

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Forsyth Central unable to keep up with Indians in 7-on-7 scrimmage

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Towns County Indians beat Class AAAAA's Forsyth Central Bulldogs with six touchdowns to three in a modified 7-on-7 scrimmage game at Towns County High School on Thursday, July 16.

Rules of engagement were simple: each team got 10 plays to score, with each drive beginning on the 50 yard line. The ball had to be passed each play, as the scrimmage was no contact other than touching players to stop their forward progress.

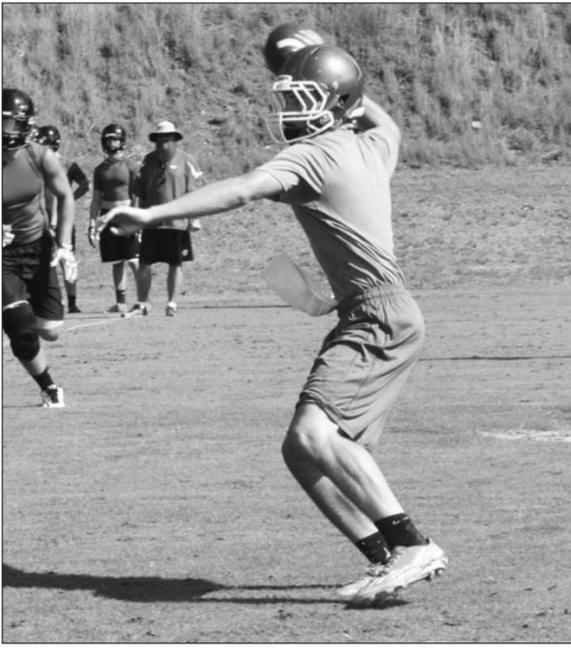
Both defensively and offensively, the Indians were at the top of their game from summer practice.

The Indians scored first during their third possession, as Russell Cox connected with Harold Cox to bring the touchdown count 1-1.

Dalton Key threw the next touchdown pass for 50 yards to Trent Bradshaw during their fourth possession, bringing the score 2-2.

Helping the Indians to take the lead for the first time in the game, Russell Cox threw another touchdown, for 50 yards, to Colton Shook, and Cox connected again the very next play, this time with Shea Underwood, for another 50-yard pass that brought the Towns County lead to 4-2.

Forsyth Central scored once more before the two-hour game finished, but in their sixth possession, Underwood came up with another pass from Cox to score, and Key had the final touchdown pass, hitting Bailey



Photos of the Towns County Indians 7-on-7 scrimmage action vs Forsyth Central by Lowell Nicholson

Chastain for 50 yards, cementing the 6-3 victory against the much larger school.

On defense, Towns County had five interceptions: one from Dylan Roberts, two from Russell Cox, one from Key and one from Kobe Denton – though seemingly countless Indian defenders slapped balls out of the air against Forsyth Central that Thursday.

"It's our first time really going against another team, even if it's a 7-on-7, but it's good to see the way our guys competed," said Head Coach Billy Barnhart. "That's what I was looking for, seeing them compete. It's a bigger school, and they weren't intimidated, I don't think, at

all, and they just came out and competed."

For Coach Barnhart, one of the biggest conclusions he drew from the way his Indians played on Thursday was that they came out swinging, and at the same time had a good time doing it.

"That's what this game is all about, and I'm really proud of them, the way they played today and what they did," said Coach Barnhart.

Moving forward, this game is sure to boost the confidence of the players, many of whom are younger, while some are varsity veterans.

"I think it'll do a lot for all



today without our run game, so when you mix our run game in there, that's going to make our passing game successful," said Coach Barnhart. "In the same token, if we're able to throw the ball some – which we weren't able to do very good last year. People were able to crowd the box on us and made it tough on them.

"But if we're able to throw the ball a little bit this year and throw the ball better than what we did last year, that'll loosen defenses up and give us better opportunities to run the football, too."

Going into Thursday's scrimmage, the Indians had only eight days of defensive work, as Coach Bohannon and Coach Chris Vardo only recently began working with the boys in that capacity.

And in only eight days, the boys proved that they are coachable and flexible, as well as fast learners able to implement an excellent defense against a Class AAAAA school.

"I'm proud of the way our guys have picked things up and the way they looked today, so I'm real proud of that," said Coach Barnhart.

Coach Barnhart – who is friends with one of the coaches – invited Forsyth Central to play in the scrimmage game to get the boys some time on the field against another school.

The first game of the season will be at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 21, at home against Hayesville, North Carolina, followed by an away game at Union County on Friday, Aug. 28, also at 7:30 p.m.

"As an offensive guy, I liked what I saw defensively," said Coach Barnhart. "I liked seeing us get the ball back. Turnovers, those are momentum-changers in game. It's great, as an offensive guy, to get the ball back, so I love to see the way our defense is playing. Last year, we got beat a bunch deep. We let people get behind us, and you didn't see that today."

One thing to keep in mind is that the Indians' "bread and butter," as Defensive Coordinator Lee Bohannon told the team, is their running game – which is why the excellent passing game was so exciting Thursday.

"We had a lot of success

between the six touchdown passes and the five interceptions, it was hard to say which side of the ball was working better than the other.

NASCAR 2015

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

"Rowdy" Kyle Busch gets third win

LOUDON, N.H. — "Rowdy" Kyle Busch is the hottest driver in the Sprint Cup Series. Since coming back from a leg and knee injury at Daytona, Busch has won three Cup races. The third one came Sunday at New Hampshire, and was his second consecutive victory.

Busch was running third behind Kevin Harvick and Brad Keselowski, when the trio approached a lapped car on lap 252 of the 301-lap race. Busch went to the outside of Keselowski, cut down, and passed Harvick on the inside for the lead.

All the leaders pitted a few laps later under caution. Busch and Keselowski got two tires each, while Harvick took on four.

When racing resumed Busch was the leader, and was never threatened by either runner-up Keselowski, or third-place finisher Kevin Harvick.

"Man, this is an awesome comeback," said Busch. "Our cars today are so much better than they were a couple years ago. We were right on it today."

Busch is currently 32nd in points. In order to make this year's Chase, he must be in 30th position or better at the end of seven more races. In the last three races, he has gained 70 points, and needs to pick up 58 more. If he continues at his present pace, he will make the cut with points to spare.

Keselowski had the opinion that Busch might have caused him to lose momentum when he cut in front of him on lap 252.

"I'm not going to say what the (Busch) did," said Keselowski, who led 101 laps. "We had a very fast car. I was just hoping to catch a break."

Kevin Harvick led 59 laps, but ran out of race track near the end.

"I think the four-tire call was the right one," Harvick said. "We had the right strategy. It just took us a little longer to get back to the front."

The remaining top-10 finishers: 4. Joey Logano, 5. Dale Earnhardt Jr., 6. Matt Kenseth, 7. Carl Edwards, 8. Austin Dillon, 9. Jeff Gordon, 10. Kurt Busch.

The race was pretty uneventful. While there were nine cautions for 34 laps, they were for spinouts, and a fire under Alex Bowman's car.

Top-10 leaders after 19 of 36: 1. Harvick-734, 2. Logano-655, 3. Earnhardt-655, 4. Johnson-648, 5. Truex-628, 6. Keselowski-603, 7. Kenseth-578, 8. Kurt Busch-576, 9. McMurray-574, 10. Gordon-573.

HAMLIN IS XFINITY WINNER

Despite an early spinout, Denny Hamlin came back to win Saturday's Xfinity race at New Hampshire. Hamlin made contact with his teammate Kyle Busch just 23-laps into the 200 lap race, and spun around. His car wasn't damaged and by lap 63, he was the leader.

Hamlin got into Austin Dillon late in the race, causing Dillon to get loose. Hamlin went on to win, but after the race, Dil-



"Rowdy" Kyle Busch Wins at New Hampshire. Furnished by NASCAR

lon had his own opinion of what happened.

"That wasn't good racing," said runner-up Dillon. "He didn't want anybody racing him side-by-side for more than a lap."

Brad Keselowski was third, followed by Kyle Busch, Daniel Suarez, Ty Dillon, Regan Smith, Darrell Wallace, Chase Elliott, and Brennan Poole.

Top-10 leaders after 17 of 33: 1. C. Buescher-623, 2. Elliott-592, 3. T. Dillon-585, 4. Smith-564, 5. Sadler-555, 6. D. Wallace-547, 7. Suarez-516, 8. Gaughan-506, 9. Reed-502, 10. Scott-494.

HALF AND HALF AT STEWART HAAS

Stewart-Haas Racing is made up of four teams; Tony Stewart, Kevin Harvick, Kurt Busch, and Danica Patrick.

Two of the drivers; Kevin Harvick and Kurt Busch are doing well. Harvick leads all drivers in the Sprint Cup Series, while Busch is eighth.

The other half of the organization isn't doing too well. Stewart is 28th in points, while Patrick is 22nd.

Depending on which two teams you look at depends on whether their glass is half full or half empty.

If either Stewart or Patrick hope to make this year's Chase, they need to find a win pretty quick, because both are winless, and have shown very little at the midway point of the season.

"We're fighting the handling of our car so bad right now," Stewart said last week during a conference call. "The whole year has been frustrating. It just seems like everywhere we go, we seem to fight the same balance."

Stewart said the new NASCAR rules package reducing the amount of horsepower from 850 to 725 at non-restrictor-plate races has caused him problems.

"When you drive for so long and you're used to one thing ... taking the amount of horsepower they took out this year was a pretty radical change for the Cup series," Stewart said. "The reduction of horsepower is what I think has hurt me more than anything."

"There's no doubt in my mind, I feel like every weekend

is the weekend we find it. I'm not talking about a trick pit strategy ... it's not strictly getting a win. We want to get our car working."

"As a driver, you're thinking about one thing, and that's how to win the race. But to go and be in the role that I'm in now, I try to think from everybody's angle, whether it's a fan, whether it's a driver, an owner, a sponsor. You try to think of every angle of everybody that's going to be there, not just being there as a driver."

"It definitely changes your perspective, how you look at everything."

Meanwhile, Patrick, who had a tizzy last week after Dale Earnhardt wrecked her, has fared especially bad in the past few weeks.

After the first eight races, she was 13th in points. But in the last 10 races, she has fallen all the way to 22nd, with three finishes of 34th or worse.

"I don't think that the changes that we made for qualifying were good," said Patrick. "You learn with every mistake and we know not to do that and waste a run tomorrow, but it would have been nice to learn it in a practice session, but we didn't. So we made the most of it."

She qualified 20th at New Hampshire and finished 24th.

Weekend Racing: The Trucks race Wednesday, July 22 at Eldora Speedway. The Xfinity and Cup teams are at the famed, 2.5-mile Brickyard in Indianapolis.

Wed., July 22; Truck Series race 11; Starting time: 9 pm ET; TV: FoxSports1.

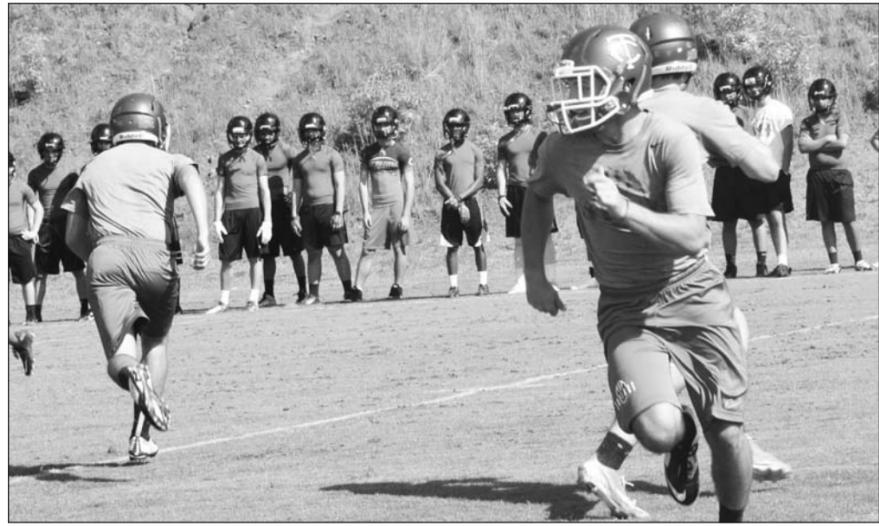
Sat., July 25; Xfinity Series race 18 of 36; Starting time: 3:30 pm ET; TV: NBC.

Sun., July 26; Sprint Cup race 20 of 36; Starting time: 2:30 pm ET; TV: NBCS.

Racing Trivia Question: At what track does the 10-race Chase for the Sprint Cup Championship begin?

Last Week's Question: Who won the 2014 Xfinity Series championship? **Answer:** It was Chase Elliott.

You may contact the Racing Reporter by e-mail at hodges@race500.com. NTJJul22,C2jac



Lady Indians in action last week



Lady Indians at Union County last Tuesday. Photos by Todd Forrest



Trout stocking sites week of July 13-17, 2015

Fannin: Big Creek, Rock Creek, and Toccoa River
Lumpkin: Etowah River and Nimblewill Creek
Union: Cooper Creek and Toccoa River

Note: Information is subject to change. For the latest on stocking and event information, remember to "like" us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ChattahoocheeForestNationalFishHatchery. Please call the hatchery at 706-838-4723 for questions. The hatchery also provides trout for the state. Please contact Georgia DNR for information on sites stocked by the state. NJuly22,Z12;CA