

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Big plays and turnovers derail Indians in final tune-up game

Towns opens the season with a visit to Hayesville, NC this Friday night and need your support

By Todd Forrest
Towns County Herald
sports@nganews.com

In their second scrimmage contest of the 2016 season, the Towns County Indians found themselves in an early 18-0 hole to Butler High School after fumbles ended four of the Indians' first five drives of the game.

Early in the fourth quarter, the Class AA Bulldogs extended their lead to 25-0 when they scooped up a fumble and returned it 15 yards for the score.

The turnover would be Towns County's seventh and final turnover of the game as the final 9 minutes began to go the Indians' way.

Unfortunately for the home team, it was too little, too late.

With 8:54 to play, Dalton Key pounced on a Butler fumble at the Bulldogs' 22-yard line.

Setting up shop just outside the redzone, the Indians found paydirt two plays later.

On the first play of the series, quarterback Trent Bradshaw found receiver Major Moss for a 21-yard hookup - giving Towns a 1st and goal at the 1-yard line.

From there, Russell Cox would punch it in for the score at the 8:08 mark.

Moss' point after split the uprights and the Indians were on the board - trailing 25-7.

A holding penalty forced Butler into a punting situation on the ensuing possession. Taking over at their own 30 with 5:31 to go, Bradshaw and the offense went

back to work. This time they gashed the Bulldogs with a steady dose of running back Andy Chambers, whose 38-yard pickup on 4th and 6 kept the drive alive.

Later in the series, Chambers broke free for 26 yards on 3rd and 15 to give Towns a 1st and goal at the 7-yard line.

Another give to Chambers was good for 3 yards on first down before Bradshaw capped off the drive by powering his way into the endzone from four yards out.

Trailing 25-14 the Indians were unable to regain possession until just 12 ticks were left on the clock.

On the first play of the game, the Butler tailback took a pitch to the right and raced 80 yards for the score - putting the visitors on top at 6-0.

Towns County's opening drive lasted five plays before they coughed up the football at their own 44-yard line.

Luckily for the Indians, as they worked out their opening quarter jitters, the Bulldogs were battling issues



Towns County's Luke Woody (53) lays the lumber to a Butler ball carrier. Photo/Todd Forrest



Andy Chambers (22) brings down a Bulldog receiver with an ankle tackle. When Chambers entered the game on offense, his speed presented matchup issues for the visitors. Photo/Todd Forrest



Quarterback Trent Bradshaw avoids the blitzing Bulldog defense to get a pass off downfield. Photo/Todd Forrest



The Indians defense forces a turnover during the first half of last Friday night's scrimmage contest with Class AA's Butler High School from Augusta. Photo/Todd Forrest

of their own as they were penalized seven times in the first period.

The yellow hankies helped Towns force a turnover on downs but on their first play, the offense put the ball on the ground once more and Butler was in business on the Indians' 16 yard line.

A 9-yard run was followed by a 7-yard carry to the house and Butler was on top 12-0.

As the first frame came to a close, Towns was stopped on a 4th and 3 from the Bulldogs 47-yard line. However the defense would force a punt and the Indians got the ball back at their own 19.

That's where the turnover bug would bite again when a fumble handed the ball back to Butler at the 17.

Facing a 3rd and 4 from the 11, the Bulldogs connected on an 11-yard scoring strike to extend their lead to 18-0 with 7:34 left in the half.

Another Indians fumble on the second play of the series awarded the visitors with prime field position at

the 18.

But this time around, the Indians defense would bail out the offense with a bend-but-don't-break philosophy.

A 10-yard carry made it 1st and goal, but two plays later, senior defensive back Kobe Denton picked off a Butler pass in the endzone.

Bradshaw opened the ensuing offensive series with a 14-yard completion but a sack and a block-in-the-back flag brought up a 2nd-and-30 where the Bulldogs returned the favor with an interception at the Towns 34.

With the defense facing a 4th-and-6, the Indians forced a fumble inside the 10-yard line, but offense handed the ball right back with another fumble.

Neither team seemed to want possession as linebacker Nic Shook scooped up a loose ball off a mishandled snap by the quarterback with 7 seconds to play before the intermission.

The third quarter proved non-eventful as the two teams exchanged punts. Colton Shook snared a Butler

pass attempt on the opening play of the fourth period but Towns kept the ball for one play before they fumbled and the Bulldogs stretched the lead to 25-0 on a scoop-and-score.

With the exception of the turnovers, the Indians went toe-to-toe with a very athletic Butler squad from Class AA.

Butler High School, located in Augusta, has sent two players to the NFL since 2000. Ben Troupe - a tight end from the University of Florida, played in the NFL from 2004-2008.

Most recently is Carlos Rogers - a Pro Bowl defensive back from Auburn who ended a 10-year NFL career in 2014.

Next week, the Indians travel to rival Hayesville, NC for the 21st meeting between the two schools that are only separated by Lake Chatuge.

Towns' lone win over the Yellow Jackets came in 2009 by a score of 48-12. However, the two schools haven't met in the regular season since 2013 - a 20-0 Hayesville victory.

In the two years that Hayesville and Towns were on hiatus, the Yellow Jackets won a total of five games, while the Indians currently field what is arguably its most talented team since that '09 squad that throttled Hayesville.

Is an upset brewing over in Clay County this Friday night? The Indians and their new coach have a chance to make a statement in Week 1, so all Towns County

fans need to flock across the state line on Friday night, pack the stands, and provide the Blue and White with a home game atmosphere and afterwards, return home to Georgia as witnesses to one of the biggest wins in the program's history.

Kickoff is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Friday so be there and be loud in support of your Indians, who have been working all summer long for games like this.



Russell Cox drops into pass coverage. Photo/Todd Forrest

Youth football splits with Andrews at new venue



Towns County Herald
Sports Special

Towns County Youth Football opened its 2016 season at its new stadium at the Towns County Recreation Department by hosting the Andrews Wildcats for four games last Saturday.

The Towns County Mites and Tigers each won their game with the Mites holding to an 8-6 defensive battle and the Midgits hanging a 14-0 shutout on the opposition.

The Midgits, coached by Damon Crowder may be small in number, but they are large at heart.

That showed in their de-

fensive play that only allowed four first downs during the entire game.

Collin Crowder led the defense with six tackles, Kyle Oakes had five, Grant Ingram and Caleb Bradley each had three.

Christian Wade finished with two tackles, while Keenan Henderson and Joshua Betting had one tackle each.

The offensive line was amazing," said Coach Damon Crowder. "Their blocking allowed us to move the football down the field for two touchdowns by Oakes and Collin Crowder.

"All the coaches are proud of these 12 young men, that took



the team against a much bigger team and never once gave up. They fought until the end and held them off for the win."

During the Mites' 8-6 win, it was a game of firsts.

First game, first drive, and the first win for Head Coach Joseph Goble.

On the opening drive, quarterback Conner Chastain dropped back for a shuffle pass to Jensen Goble, who gained 37 yards. Then the next play resulted in 32 more yards, which moved the Indians inside the 5-yard line.

Braylin Radar took the carry up the middle for six and Jensen Goble added the 2-point conversion for an 8-0 lead.

"It was a textbook drive," said Coach Goble. "I'm very thankful for Coach Chastain's planning and play calling.

"What held this team together was the defense on target. Gether had his defense on target. If it wasn't Dawson DeVane it was Landon Eller in the backfield shaking things up.

"Walker Underwood and Matthew Chastain stopped the middle runs and Braylin Radar stopped the outside runs."

In other action, the Pee Wees lost 24-16 and the Termites fell 22-0.

Next week, all four youth teams will be in action at Franklin, NC beginning at 11 a.m.

Local 9&U travel baseball team opens its season at 6-0



The Mountain Storm youth baseball team has started the year on a high note going 6-0.

The team has taken home first place finishes in their first two tournaments which were played in Loudon and Knoxville, TN. Players from Blairsville, Murphy, NC and the surrounding area make up the team.

The team will compete throughout the year against some of the best baseball talent in the Southeast.

If you would like to help sponsor the team or would like more information, please feel free to email the team at mtstormbaseball@yahoo.com