

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Indians win Homecoming Game 21-19 against Andrews (NC) Wildcats

By Shawn Jarrard
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The Towns County Indians won a nail-biter against the Andrews Wildcats of North Carolina on Friday, Sept. 7.

Sweetening the victory was the fact that Friday was Homecoming Night for Towns County High School.

The Wildcats hit the scoreboard first a mere five minutes into the game, and the teams uneventfully traded possessions for the rest of the half.

And just went it looked like the score would be 7-0 Wildcats heading into the locker room at halftime, the Indians found their momentum.

With only three seconds remaining in the half, quarterback Trent Bradshaw connected with Austin Gillis, who broke about four or five tackles to run in a 40-yard touchdown pass.

The score sat at 6-7 at the halftime, and both Bradshaw and Head Coach John Cornett hung back from the locker room to serve Homecoming duty.

Bradshaw had been crowned Homecoming King the day before at the school bonfire, and Cornett was escorting his daughter, Taylor, as part of the 2018 Football Homecoming Court.

The Indian Raider Band cheered on the team during the game, and also helped to usher in the Homecoming Court as the girls made their way onto the field.

At the conclusion of the Homecoming Processional, Ella Bury was crowned 2018 Homecoming Queen, and Taylor Cornett was named Homecoming Princess.

After the half, Gillis made another power play with 3:24 left in the third quarter. The senior shifted it into high gear from the Indians' own 11-yard line, running past every defender on the field for an 89-yard rushing score.

This gave the Boys in Blue a decided advantage at 12 points to the Wildcats' 7, but they knew they needed to make up for the missed point in the first half, so the Indians lined up to attempt a two-point conversion, and Bradshaw ran it in himself to give the team a 14-7 lead over Andrews.

Things got pretty interesting in the fourth quarter, as the Wildcats scored four minutes in but missed a point-after attempt themselves. The score was now 14-13, Indians



The Towns County Indians gather at midfield with the coaching staff following a 21-19 come-from-behind victory over Andrews, NC on Friday. Now the Indians turn their attention to region play as a trip to George Walton awaits. Towns County Football photos by Lowell Nicholson

leading.

Probably the most important defensive play of the game came with just two and a half minutes left in the fourth quarter. Andrews had failed to convert on a third down, and so they elected to punt.

Senior Blaine Rogers had other plans, however, and he tackled the punter before he could get his kick in, causing him to drop the ball and forcing a turnover in the red zone.

This gave the Indians excellent field position, right on the Wildcats' 16-yard line, and Towns County scored three drives later on a quarterback keeper from Bradshaw.

Wesly Calhoun made a good kick for an extra point, and the Indians grew their lead, 21-13.

With 2:18 left in the game, anything could have happened at that point, and the Wildcats tried to rally for a comeback.

Andrews ended up scoring with 1:26 remaining, and boy, were they happy about it – in fact, they got an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty for excessive celebration.

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The Wildcats sacrificed valuable field position with that penalty, as the refs walked it back to Towns County's 18-yard line.

With a 21-19 score on the board and less than a minute and a half of playtime available, Andrews had to attempt the two-point conversion.

Fortunately for the Indians, the conversion failed, and Towns County finished out the game with a final score of 21-19.

It was Homecoming Night, the big game was won, and everybody looked forward to the Homecoming Dance that took place the following day.

This week, on Friday, Sept. 14, the Indians play their first region game of the season against George Walton Academy in Monroe, with a kickoff time of 7:30 p.m.

In the leadup to the game against the Bulldogs, Coach Cornett said the team will be working hard to cut down on the kind of mistakes that resulted in a number of penalties and missed opportunities in the Homecoming



The Towns County offense scored a pair of second half touchdowns. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Game.

"We've got to get a whole lot better," said Coach Cornett. "We're not where we need to be right now. (Andrews) came and they played hard. They have some big ol' boys, they beat us up front."

"But we won. We hung in there at the fourth quarter. It's a tight game, and our kids sucked it up and played with heart. But we've still got to get a whole lot better, that's for sure."



Local Racing results: Blue Ridge Motorsports Park

By Blake Lynch
Staff Writer
Towns County Herald

BLUE RIDGE - Blue Ridge Motorsports Park hosted a race on Saturday, here are the top five from each class.

Street Stocks - Coming in first place was No. 9 Jim Twiggs. Coming in second place was No. 7D Dylan Truhan. Finishing in third place was No. 31 Logan Exum. Coming in fourth place was No.11 Tom Darby. Coming in fifth place was No. 14 Charles Devine Jr.

Hot Shots - Coming in first place was No. 32 Franklin Burk Jr. Coming in second place was No. 1 Colen Twiggs. Coming in third place was No. 8 Ricky Queen.

Pony - Coming in first place was No. 05 Jackie Holden. Coming in second place was No. 36 Michael Yonkers. Coming in third place was No. 32 Franklin Burk. Coming in fourth place was No. 43 Tain Ross

FWD - Coming in first place was No. 65 Larry Whitlow. Coming in second place was No. 32 Logan Exum. Coming in third place was No. K3 James

Klaucke. Coming in fourth place was No. 05 Bradley Hurlburt. Coming in fifth place was No. 107 Kyle Edwards.

Modified Street - Coming in first place was No. 17 Brad Thomas. Coming in second place was No. 88 Ricky Smith. Coming in third place was No. 4 Jacob Parris. Coming in fourth place was No. 48 Colton Stroud. Coming in fifth place was No. 28 Dannie Patterson.

Beginner 602- Coming in first place was No. E-7 Evan Winkle Jr. Coming in second place was No. 25 Jacob Hamby. Coming in third place was No. 8

Colby Parris. Coming in fourth place was No. 41 Jeff Holloway. Coming in fifth place was No. 104 Bradley Doster.

Limited - Coming in first place was No. 30 Daren Dilbeck. Coming in second place was No. 4 Trig Parris. Coming in third place was No. L5 David Rogers.

Crate - Coming in first place was No. 24 Seth Wimpey. Coming in second place was No. 9 Brain Kinnersley. Coming in third place was No.1 Junior Whitener. Coming in fourth place was No. R12 Ricky Weeks. Coming in fifth place was No. 23 Barry Anderson.



No. 41 Jeff Holloway placed fourth at Blue Ridge