

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Another superb season for Towns County Golf

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Towns County Golf has done exceedingly well this year, as evidenced by the State Championship won by the girls team on Monday, May 18.

The boys team did well in their tournament, too, with three of the five young men on the team putting up personal best scores.

"We are very proud of the progress that they made over the year, and they competed very well at the tournament," said Stephanie McConnell, who helps with the teams and is the mother of Indian golfer Nick McConnell.

The 2014-2015 Indians team was Benjamin Edwards, Johnathan Watson, Sterling Hedden, Nicholas McConnell and Chase Williams.

Golf parents and Towns County Schools are grateful to community members that have helped throughout the year, said McConnell, offering a special thanks to Steve Phelps from Brasstown Valley, Matt Liss from Chatuge Shores, and Rob Williams from Hiwassee for serving as the boys coach at the State Tournament in Commerce

while Head Coach Brett Keller attended the girls tournament in Royston.

At the end of a long, successful season that saw both Towns County golf teams compete at the State level, Coach Keller would like to thank a few people as well.

"I would like to thank all of the parents who have been supportive throughout the season," said Coach Keller, echoing McConnell's sentiments. "I would also like to thank Superintendent Dr. Darren Berong, the administration, and teachers who have supported the golf teams this year.

"A special thanks to Stephanie McConnell for all of her hard work and organization for the golf teams," Coach Keller continued, "Rob Williams for helping host the girl's Sectional meet and for filling in as a community coach for the boys team at the State Tournament, and Tracy and Ingrid Jenkins for going the extra mile."

Two of the three young women on the championship Lady Indians team are seniors and will be graduating this Friday.

"It goes without saying, we will miss the senior leadership of Danielle Diehl and Mia Manto," said Coach

Keller. "They were a part of the first Towns County girls golf team as freshmen, and have worked hard over the last four years to make this program what it is. Without their determination to win, we would not have earned Area Championships for three consecutive years or State Runner-up titles.

"Throughout the season, these girls have used their intellects to manage the course. Because of their intelligence, we look for them to be successful young ladies and accomplish great things at the college level at Georgia Tech and Mercer."

Next year, Kenzie Jenkins, who repeatedly posted lowest scores in competitions throughout the season, will return to give Towns County that extra edge that made them shine that much brighter this year.

"Because sophomore Kenzie Jenkins scored the third lowest score in the State tournament, we look for her to come back as a strong force next season in Girls Class A," said Coach Keller. "Kenzie's willingness to compete in other golf tournaments in addition to the regular golf season, as well as her drive to improve her golf skills, will push her to be the best single A golfer in the state of Georgia."



Both Towns County golf squads finished at the top or near the top of State competition in 2015.

Spring football is in the books following Blue-White game

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The Towns County Indians appeared in fine form as spring practice culminated in the annual Blue and White intersquad game in Frank McClure Stadium on Thursday, May 21.

This was a return to the Blue/White game, as last year the team played two scrimmage games in lieu of the intersquad game.

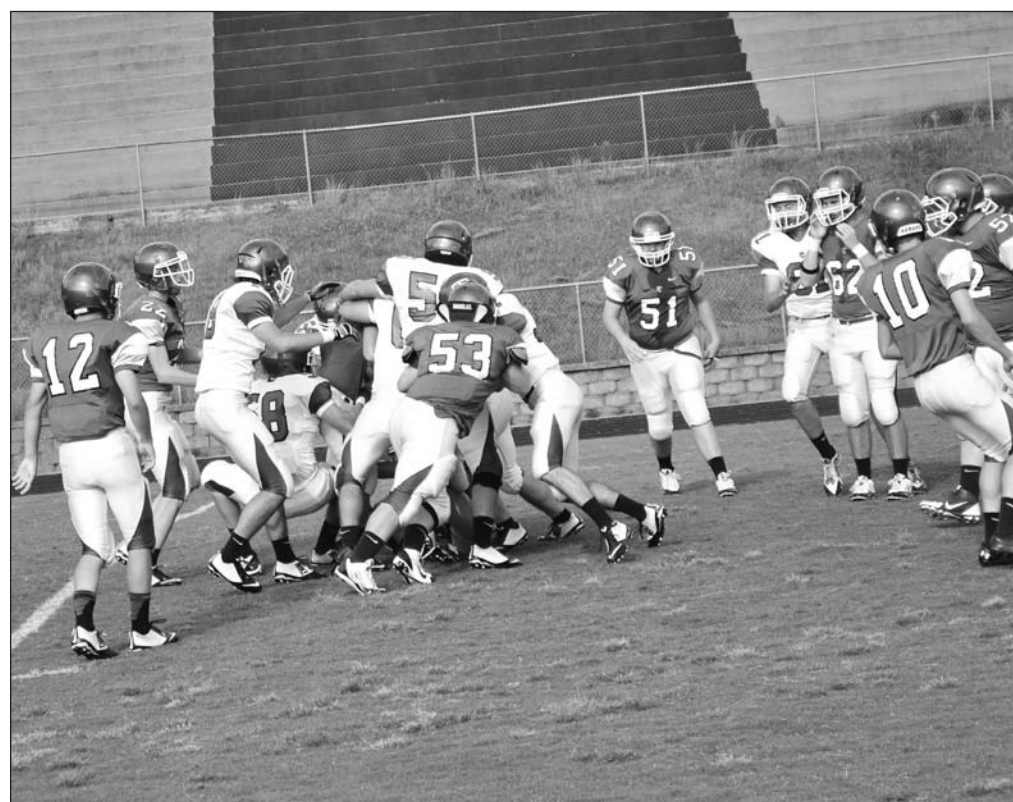
"I felt both sides did really good getting after it," said Indians Head Coach Billy Barnhart. "And that's what I told them - we're enemies. For the Blue/White game, during the game we're enemies. And they played liked it. They got after each other, and I liked a lot what I saw, both offensively and defensively. It could have gone either way."

White scored seven minutes into the first half as Kobe Denton carried the ball 25 yards for a touchdown.

Kicker Shea Underwood pulled double duty, making point after attempts for both White and Blue, and he made every attempt good on Thursday.

Blue answered halfway through the second quarter with a touchdown of its own, when upcoming junior quarterback Russell Cox scored on a quarterback keeper.

But before the second quarter came to an end,



The White team gang tackles a Blue ball carrier during last week's scrimmage. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

soon-to-be sophomore quarterback Dalton Key completed a 14-yard pass to Daulton Rogers in the end zone, bringing the lead back to White.

Heading into the half, the score was White 14, Blue 7.

Between quarters and at the half, the newly formed freshman team ran plays to showcase the hard work they've been putting in this spring.

Up and coming freshman Trent Bradshaw showed

off his arm between the first and second quarters, connecting with Andy Chambers for a touchdown.

White scored again late in the third quarter, as Kobe Denton ran in another touchdown, bringing the score to 21-7.

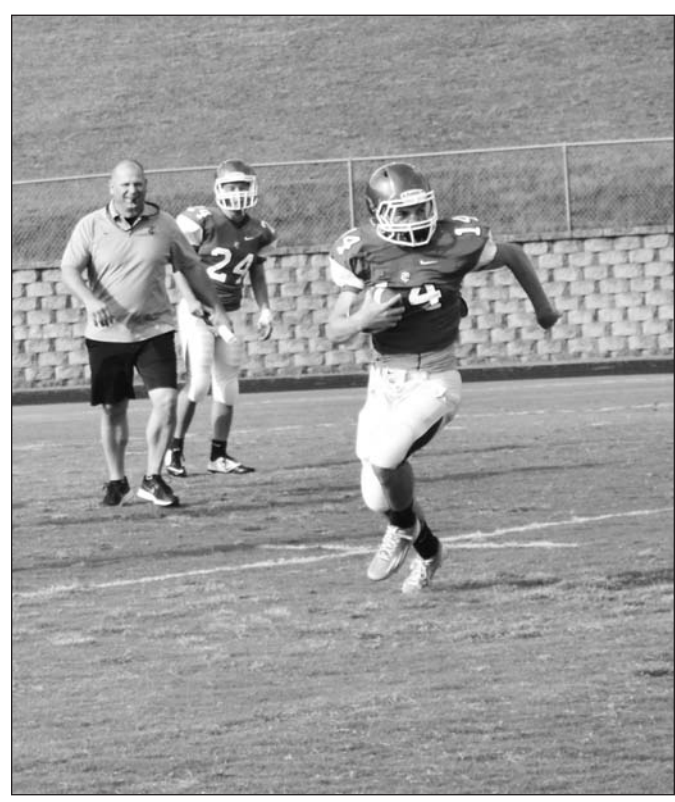
Blue wasn't finished, however, and three minutes into the fourth quarter, Cox connected with Colten Shook for a 64-yard touchdown pass, with the tying score one touchdown away.

White fumbled the

ball three plays into its next possession, and fall senior Hank Chambers picked up the recovery, giving Blue its best fighting chance to come back.

There was a little dodgy spot on the field, as Blue fumbled to White, then White fumbled to Blue once more, and Blue team's Luke Woody got credit for the final recovery.

With only seconds remaining in the game, Cox threw a Hail Mary pass from the Blue 16-yard-line,



Head Coach Billy Barnhart looks on as rising junior quarterback Russell Cox looks for running room. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

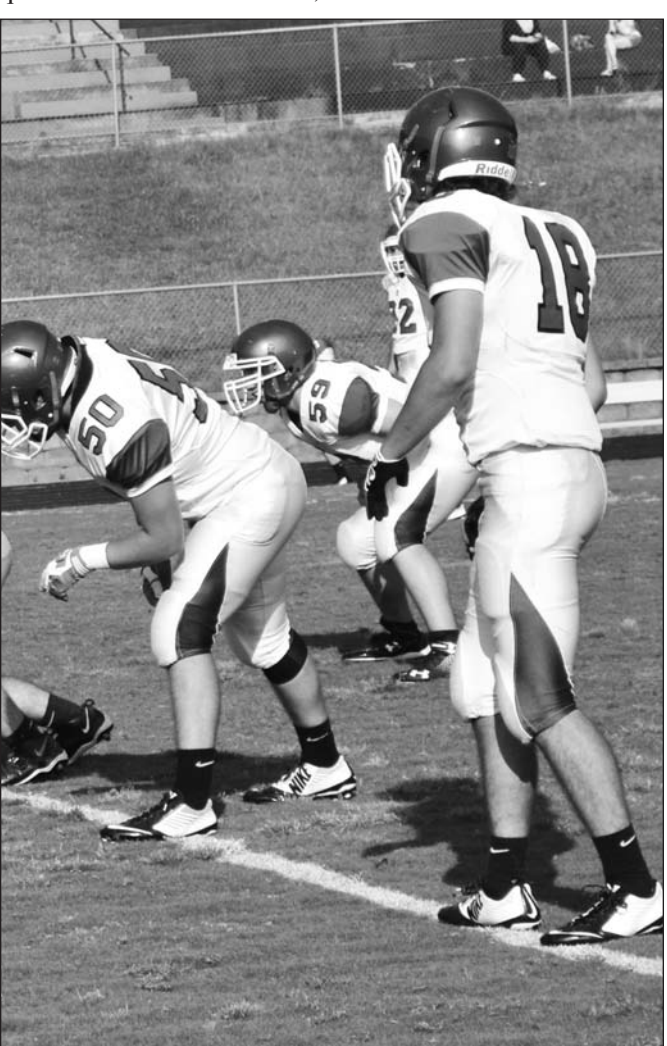
and the ball ended up in the hands of White team's Key for an interception.

The game came to an end, 21-14, with White the victor for the day. It should be noted that both teams played with gusto and maximum heart, and the Blue/White game was an exciting sneak preview of things to come in the fall.

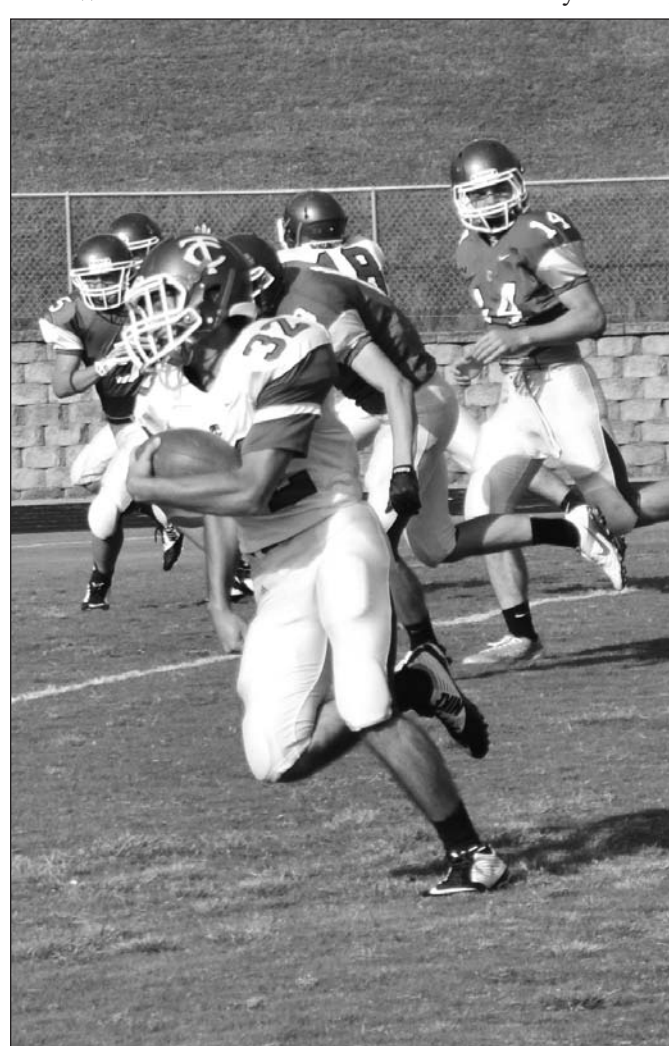
Banter between the White and Blue teams, which were stationed on opposite sidelines as any normal game would have

opposing teams, was certainly competitive. Each team played with the objective to win, not letting up just because they were facing off against longtime friends and classmates.

"That's what I wanted," said Coach Barnhart. "I wanted them to come out, and I wanted them to get after each other and compete. And I felt that's what they did tonight, and I'm just really proud of them. I thought it was a great end to a great spring that we had."



The Towns County White team's defense prepares to get after the offense on the ensuing play. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



Rising junior running back Kobe Denton breaks free around the left corner for a 25-yard touchdown carry. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

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