

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Another tough loss for Indians at Fellowship Christian

By Joe Collins
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

A host of missed opportunities and a plague of failed attempts caused the Towns County Indians to drop to 0-3 on the season Friday night as the Fellowship Christian Paladins won 17-12.

A single touchdown late in the first quarter and a failed extra point attempt was as bad as the Indians could have done Friday night as the Paladins suffered several crucial penalties that should have resulted in a lot of points for the Indians in the first half of the game. The Indians could not capitalize on the mistakes and it would come back to haunt them later in the second half.

Senior Joseph Gibson found sophomore Cruz Shook on fourth and seven from the Indians own 10-yard line to score their only points of the first half. Shook made an unbelievable catch amongst triple



Cruz Shook corrals a Paladin ball carrier. Photo/Joe Collins

coverage in the corner of the end zone with 2:35 left in the first quarter.

Shook would again cross the goal line late in the third quarter on an end around for the Indians second and final score of the night.

The Indians received the opening kickoff after a Paladin penalty, which left the Indians in good field position on their own 40-yard line, but were unable to move the ball and had to punt. Senior Wesley Bloodworth hit a booming punt that drove the Paladins back to their own 11-yard line where the Indians defense held strong.

Junior Jackson Noblett made a huge hit in the backfield on second and eight and Bloodworth followed with a sack in the backfield on a blitz that left the Paladins with a 4th and 15 and forced them to punt with 7:35 left in the first quarter.

The following series

found the Indians starting on their own 35-yard line after Noblett returned the Paladins punt from the mid-field mark, which set up the score by Shook with 2:35 left in the first quarter. This was the second time the Indians crossed the goal line in this drive. The first being called back when the Indians were called for holding. The TD made the score in favor of the Indians 6-0 after a failed extra points attempt.

The Paladins possession after the kickoff found them at mid-field and threatening to score when junior Evan Keyes made a spectacular stop off the right side to save a TD. Senior Colton Stroud then followed suit with a crucial backfield stop, which drove the Paladins back. A strong defensive stand forced a fumble that wound up being recovered by junior Vonya Baldwin and the Indians took over on their own 18-yard

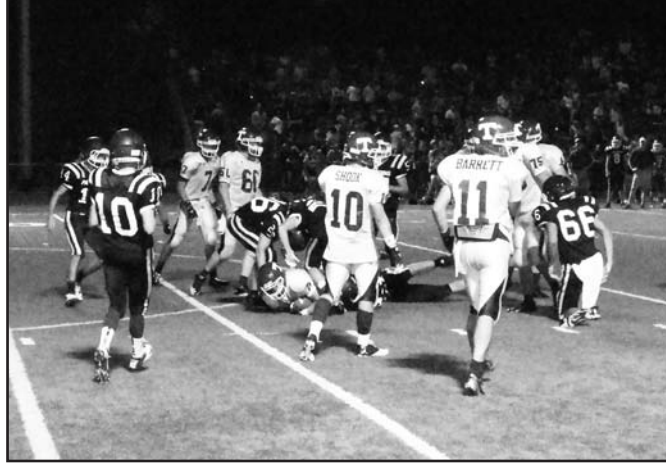


Senior Colton Stroud with the tackle. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

line. The Indians were unable to move the ball after the turnover and were forced to punt where Shook made another great open field tackle.

The following series by the Paladins was a hard fought possession. Bloodworth, Gibson and Stroud all made some

really good defensive plays but the Paladins QB kept the momentum going with two crucial keepers for short yardage on fourth downs. The drive ended with a Paladins TD and a good extra point and the score was 7-6 with 5:53 left in the first half.



Jackson Noblett carries the ball for Towns. Photo/Joe Collins

Junior Harrison Hobbs took the following kickoff and returned it to the Indians own 24-yard line. The first play from scrimmage saw Noblett, on an inside hand-off from Gibson, gain 42 yards and nearly score. The Paladins were able to trip him up at their own 34-yard line.

Gibson then moved the ball behind some good offensive blocking to the Paladins 26-yard line. The Indians had to give the ball up after they failed to pick up the first down on a fourth and seven with 3:19 left in the half.

Each team had the ball for a short series of downs and both were forced to punt. The Paladins found themselves with the ball on their own 48-yard line with 40 ticks left in the first half. With 13 seconds left on the clock, the Paladins tried a pass to the end zone but a great defensive play from junior Brett Barrett saved the TD. Unfortunately the Paladins attempted a field goal from the Indians 15-yard line that bounced off the right side upright and through the goal post with 2 seconds left on the clock and the first half ended with the Indians trailing 10-6.

The new kid in town, freshman Shea Underwood, who now kicks for TCHS, kicked the ball deep where the Paladins returned it to their 36-yard line. Sophomore Joey Mitchell made a great open field tackle to bring down the Paladins return man.

The Paladins were on the move when they found themselves with a second and long following a penalty. Stroud broke through the line and made

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Brett Barrett

TCMS Indians knock out Lakeview early

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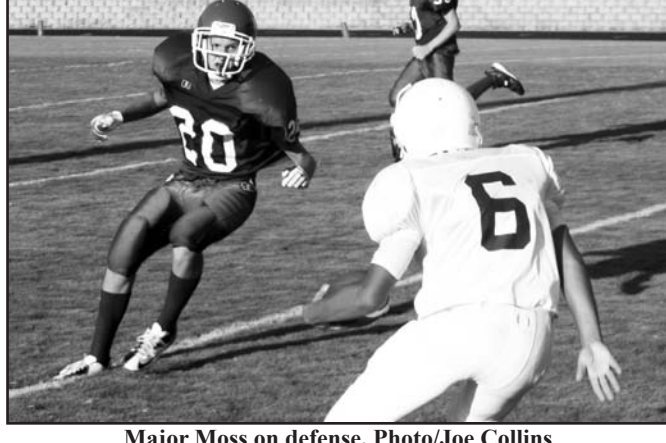
Three first half touchdowns and some solid front line defense proved to be the deciding blows that earned the Towns County Middle School football team their third victory in as many games Thursday at Frank McClure Memorial Stadium.

The Lakeview Lions became another victim of the solid offensive attack from Quarterback Russell Cox, Tailback Darringer Barrett, Running Back Kobe Denton and Wide Receiver Major Moss as together they teamed up behind some really strong blocking from the offensive line to score 18 unanswered points in the first half of Thursday's game.

Wide Receiver Moss proved to be worth his salt as he covered over 125 yards in two different scoring receptions in the second quarter, one from the Indians 29 yard line and the other from their 44, the second coming with only 51 ticks left on the clock in the first half.

Good hands and footwork by Moss, with the help of some good up field blocking, put the 12 points on the board that the Indians needed to overcome a late charge from the Lions that saw them score once and nearly score twice more in the second half.

The Indians started the game with the ball on their



Major Moss on defense. Photo/Joe Collins



Towns County's defense swarms the Lions. Photo/Joe Collins

own 48 yard line and set the tone early as Fullback Luke Ledford made a strong run up the middle for a gain of 9-yards behind some excellent blocking by the Indians front line. Barrett followed suit off the right side with a solid gain. Cox then found his favorite receiver Moss who picked up 17-yards for the Indians first

down at their own 11-yard line. A penalty set the Indians back 5-yards to the 16-yard line where Kobe Denton was able to find an opening behind the left side guard for the touchdown. The extra points attempt was no good and the Indians led 6-0 with 3:25 left in the first quarter.

The Lions had some mo-

mentum late in the first quarter with a long run up the middle when Free Safety Denton made an excellent open field tackle to save the score by Lakeview. Defensive Tackle Nick Shook left his calling card as he met the Lions QB at the line of scrimmage with an awesome stop on second down followed by a 5-yard loss by right side Defensive End Owen Bouchard. Luke Woody and Walker Ross were next too let the Lions know how strong the Indians front line is by stopping them in their tracks at the line of scrimmage to force the punt. This action replayed itself throughout the rest of the game with Defensive End Blake Silvers adding several good tackles of his own.

The Indians second possession of the second quarter found them on their own 29-yard line facing second and fourteen for the first down when Cox found Moss again on a left side pass that Moss caught and ran 55 yards for the second score of the half. The extra points attempt failed and the Indians led 12-0 with 4:58 left in the second quarter.

The Lions last possession of the first half saw Woody, Shook, Defensive Tackle Ian Thompson and Linebacker Jonathan Watson putting the brakes on any hope the Lions had of moving the ball in the first half and forced them to punt.

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TCHS 2012 Football Schedule

- Sept. 14: @ Rabun County
- Sept. 21: vs Rabun Gap
- Oct. 5: @ Copper Basin, TN
- Oct. 19: vs North Cobb Christian
- Oct. 26: vs St. Francis
- Nov. 2: @ Lakeview
- Nov. 9 vs Hebron Christian

Joe Collins

Tips from the Range

A score that qualifies as a legal USGA round of golf consists of 18 holes. You are only allowed 14 clubs under the rules of golf if you are using a stipulated round to confirm or establish your handicap. Your handicap is based on an average score total of at least 10 legal rounds. The score of each round is the base number used to confirm a USGA handicap. Nothing affects this base score more than the "short game".

When we talk about the short game, we are talking about what we do on and around the green. Chipping is the act of hitting really short shots from the edge of the green and trying to get the ball as close to the flag as possible. Putting is in direct association with the ball lying on the green and our efforts to roll said ball into the hole. These short shots have the most positive or negative influence in relation to our total score of any of the shots we hit in a legal round of golf. Trust me on this!

You are only allowed 14 clubs as I mentioned earlier. What is the only club that one uses, theoretically, on every hole? Answer: the putter. If the putter is the most used club in a given round then it will probably have the biggest influence on your score. If short putts are easier than long putts, then chipping becomes the second biggest influence on your score. Get the picture of how important the short game is? The short game really affects your total score and by relation your handicap.

It's hard to be consistent with your short game unless you play a lot of golf and even then it's difficult. The fundamentals we use in performing the short game are based on one concept and that is acceleration. The club must be speeding up as it goes through impact on a short shot. If it's slowing down, then you will have problems.

The proper fundamentals of correctly hitting a chip shot are simple. First, place almost all your weight on the front foot and open your stance to the line you want the ball to travel on. This line will be determined by the slope and speed of the green. You must play the curvature of the

green with a chip the same way you would a putt. Your feet will typically be closer together than on a full shot. Next, place your hands in front of the ball with the grip of the club ahead of the club head. Use the same grip you would use to hit a full shot. Your hands will stay in front of the club head all the way through the shot. Never let the club head outrun the hands. Finally, use only your shoulders to move the club not your wrist and hands. Keep the backswing short and accelerate through the impact area while keeping your eye on the ball until it is gone on its way.

The fundamentals of putting are simple but very difficult to do correctly. First, find a balanced stance the same way you would on a long shot. Center yourself over the ankles with your weight distributed equally from the front of your feet to the heels. Next, let your arms fall limp under your shoulders to determine the placement of the putter grip in relation to your stance. Grip the putter with a reverse overlap so that the forward index finger is lapped over the bottom hand fingers. Work with this concept because grips are very independent from golfer to golfer. The point is that the forward wrist never breaks down. This will cause the putter head to close and you will pull the putt. Most importantly never move your head until the ball is rolling down the intended line. Head movement is the number one fault of a bad putt. Finally, use your shoulders to move the putter head and not your hands and arms. The small muscles of the hands and arms are extremely detrimental to a good stroke.

Practice is the key to maintaining a solid short game and it does not have to be done on the course. Putting and chipping at home on the carpet drives my wife crazy but it is the only way that I can get enough practice in to keep my short game sharp. Besides, she calms down when I bring home some "skins" money and take her out to dinner.

Try these fundamentals and hopefully you will lower your scores but remember that practice is the key. For every hour you practice swinging, spend two hours on your short game.

Good luck and I will see you on the course!

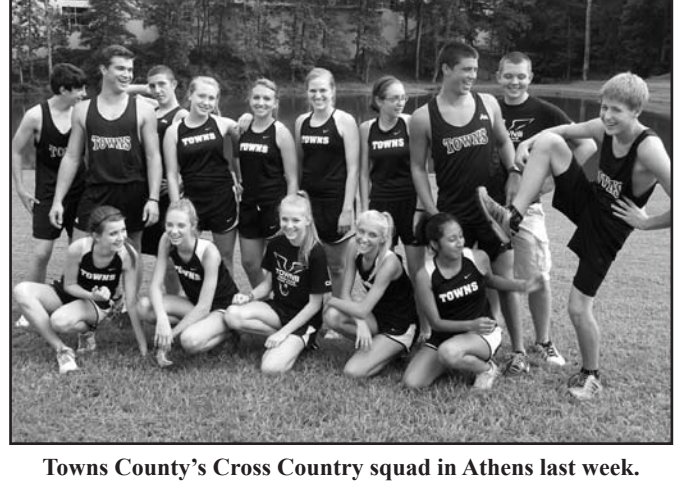
Cross County gets sneak peak at Athens Academy

By Joe Collins
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The Towns County Cross Country teams traveled to Athens Thursday to compete in a very challenging event against all private schools. None of the teams in this event are in the Area that TCHS teams will run against at the Area Championships but it was an advantage because they got a look at the course that the championship will be held on. "It was really good that we ran this event because the course has been changed with sand and mulch being added. When it is time to run the Area Championship, we will now know the course and the way it will be then," said a confident Head Coach Jeannie Ledford.

didn't win the meet but all the expectations were met that Ledford hoped to accomplish. They got a look at the new course and they learned if their technique was improving. "We don't necessarily look to win these events because I put my runners in the most challenging situations possible and that means we run against the best schools we can find. The goal is to do the best we can when the Area Championship comes around and to peak at that time. This gives us the best chance to make the State Championship," replied a determined Ledford.

In the boys division, Bradley Smith finished thirteenth overall and in the girls division Ansley Vardeman finished seventh overall, even though she had an unfortunate fall on the challenging Athens course. These are very impressive finishes when you look at the schools they were competing against. The girls team overall only finished 7 points behind Athens Academy who



Towns County's Cross Country squad in Athens last week.

actually has a shot at winning the State Competition in Nov.

Although the teams did not finish in the top positions, Ledford was very proud of their efforts. "The kids feel as though they have let the team down if we don't win but that is not the point. The idea is to learn and to continue to work hard when we get home. If that is the way it goes then that is

all I can ask of them. Working to improve is what makes me proud and that is what they give me every week. That is all I can ask of them," said Ledford.

Next week the teams will travel to Banks County to run yet another challenging event, this is how Ledford wants it; the harder the better to help her teams improve. Good luck running Indians.