

# Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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## Shook rushes for 102 yards and a score in win over Lakeview

By Shawn Jarrard  
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The Towns County Indians won its first Region game in 15 years Friday against Lakeview Academy, 14-6.

"I can't say enough about our young men, our team, how they fight and how they play," said Head Coach Billy Barnhart. "I tell you, I'm just tickled to death with them and so proud for them and of them, I really am. I wouldn't rather be anywhere else."

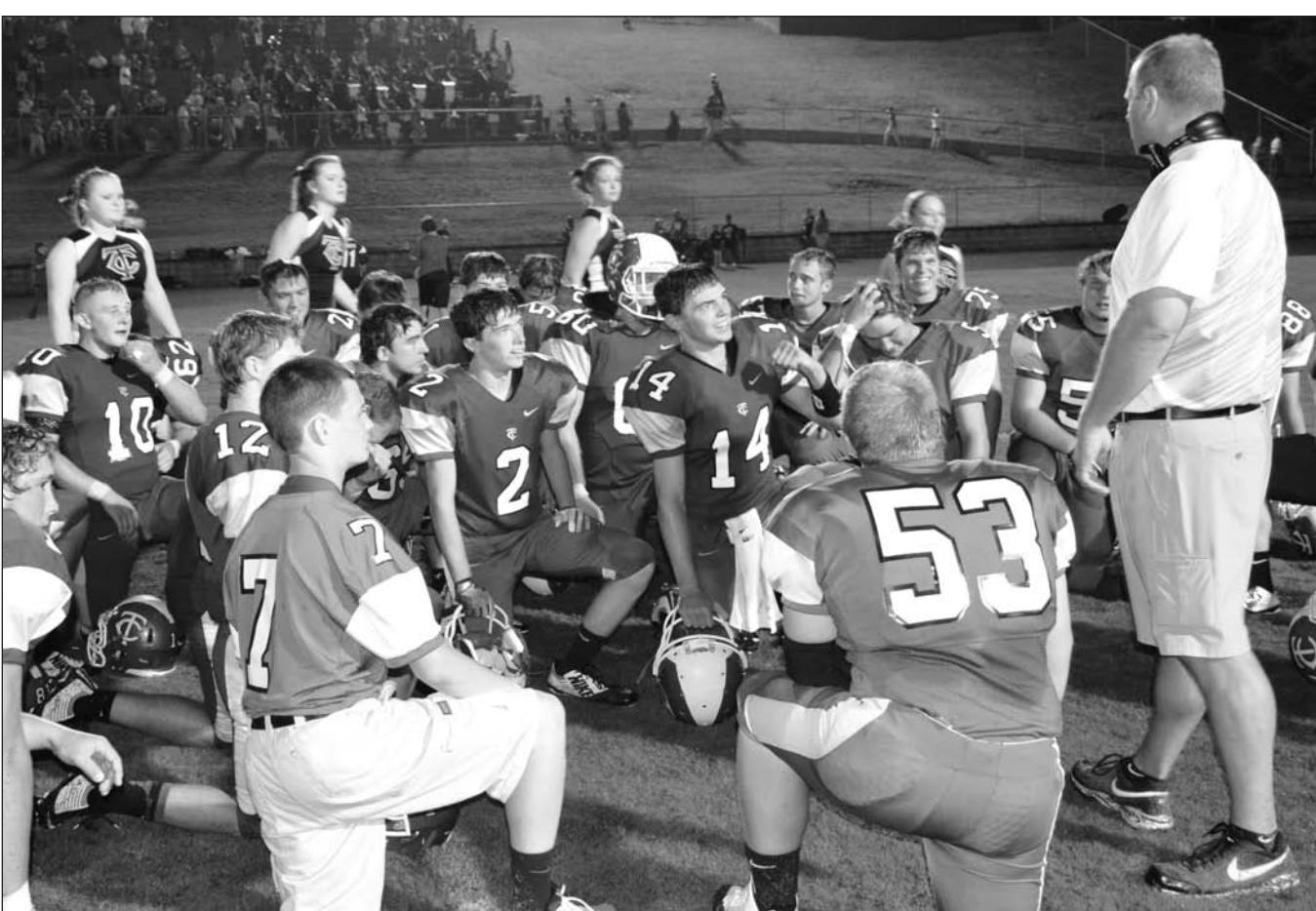
Kicking off, the Indians broke up an eight-play drive when sophomore Kobe Denton forced a Lakeview fumble, and sophomore Walker Ross got the recovery and took it 38 yards down the sideline.

This led to an answering eight-play drive by the Indians when senior Cruz Shook rushed for a touchdown from third-and-goal with 4:28 left in the first quarter.

Junior Shea Underwood kicked a beautiful point after, and the Indians lit the scoreboard 7-0.

Lakeview's next possession was a Lion's worst nightmare, as seniors Kevin McConnell, Kyle Davis, and Shook took turns tackling their offensive counterparts in three successive plays, forcing a three and out.

With only 2:18 left in the first quarter, the Indians took the ball from the 50-yard line all the way in for a score in a



The Indians celebrate their 14-6 win over Lakeview, the first win of 2014 and the first in Region 8-A in 15 years. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

hard fought drive that stretched 12 plays and into the second quarter.

"Who wants it?" yelled Coach Barnhart from the sidelines, and sophomore quarterback Russell Cox answered with a touchdown, stopping the clock at 8:37 in the second quarter.

Again, Underwood de-

livered with a well-placed kick for the extra point, and the score was 14-0.

Underwood's kickoff sailed into Lakeview's end zone, and the first play of their drive, Lakeview was able to take the ball down to the Indian 13-yard line. Three plays later and the Lions had brought the score 14-6, having missed the

point after attempt.

The rest of the game remained scoreless thanks to the tireless Indian defense.

Underwood made a 42-yard field goal with 6:21 left in the game, but the score was taken back because the referee said there weren't enough men on the line of scrimmage, and Underwood's next attempt

was low.

Towns County kept the ball for the last 3:34 minutes of the game, and when the clock ran out, the Indians realized their first win of the season, increasing their record to 1-2.

After the game against Mt. Vernon where Towns County committed five turnovers – three of which were

turned into touchdowns – the boys in blue kept the ball to themselves Friday night.

"Wet field, rain pouring down before the game – if we were going to have them, tonight probably would have been the night to have them," said Coach Barnhart after the game. "That just shows the work they put in this week, and they got better. And I really did, I felt we got better all week in practice."

Offensively, the Indians rushed 54 times for 226 yards. Shook carried the ball 18 times for 102 yards. Denton rushed 22 times for 81 yards. Freshman Cole Ledford counted eight rushes for 36 yards, and junior Daulton Rogers rushed three times for five yards.

Cox rushed three times for only 2 yards, but those two yards produced one of the only two Indian touchdowns of the game.

Towns County defense gave up 281 yards in 39 plays, with Lakeview going 10-19 passing for 170 yards and rushing only 20 times for 111 yards and a single touchdown.

The next game is against Hebron Christian on Friday at Frank McClure Stadium at 7:30 p.m.

"They're going to be a lot like these last two teams, a lot along the lines of Lakeview and Mt. Vernon as far as they're going to have a handful of good looking, athletic kids who are going to be solid up front," said Coach Barnhart.

## TCMS Lady Indians blast Lakeview Academy 12-0 in four innings

By Shawn Jarrard  
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The Towns County Middle School Lady Indians dominated Lakeview Academy 12-0 in their second to last home game of the season in just four innings last Wednesday at Lowell Nicholson Field.

Lakeview's Lady Lions lost earlier last week on Monday to the Lady Indians at Lakeview Academy.

"We had two good wins this week," said Head Coach Jessica Berrong.

Kennedi Henson sailed through the first inning of the game. She struck out the first batter she faced, and even though the second at bat singled to shallow center, Henson struck out the next two in quick succession.

The action really started in the bottom of the second inning, when Towns County scored all 12 of its runs, with 16 at bats and too many stolen bases to count. Lakeview



kept dropping third strikes, which sent runners around, even to home base.

Hits in the second inning came from Jessica Taylor, Haylie Luton and Sophia Shook, who each had two hits, as well as Lea Neumyer and Henson with a

hit apiece.

Lexi Ledford took over pitching in the third inning, and Lakeview hit a double with two outs – a K and a grounder – but couldn't capitalize on the hit as Shook fielded a line drive at first base.



The Lady Indians went quietly in the bottom of the third – three up, three down.

A little magic and a single run would have given Lakeview the opportunity to face Towns County in the bottom of the fourth, but

Ledford struck two out after a grounder to first, and the game was won.

"We pretty much had everything covered – solid defense, good pitching by Kennedy," said Coach Berrong. "Lexi threw well, and we hit the ball well, too."

The Lady Indians played Oglethorpe in their last home game of the season Tuesday at 5 p.m.

"We actually lost to Oglethorpe away, so it'll be a good chance to see how much we've improved," said Coach Berrong.

## Towns County Cross Country squads reloading for 2014

By Shawn Jarrard  
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Staff Writer

Towns County High School's boys and girls Cross Country teams made strong debuts in their first races of the season.

"The basic thing right now is to realize how young they are," said Head Coach Jeannie Ledford. "And they're working on fundamentals mostly. We've still got a little bit of finesse that we have to develop, but the camaraderie in amongst those two teams and the drive is there."

Top five finishers for the Lady Indians in the meet at Banks County were freshman Hannah Whitehead, sophomore Madison Stroud, freshman Taralee Arrowood, senior Alana Calhoun and freshman Lydia Moss.

Freshman Hayley Stowers ran well in her debut race, remaining close behind teammates Stroud and Arrowood, but the extreme summer temperatures took their toll on Stowers.

"Hayley has drive and toughness that every coach hopes to find in their key athletes," said Coach Ledford. "She will be an asset to this team. I was pleased with how these new runners have come together as a team so quickly."

For the boys' team, the top five Indians were sophomore Marshall Ledford, juniors Thomas Mitchell, Gavin Langelier and Austin Watson, and freshman Kaine Hoffman.



"The depth of having returning men helps keep the chase for another chance at State vivid," said Coach Ledford.

At Athens Academy, the top five Indians were Mitchell and Langelier, sophomore Kolby Starner, freshmen Chase Williams and Xavier Hogsted.

"However, the remaining men – Kaine Hoffman, Alejandro Lemus-Gomez, and Austin Watson – all finished seconds behind Xavier," said Coach Ledford.

The Lady Indians top five for the Athens Academy meet

were Whitehead, Arrowood, Stroud, Moss and Calhoun, with excellent performances by Stowers and sophomores Emma Kate Ledford and Lexi Pettengill.

Towns County lies within Area 4 of Class A Cross Country, which means it will be looking out for other area teams Commerce, Georgia Military, Hancock Central, Lincoln County and Warren County.

The boys' team was mere points away from area teams Georgia Military and Commerce, and the race was down

sophomores Tyler Grimsley and Marshall Ledford due to illness, both of whom are team leaders.

Lady Indians edged out Commerce by a single point, and Stowers was recovering from a sprained ankle for this race.

"Every year is a new challenge," said Coach Ledford. "This team has young, fresh talent that still works hard on fundamentals. What they haven't finessed yet in fundamentals, they make up with drive and determination."

Cross Country awards points for fastest times. For example, first place gets one point, second place gets two points, etc., and the team with the lowest total points wins the match.

And since postseason play is based on area championships to qualify for a state level chance to compete, the teams can win or lose every single game during the regular season and still come out with a state championship.

Initially, it's about sizing up other schools within the area of competition.

"For George Walton that we just went to, Hannah won, the girls team came in second behind George Walton," said Coach Ledford. "George Walton has nothing to do with us."

But Commerce does, as it is one of the teams in Towns County's area.

"We came in one point ahead of Commerce," said Coach Ledford. "So, that's who we were concerned with. If they beat Commerce that was a win for me – that's the whole objective."