

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

www.townscountyherald.net • E-mail: tcherald@windstream.net

Indians fall short to Hayesville 20-12

By Joe Collins
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Hayesville, NC – The Towns County Indians traveled to Frank R. Long Memorial stadium Friday night to challenge the Hayesville Yellow Jackets in the season opening football game. They came home with a season opening loss 20-12.

It was a perfect night for football as Towns County senior Wesley Bloodworth received the opening kickoff on the Indians 25-yard line and returned it 10 yards where the Indians' offense took over on their 35-yard line.

The offense moved the ball well on the ground and in the air with some great play from senior quarterback Joseph Gibson and some hard fought yardage on the ground by junior Jackson Noblet at running back and senior full-back Bloodworth. Sophomore wide out Cruz Shook added a couple of fine receptions and the Indians found themselves with a fourth and seven on the Jackets 26-yard line and they went for it.

Gibson handed off to Noblet and he busted through the right side for a 24-yard gain and a first down on the Jackets 2-yard line. Gibson took the following snap and pushed through the line for the first touchdown of the game and season for the Indians. The extra points attempt failed and the Indians led 6-0.

Hayesville took the following kickoff on their 25-yard line and returned it to mid-field where a Jackets'



Wesley Bloodworth signals for the touchdown as the Indians punch it in from the Yellow Jacket goal line. Photo/Joe Collins

penalty backed them up to their own 35-yard line. Towns County's defense struggled hard and found it difficult to stop the Yellow Jackets from moving the ball and suddenly found themselves in a "goal line stand." Some hard nose play led to a Jackets' fumble and senior defensive lineman Colton Stroud came up with the ball for the Indians.

The Indians took over on their 1-yard line and Noblet was able to give the Indians a little room to work with on a 5-yard gain off the left side. Gibson attacked the Jackets secondary by finding his favorite target of the night, Shook with a solid gain to get the ball out of the danger zone as the first quarter came to an end. The Indians were unable to move the ball and were forced to punt. Bloodworth hit a booming punt that ended with junior Garrett Bradshaw delivering one of the biggest hits of the night to stop the

return before it started.

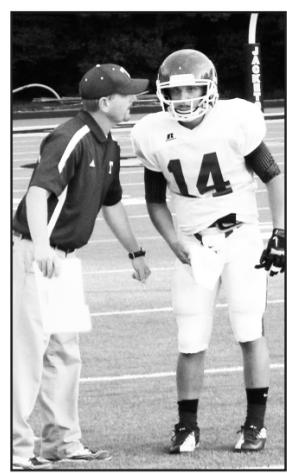
The Jackets were able to find some running room on the following series where junior defensive back Harrison Hobbs and Shook teamed up to save a TD on a quarterback keeper off the left side. The Jackets found the end zone on the next play and converted the extra point to put them ahead 7-6 with 8:47 left in the first half.

The Indians were unable to move the ball after the Jackets kicked off and were forced to call on Bloodworth again and he delivered another good punt but unfortunately the Jackets had found a wound in the Indians defense and added a little salt to it by scoring again with 1:32 left in the first half. The score was now 14-6 Jackets.

Bradshaw received the post score kickoff and returned it to the Indians 35-yard line where Gibson and Shook

hooked up to cross mid-field. Gibson followed blocking by Bloodworth and took a play action to the Jackets 36-yard line. Gibson then tried to hit Noblet on a post pattern and the Jackets came up with the first interception of the game with .02 left on the clock. The first half ended with the Jackets up 14-6.

The second half started with the Indians kicking off. The Jackets started on their own 31-yard line and faced a determined Indians defense. Noblet let the fans know that there



Coach Langford and Joseph Gibson. Photo/Joe Collins

was a lot of fight left in Towns County by stopping the Jackets tailback for a 6-yard loss on the second play from scrimmage. Sophomore Linebacker Kyle Davis then batted down the third down pass attempt and the Jackets were forced to punt.

The Indians started on their own 44-yard line following the punt and made some ground when Noblet gained

See Football, page 11A

Joe Collins



Tips from the Range

Now that we have learned a lot about the fundamentals that control the set up and backswinging, lets take a look at getting the club through impact, or in other words, the downswing.

Last week we looked at the weight transfer and how it helps lead the start of the backswinging. We also touched on the beginning of the downswing in relation to that weight transfer. The center of gravity moves to the back foot by rotating the upper body and the club is then released to the top of the arc where it will begin its downward motion into impact.

At this point in the swing, you should feel as though you are away from the ball with your knees bent. Your balance should be over the ankles with most of your weight on the inside of the back foot. I like to think of this inside position as the "pivot point" of the weight transfer. Keeping the weight over the pivot point will really help you maintain your balance and allow you to start the downswing with the lower body.

Now that your weight is on the back foot and located over the pivot point, we must focus on the position of the spine angle. The spine must remain in the original position that you established at address so the shoulders can rotate on the same path back and through. The proper shoulder rotation is crucial in keeping the club on the proper path during

the downswing. Another very important aspect of the downswing is keeping the forward arm straight. This rigidity of the forward arm is the main connection of the club to the shoulders and will allow the club to follow the correct inside path it needs in order to be square at impact. Make sure that you don't re-grip the club during the start of the downswing or the club face will not square correctly at impact.

When the above mentioned elements are in place, things become pretty simple. You push of the inside pivot point and rotate the hips to transfer the weight to the front foot while keeping your back toward the target for as long as you can. Let the arms fall to the inside of the backswing path so the forward arm will rotate the club face square.

Don't force any action with the hands and make sure you keep your head behind the ball.

The downswing is a complicated motion and requires some dedicated movement. Take it slow and make sure the positions you place the club in are correct in relation to your balance because balance is the key to making the swing happen correctly.

I can't close without saying that it is with a heavy heart that I dedicate this week's "Tips" to the memory of one of my friends, Charles "Chuck" Matlack. Golf has lost a fine man and a truly great player.

R.I.P Chuck, we will miss you.

Good luck and I will see you on the course!

TCHS 2012 Football Schedule

- Aug. 31: vs Union County
- Sept. 7: @ Fellowship Christian
- Sept. 14: @ Rabun County
- Sept. 21: vs Rabun Gap
- Oct. 5: @ Copper Basin, TN
- Oct. 19: vs North Cobb Christian
- Oct. 26: vs St. Francis
- Nov. 2: @ Lakeview
- Nov. 9 vs Hebron Christian

Towns' Lady Indians complete a busy week

By Joe Collins
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Towns County Lady Indians softball team has been very active lately.

Beginning last Saturday, Aug. 18, with the Commerce Invitational and finishing the week this past Saturday, Aug. 25, with a regularly scheduled game. There were five games played during the tournament and three regularly scheduled games following through the week. When the final out occurred on Aug. 25, their record for the week was 5-3. They traveled to Commerce to open the week and captured a third place finish with some strong hitting and solid pitching.

Lady Indians 7 Chestatee 6

Senior Brittany Ledford took the mound in game one of the tournament and allowed 6 runs on 3 walks and 3 strikeouts.

The bats were hot with senior Brittany Boyer going 2 for 4. Senior Claire Wilson continued her solid hitting going 2 for 3. Senior Emily Anderson also went 2 for 3, which included a single and a double. Senior Alex Fagin was also 2 for 3 with two singles and two stolen bases and sophomore Alysa Pyle had a single and a walk with two stolen bases. Wilson and Anderson collected the most RBIs and the final score was 7-6 Indians.

Lady Indians 1 Commerce 5

Sophomore Emily Ledford was on the mound for the Indians and was very solid until the fifth inning when Commerce got a feel for her speed and began scoring runs.

The Lady Indians' bats were silent most of the game until Senior Emily Anderson got the Indians only RBI of the game on a solid triple. Sophomore Tori Morgan went 2 for 4 with a single and a triple and senior Meagan Ellis was 2 for 3.

Lady Indians 3 West Hall 6

West Hall proved to be strong in the pitching department and the Indians just couldn't adjust. They were able to put three runs on the board without any spectacular hitting



A Towns County runner is safe at the plate following a wild pitch by Lakeview in last week's win.

and senior Brittany Ledford was able to hold them in check with only three walks and a couple of strikeouts until the fourth inning when West Hall scored most of their runs. Senior Brittany Boyer had a good bat during the game going 2 for 4. In the end, the big inning for West Hall proved to be the turning point and the Indians went down swinging 6-3.

Lady Indians 15 Lincoln County 0

The Lady Indians got busy in the good eye department and put eleven runners on board in as many walks. The few hits they got were affective and the Indians declared victory on the "mercy rule" by scoring 15 runs by the end of the third inning.

Lady Indians 8 Chestatee 3

Game Five was against Chestatee who the Indians played in the first round. This time they showed what they are made of and beat Chestatee 8-3 to claim the third place trophy. Sophomore Emily Ledford was solid on the mound with four strikeouts and only five walks.

Lady Indians 13 Lakeview 6

On Wednesday the Lady Indians traveled to Gainesville to do battle with Lakeview Academy and came out victorious 13-6.

Sophomore Emily Ledford was solid through 4 1/3 innings with nine strikeouts on only three walks as she shut Lakeview down.

Towns County managed to get three runs on the board in the second with some solid hitting from Senior Claire

Wilson and some throwing errors on Lakeview. Senior Emily Anderson started the third inning with a bang as she delivered her second home run of the season. The Indians were able to add 4 more runs in the third and the score was 8-0 until the bottom of the fifth.

Facing the mercy rule of being behind by eight runs at the end of the fifth, Lakeview crossed the plate six times and got within two runs of the Indians but that would be all they could manage.

The sixth inning saw some throwing errors for Lakeview and some good hitting by the Indians. Freshman Alyson Nelson hit a hard double to right field and Ledford followed with an RBI single. Another freshman, Leanne Dean, got two RBI's on a single to center field and the Indians finished the sixth inning with some good pitching and defense as three more Indians were able to cross home plate to make the score 11-6.

The Indians scored two more runs in the top of the seventh and were able to hold Lakeview scoreless in the bottom of the inning. The Indians took the victory but Head Coach Tonya Martin added, "It's nice to win but we have a lot to improve on. We could have played better."

Lady Indians 11 Hebron Academy 3

Hebron Academy came knocking on the Indians door on Thursday and went home crying with an 11-3 decision in the fifth inning.

Senior Claire Wilson had an out of the park homer and then Senior Emily Anderson followed her with her third homer of the season that also cleared the outfield fence

Anderson again cleared the fence and the bases in her next at bat with her fourth homer of the season. Seniors Megan Ellis and Alex Fagin were both strong on the day going 2 for 3. Brittany Ledford was solid on the mound for the Indians allowing only three runs to score on 2 walks and one strikeout.

Lady Indians 1 Hart County 4

Hart County was the next school on the list for the Indians this week and things did not go well for Towns County.

It was a pitchers duel until the fourth. With the Indians ahead by one run, Hart County got their bats hot and had runners in scoring position for most of the inning. Towns was able to play some really good defense but still allowed two runs to score.

The Indians never seemed to get into the swing of things and with Hart County crossing the plate two more times in the fifth; it was too much for the tribe.

The Indians suffered their first loss in four games.

Coach Martin said of the loss, "We just couldn't string enough hits together at the same time. It was a tough loss to a good team."

The Indians don't have any time too waste, as next week will be just as busy. Chestatee will be in town on Monday, Aug. 27 at 5:30 p.m., the Indians will travel to Athens Academy on Aug. 28 for a 4:45 p.m. game and Commerce will be at home on Aug. 30.

Come out and support your Towns County Indians. They are getting better with each game and Coach Martin is working hard to help them down the improvement path. Go Lady Indians!

Joe Collins



What Grinds my Gears

For years the opponents of the Hayesville Yellow Jackets enter Frank R. Long Stadium at their own risk. The whispers are no longer whispers, they're chants, and they're loud and clear.

It's time to clean up the officiating the Smoky Mountain Conference seemingly allows when officials are allowed to officiate in Hayesville, NC.

On Friday night, the Towns County Indians were flagged for four unsportsmanlike conduct penalties, three holding penalties and other calls that you just don't see on the film.

At the same time, the Hayesville Yellow Jackets were given free reign to inflict pain and play with an unsportsmanlike manner that went largely unnoticed by the men in black and white of the Smokey Mountain Conference.

For years, every time a team goes into Hayesville, the old saying is if you want to win, you better score twice as many touchdowns as you need to score. The theory being that only half of them would count.

Flags fly in Hayesville, if for no other reason, in the direction of the opposition at Frank R. Long Stadium.

On Friday night, a senior Indians' running back was injured when a referee looked the

other way as a Yellow Jacket took the back's face mask and jerked him to the ground. It's on film. The end result was a shoulder injury that could keep him out for significant time.

What confuses me the most about this act of arrogance, high school football is the most filmed sport in the world. There's film on everything, from the band playing the National Anthem to the visitors going to the concession stand for a snack.

Don't think we don't see these infractions, or should we say, lack of enforcement on behalf of the Smoky Mountain Conference officiating crews.

Don't get me wrong, the Smoky Mountain Conference has a lot of really good people on their officiating staffs and I have had the pleasure of meeting and getting to know several of them. But one bad apple can spoil the whole bunch and it only takes one bad hit to injure an athlete. The crews have a reputation of allowing the rules to be bent even among the teams of the conference and has had this reputation for a long time. The good apples of this conference need to start letting the bad apples know that it is time for a change to the better.

There are bad officials in every conference and one could argue this point about the North Georgia officials, but it is the Smoky Mountain Conference that has the unspoken worst reputation of all the surrounding areas.

I hope now that a time will come when the major concern is about the protection of the athletes who play this great game and not about the wins of a particular conference. Nobody wants to see a kid get hurt because of unfair officiating.

All officials take note: if you allow illegal hits in one game, then it could be said that your actions caused a player to get hurt in another game. If you will call it right then, the integrity of the game will be improved.

Smoky Mountain Conference officiating has a bad reputation, but now that the unspoken has been spoken, please clean up the reputation. This goes for all other conferences as well. Please do all you can to ensure the safety of those athletes who put their trust in you.



Senior Meagan Ellis connects with a pitch for the Lady Indians.