

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Rabun County offense overwhelms Indians with 55 straight points

By Mason Mitcham
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Friday brought about a lopsided defeat for the Towns County High School football team.

The Indians competed against a juggernaut from Class AA, Rabun County for a score of 55-13.

The Wildcats are off to an undefeated start following a 55-6 dismantling of Hayesville, NC that saw Rabun County take a 35-0 lead at the break. The Wildcats are led by sophomore wide receiver Charlie Woerner, nephew of Scott Woerner, formerly of the University of Georgia and the Philadelphia Eagles. They also feature quarterback Hunter Sims, younger brother of the University of Alabama backup quarterback Blake Sims.

Rabun is also coached by Lee Shaw, father of University of South Carolina starting quarterback Connor Shaw. With the SEC well represented at Frank McClure stadium, the Wildcats looked every bit the part of a power conference school.

With one of the most explosive offenses in all of Class AAA, and the most talented squad the Indians have seen, or will see this season, the Wildcats scored 20 seconds into the first quarter.

Despite the immediate setback, however, it appeared that the Indians still might be able to hold their own. When the ball changed hands, the Towns County offense performed well.

Running back Kobe Denton carried the offense through most of the first quarter, and Shae Underwood and Cruz Shook both carried the ball for



The Towns County defense swarms a Rabun County ball carrier. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



Senior quarterback Jackson Noblet (8) breaks the huddle as the Indians looked to get something going on offense early on. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



Daulton Rogers

respectable gains. Nevertheless, they were unable to break through Rabun's defense.

Under the circumstances, defensively, the Indians did a commendable job. Harrison Hobbs picked a Wildcat pass that briefly gave the ball back to Towns.

At 8:40 however, Rabun was able to fire a quick touch-



The Towns County High School Indians' Marching Band during halftime. Photos by Lowell Nicholson.

down pass that raised the score to 13-0 as the first quarter ended.

The Indian offense continued to keep fighting in the second quarter, but notable runs by Shook and Zach Sewell were to no avail. Neither was a hopeful pass, caught by Garrett Bradshaw. That quarter saw

Rabun begin to break down Towns County's defense.

Rabun scored at 7:46, bringing the score to 20-0. Further, a fumble by Towns resulted in another touchdown by the visitors, making it a 27-0 game with 4:53 to play in the half. Rabun then broke off another scoring run at 4:29,



Kobe Denton

bringing the score to 34-0. That quickly turned into 41-0 at the 1:54 mark while the second quarter ended with Towns unable to put themselves on the scoreboard.

During the third quarter, the situation rapidly deteriorated. Towns' defense, like most teams the Wildcats will see, seemed to have no answer to the

Rabun County offense.

An interception by Rabun gave the ball to the Wildcats, who then scored at 9:27. That quarter saw another fumble and turnover by Towns. Rabun scored again 4:09, bringing their score to 55-0. Again, Kobe Denton was able to gain yards for the offense, but the true highlight of Towns County's game was when Shae Underwood ran more than 70 yards for a score at the 1:43 mark. He was unable to make the field goal, but his run had finally put Towns on the board with a score of 55-6.

In the fourth, Jackson Noblet rammed his way through Rabun's defense, carrying three Wildcats with him into the end zone for a touchdown with 5:10 seconds left in the game. This time, Underwood's kick was good, bringing the score to 55-13.

Next Friday, the Indians will look to get one in the win column as they travel to Mountain City to face Rabun Gap for an early kickoff at 4:30 p.m.

Cross Country strong at Banks County

By Mason Mitcham
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Homer - The Towns County High School cross-country team ran at Banks County on Tuesday, competing against both Banks and Jackson County.

Though both the girls' and boys' teams came in third, it's all a part of Coach Jeannie Ledford's strategy: to train against fiercer competition than anything Towns County will encounter at the region meet.

In the girls' race, Senior Ansley Vardeman received 2nd with a time of 24:05. She almost snagged the first place finish, but was passed at the end. Caitlin Sheffield, Towns's second runner to finish, came in 8th with a time of 26:57.

Towns County's top male runner for the race, Freshman Tyler Grimsley got 5th with a time of 21:15. Sophomore Thomas Mitchell followed quickly after him, coming in 17th at 23:35.

Though Tyler is a freshman, he's been running competitively for years, whereas some of Ledford's runners have never participated in cross-country.

"Tyler does have experience from the middle school level," Jeannie said. "But a lot of these freshman girls, this is their first experience of cross country. But they have it. They have the drive and the determination, and tact. They've accepted the challenge."

Unfortunately, an experienced runner suffered a stress fracture in her foot and is unable to practice until October. The injury is blow to morale—not only to the injured athlete, but to the many new freshmen who may look up to the older, more experienced senior.

Ledford emphasized that it's important to keep everything in perspective.

"Know that the last race you run, that's as good as you are," she said matter-of-factly. "That one's done. Things can change in the blink of an eye."



Towns County Indians and Lady Indians Cross Country at Banks County last week.

And they have. This whole year has been different."

Different or no, Ledford still puts great stock in the athletes she calls her "family."

"We're just continuing every race," she said. "And every day at practice, watching them continue to learn, and to grow closer as a family and as a team. It's coming along."

Despite the fact that she

led the Towns County cross-country team to a state championship last year, she remains humble. She punctuated her sentence with an easygoing shrug.

"Every day, we just go to work," she said.

Towns will run at Murphy, NC on Wednesday the 18th at 4:p.m.

Vardo: TCMS 'keeps on fighting'

By Mason Mitcham
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Towns County Middle School softball team played the White County Lady Warriors on Tuesday and the Lumpkin County Lady Indians on Thursday.

Against White, it was a quick loss. The Lady Warriors took and kept the lead, eventually ending the game with a score of 15-3 in the fourth inning.

Despite the score, however, Coach Jennifer Cook remains upbeat.

"This was better than our first game against them. Our first game against them, I believe, was sixteen to one."

A first-year coach, Cook is faced with the arduous but rewarding task of molding a young, relatively inexperienced team. Only a few of her athletes are returning players; many of the girls have never played ball before.

Michelle Underwood, catcher Lea Underwood's mother and self-described "Indians' biggest fan and critic," clarified: "We have four experienced players on the team. We have girls who have never even touched a softball before they started playing this year."

The inexperience cost them precious errors that may have decided the game. White County scored quickly in the first inning, notching up four points before the Indians started to bat. The Lady Indians were unable to get on the scoreboard, and they went into the second inning with no change.

The second inning was a repeat of the first. Towns County was unable to score a run. It was 8-0 as they went into the third inning, which the Warriors quickly brought up to 11-0. That was when Towns County finally put some runs on the board, bringing the score to 11-3. The fourth inning, however, saw the Warriors increase their lead to 15-3. That was when the officials finally ended the game.



TCMS faces off with Lumpkin County. Photos/Lowell Nicholson

Coach Cook stresses that there were some definite positives about this game.

"Our defense was a whole lot better," she said. "It's just a matter of working on who we're throwing to and working on good throws." She mentioned that first-timer Angelina Arrowood and Ella Bury both did well in that game, Ella with a crucial defensive catch.

"And if we had another chance at White County, my (gosh), we'd take them," Michelle Underwood added.

The Lady Warriors weren't the only challenge that Towns County is facing.

The Indians played Lumpkin County on Thursday, and again suffered a quick loss. The score was 17-0 when the officials ended it in the third inning.

Cook knows that building a team takes effort and time. It's a matter of getting better every day.

"There's been slight improvements from each game," she said. "Even if it's just, we scored one run, or we scored two runs. Everything's slowly getting better."

The Indians will travel to Dahlonega to have another chance at Lumpkin County on Thursday.

Upward basketball and cheerleading registration



On-line registration is now open through October 14th for Upward Basketball and Cheerleading for boys and girls in grades Kindergarten through 6th Grade at www.hopb.org or at www.funumioncounty.org.

The registration price to participate is \$60 and includes one jersey or cheerleading outfit among other miscellaneous items. Pay-

ment plans are available if needed. Convenient once per week practices will begin the week of October 14, 2013, while games will be held on consecutive Saturdays between November 2nd through December 14, 2013, with the exception of the week of Thanksgiving.

Everyone is encouraged to attend one evaluation to be held on Tuesday, September 24th and Thursday, September 26th from 6 to 7:30 PM at the House of Prayer Family Life Center.

Form and registration fees may also be dropped off, Monday through Friday, at House of Prayer Family Life Center or First United

Methodist Church's business office between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. For more information, contact either church office at House of Prayer (706) 745-5925 or First United Methodist Church at (706) 745-2073.

Upward Sports partners with around 2,600 churches to provide first-class, organized and welcoming children's basketball, soccer, flag football and cheerleading leagues and camps.

By providing a fun sports experience based on healthy competition, Upward Sports Leagues help children develop skills for the sports arena and values for life.

Marine Corps League Warriors Golf Tournament

The deadline for sign-up for the Warriors Golf Tournament is the 13th of September. The tournament, starting at 1 p.m. on the 20th of September will be held at the Old Union Golf Course. The contest, a 4 person select shot is a fun-fest round of golf that benefits Veterans and their families that are in need.

Entry fee is \$55 for individuals or \$220 for the team of four. The Marine Corps League is a non-profit organization and fees and donations are tax free. Sign up now to insure your place in the tournament. For more information call Skip Belton 706-745-2273 or Charlie Sowers at 706-745-5123.



Mountain High Hikers schedules two hikes each Tuesday, occasional specialty hikes, and regular trail maintaining trips - all in the beautiful mountains of Georgia and North Carolina. Check the website www.mountainhighhikers.org for schedule and meeting locations.