

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Indians lead early but 28 unanswered by Fellowship proves too much

By Mason Mitcham
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Friday brought another tough loss for the Towns County High School football team and Head Coach Blair Harrison.

The Indians have shown noticeable improvements from the start of the season, but they still came up short against Fellowship Christian High School. The game ended with a 49-14 score.

The turnout wasn't as big as it had been against bitter rivals Union County, but Towns fans were not shy about demonstrating their support for the team. Some of them went as far as to don full-body paint.

During the beginning of the game, the Indians seemed to thrive on the encouragement. They started off with a strong kick to Fellowship's 10-yard line, where the defense got the ball back, and the offense followed closely by a touchdown by Cruz Shook with 8:43 left in the first.

Shea Underwood made the kick, bringing the score to 7-0 in favor of the Indians. Jackson Noblet distinguished himself during the first quarter as well with several lengthy runs.

During the first quarter, it seemed that Indian defense had started to work together a little better than they had in previous games. Fellowship Christian repeatedly attempted to use their fullback to break through the Indian defenses, with limited success. Only when Fellowship began to run relentless pass plays did the Indians' cohesion begin to fail. With 5:23 in the first quarter, Fellowship scored, tying the score up 7-7.



Kevin McConnell (78), Shea Underwood (24), and Cruz Shook get after the loose football. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



Towns County takes the field. The Indians will be at home again this week when they face neighboring Rabun County, who is likely the toughest opponent of the 2013 season. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



Jackson Noblet

Fellowship scored again with 7:29 left in the second, again at 6:31, and again with 3:40 left, bringing the score to 28-7.

In addition, Towns gave up or was unable to recover several important fumbles. After the end of the first half, it was clear



Coach Blair Harrison sends the Indians back on the field after a timeout. Photos by Lowell Nicholson.

that the Indians had lost their momentum.

At the start of the third, Underwood ran for a touchdown and kicked the PAT, bringing the score to 28-14. Zach Sewell did well, too, managing to find holes

in the Fellowship defense through which he ran the ball. Despite those offensive highlights, the second half became almost exactly a repeat of the first.

There were several flags against the Indians. Here Coach



Harrison Hobbs

Harrison, along with the Towns County supporters, took exception. While respectful, he did demand that the refs explain several questionable calls. Clearly, Harrison is a coach willing to fight for every yard, as well as for his players.

Fellowship scored two more touchdowns in the third quarter, one at the 10:09 mark, and one as the buzzer sounded to signal the end of the quarter.

Leading 42-14 entering the fourth quarter, Fellowship scored another touchdown, although to some, it appeared that the ball was actually fumbled far before it reached the end zone.

Towns County refused to go away quietly as the Indians fought their way down to Fellowship's end zone, but too late - the buzzer sounded before they could score again, finishing the game with a score of 49-14 in favor of Fellowship Christian.

The Indians will have a week to shake off this defeat and continue to practice. Towns County will host Rabun County from Region 8-AA on Friday night at 7:30 p.m.

The Wildcats are coming off a State Playoff appearance last year and a 55-6 dismantling of Hayesville, NC last week.

Lady Indians battling in brutal Region

By Mason Mitcham
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The outcome of some softball games can depend on a single factor. In this case, Towns County's 9-1 loss against Providence Christian hinged largely on several mistakes made in the fourth inning.

Providence Christian scored two unearned runs early in the first inning, but Towns was able to recover quickly. That inning ended 2-0, but Towns held Providence after that. There was no change in the second. In the third, a solid hit by Tori Morgan loaded the bases, but only one made it onto the scoreboard, cutting the Providence lead in half at 2-1.

In the fourth inning, Providence capitalized on a lull in the Indians' normally solid pitching to score four more runs. The tide of the game now turned fully against them, Towns County's defense lagged, allowing two more runs for Providence. The score remained 8-1 until the sixth inning, where Providence scored again, ending the game with a score of 9-1.

"Collectively, it was solid," Towns County Coach Jessica Berrong emphasized. "We just had one really rocky inning." Although, she does admit, "We didn't hit as well."

One player who stepped up in the game was Kirstin Ledford, who stood out during the game.

"As far as her on-base percentage, it was really high," Berrong said. "And she gave us a good hit, she moved some people



Towns County makes the play at the plate. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

to her relatively young team. Some cohesion may be what the Indians need. In a region dominated by tough private schools, Towns County will have to work hard to compete.

"We're in a really tough region," said Berrong. "That's our situation. We actually only have one public school in our region, which is Commerce."

What is Berrong doing to prepare for region? It's simple.

"More at-bats," she says firmly. Time will tell if Head Coach Berrong's love of the game and philosophy will pay off.

Towns travels to George Walton on Sept. 10th and then the North Fall Classic in Gainesville over the weekend.

Harold Cox and Andy Chambers both scored touchdowns in the last half.

Cole Ledford stole the show, scoring two touchdowns and a 2-point conversion for the Indians.

This was a stunning display of heart from a team getting badly beaten in the first half of the game. Lakeview barely held on to its lead.

"They just kept fighting," Vardo said.

Having tasted excellence, perhaps the young Indians will keep their momentum for the rest of the season.

On Thursday they travel to Dahlonega to face off against Lumpkin County.

Vardo: TCMS 'keeps on fighting'

By Mason Mitcham
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Gainesville - Despite a tough loss on Thursday, Coach Chris Vardo has every right to be proud of his middle school football team.

The game ended with a very close score of 30-28 in favor of opponents Lakeview Academy, but as is often the case, the score does not reflect the game play.

The Towns County Indians were down 22-0 at the start of the third quarter. That's when, as Vardo put it, his team "started to be what they can be."

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TCMS in action during a recent game. Photos/Lowell Nicholson



TCMS in action during a recent game. Photos/Lowell Nicholson

Towns County Youth Football teams split

By Mason Mitcham
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Towns County 7-8 year old youth football team took another hard loss on Saturday.

They competed against the Union County Panthers early in the morning for a score of 34-0 in favor of Union.

The Panthers, whose lineup certainly seemed more physically mature than the Towns County's, scored midway through the first, went for the two-point conversion, and made it. Then they scored another touchdown at 2:30 in the first, but were unable to complete their conversion. The first quarter ended 14-0, Union County.

Union scored another touchdown at 4:30 and another with 53 seconds left in the second quarter. By halftime the score was 28-0.

The Indians, who had by then given up some unfortunate turnovers, were rapidly losing any chance they had to turn the game around. Union scored another touchdown with 5:45 left in the third. However, during a hotly contested fourth quarter, they were unable to score again. The final score was 34-0.

Despite the score, Towns was able to execute a number of plays that highlighted the talent of their young athletes. As expected,



Towns County's Youth Football teams during a game at TCHS. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Braylin Raider did well, as he had in the last few games, but it was Jensen Gobel who really shone. While running the ball through the bigger, older Panther defense, he sustained a mild injury to his ankle and had to sit out for some of the game.

"He's a tough kid," Director Smith said of Gobel. "He's one of the best players we've got. He got his ankle hurt, but he's okay."

Smith also noted the size and speed difference of the teams.

Though Smith's lineup is full of younger, less-experienced seven year-olds, Union's lineup had some older players on the team.

"We practice hard every day," he said. "But you just can't cope with speed. They had speed, too. The turnovers killed us. You don't win with turnovers."

However, there were plenty of positives to take away.

"We blocked better today," said Smith. "We had some pretty good runs."

The 7-8 year olds have a

bye week next week. That will give them time to practice and for those who took a bruising to recover before they play again.

"We're going to work on blocks. Blocking, blocking," Smith said. "Some offense, of course. But blocking's our problem right now."

As usual, however, the 9-10 year-olds had a different story. Saturday brought the team's third back-to-back shutout of a competitor at South Habersham. The score was 13-0 in favor of Towns.

Hayden McClure outshone himself, breaking five tackles to run a 50-yard touchdown. Towns County kept the ball in their possession the entire second quarter, driving it 95 yards downfield for Peyton Allister to score his touchdown.

Though they won, Coach Rodney Thomas told Director Smith it was a "gut check" for the confident and seemingly unbeatable 9-10 year olds. South Habersham's team was tough and physical, and may have been eye-opening to Towns County, who are used to dominating their games.

Next Saturday, the 9-10 year olds will compete against Habersham County.

"They look good also," Director Smith said. "But we can take care of business."

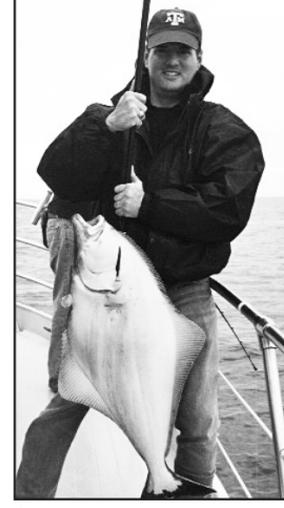
Father and son fish Alaska



Robert Harper

Hayesville resident Army retired Lieutenant Colonel Robert Harper holds one of the silver salmon he caught on the Kenai River in Alaska August 22.

Robert's son Brian, who is a Major and a C-130 pilot in the Texas Air National Guard, and also a pi-



Brian Harper

lot with Southwest Airlines, caught this 28 pound halibut on a deep sea boat out from Seward. Father and son spent a week in Alaska and caught their limit in halibut and silver salmon.

Register for Adult Coed Softball

The Towns County Recreation Department will be having a Co-Ed softball League. The deadline to register your team is the 17th of September. All players must

be at least 18 years of age by registration date. For more information or league rules please call The Towns County Recreation Department at 706-896-2600.