

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Third quarter unkind as Indians fall at Copper Basin 52-34

By Joe Collins
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Copper Hill, Tenn. - The Towns County Indians football team played its most solid first half of football this year Friday night, as they traveled to Copper Basin to take on the Cougars.

The Indians drew first blood as senior Quarterback Joseph Gibson hit junior Brett Barrett on three key receptions and eventually found junior Jackson Noblet open in the corner of the end zone for the touchdown.

The Cougars countered on the following kickoff with an 80-yard return, which set up their first score of the game.

The seesaw battle kept its one-two punch until the Cougars sealed the deal late in the third quarter and early into the fourth by scoring 18 unanswered points. The clock then became an enemy and the Indians ran out of time trailing the Cougars 52-34.

Noblet took the opening kickoff and returned it to the Indians 30-yard line where Indians Head Coach Kyle Langford attacked used his offense to the Cougar secondary and from the first play, put the ball in the air.

Gibson hit Barrett for a pick up of 13 yards and the Indians continued to charge. Gibson found Barrett on two more big gains where he was stopped at the 2-yard line after a 22-yard gain. A short pass to Noblet in the corner of the end zone scored the Indians first TD of the night.

Junior Cesar Bustamante came on to attempt the extra point but a Cougar penalty moved the ball closer so the Indians realigned their formation and made the two extra points to lead 8-0 with 9:45 left in the first quarter.

The Cougars answered with an 80-yard return on the ensuing kickoff to move ball to the Indians 10-yard line where freshman Gavin Langelier made a great solo tackle to save the TD. Junior John Davis had a good sack that drove the Cougars back, but a couple of quick plays and a two-point conversion later, and the game was tied 8-8 with 7:58 left in the first quarter.

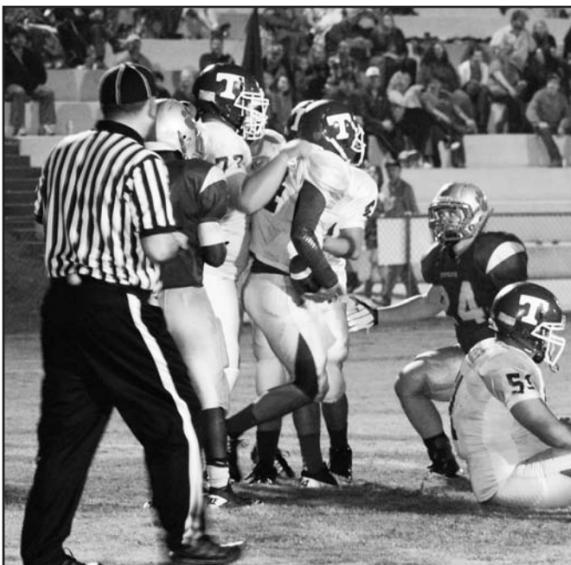
The Indians then found themselves on the positive



Senior running back Wesley Bloodworth stretches for a touchdown. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



Joseph Gibson scrambles out of the pocket. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



Junior Jaryd Gurley restrains his quarterback, Joseph Gibson who refuses to be intimidated by a Cougar defender after the play. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



Junior linebacker Zach Sewell creeps towards the line of scrimmage hoping to catch Copper Basin off guard with a well-timed blitz. Photo/Lowell Nicholson.

side of turnovers made by both teams, but were unable to move the ball and were forced to punt.

Copper Basin received the punt on their own 35-yard line and returned it for the score. The Indians trailed 15-8 with 2:55 left in the first quarter.

Copper Basin had the ball at mid-field as the second quarter started. On 2nd and 8, junior Evan Keyes broke through the line and sacked the Cougars' quarterback for a loss of 8 yards and a good tackle from senior Colton Stroud forced Copper Basin to punt.

On the second play after the punt, Gibson tossed the ball

to Noblet off the right side for a gain of 5 yards. There was a facemask penalty called and the Indians were in great field position at the Cougars' 35-yard line. Gibson found junior Harrison Hobbs on a 1st and 25 and with some good running moved the ball to the Cougars' 15-yard line.

Gibson then hit senior Wesley Bloodworth and the Indians had it 1st and Goal from the 2-yard line. Noblet got the call and weaved his way into the end zone for the score. The extra point attempt was no good and the Indians trailed 15-14 with 8:11 left in the first half.

The Cougars took over with good field position and a

big running play by their quarterback put another TD in the books for Copper Basin.

They lined up to kick an extra point and faked the Indians out with a pass that was successful for a two-point conversion and the Cougars led 23-14 at the half.

The Indians came out primed for the second half and their defense showed it. A big stop by senior Joseph Foster on the kickoff return and a bone jarring shot from Noblet on a pass play over the middle let the Cougars know the Indians were still in the fight. The very next play, the Cougars quarterback was under a lot of pressure from the Indians' defensive front

defensive and he overthrew his intended receiver right into the waiting hands of Barrett who returned it for a TD.

Freshman Shea Underwood hit the extra point and the Indians trailed 23-21.

The Indians found themselves up against a wall after the following kickoff as the Cougars returned the ball to the Towns 44-yard line. The Towns defense held strong again and forced the Cougars to turn the ball over on downs at the Indians 38-yard line.

From there it was a hard fought ground game with the Indians front line opening holes for Bloodworth, Foster and Noblet. Gibson found an open-

ing in the middle of the field and was finally brought down at the Cougars' 15-yard line. Noblet punched through the line to the 1-yard line. Gibson put his head down and scored off the right side and the Indians led 28-23 with 3:01 left in the third quarter.

Copper Basin took possession for their next series of downs on the Indians 44-yard line. Their first play from scrimmage resulted in a score with 2:55 left in the third. The two-point conversion was good and the Cougars led again 31-28.

The third quarter got worse for the Indians as they fumbled on the ensuing kickoff and the Cougars only needed two plays to score again after the turnover.

The extra point was good and within a matter of seconds the Cougars had scored twice and took a 10-point lead into the final quarter.

Things continued to unravel for the Indians, as they were unable to move the ball after the kickoff and were forced to punt. Bloodworth's punt was a beauty, but the Cougars returned it for a TD and that put the Indians behind 45-28. The story was the same for the Indians on their next series and with 5:38 left in the game the Indians trailed 52-28.

The Indians kept the ball on the ground in their final series and were able to score but it was too late. The clock was their enemy and the game ended with defeat 52-34.

The Indians are in the bye week. They face North Cobb at home on Oct. 19 at 7:30 p.m.

Lady Indians Softball team completes record breaking season

By Joe Collins
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The Lady Indians softball team just completed its 2012 regular season schedule and the history books at Towns County High School have been rewritten.

This season saw many records for the squad and the girls should be very proud. Head Coach Tonya Martin feels really good about the accomplishments of her players and is thankful that she was able to walk into her first year as head coach and be able to work with the talent this team had.

"I came here and was blessed with a healthy bunch of seniors who had played together for a long time and I don't feel as though I can take the credit for what they did," a humble Martin said.

Many records were broken this year including most wins in a season with eight. Other records were broken as well and the exact totals have not been finalized as of this writing. Records that will change as this year ends are most runs scored, most home runs by a team, most home runs by individuals (Claire Wilson and Emily Anderson), most runs scored, most hits, most extra base hits, most strike-outs and most steals. These are impressive statistics and will be hard to challenge in the coming seasons. This team should be proud of their accomplishments.

Wednesday was Senior Night for the Lady Indians' graduating seniors as they were honored before the game with not only recognition and their plans for the future but with a gift and a bouquet of flowers.

It was a very special evening and a night these seniors will remember forever. The seniors included Claire Wilson, Emily Anderson, Alex Fagan, Brittany Boyer, Meagan Ellis and Brittany Ledford.

These girls will be missed on the softball diamond but

we all wish them well. Wilson and Anderson have chances to further their softball careers at the collegiate level and that is a testament to the talent this team possessed this year.

Coach Martin's first year at TCHS has been remarkable but with all the wins and the records, she still feels as though she learned a lot.

"I really feel good about our season but I know we can carry on from here and improve," she said. "We will work with the schedule a little for next year and allow for more practice time so we can focus more on the issues at hand for a particular week. I am going to teach more of the game fundamentals next year like base running and of course hitting," she said.

"We needed to hit better this year but we just didn't have enough time for practice with the way the schedule was set up. It was definitely a learning year for me and I hope we can use the legacy our seniors are leaving behind to do even better," said Martin.

Next year's team will be young from an age stand point but will be heavy in experience. At this time, there will be no seniors on the squad for 2013 but the girls who are returning were tested by fire this season. They are aggressive and very courageous with their defense and this is something Martin will be able to build on. Next season should be very exciting for the Lady Indians' softball.

"One thing I learned this year is to not assume these girls can't handle what life and softball is throwing at them," Martin said.

"They are tough and can play solid softball regardless of the circumstances in their personal and school life. This makes them winners in my book," said Martin regarding her team and the outlook for next year. The 2013 season looks very promising for the Lady Indians softball team.



Brittany Boyer



Meagan Ellis



Brittany Ledford



Emily Anderson



Alex Fagan



Claire Wilson