

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Indians come away with big Homecoming win vs Athens Christian

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The Towns County Indians earned sweet victory in their Homecoming Game on Friday, Oct. 13.

To win that game, they fought as they always fight, with fistfuls of heart and a ton of grit, and their hard work paid off with a Homecoming Night win against Athens Christian School, final score 28-27.

Towns County took the first knock seven minutes into the game, though they answered right back a minute later with a big rushing touchdown from Zach Davenport, after which Wesley Calhoun made the extra point.

The Boys in Blue took the lead four minutes into the second quarter, as Alan Gillis found a hole and ran in a touchdown. Again, Calhoun kicked the extra point, making the score 14 to 7 in favor of the Indians.

Athens Christian soon tied it up, however, and then scored another touchdown before the end of the second quarter to take the lead going into the half, 21 to 14.

Halftime offered the Indians plenty of opportunity to get pepped up to rally on Homecoming Night, as Hannah Whitehead was crowned 2017 Football Homecoming Queen, alongside 2017 Football Homecoming Princess Sara Beth Hobbs.

Coming back from the half, the Indians were pumped up and ready to play.

The Towns County defense kept the Eagles scoreless during the third quarter of the game, and when Athens Christian hit the scoreboard one more time three and a half minutes into the fourth quarter, the members of The Tribe refused to give up. The lone bright spot – Cole Ledford blocked the extra point, making the score 27-14.

Down two touchdowns, the Indians rallied on an 89-yard opening drive score on a long pass from quarterback Trent Bradshaw to Davenport. Once more, Calhoun kicked the extra point, bringing the



The nominees for the Towns County High School Homecoming Queen. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

score to 27-21 with plenty of game left to play.

Four and a half minutes later, Logan Cowart picked up an Athens Christian fumble, and the Indians capitalized right away on the opportunity.

It was second-and-12 from the Eagles' 33-yard line, and Towns County decided to pull a rabbit out of its head-dress.

Bradshaw took the hike and pitched it to Davenport, who everyone thought was about to cut left up the sideline. But no, Davenport had other plans.

He had his eyes downfield, where Will Travis was occupied with making short work of the red zone. Davenport picked his moment, reared back, and rifled a straight shot to Travis, who turned around just in time to

catch the ball as two Eagle defenders moved in for the tackle.

What those Eagles didn't realize was that Travis was feeling extra slippery just then, and he broke two tackles to turn around and run the ball in for a game-tying touchdown.

And Friday the 13th proved lucking for Calhoun, as he went 4-for-4 in extra-point kicks, sending another pigskin through the uprights, giving the Indians a crucial lead, 28-27.

The game wasn't over yet, however, as Athens Christian still had a full three and a half minutes to take back the lead.

But never fear – the Indians were not ready to go home. Three plays into the Eagles' next drive after Towns County took the lead,

Ledford, the 2017 Football Homecoming King, caught a big interception, effectively nixing Athens Christian's momentum for the remainder of the game.

And as the clock ticked to zero – on the referee's iPhone, since the game clock went out with five minutes left in the game – the Towns County Indians clenched their first Homecoming Game win in recent memory, an extra special occasion for the team's seniors.

"This is huge for these boys, they deserve it," said Indian Head Coach John Cornett. "I tell you what I love – we come out in our first drive, we look good. We do good things, then we have a fumble, and our boys need to learn to let that stuff go."

"That's what I told them at half, I'm like, guys,

we're going to make mistakes, just let it go. And they came out and played, the defense stepped up, and it was good."

Cornett was pleased that Ledford had a great night on the field. Just a few games ago, Ledford took a hard helmet hit in a game and had to sit one out, and the fact that he was selected by his peers as Homecoming King and had a huge game with his teammates that Friday the 13th, meant a lot to everyone.

"We've got four or five playmakers on our team, and Cole is one of them," said Coach Cornett. "On any given night, any one of them can do big things. Zach's done it, Cole's done it, Andy (Chambers) has done it, Logan (Cowart) has done it, Harold (Cox) – I mean. I could go right down the line,

and tonight, it was Cole's night.

"I look forward to the night where all five of them go play lights ought, because we'll be a good team."

The Towns County Indian Raider Marching Band performed their halftime show after the game, as they accompanied the presentation of the 2017 Football Girls Homecoming Court during halftime.

Looking ahead, the Indians play Commerce this Friday, Oct. 20, at home, with a kickoff time of 7:30 p.m.

And go ahead and mark those calendars, because Indians Football, Cheerleading and Band will celebrate Senior Night on Friday, Oct. 27, as part of the Lakeview Academy home game that also starts at 7:30 p.m.

Towns County XC in action at Riverside as postseason nears

By Todd Forrest
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Gainesville - Towns County Cross Country was in action at Riverside Military last week for one of its final tune-up races before the Area Meet later this month.

The Towns County girls, led by sixth place Hannah Whitehead placed seventh place in the team standings, while the boys took home 14th.

Whitehead clocked in at 22:58 followed by 16th place Tara-lee Arrowood (24:09), 27th place Taylor Cornett (25:40), 38th place Lydia Moss (26:40), 61st place Hayley Stowers (29:19), 66th place Jasmine Miranda (30:04) and 75th place Cassandra Kelley (38:04).

The boys were paced by Kaine Hoffman in 46th place with a time of 20:41.

Rounding out the rest of Towns County's top six were: 66th place Caleb Ledford (22:35), 75th place Jordan Lovelace (23:14), 81st place Liam King (23:44), 87th place Ryan Tyler (24:06), and 93rd place Xavier Hogsed (28:24).



Towns County Cross Country teams at a race earlier this season. Photos by Todd Forrest