

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Indians fight hard but fall to Spartans in 38-14 battle in Athens

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Athens - Senior Major Moss scored every Towns County point during last Friday's game against Athens Academy.

He caught both touchdown passes from sophomore quarterback Trent Bradshaw - one for 20 yards and the other for 39 yards - and he kicked both point after attempts to give the Indians their 14 points of the matchup.

The first touchdown shared between Bradshaw and Moss highlighted the potential between the two players, as Moss used his long arms to snatch the Bradshaw's throw out of the air in the inside corner of the end zone, under heavy Spartan pressure.

That second touchdown, however - that one cemented the chemistry between the two. From 39 yards out, Bradshaw connected once again with Moss, who once again faced heavy Spartan pressure.

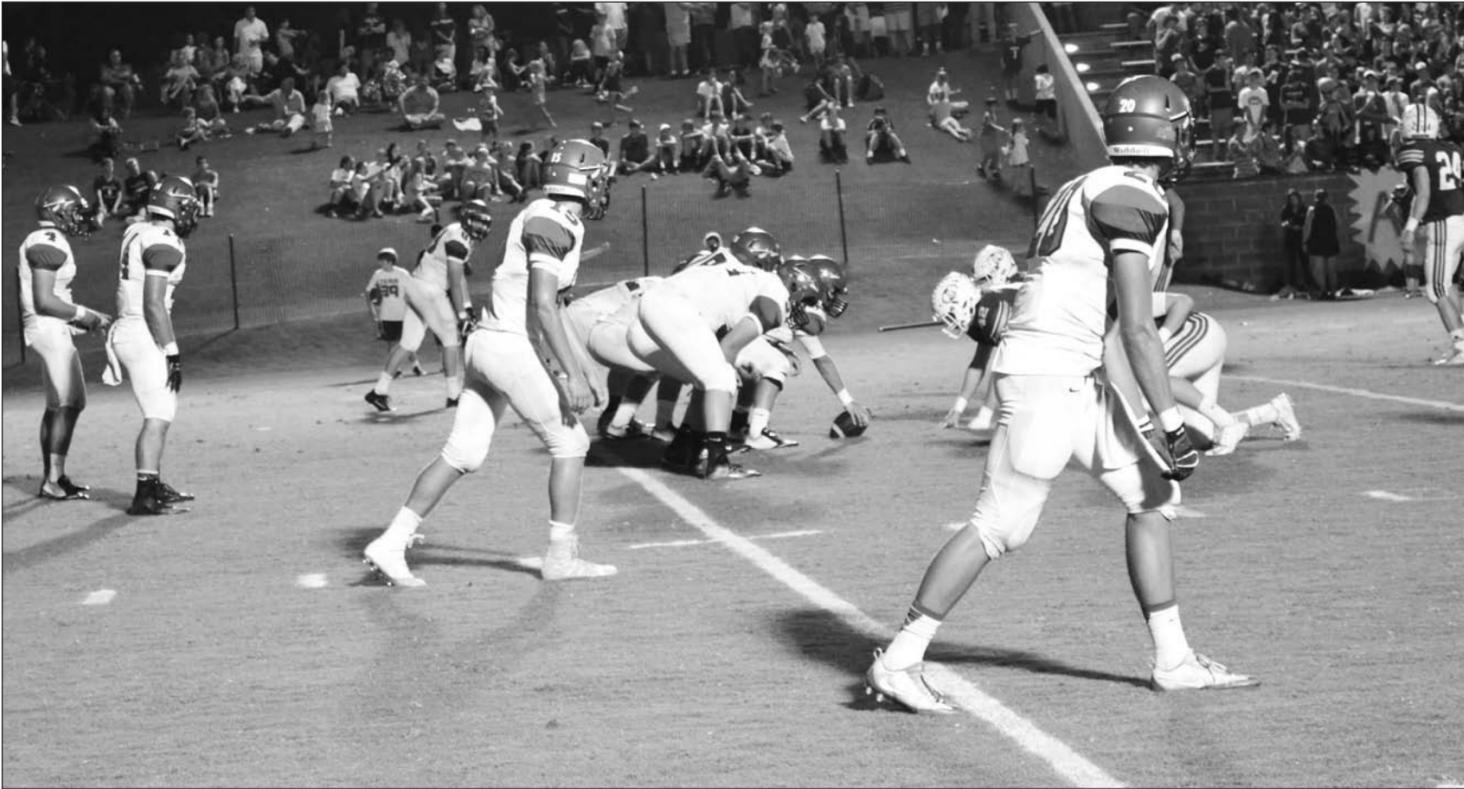
He was under so much pressure, in fact, that the line ref threw a yellow flag for pass interference, even though Moss managed to catch the ball behind the Spartan's back, who stumbled and fell as Moss spun around and made for the end zone.

Of course, Towns County declined the penalty.

On both occasions Moss returned to the pressure to kick good points after, doing proud the position formerly held by star kicker Shea Underwood, who graduated last year.

It should be noted that Bradshaw held the ball for Moss during both successful kicking points.

The two connected one more time in a major way just



Senior wide receiver / kicker Major Moss (far right) scored all 14 points for the Towns County offense at Athens Academy. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

seconds before the close of the game, when Bradshaw, from the Indians' own 25-yard line, found Moss one last time. Moss broke three or four tackles before finally being brought down at the Spartan 22-yard line.

Moss and Bradshaw provided the offensive highlights reel of the game, but for the most part the Indians struggled to move the ball.

Indian defenders played strong the entire game, forcing multiple fourth-and-punt scenarios for Athens Academy in the Friday, Sept. 23, game played atop Slaughter Field in Athens.

"That's just a good team," said Indians Head Coach

John Cornett, speaking on Athens Academy's 38-14 victory. "That's a good team and they beat us, plain and simple.

"Our defense played good. We hit hard and we did a good job. I just think we've got to do a better job on offense. We've still got to move the ball on offense."

As for Bradshaw and Moss connecting with such success on the field, Coach Cornett said he'd been waiting for that all season.

"I just told Major (after the game), I said, 'Major, when I saw you last year, I knew you could do that,'" said Coach Cornett. "I told him before the game that this is the game,

and he's got to come out and have the game of his life. And he did."

This week is Homecoming Week at Towns County High School, and Principal Connie Hobbs has extended a warm welcome to the community to show their support for a special Carnival-themed evening around the high school track on Thursday, Sept. 29.

Homecoming King will be crowned Thursday evening, with festivities including a bonfire and games to last between 6:30 p.m. and 9 p.m.

Then Friday night, the Indians will play their Homecoming Game against Hebron Christian Academy, kicking off

at 7:30 p.m. in Frank McClure Memorial Stadium.

The halftime of Friday night's game will feature the crowning of the 2016 Homecoming Queen.

Meanwhile, the opposition on Friday night, Hebron Christian Academy is coming off a 6-4 season in 2015 and have high hopes for this season.

The 3-1 Lions return their quarterback, junior Troy Allen, along with his top two weapons, junior running back Bryce Riley (98 yards-per-game in 2016) and receivers Jeff Saturday (12 catches in 2016) and Will Warbington (2 touchdown receptions in

2016).

Micheal Sullivan returns to the offensive line and Kendarious David anchoring the defensive line.

The Lions are coming off a 31-14 victory over Riverside Military Academy.

They also own wins over East Jackson (17-7) and Providence Christian (19-7).

Their only loss came to top ranked Commerce on Sept. 2 by a score of 49-15.

The all-time series between Towns and Hebron is currently tied at 4-4 overall and 2-2 in Hiawassee, although the Lions have won two-straight in the series after the Indians won three straight from 2011-2013.



Senior linebacker Nick Shook and defensive coordinator Chris Vardo at Athens Academy. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



The dedicated Towns County cheerleaders made the trip to Athens on Friday night. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Local senior softball league accepting players



The Tri State Pickups swept a doubleheader from Lumpkin County last week at Meeks Park. Photo/Todd Forrest

If you turn 58 before the end of the year and are looking to enjoy some fresh air, fellowship, while making new friends, and participating in a competitive softball league with games against other local seniors, then this could be right up your alley.

Games are held on Wednesdays and are usually doubleheaders, with practices on Friday mornings.

For more info you may call 828-837-4416 or 423-322-2870. If interested you may also show up to practice on Friday at 10 a.m.

Games run from April

through October with players from Blairsville, Hiawassee, Blue Ridge, Murphy, NC, and Hayesville, NC, making up the local team, called the "Tri State Pickups."

Disabilities are not an issue as players of all skill levels are needed. Some players are only used as runners, some just hit, and other stick to playing the field.

League standings are kept and a tournament is held in October to crown a champion.

The Tri State Pick Ups are currently in second place as of this writing.



The Towns County defense brings down a Spartan ball carrier last Friday night. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Tri-State ACAA Wood Bat 9&U State Champions



Bottom (left to right): Robert Turner, AJ Rice, Gunnar Akins, Zac Hogsed, Matthew Davis Jr, Jacob Van Beers. Back row: Silas Woodward, Jaxon Thetherow, Maddox Patton, Trenton Beavers. Coaches: Wes Beavers, Head Coach Matt Davis, Tim Hogsed, Rob Turner, Anthony Rice.