

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Indians cover the basics in scrimmage

By Joe Collins
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Dawsonville – The Towns County Indians weren't worried about the scoreboard on Friday night.

No, rather this was a scrimmage, a chance to see some formations, check out response times and see some newcomers in game conditions.

This was Indians' Head Football Coach Kyle Langford's theory on Friday night as the Towns County Indians football team met Class AAA's Dawson County Tigers.

This preseason game was a challenge where it didn't matter who the opponent was, the end result was a chance to look at the Indians on film.

"Typically we play Fannin County for our preseason game, but we lost them to Pickens County late last spring so Coach Jeff Lee at Dawson, being a fine coach and a good man, worked it out for us to come and play here," Coach Langford said. "They are a big school with a great program and it was our good fortune that we got to go to Dawson County and play. We also knew how good they are this year and we looked forward to going and testing our ability."

Coach Langford was more focused on combinations and groupings than he was about the scoreboard.

"We wanted to mix and match our guys in different set ups and get a look at them on film. We didn't run our whole



Wesley Bloodworth carries the football at Dawson County. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

playbook," he said. "We stuck to simple formations so we wouldn't give away everything we have. Preseason games are about preparations for the upcoming season and we know that other schools will see the film. You have to be careful and not let them know everything you have."

Dawson County is big on high school football and they went through the whole regalia on Friday night. The band was there along with the cheerleaders and mascot. The players entered the field through the painted paper gate that the cheerleaders held and the "mom tunnel" was in place.

The players were fired

up and the loud speakers were playing pumped up music. The smell of popcorn and grilled hamburgers permeated the air and the fans were loud and eager for the start of the game. The atmosphere seemed very intimidating.

Through all of this fanfare, the Indians never flinched. They stuck to what their coaching staff was doing and kept their confidence level up and presented themselves without fear of the huge team they were facing.

When Langford addressed this issue he said, "we could have told our guys that they were facing a very solid Class AAA school with more than 80 players, but they

knew it.

"They knew how strong Dawson is and how many returning seniors (22) they have, but all that didn't matter to them," Coach Langford said. "They were not intimidated for one minute and I was impressed by their ability to hold their composure."

The Indians defense shut down the Tigers' running game and forced them to go to the air, which actually is their strongest asset.

"Our defensive line did a great job at keeping their running backs in check," Coach Langford said. "They really only had one good drive on the ground and that was amazing given their size and speed. Our guys looked really good on defense."

On offense, the Indians moved the ball well. The running game was able to move the ball and the passing game was pretty solid. The issue of the night for Towns: fumbles caused the Indians problems in some crucial scoring positions near the Red Zone.

"We are going to have to take care of the football," Coach Langford said. "We had a lot of first downs, but we turned it over several times because of fumbles. If we could have capitalized on our field positions we would have scored more. We had positive gains on almost all of our possessions."

All in all Langford was pleased.

"We did what we came to do and that was to get a good look at our team," he

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Lady Indians' rally falls just short at Hart Co.

By Joe Collins
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The Towns County Lady Indians softball team traveled to Hartwell Monday to open their season against the Lady Bulldogs. After falling behind early, the Indians battled back but came up short 9-7. The Indians held their heads high as they gave the AAA School all they could handle.

Senior Claire Wilson gave the Bulldogs a wake up call in the first inning with a hard hit line drive double to left field. But the Indians couldn't capitalize and the top of the first ended without the Indians scoring.

The bottom of the first gave the Towns County fans an idea of the defensive talent the Indians have. With three runs already on the books and two runners in scoring position, Senior Alex Fagin made a spectacular diving catch in left center after a long run from her left field position to hold the base runners and collect out number two. Wilson



Ledford delivers the pitch for Towns Co. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

made a great play on a hard hit grounder to third for the final out leaving Bulldog runners on first and third. Unfortunately the bulldogs were able to capitalize on some solid hitting and took the lead 3-0.

The second and third innings were uneventful for the Indians but the Bulldogs were able to cross home plate three more times to increase their

lead to 6-0.

The Indians enthusiasm picked up in the beginning of the fourth inning when lead off hitter Wilson reached first after a hard hit grounder to the shortstop was bobbled. Senior Emily Anderson followed Wilson and connected for a solid single to left field and a throwing error advanced the runners to second and third.

Sophomore Emily Ledford got an RBI single over the shortstops head and another throwing error allowed Anderson to score the second run of the inning. The Indians were able to hold the Bulldogs and the fourth inning ended with a score of 6-2.

Momentum was still driving the Indians going into the fifth inning as Fagin reached first with a single up the middle. She then stole second on direction of Head Coach Tonya Martin. Wilson followed with a long at bat and finally reached first with a pop single RBI to center field. The fourth hitter of the inning was Emily Anderson. After fighting two off speed pitches and a fastball she connected with a long drive to left center that cleared the fence with room to spare. The two run homer was the first of the year for Anderson and the first of the year for the Lady Indians. The top of the fifth ended with three more Indians crossing the plate and the deficit was down to one.

The bottom of the

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TCMS defense smothers Basin in scrimmage

By Joe Collins
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The Towns County Middle School football team rolled into Copper Basin Thursday evening to take on the Cougars in their first and only preseason game of 2012.

The game was a look at the team as a whole and not any individual performance, however: the Indian fans in attendance were not disappointed.

The Indians won the coin toss and elected to receive. It was a perfect evening for football and they capitalized on their first possession and never looked back. The Indians returned the kickoff over seventy yards to the Cougars' own five-yard line and two plays later they had their first TD of the night. A 3-yard pass for the extra points finished the drive and a crowd of over fifty Indian fans let the players know how much they supported their team. The opening drive proved to be an example of the rock solid play that followed during the rest of the game as the Indians took the lead 8-0.



The Indians driving against Copper Basin. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

The Indians first kickoff proved to be just as exciting as the defense stopped the Cougars after a 5-yard return. The front line of the defense was strong as they sacked the Cougars quarterback on the second play from scrimmage. This was the first of many sacks the defensive squad would have during the game. The Cougars were forced to punt and the Indians solid play continued.

TCMS' passing game looked really good all night and their second possession was proof of that. After a left side trap play gained the

Indians 12 yards, good pass coverage and a precision throw covered over 40 yards and the second TD of the night was in the books for the Indians. A solid 3-yard rush later and the score increased to 16-0.

As in all football games, the Indians were not perfect. Fumbles and penalties occurred in the second quarter and a nice 30-yard pass play quickly turned into an Indian fumble and turnover.

The defense stepped in and the Cougars were forced to punt. The return put the Indians in good field position and several running plays from different

formations added another TD for the visiting Indians. An offside penalty pushed the extra points attempt back 5-yards and the tribe was unable to convert. The half ended with the Indians leading 22-0.

The second half was almost entirely played by the sixth and seventh graders. They too looked impressive, and although they were unable to score during the half, neither did the Cougars who played their first string most of the half.

"We ran through our entire playbook and all of our formations during the game. We found some things we will need to look at next week to get ready for the season opener with White County," declared an excited Head Coach Chris Vardo. A humble coach McClure said it best when he said, "it's not hard to coach talent." That is very true and Vardo and his staff have done a great job of getting their team ready as this pre-season's 22-0 win indicates.

The first regularly scheduled game of the season is at White County on Aug. 23 at 5:30 p.m. Good luck TCMS Indians and keep up the good work.

The golf swing is an athletic motion. It depends on balanced force to properly move the club head away and back through the hitting area. It is impossible to achieve maximum speed through impact without moving the center of balance to the back foot and then returning it to the front foot. We call this motion the "weight transfer".

When watching a major league baseball pitcher, you notice that the force of the action is from the back leg to the front leg during the pitch. The baseball is then released toward home plate at an amazing speed. If the pitcher stood flat footed and tried to release a pitch then his career would be short lived because the ball would have no speed. This force from the back leg too the front leg is the same theory we use in golf to accelerate the club at a really fast speed.

The proper weight transfer is totally dependent on having a solid stance and good posture because the balance of the motion must remain centered. If you lose your balance anywhere throughout the swing then the weight transfer will be blocked. You will end up hitting the ball with your hands and arms instead of allowing the club to follow the rotation of the body.

You must be very careful in trying to execute the proper weight transfer. It requires a rotation of the torso and not a sliding of the hips to move the weight to the back foot. This is where you will experience difficulty in your efforts to "load" the back foot.

The start of the backswing is primarily done with the chest and shoulders. Notice that when you have successfully addressed the ball there will be a triangle in front of the chest formed by the connection of the arms to the shoulders with the grip at the bottom and the shoulders at the top. The triangle is in the center of the chest and should stay in front of the chest as the weight is transferred to the back foot. Maintain the triangle by keeping the forward arm straight. Do not let the turning of the upper body pull your balance to the front of your feet or the proper weight

Joe Collins



Tips from the Range

transfer will not happen.

Once the weight is on the back foot, simply let the arms relax to the top while trying to keep the forward arm straight from set-up to the finish of the backswing. The straight forward arm will guide the club head back to the original position you had when the backswing started.

Notice that the movement from address to the top of your arc is called the "backswing" because that is just what it is. Simply turn the chest and let the club swing to the top. Shoulders will lead the hips on the backswing and then the hips will lead the shoulders on the downswing. You really need to follow this order or your downswing path will be outside the backswing path and across the ball through impact.

Now that the backswing is completed and your center of balance, or your weight, is on the back foot, give a good push from the back foot and let the hips start to reverse their turn back to the ball. This is the start of the downswing and the beginning of the weight shift to the front foot. Simply follow this transfer of weight from back to front and let the club fall slightly inside the takeaway path. Keep your head behind the ball well in to impact and let the arms release naturally.

The weight transfer is an important key in helping you find accuracy and distance because, when done properly, it allows you to maintain balance throughout the entire swing. Without the proper transfer, the correct swing is almost impossible and consistency is virtually nonexistent.

The great Lee Trevino said it best, "the more I practice, the luckier I get," so practice this package of fundamentals and you too will become "luckier."

Good luck and I will see you on the course!

TCHS 2012 Football Schedule

Aug. 24: @ Hayesville, NC
Aug. 31: vs Union County
Sept. 7: @ Fellowship Christian
Sept. 14: @ Rabun County
Sept. 21: vs Rabun Gap
Oct. 5: @ Copper Basin, TN
Oct. 19: vs North Cobb Christian
Oct. 26: vs St. Francis
Nov. 2: @ Lakeview
Nov. 9 vs Hebron Christian

Football Season opener

It's time to break out the rally caps, the Indians are set to kickoff the 2012 football season against their arch rivals from across the lake.

The Indians travel to Hayesville, NC on Friday night to take on the Yellow Jackets in the first game of the 2012 football season.

The Indians have been this route before, have taken on the Yellow Jackets in the first game of the 2011 football season. That one didn't sit well with the Indians as they came up on the short end of a 21-6 score.

The Indians expect different results in 2012. The offensive and defensive lines are solid for the first time since 2008. The experience level is the highest it's been in Head Football Coach Kyle Langford's tenure at TCHS.

Towns is strong at the skills positions and probably the deepest they've been in Langford's stay as head coach.

There is reason for optimism.

Junior Jackson Noblet returns as a three-year starter at quarterback. Senior Wesley Bloodworth is the stalwart in the backfield at fullback. He's a load for any defense to try and take down.

The offensive line is led by big Luke Parker, and is as an experienced line as the Indians have had in years.

The first game is scheduled for Aug. 24 at 7:30 p.m. The game will be played in Hayesville, NC at the newly retooled high school field. Come out and support the Indians as they christen the new artificial surface at Frank R. Long stadium.

Hayesville leads the all-time series 17-1 but Coach Langford will be looking to tie Hosea Collins as Towns' all-time winningest football-coach.

Revenge is sweet, especially on the new home field for the Yellow Jackets.

Benefit Concert Saturday

The 2012 Rockfest – Kickin' it at The Lodge is scheduled for this Saturday, August 25, beginning at 11:30 am.

Live music and family fun will fill the yard at The Lodge at Copperhead on Nottely Dam Road in Blairsville. Music will last all afternoon with local favorites Modern Vinyl, along with RATZ, and 12 Gauge Per-suaders.

This event, now in its fifth year benefits the Mountain United Soccer Association, Cole Bowen, Georgia Soccer Association, and local organization Recording Artists against MS.

A full day of family fun – brought to you by The Lodge at

Copperhead, including games, a Corn Hole Tournament at 3 pm, raffles, and prizes.

Many local business and family sponsors have made this event possible.

Families welcome, free parking, food and beverage available for purchase; no coolers.

Bring your chair or your blanket and enjoy an afternoon of great music for a great cause.

Tickets available at by calling (706)-835-7433. Advance 2 for \$5 donation; \$5 each, day of concert. Bring the family for a day of fun, music and community support.