

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Indians end season with win on Senior Night, defeat Providence 21-14

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Towns County Indians finished the season with a 21-14 win against Providence Christian Academy at home on Friday, Oct. 30.

For the team's eight seniors – Hank Chambers, Bailey Chastain, Chaiz Davenport, Sterling Hedden, Adam Taylor, Dylan Roberts, Daulton Rogers and Shea Underwood – the game was the last in their high school football careers.

And it was a good game to go out on, as the Boys in Blue seemed relaxed and confident throughout.

"The thing I like to see more than anything is these young men having fun, because this game ought to be fun," said Indians Head Coach Billy Barnhart. "It's a great game, it's the greatest game on earth as far as I'm concerned, and it ought to be fun, especially high school football."

"We've had our times this year where it hasn't been real fun, but I was glad tonight that they could go out and have fun. That's what it's all about, that's what it should be all about."

The game started out a little on the rough side for the Indians, as in their first possession, the Indians committed a fumble that resulted in a recovery for a Providence touchdown with 7:10 remaining in the first quarter, though the Storm were unable to kick the point after.

Just as soon as the Indians got the ball back, they answered with an eight-play drive to score on a quarterback keeper run by Russell Cox, and Underwood gave the Indians the lead with a good kick for an extra point.

About halfway through the second quarter, the Storm picked up another Indians fumble, which resulted in their last touchdown of the game, followed by a successful 2-point conversion to head into the halftime leading Towns County 14-7.



The Indians celebrate a Russell Cox touchdown. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



Towns County's seniors serve as team captains for their final game as an Indian. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



Coach Barnhart addresses the Indians one last time as they go out with a win. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

The halftime featured an amazing performance of the award-winning "Epic" show by the Indian Raider Band, and Towns County Youth Football League players and cheerleaders were recognized before the large crowd gathered for the last game of the season.

Coming back from the half, Towns County scored less than two minutes into the third quarter, as Cole Ledford and Cox worked together to

run the ball down to the Providence 4-yard line, and Cox took the ball in for another touchdown.

With only 26 seconds remaining in the third quarter, Kobe Denton ran a terrific 36-yard route for the Indians' third touchdown of the game, and Dalton Key as quarterback connected with Daulton Rogers in the end zone for a 2-point conversion, bringing the final tally to 21-14.

"I'm just happy for

them, happy for the seniors, in going out on a win," said Coach Barnhart, who barely dodged a victory ice bath before being held in place by his Indians to be drenched following the game. "This night means the world to those guys, those football players, and that's all that matters to me. I'm happy for them, and I'm happy that they got a win."

"It's a great group of young men, the senior group. And for our young guys –

Coach Alan Morris said it the other day, only half the teams in the state end with a win, and we're in that half, in that 50 percent to end with a win."

The game could have ended with a much bigger score difference had the Indians not committed the two offensive fumbles, but that's just a testament to the level of defense exhibited by the Indians that night – there were no Providence points scored that did not come as a direct result of a turnover.

"That's what I told them at halftime," said Coach Barnhart. "The only reason Providence was in that game the first half was our mistakes offensively. We had several penalties that hurt us and that killed drives, and we had a turnover fumble returned for a touchdown, which was unbelievable for me, like, 'I know he didn't.' It was almost like they gave it to them, which I felt he was stopped and they should have whistled it dead but they didn't."

"Our defense just played stellar all night long. They really pushed hard and got after them, and we had a feeling that's what our defense would do to them this week, and they did, they came out and played hard, did a great job."

Coach Barnhart has contended all season long

that the Indians have been getting better as players and as a team, and the game against Providence certainly showed the proof of that sentiment.

"We've gotten better," said Coach Barnhart. "This program is moving in the right direction, and I firmly believe that, and I firmly believe in what we're doing in this program. We've got great young men in this program, and that's what makes this program so great, and their dedication, their commitment and their hard work. We're just going to continue to build on that."

The team stuck around on the field after the game, posing for pictures and celebrating the end-of-season victory, and just generally enjoying each other's company as a football team.

"This gives us some momentum going into the offseason with our young guys, to go into the offseason and work harder in that weight room, because that's where we've got to live this offseason, and that's where we've got to improve with our young guys," said Coach Barnhart. "We've got to get bigger, we've got to get stronger, and Coach Lee Bohannon is doing a great job in there so far, and he'll make sure they're working hard in there."

Seniors celebrate each other on Senior Night at Frank McClure Memorial Stadium

By Shawn Jarrard
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Several Towns County High School seniors celebrated a very special night that was just for them on Friday, Oct. 30, before the opening kickoff of the big win against Providence in the last football game of the season.

Senior Night is a time for seniors to be recognized in front of their peers, teachers, parents and the community for their involvement beyond the academic arena of school, and students were honored that Friday for their participation in several extracurricular activities.

Each senior chose loved ones to escort them along the track while a brief biography was read for all to hear by the football team's community chaplain Ken Edwards in Frank McClure Memorial Stadium.

Seniors in the Towns County High School Indian Raider Band were: Megan Corbin, Bailey Crawford, Alexis Ledford, William Lovelady, Phillip Lovell, Noelle Miranda, Adam Penland, Miranda Queen, Kaelyn Smith, Curtis Swanson, Nicole Trusky, Isaac Turpin and Brianna White.

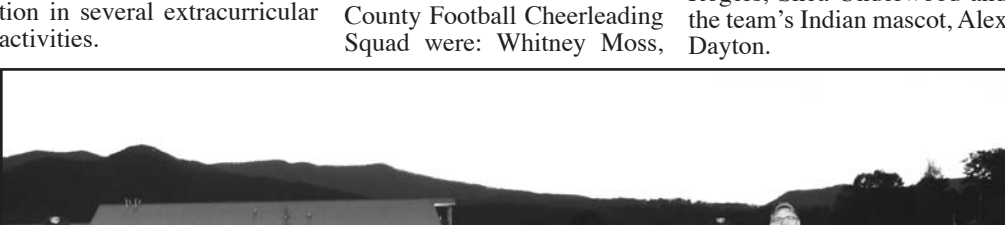
Seniors on the Towns County Football Cheerleading Squad were: Whitney Moss,

McKenzie Henderson and Taylor Underwood.

Seniors on the Towns County Cross Country boys and girls teams were: Gavin Langelier, Thomas Mitchell, Samantha Quijada, Kevin Reardon and Austin Watson.

Seniors on the Towns County Softball team were: LeAnn Dean and Alyson Nelson.

Football seniors, who went out with a win in their final high school football game, were: Hank Chambers, Bailey Chastain, Chaiz Davenport, Sterling Hedden, Adam Taylor, Dylan Roberts, Daulton Rogers, Shea Underwood and the team's Indian mascot, Alex Dayton.



NASCAR 2015

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

Jeff Gordon wins at Martinsville

MARTINSVILLE, Vir.— Jeff Gordon won his first race of the season, insuring his team a spot in the final round of the Chase. His hard fought victory was almost overshadowed by a payback given to Joey Logano by Matt Kenseth for Logano's alleged wrecking of Kenseth last week.

"Oh man, this is the sweetest," said Gordon. "Man, we just stuck with it all day long and it just fell in our lap after that deal with Joey and Matt."

Earlier in the race Kenseth had traded paint with Logano and his teammate Brad Keselowski. During an incident on lap 431 of the 500-lap race that involved Kenseth and Keselowski, both cars were damaged and had to be driven to the garage for repairs.

Kenseth returned to the track during lap 453. Logano, who was leading the race passed Kenseth on the outside of the front straightaway. As the two cars entered turn-1, Kenseth sped up and put the nose of his No. 22 into the left-rear quarterpanel of Logano's No. 22. Both cars went into the outside wall and were heavily damaged.

Logano did return to the track, but finished 37th. "What he did was a complete surprise to me," said Logano. "He certainly doesn't act like a champion, more of a coward."

Aware of a penalty or sanction by NASCAR, Kenseth was able to justify his actions.

"Brad and Joey had tried to run me over earlier," said Kenseth. "But I just had a right front tire go down, as I went into the corner. I really thought I had a chance for a win until that happened."

Gordon inherited the lead after the Logano-Kenseth incident, and survived four more restarts to get his 93rd Sprint Cup victory.

"A lot of people didn't give this team enough credit at the beginning of the season," continued Gordon. "Just look where we are now. All our focus will be on Homestead (the last race of the season). Don't count us out."

Jamie McMurray finished a strong second, but did not lead any laps.

Denny Hamlin the third-place finisher was involved in two racing incidents and led three laps.

Dale Earnhardt Jr, who started from the 22nd starting spot never led a lap but came in fourth.

Fifth-place driver Kyle

Busch was involved in several accidents, including one that sent him spinning into the outside wall.

Martin Truex, Ryan Newman, Kevin Harvick, Kasey Kahne and Tony Stewart rounded out the top-10 drivers.

Carl Edwards battled back from two mishaps to finish 14th and keep his Chase hopes alive.

Joey Logano was the pole-sitter and led 207 laps before he was forced out of the race. Keselowski led 143 laps. Combined, the two Penske Racing drivers led 350 laps.

Top-8 Chase drivers: 1. Gordon-4047, 2. Kyle Busch-4039, 3. Truex-4039, 4. Harvick-4037, 5. Edwards-4030, 6. Keselowski-4013, 7. Kurt Busch-4011, 8. Logano-4009.

Note: The field will be reset after the Phoenix race. Only the top-4 drivers will compete for the championship in the season-ending race at Homestead, Fla. The highest finisher will be the 2015 Sprint Cup champion.

The race included 18 cautions for 109 laps and one red flag period.

Jeff Gordon's winnings total \$5,553,078 for the year. Kevin Harick's \$8,205,991 is the most of any driver.

CRAFTON IS TRUCK WINNER

Three-series champion Matt Crafton won Saturday's Truck Series race at Martinsville, and remains in the hunt for his fourth title.

Crafton survived five restarts in the final 50 laps of the race to win by .396 seconds ahead of John Hunter Nem-



Jeff Gordon Wins at Martinsville. Furnished by NASCAR

It was Crafton's fifth victory of the season, his second at the .526-mile short track and the 10th of his career. He cut 13 points off the series lead of Erik Jones, who struggled throughout the afternoon and finished 10th.

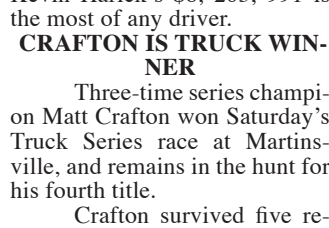
"We've had a very trying last two months, but to get back to Victory Lane is awesome," Crafton said. "These guys just never give up. We weren't that great on the short run, but like I said, I never give up on these guys. They keep fine-tuning and fine-tuning."

"The second-to-last run, we just got really tight, for whatever reason, but they made a little change there, and the thing was good. I just had to pace myself and save enough tires for the end of the race."

Remaining top-10 finishers: 3. Cameron Hayley, 4. Cole Custer, 5. Tyler Reddick, 6. Timothy Peters, 7. Brandon Jones, 8. Caleb Holman, 9. Johnny Sauter, 10. Eric Jones.

Top-10 leaders after 20 of 23: E. Jones-776, 2. Crafton-766, 3. Reddick-773, 4. Sauter-722, 5. Peters-680, 6. Hayley-663, 7. Hemric-644, 8. Townley-627, 9. Kennedy-595, 10. Gallagher-574.

Fly High 5K - In Memory of Jacqueline Crisp



The 1st annual "Fly High 5K" will be held on Saturday, November 7, 2015 at 8 a.m. All donations and proceeds will go towards a scholarship fund, in Jacqueline's memory, to selected students enrolled in Towns County High School.

The Walk/Run starts at 8 a.m. November 7, 2015. Location: N. Main St., Hiawassee, GA, (Hiawassee Town Square). Adult fee: \$30. Student fee: \$25. Children 10 and under: \$15. NT/Nov4,F5/SH