

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Indians come alive in second half against ranked Wolverines

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Athens - The Towns County Indians fell to Prince Avenue Christian 42-14 in Brad Akins Field on Friday, Oct. 16, but not before playing a stellar second half of the game.

Prince Avenue Christian scored all of their points in the first half, and the Indians hadn't gained any momentum heading into the halftime.

But in the locker room before the second half, Indians Head Coach Billy Barnhart and Defensive Coordinator Lee Bohannon encouraged the young men to do what they had been doing all that week in practice, and the Indians seemed to take that message to heart.

What followed was a near perfect second half, both offensively and defensively. Not only did the Indians score 14 straight points, they did it while keeping Prince Avenue Christian from hitting the scoreboard again that night.

At the start of the game, Towns County deferred possession until the second half, and at the beginning of the third quarter, the Indians took two long first downs - both from sophomore Cole Ledford for a total of 64 rushing yards - all the way to the Wolverine 3-yard line.

Quarterback Russell Cox kept the ball to run it up the middle for what looked like an effortless touchdown, and Shea Underwood kicked a good point after.

On the Wolverines' next possession, the Indians defense shut them down, and Prince Avenue Christian had to punt the ball four plays in on a fourth-and-six.

The next 13 minutes were all Towns County's, as the Indians ate up the clock driving the ball from their own 13-yard line in for a score. In 17 plays, the Indians came up with six first downs and another score off a quarterback



The Indians defense swarms a Prince ball carrier. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

keeper from Cox.

As is always the case, Underwood kicked another good point, bringing up the Wolverines' last possession of the game before they ran out of time in the Indians' red zone as the fourth quarter came to a close.

"It was a great second half, and I'm really proud of our guys for coming out after halftime, after that first half that we had," said Coach Barnhart. "We challenged them to play with pride, and that's what they did. We moved the ball down the field, doing the stuff that we've been working on. We held them defensively. We did a lot of good things in the second half, and we're just really proud of those guys."

That first half wasn't terrible football, it was just overshadowed by the precision of the Indians offense and defense in the second half. Maintaining consistency in executing the fundamentals will be a major focus of Coach Barnhart moving forward into the final games of the year.

"We've got to block better up front," said Coach Barnhart. "I've been saying that all year and I'm going to continue to say it until we get better. We shuffled our line around this week. I had two guys playing

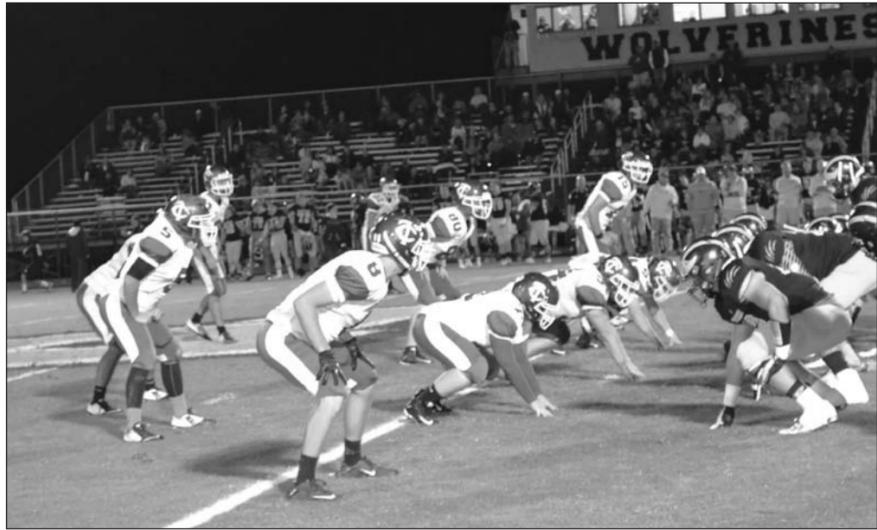
guard that never really played guard before. I had a freshman at center and a freshman at one of my tackles. We're having to shuffle around, so we've got guys in new positions.

"I'm proud of those guys for stepping in, I think they gave good effort, but they're playing new positions and I think they'll probably struggle a little bit to begin with. So, we'll continue to try to get better up front, and hopefully they get another week under their belts and they'll get better at where they're playing and feel more comfortable there, get better there."

One of the main reasons Coach Barnhart is running a younger crew is that injuries have been uncomfortably common this season - seven Indians stood on the sidelines this past game, unable to play due to injury.

The week before, Walker Ross and Dylan Roberts both went to the hospital during the game against Athens Christian. The good news is that Ross' arm was only badly bruised, not broken, and Dylan Roberts should be able to return this week after suffering a concussion.

"We can't afford to get any more injuries," said Coach Barnhart. "We're just so thin the



The Indians defense lines up opposite of the Prince Offense late in the game. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

way it is right now. But we're going to continue to work hard each and every day at practice, and just try to get better at the things that we feel we need to do these next couple of weeks to compete and win football games. And that's what we're going to continue to do."

This week offers the students of Towns County High School the chance to celebrate the annual Football Homecoming, and Coach Barnhart said his Indians eagerly await Friday night's big game.

"The kids look forward to that, and all the festivities during the week - the floats and the parade and the bonfire," said Coach Barnhart. "It's an exciting week for the student body and an exciting week for our guys, and hopefully we can come out and put on a show Friday Night for the Homecoming Game. That's what it's all about. Homecoming really is all about the football game Friday night. People sometimes lose perspective of that, but that's what it is."

The Homecoming Game will take place on Friday, Oct. 23, in Frank McClure Memorial Stadium against Commerce, with a kickoff time of 7:30 p.m.

Homecoming Queen will be announced during the half-



Coach Barnhart with Shea Underwood between plays at Prince Avenue Christian. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

time to conclude the Homecoming Court processional.

Looking ahead to that game against Commerce, Coach Barnhart is hoping to build off of the successes of the second half against Prince Avenue Christian, a team he considers as being probably the best in Class A football.

"Commerce is down a little bit from what they were last year, but it's going to be similar in style and scheme to we saw tonight," said Coach Barnhart. "They're a predominantly running offense, but they get more in the wishbone and

run more option and stuff like that. And defensively, they're going to be in a 5-2 like we've seen before."

"We're going to see it for the next couple of weeks, really, with Commerce and Providence, and that's why we stressed to them in this second half, we just have to come out and get better at what we do. We're going to be seeing the same type offense and defense next week, so we just had to come out and work and get better at what we do. I felt they did that."

Whitehead claims top spot at Union

By Amanda Garrett
Towns County Herald
News Special

Blairsville - The Towns County High School Cross Country Teams raced at Meeks Park on Thursday, Oct. 15.

In the boys race, the men battled not only other teams but each other to establish the Top 7 as postseason approaches.

The Top 7 for the men were Tyler Grimsley, Kevin Reardon, Thomas Mitchell, Corbin Henderson, Kaine Hoffman, Jeremy Lovell and Caleb Ledford.

For the Lady Indians, Hannah Whitehead took the champion spot with a new personal record of 20:23, followed closely by Taralee Arrowood, Jasmine Miranda, Lydia Moss, Emma-Kate Ledford and Samantha Quijada.

Nearly all Indians and Lady Indians set personal records.

The boys and girls teams traveled to Tallulah Falls on Tuesday, Oct. 20, for their last regular season meet before the upcoming Area 4 Public School Championship.



The Towns County Lady Indians cross country team defeated Hayesville, NC, Murphy, NC, and Lumpkin County at Meeks Park. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



The Towns County Indians cross country team awaits the starting gun at Meeks Park last week. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Towns County Stats v Prince Avenue Christian

Passing

Russell Cox 4-19, 43 Yds

Rushing:

Cole Ledford 12 Car, 111 Yds
Russell Cox 10 Car, 42 Yds, 2 TD
Andy Chambers 1 Car, 0 Yds
Kobe Denton 5 Car, 5 Yds

Receiving:

Colten Shook 1 Rec, 10 Yds
Shea Underwood 3 Rec, 33 Yds

Tackles:

Dalton Key 3 Tack
Cole Ledford 3 Tack
Russell Cox 4 Tack
Trent Bradshaw 4 Tack
Daulton Rogers 14 Tack
Colten Shook 1 Tack
Andy Chambers 4 Tack
Shea Underwood 8 Tack
Bailey Chastain 3 Tack
Kobe Denton 4 Tack
Harold Cox 10 Tack
Walker Ross 10 Tack, 1 Sack
Luke Woody 5 Tack
Jeremy Mays 6 Tack
Johnny Donnelly 4 Tack
ChaizDavenport 5 Tack
WeslyCalhoun 2 Tack
Sterling Hedden 2 Tack

Kickoffs

Shea Underwood 3 KO, 171 Yds

Kickoff and Punt Returns:

Cole Ledford 3 Ret, 45 Yds
Andy Chambers 2 Ret, 20 Yds

Points:

Russell Cox 2 TD, 12 Pts
Shea Underwood 2 PAT, 2 Pts

Register now for Youth Basketball

The Towns County Recreation Department will begin registration for Youth Basketball on Saturday, October 17 until Saturday, October 31st. The program is for ages 6 through 12 both boys and girls. The fee is \$45 per child. The program will begin in early November,

so please register on time.

For registration please come to Towns County Recreation Center. Hours are Monday thru Friday from 9 AM to 8 PM and Saturdays from 9 AM to 4 PM. For more information call 706-896-2600.