

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Hebron defense limits Towns to 46 total yards; Indians fall 49-7

By Shawn Jarrard
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Staff Writer

The Towns County Indians lost to Hebron Christian Academy in a Region 8-A football matchup on Friday at Frank McClure Stadium.

"Our guys never gave up," said Head Coach Billy Barnhart. "They fought, and I don't ever question that from our guys. It just wasn't there tonight for whatever reason — we didn't play well tonight at all."

The final score was 49-7, with the only Towns County touchdown coming from a Lions fumble that junior lineman Bailey Chastain carried 33 yards into the end zone with 4:41 left in the game. Indians' kicker Shea Underwood made the point after, but it was a case of too little, too late.

"We just couldn't do anything offensively," said Coach Barnhart. "We knew they were going to do what they did. We knew they were going to blitz, they ran that 3-5 defense. We knew what they were going to bring."

But, as Coach Barnhart



Cruz Shook brings down a Hebron ball carrier (left) and the Towns County captains prior to kickoff (right). Photos by Lowell Nicholson

pointed out, for whatever reason the Indians couldn't make the football work in their favor.

Hebron Christian Academy Head Coach Kevin Shaffer came on board last year. Shaffer is a former NFL offensive

lineman who played for the Falcons, Browns and Bears. Assistant Coach Terrence Melton also played for the Falcons and other organizations, and the team added players to the roster as well.

All in all, the Hebron



Christian coaching staff boasts 10 coaches to Towns County's four, and Shaffer and Melton's professional experience is an added plus.

"Hebron's gotten a lot better over the past year," said Coach Barnhart. "They've

picked up some guys — it's obvious, you can see that. But we didn't play well offensively tonight, not like we have the last couple of weeks."

On the offense, the Indians made 38 plays for only 46 yards, and the Lions held Towns

County to one first down. Underwood was the busiest Indian of all on Friday night, punting the ball 11 times.

"Defensively, we've got to wrap up and make tackles," said Coach Barnhart. "Other than that, I thought defensively we played alright. We just missed so many tackles tonight, it hurt us."

The Lions scored their touchdowns in the first, third and fourth quarters, but the Indians held them scoreless in the second quarter, despite the program's new talent.

"It was a great defense. I wish we could play all four quarters like that. If we could have, we'd have been okay," said Coach Barnhart.

The Indians face George Walton Academy's Bulldogs this Friday night at 7:30 on their turf.

"We weren't coming off the football tonight, so we're going to work on coming off the football and we're going to work on tackling," said Coach Barnhart. "It's the fundamentals of football, blocking and tackling. That's what it's all about."

Middle School Indians' late rally falls short vs North Habersham

By Shawn Jarrard
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Towns County's Middle School Indians lost their second to last game of the season against North Habersham Thursday in Frank McClure Stadium, dropping their season record to 2-3.

"It was a hard fought loss," said Head Coach Chris Vardo. "I think we had some missed opportunities, but overall I think the kids played hard. Those losses are tough to swallow — the kids play hard and you have a chance. You're in there until the last play, and it's a tough pill to swallow when you don't come away with the win."

The teams were evenly matched defensively all throughout the first quarter, but mere seconds before the clock ran out to start the second quarter, the Indians fumbled the ball, leading to a one-play touchdown pass for North Habersham.

With only 9.7 seconds left in the quarter, the Bobcats made their point after, and the score was 7-0.



The TCMS offense on the move early in the contest with North Habersham. The TCMS Indians are off this week. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

"Turnovers are tough," said Coach Vardo. "Our defense kept us in, holding them to 21 points. We had a couple dropped balls. Not only fumbles, but good passes that we had a chance — if we had made one or two of those catches, it could have made a difference."

The Indians answered

with their first drive in the second quarter, when Blaine Rogers ran in for a touchdown, and quarterback Trent Bradshaw connected with Will Travis for the 2-point conversion. The boys in blue had taken the lead for the first and last time in the game, 8-7.

North Habersham scored

8 more points in the second quarter, and the halftime score left the Indians trailing 15-8.

The halftime show featured the very talented Towns County Middle School Cheerleaders, and the squad wished Happy Birthday to one of its own, Kaitlyn Davis. The cheerleaders' performance was to

snatch and professional, with real competition moves.

Coaches Lisa Woodard and Bunny Williams have been working with a competition coach from Young Harris College. The hard work and dedication of these little Lady Indians was apparent Thursday, as the girls pulled off a variety

of difficult moves, including the Superman, basket tosses, helicopters, herkie jumps and more.

North Habersham took a greater lead in the fourth quarter, scoring on a five-play drive, but failed on the point after, making it 21-8.

Towns County hit North Habersham back two plays following the kick return with a beautiful 54-yard touchdown reception by Travis from quarterback Bradshaw.

That would be the final score by either team, final score 21-14.

"We played very well at times, but we've just got to become more consistent throughout the entire game," said Coach Vardo. "We can't have lulls and then turn it on — it's got to be a consistent thing."

The Indians play their last game of the year against Rabun Gap at home on Wednesday, Oct. 1, at 5:30 p.m. This game was originally scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 2, but was moved due to the Homecoming parade. The team would greatly appreciate the community's support in this final matchup of the season.

Towns XC races at George Walton, Tallulah

By Shawn Jarrard
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Staff Writer

Towns County Cross Country continues its track record of teamwork and hard work, coming up with great finishes in its last two races.

At George Walton Academy on Wednesday, Sept. 10, the top five Indians were sophomore Marshall Ledford, juniors Thomas Mitchell, Gavin Langelier and Austin Watson, and freshman Kaine Hoffman.

Sophomore Tyler Grimsley didn't run due to illness, but sophomore teammates Trent Whidden and Andrew Rogers excelled that day, shaving 7 minutes off their best times.

The Indians missed area competitor Commerce by two points.

The Lady Indians fared a little better overall, coming in second in the race behind George Walton Academy, which is not in area competition with Towns County, but ahead of Commerce.

The Top five Lady Indians were freshman Hannah Whitehead, who finished with a first place time of 23:08, followed by freshman Taralee Arrowood, sophomore Madison Stroud, freshman Lydia Moss, and a tie for fifth in senior Alana Calhoun and freshman Hayley Stowers.

Notably, freshman Sara Beth Hobbs finished close behind Calhoun and Stowers, taking six minutes off of her time.

"First or last, you still just ran three miles, and it being 100 degrees or it pouring the rain or it freezing — you still ran three miles, and so that's an achievement within itself," said Head Coach Jeanmie Ledford.

The Indians improved over the previous race at Tallulah Falls Tuesday, Sept. 16,



Towns County Cross Country's Thomas Mitchell.

coming in second place by a single point behind Class AA Rabun County.

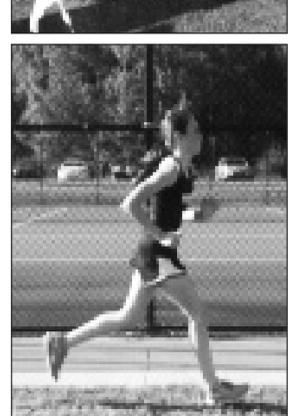
The Top Five for the race were Mitchell, Grimsley, Langelier, Ledford and sophomore Kolby Starner. This was Grimsley's debut race, as he had not raced previously due to illness.

And the Lady Indians also took second place at Tallulah Falls, with Whitehead making the fastest time once more with a 23:27 race. Arrowood, Moss, Stroud and sophomore Emma Kate Ledford rounded out the Top Five, with Ledford

running a faster time by 2 minutes. Stowers, junior Samantha Quijada, sophomore Lexi Pettengill, Hobbs and Kenzie Jenkins also put in strong performances that day.

The high school is very proud of both the Indians and Lady Indians.

"The one thing that I don't know how I get blessed with — they'll come in with that hard work ethic, with that desire, with this grace of, 'I know nothing, but I'm going to bust my ever-living butt for you and my teammates,'" said Coach Ledford.



Coach Ledford knows how lucky she is to have a team with drive, and with her instruction and motivation, the teams will certainly continue to have success.

"Step one of our team is making sure you understand you've got to adopt this attitude of, we're going to try to pull off the impossible," said Coach Ledford. "You've got to have enough courage to step up and embrace that challenge. It's going to be the hardest thing you probably ever do, but once they master that, all these races through the season — that's the stepping stone to the big show."

Lady Indians softball extend win streak to three

By Shawn Jarrard
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The Towns County High School Fast Pitch team won a pair of away games last week against Hebron Christian Academy and Lakeview Academy, on Sept. 15 and 16 respectively.

On Monday, the Lady Indians recorded a win over Rabun County. No further details were available as of this writing. Check next week's Towns County Herald for more details.

The final score against Hebron ended at 7-5 in a close game that was led by great pitching from senior Emily Ledford.

Ledford finished with 11 strikeouts and only 2 walks that Monday.

Offensively, the Lady Indians racked up a ton of hits. Ledford, Morgan Bradley and Kristen Henson each had two hits, while Carly Gilfil-

ian, Zandra Churchill, Jordyn Gurley and Tori Morgan had a hit apiece.

Churchill, Ledford, Bradley and Gurley tallied the Lady Indians' RBIs.

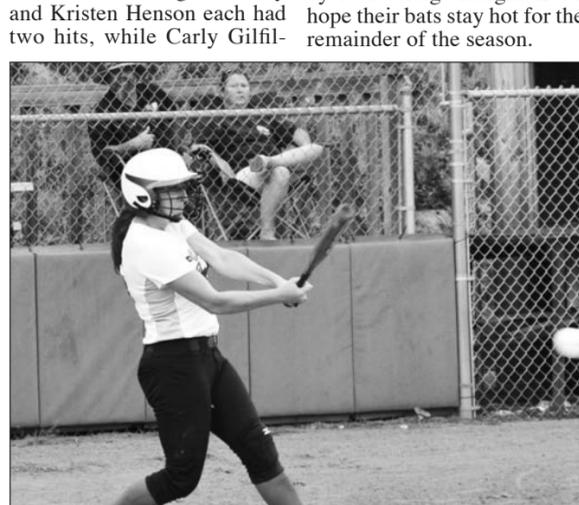
The very next day, the Lady Indians continued their success, putting the smack down on Lakeview Academy by a final score of 10-3.

Once again, Ledford proved to be a powerhouse of pitching prowess, as she recorded 7 strikeouts and gave up only 5 hits.

Morgan, Ledford, Henson and Alyson Nelson had three hits apiece, and Alyssa Pyle, Bradley, Tatiana Baldwin, Gilfilian and Churchill all got hits, too.

The Lady Indians' Nelson, Churchill, Ledford, Henson and Baldwin supplied the RBIs.

With 17 hits, it's no wonder the Lady Indians won by such a large margin. Let's hope their bats stay hot for the remainder of the season.



Towns pounded out 17 runs during the first two wins of its three game win streak. Photo/Lowell Nicholson