

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports



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Indians rally thwarted; lose to Glascock 34-19

By James Reese
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The Towns County Indians gave it their best shot in the second half, but couldn't pull off a repeat of their stunning 2010 come-from-behind victory over Glascock County.

The Indians managed to pull off the shocker last season with a 47-45 overtime win.

Friday night in Gibson, the Indians trailed 22-6 at the half. They rallied for two second half scores, but ended up on the short end of a 34-19 final.

"The effort was okay," Indians Head Football Coach Kyle Langford said. "We had a couple mistakes that really hurt us but give the kids credit, they continued to play hard for all four quarters."

Early mistakes put the Indians in trouble early, accounting for two quick scores for Glascock, and a 14-0 lead 5 minutes of the game.

"The rest of the game was very entertaining football," Coach Langford said. "The first five minutes got us. We kept fighting and I felt like we improved in some areas. Some areas we've still got a ways to go, but we'll show up and play hard these last two weeks."

Glascock gave the Indians a chance to get back in the game, but the Indians couldn't capitalize on the favors.

"There's no disgrace in losing, but there is disgrace in not continuing the fight or coming back," Coach Langford said. "In the end we're here to build character. It's not the way we want to do it, but it's the way we were going to have to."

The Indians are back at Frank McClure Stadium on Friday for the final home game of the 2012 season.

"The Lakeview Lions beat a good Georgia Military team on Friday night," Coach Langford said. "They don't make mistakes. I've seen them plenty this year and have yet to see them make any mistakes."



Noah Calhoun prepares for a second half kickoff. Photo by Lowell Nicholson.



Coach Ellis tries to get his defense in order against Glascock County. Photo by Lowell Nicholson.

"They play smart sound fundamental football nothing cute or fancy," he said. "It seems to be good enough to win a lot of times for them and

you have to respect that. Coach Matthew Gruhn has them playing disciplined football." Kickoff against the Lions is 7:30 p.m. at Frank McClure

Stadium. Don't forget, it's Senior Night for the Indians, get there early.



Wesley Bloodworth gets shaken up during the Indians 34-19 loss in Glascock County. Photo by Lowell Nicholson.



Jackson Noblet looks for an opening against the Panthers of Glascock County. Photo by Lowell Nicholson.



The Indians make the stop against Glascock County. Photo by Lowell Nicholson.

Tiny Mites advance in playoffs; slay the Dragons 27-20

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The Towns County Tiny Mites 7-8 year-old Indians have lived to play another day in the North Georgia Youth Football League playoffs.

They did so in come-from-behind fashion, claiming a 27-20 victory over the Jefferson Dragons at Panther Field in Jackson County.

The Mighty Mites fought back from an 8-point halftime deficit, driving a dagger through the heart of the Dragons late to claim the come-from-behind playoff victory.

Behind a rock solid offensive line, Hayden McClure rushed for 160 yards and four touchdowns accounting for all of the Tiny Mite conventional scores.

Payton Ivester pitched in 144 yards on the ground and delivered bone-jarring hits on defense, leading the way with seven solo tackles. Kyle Oakes contributed four tackles and Nicholas Houser had three tackles.

Down 14-6 at the half the Tiny Mites searched for and found their answers when McClure broke loose early in the third quarter for his second score of the day, racing in from 22 yards out to pull the Mites within one point of the Dragons 14-13.

Dragon running back Malaki Starks broke loose on the next play from scrimmage for a 65-yard touchdown giving the Dragons a 20-13 edge.

As the third quarter clock wound down, the Mites tied the score 20-20 on a McClure quarterback keeper.

Both defenses held strong throughout the fourth quarter until the Mites defense stepped up and stopped the Dragons offense cold, forcing a late turnover on downs and halting a Dragon drive at the Mites' 40-yard-line.

From there McClure and Ivester ran roughshod behind the Mighty Mites' Iron Curtain offensive line. McClure capped the drive with under a minute remaining with another quarterback keeper, this time from 9-yards out, giving the Mites a decisive come-from-behind 27-20 lead.

The Dragons received the ball again but couldn't penetrate the Great Wall of Mites' defense preserving the road playoff win for Towns County.

Towns County Youth Football Coordinator Jimmy Smith along with Head Coach Rodney Thomas and staff expressed their pride in the Tiny Mites and would like to encourage community support as they look to avenge an earlier season loss to the undefeated Wildcats on Saturday!



The Indians defense was stingy on Saturday. Photo by James Reese.



The Mites running attack was potent on Saturday. Photo by James Reese.



Payton Ivester breaks a tackle against the Dragons. Photo by James Reese.

on Saturday. That's when the Mites travel back to Jefferson for the semi-finals against Rabun. Kickoff is scheduled at 1 p.m.

The winner of the Mites and Cats fracas will play for the right to play the winner of the Union County Panthers and the Dawson County Tigers playoff in the Youth League Super Bowl, which takes place in Dahlonega at Indian Stadium.



Hayden McClure races for one of his four touchdowns. Photo by James Reese.

Lady Indians claim victory in Blairsville



Ansley Vardeman

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The Towns County Lady Indians Cross Country team once again defeated the Class AA Union County Lady Panthers on their own track.

Lady Indians' Cross Country star Ansley Vardeman won the girls' race with a time of 23:18. Caitlin Sheffield finished fourth, Taylor Vardeman finished fourth, Cierra Nichols finished eighth and Cassie Buck finished 16th overall.

The Lady Indians took the win at Meeks Park with a score of 34 and topping Fannin, Rabun, Union and Lumpkin counties.

In the boys' competition, Walker Guss finished second with a time of 18:53. Dakota Barrett finished 17th, Kyle Tyler finished 18th, Rylan Albach finished 19th, Jordan Woodward finished 20th. The Panthers finished first, Rabun finished second, the Indians finished third, Lumpkin finished fourth and Fannin finished fifth.

The Ninth Annual Indian Run is scheduled Thursday at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds.

On Oct. 12, the Cross Country team traveled to Hayesville at Chatuge Dam to partici-

pate in the Carney Classic.

"This event was devised and dedicated to keep the memory of Coach Carney alive," according to Coach Jeannie Ledford, who ran for Coach Carney in High School.

In this particular race, there is a varsity boys and girls and a coaches division. Walker Guss led the Towns County boys with a time of 18:33, finishing eighth overall.

As a team the boys finished fifth.

The varsity girls' Ansley Vardeman led the girls with a time of 21:25 finishing fourth overall. The girls' team finished third overall.

Coach Ledford, Dr. Kirk Vardeman and Ali Langford participated in the coaches division aptly named team Georgia which finished second behind Hayesville Middle School representatives.

"It was great to get back to home and hear the same people come out and cheer when I was a little girl - that was a very special time," Coach Ledford said. "They were there because it's the Carney Classic. It's a special event and it's why I love competing at the Smoky Mountain. I couldn't have competed without the help of Becky Stewart."