

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Indians defeat Eagles in 13-6 double overtime victory

By Shawn Jarrard
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The Towns County Indians knew they were in trouble when Riverside Military Academy scored a touchdown to tie the game at 6-6 with only 30 seconds left in the fourth quarter.

They were in trouble because, at 6-6, all the Eagles needed to do was kick a good point after to take the lead, leaving the Indians a mere 30 seconds to retaliate before game's end.

The Eagles kicker approached the ball, kicked it wide, and in a flash, the Boys in Blue had their chance.

As the game clock ran out with the score still tied, the Indians opted to defend first during the initial overtime period.

In high school football, the way an overtime period works is, each team gets a chance to score before trading places at the 15-yard line and defending against the other team. The two teams trade places until one team scores and the other is unable to answer, thus ending the game.

Thanks to Towns County's nearly shut-out defense that played hard the whole game, Riverside Military came up short during their first possession. Unfortunately, so did the Indians.

But all that changed when they switched order of possession during the second overtime period, as Kobe Denton took the ball down to the 1-yard line in the first play of the drive, where Russell Cox was able to punch it in for a touchdown.

Major Moss made the Eagles prospects decidedly worse when he kicked a good point after, and when the blue defense once again shut down Riverside Military Academy after the Eagles got all the way down to the 2-yard line, the sweet smell of victory arose into the air.

The Towns County Indi-



The Towns County Indians celebrate their second win of the season and their 10th all-time win over Riverside Military Academy. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

ans had just increased their season record to 2-2 with the 13-6 double overtime victory at home in Frank McClure Memorial Stadium on Friday, Sept. 16.

Of course, the celebration was immediate and intense.

"There's no greater feeling than when a man fights his heart out and walks away victorious on the field," said lineman Luke Woody after the game.

And according to 2014 TCHS graduate Vonya Baldwin, the overtime victory was only the second overtime reached in Towns County football history, the first one occurring during his freshman year against Glascock County, also a victory.

Indians Head Coach John Cornett knew exactly what the win meant to his Indians.

"It's a huge win," said Coach Cornett. "I think we

played lights out the first half. Offense, we didn't move the ball the second half - it was almost like we couldn't get anything done. And then to pull out a win after not playing to our capabilities is huge."

Cox scored the first Towns County touchdown with 3:22 left in the first quarter, thanks to backup plays from Denton and phenomenal blocking from the offensive line.

Coach Cornett said the game rested on the laurels of the defense, however, which kept Riverside Military scoreless for all but 30 seconds of play leading into overtime.

Towns County is now 10-8 all-time against RMA - the most wins against any program.

Another highlight of the game came during halftime,

when the boys and girls of Towns County Youth Football and Cheerleading received a warm welcome and introduction in front of the packed stadium audience.

According to TCYFL Director Jimmy Smith, who has been directing youth football for 20 years, Youth Football Night during the high school halftime is something the youth players and cheerleaders look forward to year after year.

"I appreciate (TCHS Athletic Director) Jim Melton for letting us do this every year," said Smith. "It's a big deal."

Smith also runs the sidelines chain crew during home games, with assistance from Ricky Moss, Keith Norton, Steve Dover, Luke Parker and Kevin Parker.

As usual per home games,

Bob Gibby announced the game over the loudspeakers to keep fans up to date on the happenings of the field.

The Towns County Indians football coaching team consists of: Offensive Coordinator Clay Livingston, Defensive Coordinator Chris Vardo, and assistant coaches Jeff Stowers, Clay Worley, Jason McClure and Jonny Eyrich.

The Indians will be traveling out of town this Friday, Sept. 23, to play Athens Academy, with a kickoff time of 7:30 p.m.

The Spartans are currently sporting a 3-0 record with victories over Walker, Lakeview, and Athens Christian.

Athens Academy is coming off a 9-2 campaign in 2015 under first year head coach Josh Alexander.

Quarterback Drew Richardson and running back Will Cory are gone and the reigns of the offense will be handed over to dual-threat quarterback Jacob Hudson - a converted wide receiver.

Sophomore Payton Bowles takes over at linebacker after adding size in the offseason to become a more physical, and downhill runner. Bowles could also be an impact player at linebacker, as well.

Expectations are high as the Spartans are looking to take the next step and knock Prince Avenue from atop its perch as the No. private school in Region 8-A.

Towns lost 36-7 to Athens Academy last year and have lost all 14 meetings to the Spartans, dating back to 1977.



The future stars of Towns County football were recognized at halftime on Friday. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



The celebration is on as the Indians score the game winner in overtime. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Youth Indians perform clean sweep of Jackson County at home

By Shawn Jarrard
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Staff Writer

For the first time since Director Jimmy Smith moved Towns County Youth Football into the rough and tumble Smoky Mountain Conference - going on three years, now - all of his teams came up with a win in a single day of competition.

The Towns County Termites, Mites and Midgets all three won their home games against North Carolina's Jackson County teams on Saturday, Sept. 17, at the new youth football field at Foster Park.

"The high school won Friday, and then we win all our games Saturday - it was a good sweep for us all," said Director Smith.

Due to low numbers, the Towns Pee Wees had to disband for the rest of the season, though Director Smith said he's proud of the boys who will get another chance to play next year.

Thanks to the excellent records of the three Towns County teams so far this season, Director Smith is optimistic about all of his teams making the Smoky Mountain Conference playoffs at the end of the season.

The Towns Termites are now 3-3 on the year, having defeated their Mustang counterparts 6-2 on Saturday, which is what Director Smith called "a baseball score."

As for the Mites, they too are 3-3 this season, and they celebrated a 22-0 victory over the weekend in Foster Park.



A Towns County defender refuses to let go of the ball carrier and brings him to the turf by any means necessary. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Goble following the game. "When you're head coach, you learn very quickly how important it is to surround yourself with great coaches.

"Our defense was rock solid. Defense Coach Rick Moss had Landon Eller and Dawson Devane put fear into the opposing O-line.

"Dawson Smith caused a fumble and Connor Chastain recovered. Chastain also intercepted the ball, which gave our Indians another opportunity to score.

"Offensive Head Coach Michael Chastain changed the way we played this week. He moved us to a whole new level with a passing game and running game. Connor Chastain, Jensen

Goble and Matthew Chastain each proved to be offensive powerhouses on the field, helping the Mites to reach their third win of the season.

The Towns County Midgets are enjoying one of their best seasons yet, with a 4-2 record after Saturday's 14-6 victory against the Mustangs.

"The Midgets are once again holding their heads high with a win of 14-6 over Jackson County," said Midgets Head Coach Damon Crowder. "The defensive line stepped up against the Mustangs, only allowing them the yardage to score their only touchdown of the game.

"The line did amazing

blocking on the offense, which allowed for Collin Crowder 120 yards rushing, 60 yards receiving, two touchdowns and a 2-point conversion, Kyle Oakes with 45 yards rushing, five for eight passing, which resulted in two touchdowns, and Grant Ingram with five yards rushing and 25 yards receiving.

"The Mustangs went to score again in the fourth quarter with only a few seconds left in the game, but were stopped by Caleb Bradley on the 2-yard line, resulting in the Indians walking away with the victory."

As to how the Indians swept Jackson County, Director Smith said they simply outcoached their

Mustang rivals.

This weekend, Towns County Youth Football will be traveling to Swain County, North Carolina. The youth Indians will play their last home game of the year on Saturday, Oct. 1, during which they will hold a special Youth Football Homecoming for the players and cheerleaders.

In other TCYFL news, the day before this past Saturday's big games, the Towns County Youth Football Players and Cheerleaders were recognized in the annual Youth Football Night at the Sept. 16 varsity home game.

Youth players and cheerleaders were called by name in front

of the huge stadium crowd during the halftime of the Indians vs. Riverside Military Academy game.

The now-defunct Towns Pee Wees recognized that evening were: Tucker Wheeler, Braylen Parrott, Caleb Bates, Dominic Rader, Dustin Lockaby, Maan Singh, Logan Nguyen, Noah Neace, Wyatt Nicholson and Thomas Parrott.

Towns Termites: Aiden Dickerson, Cooper Floyd, Cruz Kitchens, CJ Lambert, Aiden Burrell, Greyson Betts, Aiden Reynolds, Hunter Moyers, Jacob Nicholson, Augustus "Gus" Aske, Ryan Parker, Mason Mitchell, Garrett Segars, Mason Key, Lane Haney, Jaykob Goodwin and Tucker Wheeler.

Towns Mites: Matthew Chastain, Dawson Devane, Dawson Smith, Landon Eller, Braylen Rader, Wyatt Woody, Brett Young, Connor Chastain, Jensen Goble, Andrew Brinson, Hensel Martinez, Walker Underwood, Tyler Wachacha and Briley Mills.

Towns Midgets: Grant Ingram, Kyle Oakes, Christian Wade, Ian Arrowood, Keenan Henderson, Collin Crowder, Caleb Bradley, Devon Beck, Josh Berrong, A. J. Edwards and Eli Mills.

Towns Termite Cheerleaders: Elizabeth Parrott, Hanah Moyers, Autumn Adams, Emilie Dao and Jayden Card.

Towns Mite Cheerleaders: Halie Arrowood, Kaleigh Beaver, Kenzie Beaver, Samantha Blackwell, hope Chastain, Maycee Garrison, Kaylee Hamilton, Reese Ingram, Roxie Ingram, Jolie Johnson, Brenlee Kitchens, Haylee Krokonko, Kaitlyn Krokonko, Emma Ledford, Kaylee Rader, Jadalynn Reynolds and Hailey Wolfe.