

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Attendance soars as Indians play hard against George Walton Academy

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Towns County Indians played a good game at home against George Walton Academy on Friday, Sept. 2, though the Boys in Blue came up short on the scoreboard, losing 21-6.

Still, the game was a marked improvement over last year's battle with the Bulldogs, another home game defeat of 24-0, and the game held some decidedly positive moments for the Indians looking ahead to their game at home this Friday against Prince Avenue Christian.

Big No. 50 Walker Ross picked up a couple of Bulldog fumbles, with Blake Silvers snagging one of his own, and senior Russell Cox ran in the Indians' only touchdown on a four-play series with five minutes left in the game.

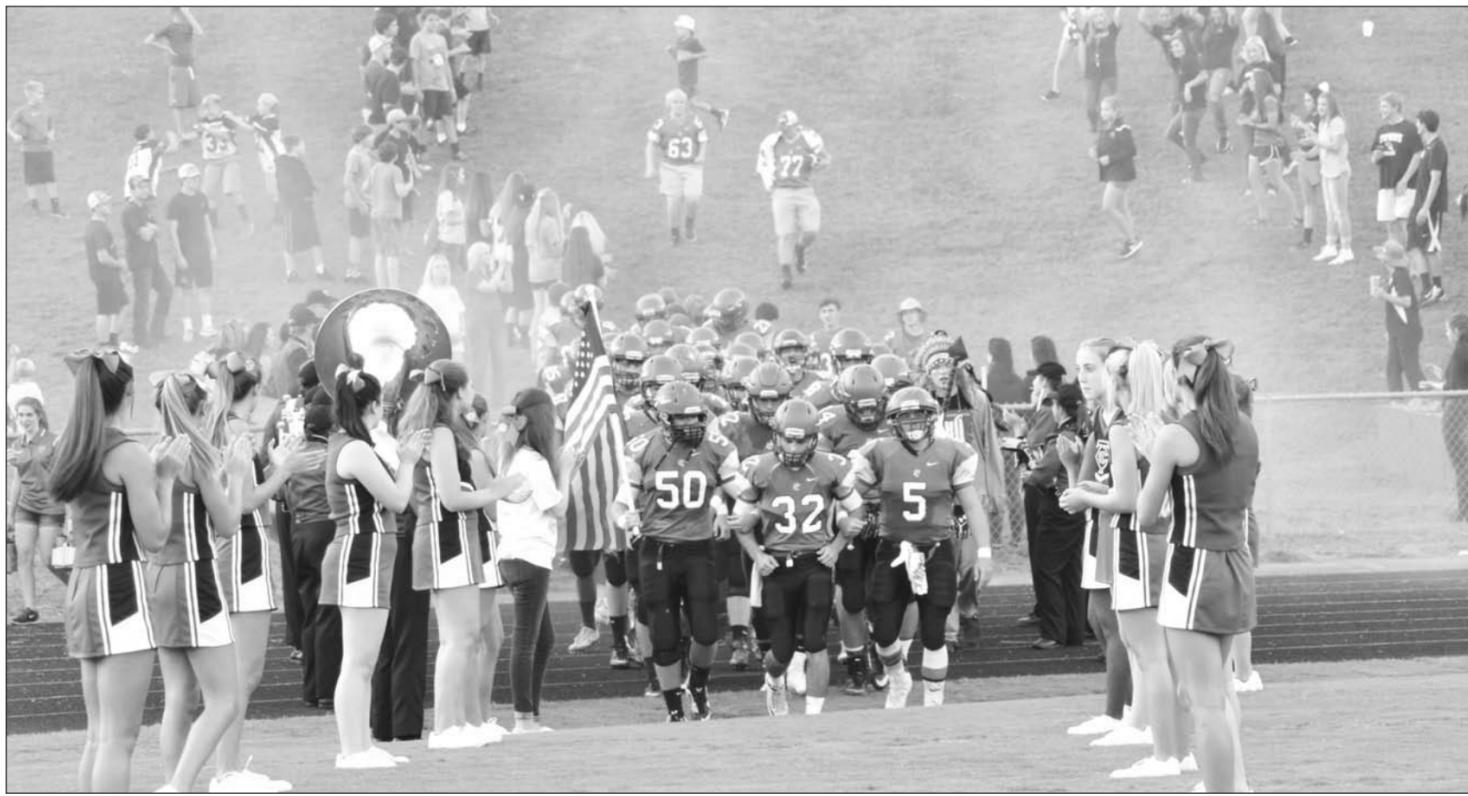
In a stunning display of defense, Towns County led the Bulldogs 6-0 in the second half, and Indians Head Coach John Cornett said he was proud of the boys' efforts.

"I love it that our kids are tough," said Coach Cornett. "The ref said something to me after the game, he said it's the grittiest team he's seen here in 20 years. I asked these kids not to give up and they never did."

A couple of weeks ago, Towns County traveled to Hayesville and won its first game of the season against the Yellow Jackets – a feat that has not happened in quite some time.

Coach Cornett realizes that, even though the team is working with a winning formula and plenty of heart, the Indians are still getting used to the routine and playbook.

"We're fighting 20 years of tradition (in George Walton) versus three weeks of tradition, and that's the killer right there, but I guarantee we'll be a better



Towns County football begins a new pregame tradition "Between the Fences" as they descend down the hill onto the field prior to the game. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

team next week and the week after that, and we'll keep getting better every week," said Coach Cornett.

Continued Cornett: "A lot of good came from this game, but we've still got to get a whole lot better, plain and simple. They're a good team, people are picking them to be one of the top teams in the region – we're right there."

So, what will the coaching staff be working on with the kids ahead of Friday's game?

"A little bit of everything," said Coach Cornett, though he was quick to give credit where credit was due. "You look at our defense, the defense played their hearts out. All 11 on defense played their hearts out. Zach Davenport did a great job on both sides of the ball. Trent Bradshaw, who's a

sophomore, played as good as Trent can play, he's a faithful kid.

"Harold Cox on defense, Nick Shook on defense – they're just good kids. I can't fault their effort. Sometimes teams just outperform you, and I think that's what happened tonight."

Moving forward, the Indians are enjoying a 1-1 season record, and if the outstanding attendance last Friday is any indication of things to come, the community will be sure to turn out for the Prince Avenue Christian game this Friday, Sept. 9, kickoff at 7:30 p.m.

"This town wants to believe," said Coach Cornett. "I think they have hope. After our first game against Hayesville, they showed a little bit more faith. And little by little, I think that they're going to believe

that we can win every game."

The Indians started things off a little differently last Friday, with a pre-game descent "Between the Fences," with plenty of friends and a hearty bonfire that greeted them getting off the bus.

Another first that evening, the Towns County Football Cheerleaders held a special halftime show featuring loads of poise and finesse, and the Towns County Indian Raider Band performed its brand new show for the season entitled "Outsiders."

Congratulations are in order for the Towns County JV Indians, who defeated Lakeview Academy last Thursday, 48-0.

"I just think that the whole attitude around this place is changing, and I think

a lot of people believe that we can be successful," said Coach Cornett. "Like I said, we've got three weeks of tradition on our side, and by the end of the year we'll have a year under our belts, and we will keep getting better every year."

This Friday, Towns County will be looking for its first win in program history over Prince Avenue, who defeated the Indians, 42-14 last season.

The 2015 Prince Avenue Christian Wolverines finished 12-1 and reached the Class A Final Four.

However, the Wolverines will look very different in 2016 after losing several key players and their head coach.

They graduated their top rusher, a highly recruited offensive lineman, and several

defensive leaders, but will be led by junior quarterback Grant Roland (5 passing touchdowns and 1 rushing TD in 2016).

Other players to watch include wide out / defensive backs Christian Parrish (153 receiving yards, 3 TD, and 1 INT), Noah Campbell (149 yards, 1 TD), and senior running back Thomas Huff (4 rushing TDs).

Prince Avenue is under the direction of Greg Vandagriff, a first year head coach who previously served as the defensive coordinator at Woodward Academy.

The unbeaten Wolverines are coming off a 7-0 victory over crosstown rival Athens Christian. They also own wins over Riverside Military Academy (34-0) and Aquinas (35-14).



Towns County during a timeout vs George Walton Academy. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



The Towns County defense pitched a shutout in the second half. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

NASCAR 2016

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

Truex Celebrates Southern 500 Victory

Martin Truex Jr. led 28 laps on the way to victory in Sunday's Southern 500. The last 15 laps were spent holding off Kevin Harvick, who stayed within striking distance, but lost some of his earlier zip.

"My god, this is unbelievable," said Truex. "I led a lot of laps, but never thought this would happen. We've had a lot of bad luck and after some things happened, you just hold your breath until the end. "There's nothing better than a win like this to get your confidence up."

Harvick, who led the most laps (214) dealt with highs and lows throughout the race. He could easily pull away from the field once he got to the front. But then his crew cost him positions on practically every pit stop.

During four pit stops he lost a total of 19 spots. He went in first and came out second, fourth, third, and 12th. Harvick was able to work his way back to the front each time until the last one. After brushing the wall with five-to-go in the 367-lap race, his No. 4 Chevrolet no longer had the come-back ability it had earlier in the race.

"Too many mistakes to overcome," said Harvick. "It's the same old thing; guys in the shop and on the team do a great job. The guys in the pits do a terrible job."

Third-place finisher Kyle Larson had a fast car and was able to lead 45 laps, but faded near the end.

Denny Hamlin was fourth, followed by Joey Logano, Matt Kenseth, Kasey Kahne, Ryan Newman, Brad Keselowski, and Chase Elliott.

Jeff Gordon, who was substituting for Dale Earnhardt Jr. never led a lap and finished 14th.

lington race, with most of the cars either hitting or brushing the outside wall at least once.

Jimmie Johnson was one of those caught up in a wreck of his own making. He slapped the wall early into the race. His team made repairs, which allowed him to continue racing. He finished 33rd.

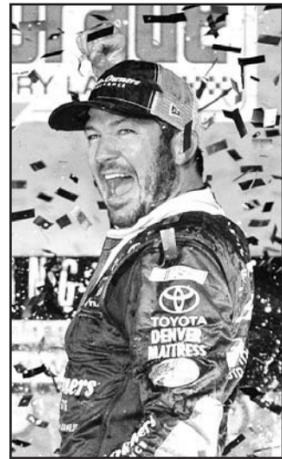
Tony Stewart was called to the NASCAR hauler after the race because of an incident between him and Brian Scott, driver of the No. 34. It appeared Stewart deliberately put Scott into the outside wall, but he denied it, and NASCAR is not expected to penalize him.

NASCAR Chase Outlook with one race remaining before the 10-race Chase begins: Note: this is the official NASCAR Chase Grid, showing number of wins: 1. Keselowski-797 (4), 2. Kyle Busch-724 (4), 3. Harvick-840 (2), 4. Edwards-746 (2), 5. Hamlin-729 (2), 6. Truex-696 (2), 7. Kenseth-669 (2), 8. Johnson-656 (2), 9. Logano-752 (1), 10. Kurt Busch-728 (1), 11. Larson-621 (1), 12. Buescher-358 (1), 13. Elliott-650 (0), 14. A. Dillon-651 (0), 15. McMurray-642 (0), 16. Newman-635 (0).

SADLER GAINS HIS FIRST DARLINGTON WIN

Elliott Sadler held off a hard charging Sprint Cup regular Denny Hamlin to win Saturday's Xfinity race. It was the first time the 41-year-old driver had won at Darlington.

"This race is for Dale Jr.," he said. "He's helped us emotionally and financially. He means everything to this team. "I know he's going through a tough time. He's not being able to race his race car for the rest of the year. He was riding there with me today, and he's given me such a great opportunity to be a part



Martin Truex Jr. of his race team. I know he's going through a tough time. He's not being able to race his race car for the rest of the year.

"Denny (Hamlin) really put the pressure on us and ran a hard race. We weren't able to leave anything on the table. It took all we had to keep him behind us."

The victory was Sadler's first at Darlington in 32 starts involving all three of NASCAR's national series.

Hamlin, who led 47 laps of the 147-lap race was running second near the end. He tried twice to get around Sadler in the last two laps, but could not make the pass either time, allowing Sadler to finish .45-seconds ahead of him.

"I hit the wall and my car got tight," said Hamlin. "There was a couple things we should have done in hindsight, but that's the way it goes."

Daniel Suarez was third, followed by Kyle Larson, Brennan Poole, Erik Jones, Ryan Blaney, Jeremy Clements, Brandon Jones, and Ryan Preece.

Top-10 leaders after 24 of 33; 1. Sadler-815, 2. Suarez-761, 3. Allgaier-750, 4. T. Dillon-742, 5. Gaughan-732, 6. E. Jones-713, 7. Poole-705, 8. B. Jones-684, 9. Wallace Jr.-630, 10. Reed-596.

NEMECHEK TAKES CANADIAN ROAD RACE

John Hunter Nemechek won Sunday's Truck Series race held in Ontario, Canada.

Top-10 finishers: 1. Nemechek, 2. Cole Custer, 3. Daniel Hemric, 4. Matt Crafton, 5. Christopher Bell, 6. Tyler Reddick, 7. Johnny Sauter, 8. Ben Kennedy, 9. Cameron Hayley, 10. William Byron.

Top-10 leaders after 15 of 23: 1. Byron-402, 2. Hemric-372, 3. Sauter-356, 4. Crafton-352, 5. Peters-350, 6. Kennedy-334, 7. Bell-333, 8. Nemechek-324, 9. Custer-318, 10. Hayley-312.

Weekend Racing: The Cup and Xfinity teams are at the .75-mile Richmond, Virginia facility. The truck teams have an off weekend.

Fri., Sept. 9, Xfinity Series race 25 of 33; Starting time: 7:30 p.m. ET; TV: NBCSN.

Sat., Sept. 10, Sprint Cup Series race 26 of 36; Starting time: 7:30 p.m. ET; TV: NBCSN.

Racing Trivia Question: What year did Chicagoland Speedway open?

Last Week's Question? Who has the most Cup wins at Darlington? Answer: David Pearson tops the list with 10.

You may contact the Racing Reporter by e-mail at: hodges@race500.com.

Chatuge Shores Ladies throw out one bad score

All the CSLGA golfers had great scores at the last outing. How could it be that everyone scored so well? The game that was played was "Throw out one score on each nine holes". The players agreed that they all could be much happier with those revised scores!

The first flight winners were Mary Reece, first place; Kathy Stewart, second place. The second flight saw Glenda Geddings in first place and Lorene Avery in second. Finally, in the third flight, Carol Baxter took first place honors with Deborah Warner coming in second. Low putts were earned by Mary Reece.

The players are getting ready for Championship Month. Scores for the first three Tuesdays in September will be recorded with the two best scores counting for the championship. Golfers who are only able to play two of the three weeks will have those two weeks count toward the championship. The tournament will be flighted, giving everyone an opportunity to partici-



Pat Seeley watches her drive fly down the fairway.

pate, regardless of the individual handicap.

Did you know?? It has been said that golf balls are like eggs; they are white, and they are sold by the dozen. Also you need to buy fresh ones each week! With any luck, the CSLGA golfers will keep the balls in the fairway, out of the water, traps, and trees – and will not have to buy a fresh dozen each week!

VFW Golf League

The VFW Golf League held their end of season tournament on Thursday, 11 teams participated in heated battle for the league championship.

The 1st place team consisted of Ray Ide, Harvey Vanadoe, Jon Romig and Russ Schoetker. They shot a blistering score of 64 which is 8 strokes under par. The end of

season banquet will be held on Saturday, September 10th, 6 p.m. at Daniel's Family Restaurant.

The league will start again on the first Thursday in April 2017 and is open to all VFW and American Legion members and members of their affiliate organizations. T(Sep7,16)SH