

# Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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## Noblet rushes for 336 as Indians manhandle North Cobb

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**Kennesaw** - When you steam roll a team with 499 rushing yards, 336 from one player, that usually adds up to a lot of points and a check mark in the win column.

Despite not attempting a pass the entire game, the Indians pounded North Cobb for four disheartening quarters of turnover-free football in a 48-10 rout.

Towns County took the fight out of the Eagles without even attempting a pass. With an average of 18.5 yards per carry, the Indians continued to impose their will. Over and over again.

And that can make for one long game when you're on the wrong end of that kind of pummeling.

After Towns took an early 7-0 lead, the Eagles used a 50-yard kick return to put them into field goal range. The kick was good to make it a 7-3 game. That's as close as it would get as the Indians continued their ground and pound offensive on the Eagles.

Towns County would find the endzone on four of its five first half possessions for a 28-3 lead at the break.

The Indians would stretch the lead to 41-3 before North Cobb finally found the endzone. Towns would tack on a late touchdown to cap off the 38-point blowout.

Senior Jackson Noblet torched the Eagles for 336 yards on 12 carries - an average of 28 yards per rush. The young man has been on a mission since the Copper Basin game when he rushed for over 100 yards. Against North Cobb, Noblet found the endzone five times.

Junior Cruz Shook had himself a breakout game as well, rushing eight times for 88 yards and a score.

Senior Brett Barrett went for 48 yards on five carries. Sophomore Dylan Roberts had one carry that covered 16 yards and went for a score, while freshman Kobe Denton had one carry for 11 yards.

"This is the first game of the season that we didn't have a turnover," Towns County Head Coach Blair Harrison said. "That was our goal going into the game and we accomplished it. I think we've got the right people at the right positions now, but we still have to get a lot better at what we are doing."

Next week the Indians are back on the road where they will take their two-game win streak to St. Francis for a 7 p.m. kickoff.

"We have a big task ahead of us next week, really the next three games are," Coach Harrison said. "But it feels good to get a couple of wins in a row. It shows that all the hard work is starting to pay off, but we've still got a long way to go."



The Towns County 'bend but done break' defense refuses to bend on this play. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



Jackson Noblet carries the ball on a magical night for the senior. He poured out 336 yards on North Cobb. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



Towns County exits the field as the victor for the second time this season. The first time on opposing turf. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

St. Francis comes into the game with a 5-2 record and features a triple-option offensive attack, which is entirely different from the spread offenses that most local schools have turned to. And Coach Harrison is the first to admit that facing the triple-option is going to present a whole new challenge for him.

"We haven't seen a triple option team this year, in fact, I've never coached against a triple option team at all," Coach Harrison said. "We're going to try and figure it out. It's a lot of assignment football and they do a great job at executing it. It's basically going to be a guessing game, and hopefully we guess right."

Only giving up 10 points last week, and 8 the week before, one would think that Coach Harrison is seeing his defense start to turn the corner. The defense should be starting to gel just in time for the three-headed monster that awaits them at St. Francis this Friday.

However, that's not the case. Coach Harrison isn't pleased with the amount of yardage his team has given up between the twenties. The bend but don't break style of defense just doesn't satisfy Harrison, especially with no automatic wins remaining on the schedule.

"To be honest, I thought

our defense could have been a lot better," Coach Harrison said. "Going in, I thought they had a good offense but they didn't execute very well. It seemed like they moved the ball on us but then they would stall because of a dropped pass or a bad snap. But they pretty much moved the ball on us and our defensive line play wasn't very good, our linebackers played pretty good and our secondary kept the ball in front of them so we had a couple of bright spots. And we held them to 10 points, so I guess that's okay."

North Cobb totaled 282 yards of offense with 150 coming on the ground and 132 through the air.

Senior quarterback Zach Bollinger completed 12-of-25 for 132 yards and an interception.

The Eagles main source of offense came from their workhorse sophomore running back Chandler Moeller who carried 29 times for 161 yards. He also caught two passes out of the backfield for 38 yards.

Senior receiver John Towne caught six passes for 58 yards and had a 50-yard kick return.

"I would have liked to have gotten their offense off the field a little quicker than we did, but overall we did an okay job" Coach Harrison said.



Coach Harrison addresses his team before getting on the bus and going home. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



The Indians defense has held the opposition to 18 points in its last two games. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

## Stowers: 2013-14 to be 'as good or better than ever'

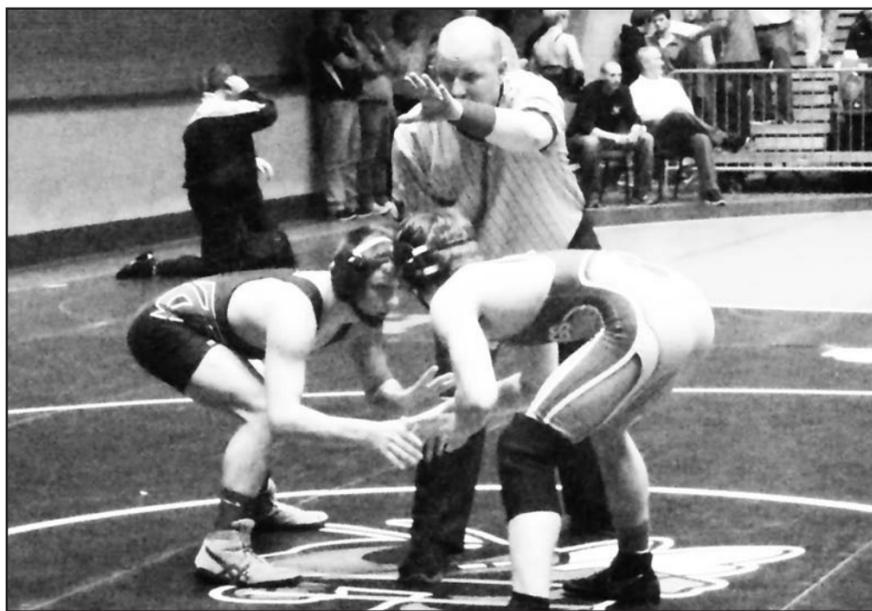
By Mason Mitcham  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Wrestling head coach Jeff Stowers is eagerly awaiting the beginning of the season. He's looking to finish what he started a year ago: admittance to the State Wrestling Duals.

"We really thought last year was our first legitimate shot to go to the state duals," he said. "We had some injuries, so the season never really materialized like we thought it was going to. But we should be as good or better than we have ever been at every weight class from 126 up through 182."

That isn't to say that there won't be obstacles. To go to State, Towns County will have to go through Holy Innocents and powerhouse Commerce. But Stowers remains optimistic. "This year they're down some," he said of Holy Innocents. "And I really think that's the team we're going to have the opportunity to knock off. I really think if we can fill out our lower classes, be solid from 126 up, and then find somebody in those upper two weight classes, we've got a legitimate shot to at least compete with Holy Innocents for that spot."

"Athens Christian has usually got a couple of kids that are pretty solid," Stowers



Senior Vonya Baldwin looks to return to the State Finals in Macon in the winter. Baldwin will likely be wrestling at 138 pounds this year, according to Towns Head Coach Jeff Stowers. Photo/Joe Collins

said as an afterthought.

Whether or not Towns will be able to finish off Commerce remains to be seen.

Stowers said that the starting lineup looks good. Towns will have a deep lineup, meaning that several different athletes could fill any given spot. Competition for starting positions will be fierce. "We've got a lot of kids in the middle that it just depends on where they go when they get in the gym and start sweating

it up a little bit," he said. "And that's what you're looking for. You want competition."

"Our kids that we have to count on are going to be Aaron Collier, who's hopefully going to be at 126, and Vonya Baldwin, who most likely is going to be 138," Stowers said. He's also waiting to see in which weight classes Russell Cox, Keanu Nguin, Nick Shook, and Dalton Rogers, all solid wrestlers, will end up.

"It's going to be interesting from our 138 up through 160," Stowers said. "It's going to get entertaining during wrestle-offs." No matter where his wrestlers end up, Stowers is confident that this upcoming season will be a good one. "This is by far the best team we've ever had," he said.

Towns County wrestling practices start on October 28, and the first competition will be November 15.

## Duck race to raise funds for Towns County wrestling trip

By Mason Mitcham  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Towns County wrestling coach Jeff Stowers is looking forward to the KSA Christmas Classic.

The invitation-only tournament will be held in Orlando, FL on Dec 19-22. Towns will be competing against teams from all over the country, including teams from New York, Washington, Oklahoma, and Florida. Towns is one of 64 teams that will attend, but their bracket consists of eight teams. Coach Stowers is eager to have the competition.

"We're going to get at least eight matches in two days," he said. "And then the third day, there's a chance for us to get more than that."

Though the trip will be expensive, Stowers is determined to do whatever it takes to get his wrestlers there.

"We've been fundraising since March, basically since the end of last wrestling season, to try to pay for the trip," he said. Currently, the team is about \$2,500 short, but Stowers has some big fundraisers planned. "We've had a car show that's been planned six different times," he said. "But every time it's rained, or something happens. So we're kind of behind schedule, but we're doing the duck race now."

The duck race will take place on the Hiawassee river at the Riverbend Campground. It will not feature live ducks. The

race will be between rubber ducks that people buy from the team for \$20.

"All the ducks are the same," Stowers said. "We bought them from the same place, they're all weighted with so they float upright with their heads up out of the water. If nothing else, it'll be fun to watch 400 ducks floating down the river." Folks who bought the winning ducks will receive cash prizes: \$650 for first place, \$250 for second, and \$100 for third.

Towns County has money in its school account to send the Team to the KSA Classic. But Stowers is hesitant to use it because the team is planning to buy new wrestling mats at the end of the year. They have a practice mat and a competition mat, but in order to host the three tournaments they have planned, they need another competition mat. Towns will host the Middle School King of the Mountains tournament on Nov 23, the High School King of the Mountains Dec 6-7, and the Melee in the Mountains, a six-team dual tournament the following Friday. "So we'd rather not touch the money if we don't have to," Stowers said.

The wrestling team has been practicing over the summer, training with the University of Tennessee Chattanooga wrestling camp. After Thanksgiving, another coach from Chattanooga will come back for a refresher.

"We're eagerly awaiting getting everybody back on the mat," Stowers said.