky Mountain Conference team. "I'm sure we'll have our work cut out with them, but the way we did last week, I feel good coming into the game. They're Cracker Bowl champs, but we'll see what they're made of this year."

All youth Indian teams had hoped to get plenty of practice in this past bye week, but the weather knocked their practice times down to a third of their regular schedules.

"The Pee Wees, we're going to have a good week of practice

this week, and I think the weather is finally going to be on our side," said Director Smith. "We've been rained out so much, but I think they're going to get better this week when they get to practice some. Of course, the Mites and the Termites, I think they'll do fine also. We're going to make a lot of changes this week and see what happens there."

For the first home game of the year against Franklin on Saturday, Aug. 15, fans from both sides of the Georgia/North Carolina state line filled Frank McClure Memorial Stadium to cheer on the region's youth, and Director Smith hopes to see a repeat in Hayesville.

"I hope parents and the community all come out and support us like they did during the first home game," said Director Smith. "The little guys need support just like the big guys. It's about 15 minutes from Hiwassee, so it's not like a long trip. I hope they'll come out and support us, and support the cheerleaders and what they do."

"That Franklin game was of the biggest crowds I think I ever remember in the 19 years that I've done this. Both sides were packed, and I'd like to see Hayesville be the same way. I hope a lot of people come out and support us this week."



A young Indian makes a tackle in a recent game. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

### Towns Co. stats vs Hayesville

**Rushing:** Roberts 10 carries 77yds, Denton 12 carries 62yds, R. Cox 8 carries 40yds, H. Cox 3 carries 12yds, Chambers 2 carries 1yd, Ledford 1 carry 1yd  
**Passing:** R. Cox 1-for-11 10yds  
**Receiving:** Denton 1 reception 10yds  
**Kickoff returns:** Bradley 3 returns 48yds, Denton 1 return 27yds  
**Punting:** Underwood 5 punts 42 yards-per-punt  
**Scoring:** Underwood 3 points  
**Tackles:** Shook 19, Rogers 13, Denton 12, Silvers 11, Underwood 10  
**Sacks:** Rogers 1, Ross 1, Roberts 1

### Towns County 2015 Football Schedule

\* = denotes Region game

8-28-15 @ Union County 7:30 p.m.  
Last year's result: L 57-14

9-4-15 vs Mt. Vernon Presbyterian 7:30 p.m.  
Last year's result: L 19-13

9-11-15 @ Lakeview Academy TBA\*  
Last year's result: W 14-6

9-18-15 @ Hebron Christian Academy TBA\*  
Last year's result: L 49-7

9-25-15 vs George Walton Academy 7:30 p.m.\*  
Last year's result: L 58-28

10-2-15 @ Athens Academy TBA\*  
Last year's result: L 41-0

10-9-15 vs Athens Christian TBA\*  
Last year's result: L 46-0

10-16-15 @ Prince Avenue TBA\*  
Last year's result: L 40-7

10-23-15 vs Commerce TBA\*  
Last year's result: L 58-0

10-30-15 vs Providence Christian.\*  
Last year's result: W 20-3

11-6-15 Bye Week

11-13-15 1st Rd State Playoffs (if necessary)

### 2015 Indians Football Roster

2	Colten Shook	Jr
3	Bailey Chastian	Sr
5	Harold Cox	So
8	Chaiz Davenport	Sr
10	Dalton Bradley	Sr
11	Dalton Key	Jr
12	Cole Ledford	So
14	Russell Cox	Jr
15	Trent Bradshaw	Fr
18	Daulton Rogers	Sr
20	Blaine Rogers	Fr
21	Dylan Roberts	Sr
22	Andy Chambers	So
24	Shea Underwood	Sr
32	Kobe Denton	Jr
50	Walker Ross	Jr
51	Cody Williams	Jr
52	luke Ledford	Jr
53	Luke Woody	Jr
54	Jeremy Mays	So
55	Hank Chambers	Sr
56	Colton West	Fr
57	Johnny Donnelly	Fr
58	Blake Silvers	Jr
59	Cooper Moss	Fr
60	Scott Cupit	So
61	Danny Reagan	Fr
62	Nick Shook	Jr
65	Adam Taylor	Sr
70	Chase Rogers	Fr
73	Morgan Gay	Jr
78	Jake Parker	Fr
80	Wesly Calhoun	Fr
81	Sterling Hedden	Sr
88	Will Barnhart	So