

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Athens Christian shuts out Indians; Senior Night Friday

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Towns County Indians lost 46-0 Friday night against Athens Christian School in the Eagles' Homecoming Game.

But the story behind the numbers continues to portray a team with loads of guts and massive amounts of heart.

"Once again, I'm just proud of our guys and the way they played," said Head Coach Billy Barnhart. "They played with heart and continued to fight to the very end."

And following the game, Athens Christian Head Coach Chris Williams told Coach Barnhart that he thought so, too.

"That's a testament to our young men that their coach would say that about our guys," said Coach Barnhart.

Offensively, the Indians just couldn't dent the scoreboard, despite plenty of touches.

Freshman Dalton Key played well in the quarterback slot this week following Russell Cox's concussion during last week's game against Athens Academy.

"Then our starting center and defensive end, Walker Ross, hurt his knee Tuesday in practice, so we had Cody Williams step up, a sophomore, and play center for us," said Coach Barnhart.

For being their first starts of the season in such key roles, Key and Williams performed admirably on the field.

"I'm really proud of both of those two and the way they stepped up and stepped in there and played," said Coach Barnhart. "They did a great job - can't say enough about



them."

Key had a 70 percent completion rate, passing for 77 yards.

Kobe Denton rushed 8 times for 40 yards, including a beautifully executed punt fake in which he ran 29 yards for a first down.

Collectively, Colton Shook, Cole Ledford, Daulton Rogers and Denton reeled in seven receptions, accounting for Key's 77 passing yards.

Defensively, the Indians gave up 357 yards on 32 plays, where Athens Christian rushed 30 times for 338 yards and were 2-2 passing for 19 yards.

Coach Barnhart and his staff introduced some new elements to the game, including the successful punt fake.

"We put in a couple of things this week," said Coach Barnhart. "I just felt we needed to do that to keep the excitement level of our kids up, and they seemed real

excited about them, and it worked."

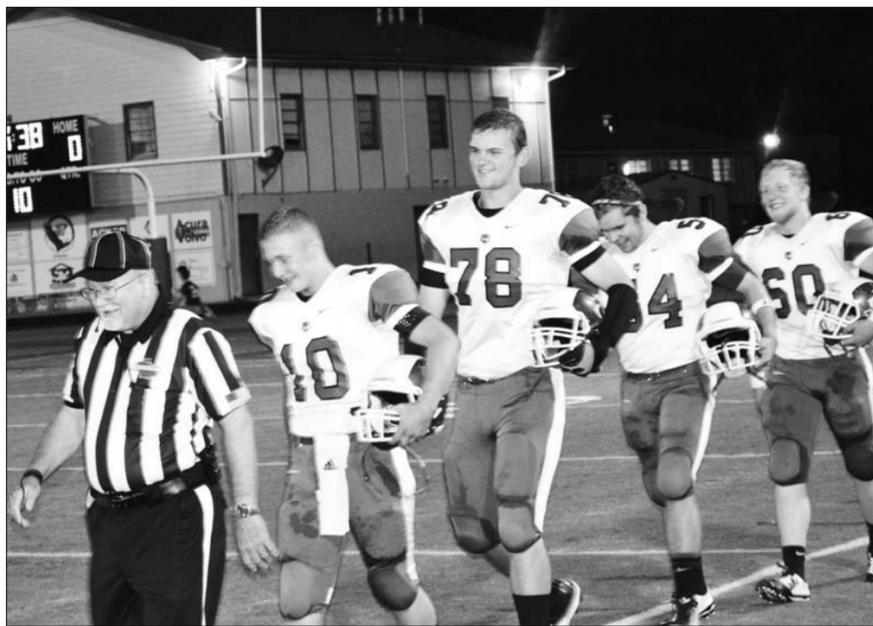
This Friday marks the last home game of the season, and the Indians will be facing Prince Avenue Christian at 7:30 p.m. in Frank McClure Stadium.

It will also be a special occasion for the team's seniors.

"We're going to honor our four seniors - Cruz Shook, Kyle Davis, Grayson Carver and Kevin McConnell," said Coach Barnhart. "Those guys have been great leaders for us since I've been here, and for the time they've been here at Towns County, we get to honor them."

Prince Avenue Christian stands 4-1 in conference play.

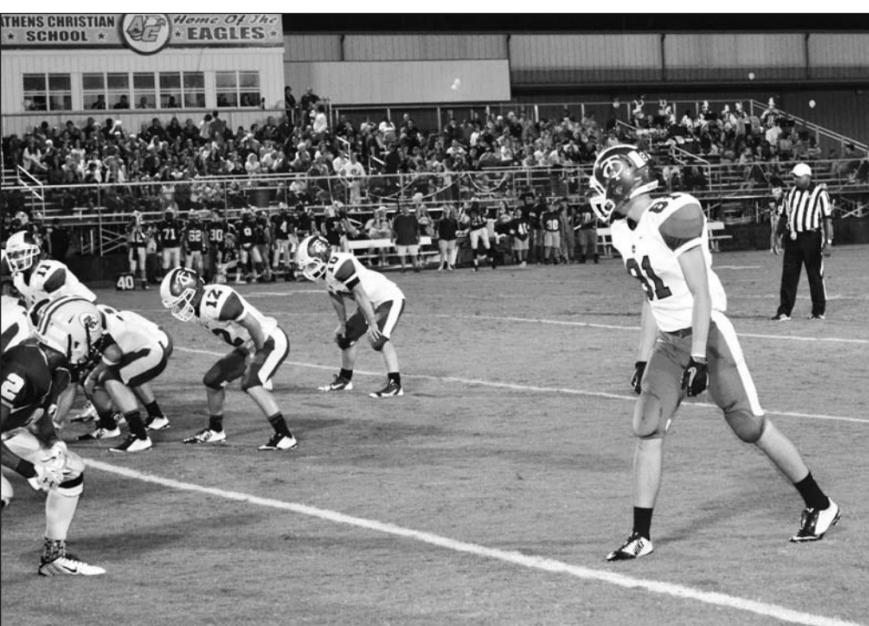
"They've got a great coach who's won several state championships in Coach Jeff Herron, so it's going to be another tough game," said Coach Barnhart. "But you know, that



should be a challenge for us and our guys, coming out and playing against a team like that and coaching against a staff like that, so I'm looking forward to it, and I think our guys are, too."

Coach Barnhart also looks forward to Friday's game with the same enthusiasm and optimism that he has for the future of the Towns County Football program.

"I believe top to bottom we're the best region in the state," said Coach Barnhart. "We just happen to be playing in it the first time back in 15 years in region play, so we've just got to keep our heads up and keep fighting, and keep getting better week to week. And things are going to get better for us, and we're going to be able to compete in this region in the future - I honestly believe that, and I'm looking forward to the day we do."



Towns County football photos by Lowell Nicholson



Cross Country runs at RMA, Hayesville Preseason alumni and inter-squad boys basketball games announced

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Towns County High School Cross Country team continues to compete well, wrapping up two recent races with strong finishes.

At the Riverside Military Academy race on Sept. 23, the top five Indian finishers were Gavin Langelier, Marshall Ledford, Tyler Grimsley, Kolby Starner and Kaine Hoffman.

For the Lady Indians, Hannah Whitehead took first place with a time of 21:01, followed by Taralee Arrowood, Alana Calhoun, Lydia Moss and Emma Kate Ledford.

Nearly the entire team improved to set new personal records for the season.

"The team continues to refine their fundamentals," said Head Coach Jeannie Ledford. "Their strength lies in the team comradery."

And Towns County took part in the Carney Classic on Oct. 1, which is an annual race put on as part of a Hayesville High School senior project.

"It's the hardest race - you run up the side of a dam," said Coach Ledford.

The Carney Classic is a race dedicated to the memory of Coach Buck Carney, who was Coach Ledford's high school coach and mentor, and she speaks every year at the event.

"I am who I am today partly because of Coach Carney," said Coach Ledford. "He was an amazing coach, teacher,



role model and man."

Coach Ledford got the opportunity years ago to compete against her former coach in middle school competition.

"I managed to beat him. I remember him giving me that trophy. And he's a stoic man, he doesn't cry - and he got choked up," said Coach Ledford. "I hope he understands that I'm just saying what he taught me."

Top five Indians for the day were Grimsley, Langelier, Thomas Mitchell, Starner and Ledford, with the boys as a team coming in sixth.

The Lady Indians fin-

ished seventh in the race, with Whitehead receiving a medal for fifth place. Whitehead was followed by Arrowood, Moss, Calhoun and Ledford.

Coach Ledford continues Coach Carney's tradition with her love of being there for the kids, just as he was there for her and many others.

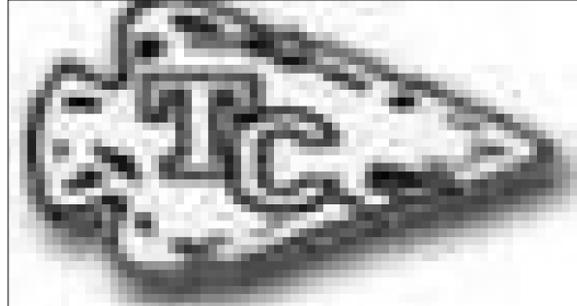
"These kids are my kids - it doesn't matter if it's a kid that I coached back in 1999, I look at that kid, and that kid is always my kid," said Coach Ledford. "My coach was probably the biggest influence in my life. And not just to me - every person who had him feels that same way."

By Jerry Kendall
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Towns County High School Boys Basketball Head Coach Duncan Weekley has announced that a special preseason event will be held on Tuesday, November 11, at 6:00 pm in the high school gym. There will be an inter-squad game played between members of this year's varsity boys basketball team to be followed by an alumni game between former TCHS boys players of all ages.

The two games will give fans a chance for a preview of this year's Indians team and a look back at prior players. All former players who are interested are encouraged to attend the game whether participating in the game or not as all in attendance will be introduced to the crowd. Military veterans in attendance will also be recognized between games in celebration of the Veteran's Day holiday.

Former Indians planning to attend and graduating in even numbered years are asked to phone Assistant Coach Michael Anderson, a star player in his own right from the TCHS Class of 1982, at 706-896-4870 while those graduating in odd numbered years are asked to phone Head Coach Weekley at 706-896-9457 prior to the event.



If either coach doesn't answer the phone, the former players should leave their name, phone number, and the year they graduated for a return call. These phone

calls will be helpful for planning purposes for the alumni game. Additional information will be provided as the day of the event approaches.

New exercise class at Rec Center

Attention ladies! Get fit with YoYo (Yolanda Rowland) your licensed Zin Zumba Fitness provider is now offering classes at The Towns County Recreation and Conference Center. Zumba is Exercise in Disguise. "It's not a dance class it's a party!" No one is judging you by your dance ability, just have fun and enjoy the music. We smile during our workouts because fitness is fun. See your smile

in class! Cost is only \$5 per class. On Mondays Zumba Gold 10:45 - 11:30 a.m. *Low impact on joints, easy to follow for seniors or beginners. On Wednesdays Zumba Step 9:15 - 10 a.m. *Increase cardio, while adding moves that define and sculpt your core and legs. Zumba Gold 10:15 - 11 a.m. For more info: email getfitwithyoyo@yahoo.com. On Facebook: get fit with yoyo.

Youth basketball registration

The Towns County Recreation Department will be having youth basketball registration during the week of Monday the 6th of October 2014 and will run through Saturday the 25th of October 2014. You may register your child at the New Towns County Recreation & Conference Center. Our hours of operation are Monday thru Friday from 9 a.m. til 8 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. til 4 p.m. Fee for the

program will be \$45. Age divisions will be 6 & Under Coed (5 & 6 year olds), 8 & Under (7 & 8 year olds) 10 & Under divisions (8, 9, & 10 year olds), 12 & Under divisions (11 & 12 year olds). This is for both male and female. For more information please contact The Towns County Recreation Department at (706)-896-2600.