

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Towns County explodes onto scoreboard in Ray Lamb Stadium

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Commerce - Commerce High School wasn't expecting what hit them last Friday in their own Ray Lamb Stadium - it was the Towns County Indians with a touchdown just 29 seconds into the game.

The setup: Kobe Denton returns the game opening kickoff to right around the Towns County 20-yard line. The second play of the drive features quarterback Trent Bradshaw pitching the ball to Denton, who finds a hole and proceeds to charge down the left sideline. Nobody catches him for 80 yards. Touchdown.

After realizing who they were messing with, Commerce decided to get serious, taking the lead with 10 minutes left in the first quarter, 7-6.

But the Indians punched right back four minutes later with Bradshaw scoring off a quarterback keeper, which came after the Boys in Blue slogged another 80 yards up the field thanks to the running game of Zach Davenport coupled with Major Moss' long reach for receptions.

So Towns County took back the lead with six minutes remaining in the quarter, 12-7.

Commerce answered again that first quarter, however, once more taking the lead from the Indians with only two minutes and 45 seconds remaining until the second quarter.

And the Tigers kept that lead for all of one minute 15 seconds, before running back Russell



The Towns County Indians storm the field at Commerce where the offense made an immediate impact on the Class A Public 9th ranked Tigers. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Cox decided he didn't feel like putting too much credence in the Commerce defense, breaking tackles and finding a hole for a solid 57-yard run for the touchdown.

When Bradshaw once more connected with Moss for the follow-up 2-point conversion, the score was 20-14 in favor of the Indians as the final seconds ran out of the first quarter.

Towns County played hard and with much enthusiasm for

the rest of the game, with Andy Chambers behind more than a few possessions for the offense after that first quarter, though the Indians were down 20-15 at the half and ended the game 20-56 in a loss against the Tigers.

Indians Head Coach John Cornett was excited to see just how well his Indians could perform against a team that made it to the Final Four in playoff games last year - Towns County's potential,

that spark, is definitely there.

"The guys have shown up to every game ready to play, and that's no different this game," said Coach Cornett. "I think there's a huge call in the first half where we ran a halfback pass, and Zach goes to throw it and gets hit, and his arm is in forward motion - when (the officials) let it go and (Commerce) scooped and scored, that was a huge momentum shift.

"But you know, our guys

are not afraid. We're not afraid to play anybody. We hit just as hard as Commerce. Commerce is a great team, and for us to hang with them that first half, that's respectable."

A big part of the game was an apparent underestimation of Towns County by the Commerce Tigers, a mistake they're not likely to repeat this time next year.

"It's their Homecoming, and there's always a lot of dis-

tractions, but that second play we broke it, we executed perfectly," said Coach Cornett. "We've had glimpses this year where we look good like that, and I just hope we can work off that and keep playing that way."

The Towns County Indians play their second to last regular season game this Friday, Oct. 28, at Lakeview Academy, with a kickoff time of 7:30 p.m.

Benson looking forward to second season at the helm of the Indians

By Shawn Jarrard
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Staff Writer

Basketball season is nearly here - practice starts Monday, Oct. 31, and the Indians will square off against Blue Ridge out of North Carolina in a pre-season home scrimmage game on Monday, Nov. 14, at 6 p.m. in Bill P. Kendall Gymnasium.

The first regular game of the season will take place at home, scheduled for Friday, Nov. 18, against Lumpkin County.

Indians Head Coach Rob Benson has already said that he can't wait to get this season underway, and that he hopes the community comes out to support their athletes come game time.

And there's plenty to be excited about.

"We only graduated two players, so we're returning all five starters," said Coach Benson. "We've added a few additions in Logan Cowart, Chayton McClure - those two kids are going to be very helpful.

"Since we've got everybody returning, we're not going to have to change our offensive



Major Moss (left) with a behind-the-back pass and Zach Davenport and Coach Benson (right) look for an opening. Photos/Lowell Nicholson

schemes, we're not going to have to change our defensive scheme. Now, we just need to fine tune some things that we needed to get better at at the end of last season, like jumping to the ball, closeouts, rebounding, screening, attacking the basket, things like that."

Michael Anderson and Alan Rogers will also be return-

ing to help Benson with coaching duties.

"They know what we're doing, too, because we're not changing the schemes or anything, everything's going to be pretty much the same (with few changes)," said Coach Benson. "That's how you're going to build your program is not having to



change things.

"Even though you may have to change some things in the future, once your program's established, that's huge. So when you're returning everything, that's huge."

The Towns County Indians Basketball Team finished last year with a 12-14 record, and Coach

Benson looks to improve on those numbers moving into the 2016-2017 season.

"We've been doing open gyms," said Coach Benson. "We've been doing a little bit of workouts, but mainly just open gyms, because I need the kids playing as much as possible. It's just so important that they're

playing."

Added Coach Benson: "It's going to be a great season, and we look for a lot of community support, and a lot of involvement in keeping the kids positive and upbeat, now that they're playing for Towns County as well as for the team and for themselves.

"I'm probably more excited this year than I've been since I started coaching - this is a pretty exciting year. It's a lot of expectation. We ought to have a good season, we know that. We should rebound every team we play, we should be that effective."

The 2016-2017 Indians will be, for Varsity: Major Moss, starter; Will De Vries, starter; Colten Shook, starter; Adam Barrett, starter; Zach Davenport, starter; Cole Ledford, starter; Darringer Barrett; Chayton McClure; Logan Cowart; Bradley Benson; Evan Berrong; Brett Denton; Trent Bradshaw; Will Travis.

And for Junior Varsity: Casson Shook, Bradley Benson, Caleb Clark, Evan Berrong, Nick Bradley, Trevor Bradley, Dylan Shook, Brett Denton, Trent Bradshaw, Will Travis and Dalton Key.

Kendall Floyd will be team manager.

NASCAR 2016

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

Logano Wins; Chase Field Reduced

Talladega, AL -- Joey Logano survived a green-white-checkered restart to win at Talladega and clinch a spot in the next-to-last round of this year's Chase For The Sprint Cup Championship.

The win was especially satisfying for the Penske Racing driver because he had to overcome a pit road penalty that cost him a lap after he left his pits with a jack stuck under his car. He made a full lap around the 2.66-mile track, with the jack stuck to his car, and then had to wait for this team to remove it, after returning to his pits.

"We were lucky to get this one," said Logano. "It's never a layup here. We had several things happen that we weren't prepared for. The car was really overheating a couple times. I wasn't sure about the engine, and then we had that deal in the pits. But we've come to far to give up, and I think that's the mindset of all the team."

Brian Scott's runner-up finish was the highest of his career. "Man, this was just great," he said. "This was a great race for us. The only problems we had were trash and some paper on the grill. Being able to stay out of trouble and avoid the wrecks is like a win."

The remaining top-10 finishers: 3. Denny Hamlin, 4. Kurt Busch, 5. Ricky Stenhouse, 6. Kyle Larson, 7. Kevin Harvick, 8. Aric Almirola, 9. Austin Dillon, 10. A.J. Allmendinger

The four drivers that were eliminated from this year's Chase were Martin Truex Jr., Brad Keselowski, Austin Dillon, and Chase Elliott.

Martin Truex Jr. lost an engine in his No. 78 during lap 50



Joey Logano

Spencer Gallagher was second, followed by Timothy Peters, Rico Abreu, Ben Kennedy, Christopher Bell, Johnny Sauter, Ryan Truex, Matt Tifft, and William Byron.

The six remaining Chase drivers with four races remaining: 1. Byron, 2. Bell, 3. Peters, 4. Kennedy, 5. Sauter, 6. Crafton.

NASCAR AND WALMART RIDE TOGETHER

NASCAR and Walmart seem to be driving the same type vehicle. Both organizations go to great lengths to show the sunny side of their business, while suppressing information that might offer a conflicting view.

Just last week I saw a big Walmart ad on television. They were touting the fact that they were spending hundreds of millions of dollars creating new jobs for Americans. It looked and sounded great.

But knowing how frugal the giant retailer is, I wondered by what means they would cut costs in order to derive the extra cash. And besides, the ad cost them a lot of dollars to make, and millions more to air many times on

prime-time TV. I found out this past Thursday how the money would be generated to create those new jobs.

While hurrying to leave for Talladega, my wife informed me that her schedule was pretty tight, and she didn't have time to go by the grocery store for some coffee and a couple other things we needed.

She couldn't guarantee there would be coffee in the house when I returned.

No problem. I remembered seeing an ad in Sunday's newspaper for our favorite brand of coffee from one of Walmart's competitor's for \$5.99 per bag. I would be able to zip up to our nearby Walmart, pick up the coffee and other items, and head out for the track. No sweat.

Got in Walmart, found all the items, put them in the buggy and headed for the check-out. Walmart has a policy that if there are over three customers in a check out line, they will open another register. But I guess that didn't apply last Thursday morning. I suddenly remembered that this was Walmart, and I had to play by their rules. My wait time wouldn't be over 15 minutes, and I knew I could make it up once I hit the highway. A little girl that looked to be about 16-years-old checked me out. When she got to the bag of coffee, that was priced at \$7.97, I explained to her about the competitor's lower advertised price.

"We no longer price match," was her reply.

I was shocked. Walmart used to have a policy of matching all competitors prices. Apparently they had changed their policy and rules without telling anyone. Maybe they didn't want

us to know.

On the way out of the store, I suddenly realized how Walmart was going to generate all those millions it needed to help us poor Americans.

NASCAR is basically the same way. I have never had any problems with the organization, but I know a few journalists that are no longer issued race credentials, based on some negative writings.

Descriptions of the actual Sprint Cup races put out by NASCAR's public relations department always give the image of an exciting race. While the last ten laps might be exciting, the other 490 laps are as boring as an order of stale McDonald's french fries.

The truth is everything is not as it appears in NASCAR racing. The organization will announce a new title sponsor for the Cup Series within a few weeks. The new company won't be paying nearly as much as Sprint did, hence there will be less money for everyone involved.

The field of cars used to consist of 43, now it's down to 40.

Several major sponsors, including Kellogg's, are leaving NASCAR after this season.

Every 2016 Sprint Cup race with the exception of one has had a decrease in television viewers. Overall television viewership is down 14 per cent from 2015, and another 17 per cent from 2014.

Teams are struggling, especially single-car operations. Tommy Baldwin, a former racer, who has run a low-budget, one-car team for many years, is being forced to sell out, because he can't pay the bills.

Getting back to Walmart, I politely told the young cashier

that I had decided not to buy the coffee.

My daddy had a saying, "No matter how you try to skin a cat, he's not going to like it."

There are times I know how that cat felt.

I sure hope I can find a grocery store open on the way home from the track.

Weekend Racing: The Sprint Cup and Truck teams are at the .522-mile Martinsville track.

Sat., Oct. 29, Truck Series race 20 of 23; Starting time: 1:30 p.m. ET; TV: Foxsports1.

Sun., Oct. 30, Sprint Cup race 33 of 36; Starting time: 1 p.m. ET; TV: NBCSN.

Racing Trivia Question: Where is Chase Elliott's hometown?

Last Week's Question: Which Cup team will Clint Bowyer drive for in 2017? Answer: He will replace Tony Stewart at Stewart/Haas Racing.

You may contact the Racing Reporter by e-mail at: hodges@race500.com. NT(Oc26.Z16.C1A

Youth Basketball Registration

Towns County Recreation Youth Basketball registration will begin October 10, 2016 and run through October 29, 2016. Youth basketball includes boys and girls ages 6-12. Registration fee is \$45 and is held at the Towns County Recreation and Conference Center. Hours: Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-8 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

For more info please call (706) 896-2600.