

Towns County Sports

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Indians play five quarters for No. 5; win 47-45

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Seniors Max Updike and Landon Harris kept Glascock County out of the end zone in an attempted two-point conversion in overtime to seal an incredible come-from-behind victory Friday night for the Towns County Indians at Frank McClure Stadium.

The defensive stop was the highlight of a spirited second half rally to lift the 3-5 Indians to an improbable 47-45 win over the Panthers from Glascock County.

The Indians rallied from a 20-point deficit to force the first overtime period in the history of Frank McClure Stadium.

Freshman quarterback Jackson Noblet scored from 1-yard out with 55 seconds left to force at least an overtime period. The ensuing extra point attempt in regulation was no good thanks to a poor center snap.

The overtime win gave the Indians their first three-game winning streak since 2008.

The Indians took the field Friday night riding a two-game winning streak, including a hard fought defensive 14-7 Homecoming victory over the River Ridge Knights.

The Indians faced another tough opponent, this time in the physical form of the Glascock County Panthers and its potent offensive attack led by the backfield of senior running backs Montavious Myricks and Antonio Gibson.

The evening began on a positive note as Noblet orchestrated a precision opening drive, capping it off with a two-yard scamper into the end zone giving the Indians an early 7-0 lead.

The Panthers answered quickly with a pair of touchdown runs by Myricks that included a 96-yard lightning bolt strike down the right sideline giving the Panthers a 12-7 advantage with just slightly more than nine minutes left in the second quarter.

The Indians retook the lead on a 68-yard scoring drive that had Noblet hitting senior Alan Turpin on a 30-yard touchdown strike putting the Indian back up 13-12.

The Panthers regained control of the offensive side on scores that included a touchdown by junior Lewis Watkins and a Myricks two-point conversion giving Glascock County a 27-13 lead.

The ensuing kickoff was returned 85 yards by junior Zach Stroud for an apparent score. The zebras didn't agree and called it back due to a holding penalty. The re-kick was also nicely returned by senior Devin Henderson only to have it called back. Looking up at the scoreboard and at a long field, the Indians would have to settle for coming out of the locker room down by two touchdowns.

The Indians seemed renewed after halftime as the defense forced an early three and out resulting in a Panther punt to the Towns County 33-yard line. From there, Noblet guided the offense with precision passes to wideout Devin Henderson on the drive and galloping 2-yards into the end zone himself pulling the Indians closer to Glascock's 27-19 lead.

Nearing the end of the third quarter, the Panthers once again regained momentum as backfield tandem of Watkins and Myricks took control. Glascock's senior quarterback Brandon Osborne found senior receiver Jeremy Bennett in the end zone to put the Panthers back up 33-19.

Barely a minute into the fourth quarter, the Panthers recovered an Indian fumble and returned it for a score and building a 39-19 lead.

However, on the play the Panthers' senior linebacker Zach O'Connor was ejected from the game for a personal foul, which would later prove to be significant in the game's outcome.

Coach Langford rallied his troops, proclaiming "No. 5 had to pull us through tonight."

It wasn't long before the Indians' offense came back to life, playing with "Billy Meier Fire" and refusing to quit on their coach.

The Indians marched 50 yards, culminating the drive as Noblet hit Devin Henderson on a 19-yard scoring strike with just under nine minutes left in the contest. The score pulled the Indians within two touchdowns 39-26.

Despite an effective ground game, Glascock Head Coach Chris Kelley appeared unsatisfied with his lead and called a needless pass play. His quarterback Osborne went looking for wide out Bennett. However, the senior signal caller under threw his receiver and was picked off by Devin Henderson at the Indians' 40-yard line.

Noblet again took control of Towns County's offense. He connected with Turpin on a big play reception at the seven-minute mark.

Junior running back Cody Smedley contributed on the ground for the Indians and ran it into the end zone from 24 yards out pulling the Indians to within six points 39-33 with 6:51 remaining in regulation.

The Indians defense tight-



Zach Stroud breaks loose on a game-winning 15-yard run in overtime to defeat the Glascock County Panthers in Class A action on Friday night at Frank McClure Stadium. Photo James Reese



The Indians' Landon Harris and Max Updike hold off a game-tying charge by Glascock County's Antonio Gibson in overtime as the Tribe won its third consecutive game on Friday. The Indians dedicated the game to No. 5 Billy Meier following his season-ending surgery last week. Photo James Reese



Indians' freshman quarterback Jackson Noblet goes airborne on Friday night to seal the overtime victory over Glascock County at Frank McClure Stadium in Hiwassee. Noblet led the Indians on a wild comeback trail as they defeated their Class A rival. Photo James Reese



Devin Henderson hauls in a touchdown pass from freshman quarterback Jackson Noblet. The Indians turned the tables on Glascock County on Friday, rallying from a 20-point deficit to upend the Panthers. Photo James Reese



Towns County freshman Dakota Barrett pulls out the stops to upend Glascock County's Montavious Myricks during overtime action Friday at Frank McClure Stadium. Barrett and the Indians upset the favored Panthers in overtime. Photo James Reese



The Indians' Cody Smedley bulges his way forward for positive yardage in the Indians' 47-45 come-from-behind overtime win on Friday night. Photo James Reese

ened up from that point on.

Coach Kelley abandoned the passing game and went back to the ground to eat clock. However, The Indians stymied the Panthers' offense. Myricks dropped back in Wildcat formation at the quarterback position to no avail as the Indians defense forced a 3rd and 19.

Osborne returned under center and failed to connect with Bennett forcing a Panther punting situation and setting up an improbable comeback by the Indians.

The Towns County offense took over with 3:57 remaining in regulation at their own 45-yard line. Coach Langford stayed on the ground with Smedley earning tough yardage.

However, the Indians suddenly faced with a fourth-and-seven from the Panthers' 40-yard line. Langford opted to go for the first down.

Noblet scrambled in the backfield and found Henderson advancing to the 8-yard line. The completion set up first-and-goal with the clock ticking. Noblet took the snap from center Luke Parker and carried the ball into the end zone tying the game at 39 all with just 55 seconds on the clock. A bobbed snap from center preserved the tie giving the Panthers

another crack at scoring with just under a minute to go.

However, Osborne was unable to connect with any of his receivers and was dropped in the backfield for a sack on the final play in regulation, leading to history at Frank McClure.

The partisan Indian crowd remained on its feet. The Indians won the toss and elected to go on offense from the 15-yard line.

Noblet was taken down on the first play for no gain. Stroud then carried a sweep left, sprinting 15 yards inside the end zone pylon for the tie-breaking score. Noblet finished off the mandatory two-point conversion attempt with some quick footwork putting the Indians up 47-39.

The Panthers took the next overtime possession from the 15-yard-line. Gibson took the first carry to the Indians' 1 yard line. Osborne scored from there on a quarterback keeper pulling the Panthers within two points.

On the two-point conversion attempt, Gibson took the pitch from Osborne left toward the end zone pylon but was forced inside Updike and stonewalled by Harris just inches short of the goal.

The defensive stand preserved the Indians first ever overtime attempt by a score of 47-45.

Three of four Towns County youth teams headed to playoffs

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The Youth Football regular season has come to a close with three of four Towns County youth teams headed to the 2010 playoffs.

The opening round of the playoffs begins at Frank McClure Stadium at 9 a.m. on Saturday with the Indians' 7-year-old team playing the opening game.

The 7-year-old team is followed by the 10-year-old Indians and then by the undefeated 5/6 year-old Termites.

There was a pair of undefeated teams squaring off over the weekend in the early morning matchup as the Mighty Termites played host to the visiting Rabun County Wildcats. The battle of the undefeated 5/6-year-old teams resulted as the previous night game did with the Varsity Indians and the Glascock County Panthers. Overtime would decide the outcome.

The Mighty Termites prevailed in a 34-32 overtime thriller.

Colin Crowder started things off for the Termites breaking into the Wildcats secondary and the Indians onto the scoreboard with one of his three touchdowns on the day. Crowder racked up 250 yards on the ground by the end of the day.

The Termites found themselves in unfamiliar territory by the end of the first quarter as Rabun County took a 13-6 lead on a long touchdown run out of the Wildcats' backfield.

Early in the second quarter, the Cats carried the ball on the way for an otherwise likely touchdown when the Termites Bohler chased the Wildcat running back down from behind, stripped him of the ball and recovering the fumble inside the Termites' 5-yard line.

A minute later Crowder raced 75 yards to pay dirt, drawing the Termites closer to the 'Cats and cutting into their 13-12 lead. Rabun jumped back up to a 19-12 lead on the next possession. However, the Termites would not be denied before the half, evening the score on a Crowder 26-yard touchdown run with 1:16 to go in the first half.

The Termites and Wildcats would take the 19-19 tie into their respective locker rooms.

As the second half began, the Wildcats received the kickoff and advanced to their own 48-yard line. Their offense managed to take the ball to the Termites' 2-yard line where the Towns County defense held strong forcing a Wildcat fourth-and-goal. Rabun managed to punch the ball in from the short distance going up 26-19 at the 3:30 mark in the third quarter.

Crowder again rattled off one of his many long runs on the day on the Termites' next possession. Quarterback Kyle Oakes added to his record setting touchdown total from 4 yards out to again even the game, this time at 26-26.

The game ended in regulation with both teams at 26 points. The Termites won the coin toss and elected to go on offense.

Oakes, yet again, padded his record touchdown total and converted the two point conversion attempt.

In the additional fifth period, the pressure was suddenly on the visiting Wildcats to score. Rabun did so but they were unable to make good on the two-point conversion attempt due to a tremendous Eli Mills tackle, handing the Wildcats their first defeat and preserving the Termites' perfect regular season with final score of 34-32.

Towns' Youth Football Coordinator Jimmy Smith



Peyton Ivester heads for the end zone in Saturday's 31-12 route of Pickens County at Frank McClure Stadium. Ivester leads the 7-year-old Indians into the opening round of the playoffs on Saturday, Oct. 30 at Frank McClure Stadium. Photo James Reese



Termites' quarterback Kyle Oakes rambles for a record-setting 23rd touchdown of 2010 in the 5/6-year-olds overtime win over Rabun County. Oakes broke the touchdown record once held by Austin Phillips. He also scored the game-winning touchdown in overtime. Photo James Reese



Hayden McClure, part of the power running tandem of Ivester and McClure breaks loose on a touchdown run for the 7-year-old Indians. McClure will lead the 7-year-old Indians into the playoffs at 9 a.m. on Saturday at Frank McClure Stadium. Photo James Reese



Andy Chambers head forward for positive yardage in the 10-year-old Indians 28-6 route of the Gilmer County Bobcats on Saturday at Frank McClure Stadium. The 10-year-old Indians play second on Saturday, Oct. 30 in the playoff round at Frank McClure Stadium. Photo James Reese

wanted to congratulate the Termites on a great unblemished season. Also, he wanted to congratulate Oakes on shattering the Termites' single season touchdown record with 23, surpassing Austin Phillips who played years ago.

Next, the 10-year-old Indians team played host to the Gilmer Bobcats. The Indians struck first on a Hamer touchdown going up 7-0 four minutes into the first quarter.

Early in the second quarter, Cody Williams picked off an errant Bobcats pass setting up an Indian touchdown for a 14-0 lead.

The Bobcats used some gadget plays to get back in the game on a halfback pitch pass for a touchdown pulling to within 14-6. Indians running back Zach Davenport widened the scoring divide with a 25-yard touchdown run giving the Indians a 21-6 lead.

Another Cody Williams interception set up a 13-yard touchdown run by Andy Chambers to give the Indians 28-6 advantage with just 15 seconds until halftime. Each of the defenses held strong throughout the second half as both teams went scoreless. The Indians prevailed with a 28-6 win.

In the third matchup, the 7-year-old Indians took on the



Colin Crowder breaks loose on a long touchdown run in the 5/6-year-old Termites overtime victory over the Rabun County Wildcats on Saturday at Frank McClure Stadium. Crowder scored three touchdowns and rushed for 250 yards on the ground. The Termites play the third playoff game on Saturday, Oct. 30 at Frank McClure Field. Photo James Reese

visiting Pickens County Dragons. Led by the Dynamic Duo backfield of Hayden McClure and Peyton Ivester, the Indians ran rough shod over the Dragons 31-12.

Finally, the 9-year-old Indians came back down to Earth this week taking a 12-0 defeat at the hands of the Pickens Dragons.