

# Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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## Athens Christian prevails 35-7 over Indians in Hiawassee

By Shawn Jarrard  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

The Towns County Indians put up a valiant fight at home against Athens Christian School on Friday, Oct. 9, though the Boys in Blue fell short in the 35-7 loss.

"Like I say every week, and I'm going to continue to say it, the effort is there and they play hard," said Head Coach Billy Barnhart. "We asked them to do it again this week, just try and play hard every play. I felt they played hard, I really do. I don't doubt that at all, I didn't see anything other than that."

Missed opportunities, however, kept the Indians from making the most of their time with the ball.

One of the opportunities came early in the game – at the very start of the game, in fact, when Underwood kicked a spot on 15-yard outside kick that he then quickly recovered himself.

The end result of that series was a fourth-and-punt, and Underwood found himself kicking the ball again all too soon.

"We knew that was there, and we tried it last week against Athens Academy and almost got it," said Coach Barnhart of the onside kick. "We're just trying to give us a spark, defer so we can get the ball at the start of the second half, and we saw the opportunity to get an onside kick there in the middle and it worked for us."

"But instead of going forward, we went backwards, and that was a great onside kick, Shea did a great job there getting it, but that was another missed opportunity I feel that we had. We've got to do a better job of taking advantage of the opportunities. When they're there, we've got to take advantage of them, and we're just not doing that. We're continuing to try to figure it out, and we're going to keep working and keep trying to get



The Indians talk things over during a timeout. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

better each and every day."

Another missed offensive opportunity occurred with about four and a half minutes remaining in the first quarter, when junior defensive end Walker Ross recovered a Golden Eagle fumble.

Once again, the Indians faced a fourth-and-punt to end the drive in four plays.

"We've got to continue to work on the fundamentals, work on blocking, tackling, and really just going out and hitting people," said Coach Barnhart.

The momentum was definitely in favor of the Indians heading into the second half, as a series of penalties incurred by Athens Christian, mixed with some good running plays, helped to usher the Indians into the red zone.

Kobe Denton ran for a crucial first down on a second-and-15, setting up the next play on the 6-yard line where quarterback Russell Cox connected with Underwood for what would be the Indians only score of the game.

Needless to say, Underwood made the point after.

With only 17 seconds left on the clock before the halftime, the Golden Eagles scored on the Indians' kick following that touchdown.

But wait – the touchdown was called back because due to excessive celebration that garnered Athens Christian an unsportsmanlike penalty. This resulted in a failure of Athens Christian to rack up more points on the Indians, and heading into the half, things seemed to be swinging Towns County's way.

Unfortunately, Towns County's last drive, with great carries by Cole Ledford, Denton and Cox himself, including a first-down pass to Denton that aided in creating the 14-play series, ended in a turnover on a first-and-goal.

If not for that turnover, the Indians likely would have scored again, given the tenacity with which that particular drive had been undertaken by the Boys in Blue.

"They struggled covering our guys just like at times we struggled early on covering their guys, and we knew that, that's why we were going at them a little bit more than usual with passing the ball tonight, because we knew there were going to be opportunities for us," said Coach Barnhart. "And they were there, we just didn't capitalize on them like we needed to."

"It's just another one of those games that I can still



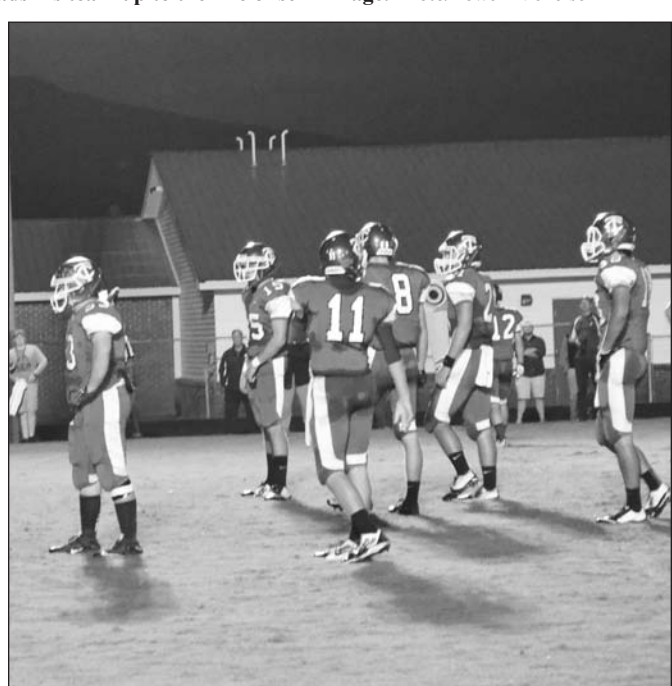
Junior quarterback Russell Cox leads his team up to the line of scrimmage. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

see how we've gotten better. There's no doubt about it, we're a better football team than we were a year ago when we played these guys, and we played them a lot tougher than what we did a year ago. There's no doubt about that. Anybody that watches this football team can see that, and if they can't, then I don't know what's wrong with them."

"There's no doubt that we're better, we've improved, we'll continue to improve. We're competing with these guys. I know the score doesn't necessarily look that way, but we are. We've just got to continue to work each and every day and each and every week to get better. We've got three weeks left in this season, and we're going to keep doing that."

Six players were on the sidelines for the game due to game-related injuries that Friday night, and two players came out of the game with injuries that sent them to the hospital: Ross with a possible broken arm and Dylan Roberts with a possible concussion.

"I hate to lose those two guys, but it's what we've dealt with for the last couple weeks, just plugging guys in, and who's the next man up, and working young guys,"



The Indians defense gets lined up before the play vs Athens Christian last Friday Photo/Lowell Nicholson

said Coach Barnhart, who commended the starting freshmen who stepped up to fill the gaps.

The Indians head to Prince Avenue Christian High School in Bogart on Friday, Oct. 16, with a kickoff time of 7:30 p.m.

"We've got to continue to work on the three things that this program is built around:

pride, character and hard work ethic," said Coach Barnhart. "That's what we've been talking to them about this week, and what we stressed to them before the game tonight and will continue to stress to them the rest of this year – go out and play with pride, go out and play with character, and work hard every play."

## NASCAR 2015

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

### Logano out races Harvick

CHARLOTTE, N.C.— Kevin Harvick lost the magic he had last week at Dover.

Joey Logano found it. The pair were lined up 1-2 on a restart during lap 242 of the 334 lap Sprint Cup race. Logano got a good start and pulled away. Except for a couple laps during a late pit stop, he led the remainder of the race.

All Harvick could do was watch as Logano's yellow No. 22 car pulled away, more and more. At the finish line it was Logano by almost a second.

"Nothing surprises me any more, but what a great car the guys put me in today," said Logano. "We've struggled here the last couple years, but this win will really get us ready for the next Chase round."

Logano led 227 laps, while Harvick was unable to lead any.

"We made our car better throughout the race," said Harvick. "I think we were about one more adjustment away from having a winning car. But we'll take this and head to Kansas next week."

Martin Truex Jr. was running well at the end and finished third.

"This puts us back where we need to be," said Truex. "We didn't start real well, but the guys kept working on the car until I was able to run up front. It wasn't a win, but it helps us in the points, and that's what's important now."

Denny Hamlin was fourth and Kurt Busch was fifth.

Carl Edwards got in a little fender bender with Matt Kenseth early in the race, but finished sixth.

Austin Dillon, Jeff Gordon, Brad Keselowski, and Aric Almirola rounded out the top-10 drivers.

Kyle Busch started second, led four laps, but wound up one lap down in the 20th position. He and Kyle Larson tangled near the entrance to pit road on lap 195 under caution, damaging both of their cars.

Dale Earnhardt Jr. had a bad day with a 28th-place finish, after he and Carl Edwards got together during lap 73.

Jimmie Johnson had engine problems on lap 261. He pitted and did not return to the track. He is credited with finishing 39th.

"Right now we don't know what happened," said Johnson. "I just lost rpm's and I had to go into a protective mode."

The biggest loser of the race was Matt Kenseth. He started on the pole, but finished 98 laps down in the 42nd spot. During lap 206, he made contact with Ryan Newman, and from then on his day went south. He hit the wall two more times before calling it quits.

Top-10 Chase leaders after 29 of 36: 1. Logano-3048, 2. Harvick-3042, 3. Truex-3041, 4. Hamlin-3040, 5. Kurt Busch-3039, 6. Edwards-3039, 7. Gordon-3037, 8. Keselowski-3035, 9. Newman-3029, 10. Kyle Busch-3025, 11. Earnhardt-3016, 12. Kenseth-3003.

Note: This is the first race in round two (Contender round) of the four round Chase scenario. There will be two more races in this round, Kansas and Talladega. After the Talladega race the points will be reset and only the top-eight drivers will continue in contention for this year's Sprint Cup championship.

### AUSTIN DILLON CAPTURES CHARLOTTE XFINITY RACE

Austin Dillon took the lead on lap 147 of Friday night's Xfinity Series race and led the remaining 53 laps of the 200-lap race, and finished nearly three seconds ahead of runner-up Erik Jones.

The remaining top-10: 3. Brad Keselowski, 4. Daniel Suarez, 5. Regan Smith, 6. Ty Dillon, 7. Chris Buescher, 8. Darrell Wallace Jr., 9. Chase Elliott, 10. Elliott Sadler.

Top-10 leaders after 29 of 33: 1. C. Buescher-1055, 2. Elliott-1029, 3. Smith-1021, 4. T. Dillon-1017, 5. Wallace-943, 6. Sadler-942, 7. Suarez-927, 8. Scott-901, 9. Gaughan-893, 10. Reed-798.

### WILL NASCAR OWNERSHIP STRUCTURE CHANGE

NASCAR held a meeting with all Sprint Cup owners last week at Hendrick Motorsports, where NASCAR CEO Brian France addressed the subject of team ownership.

"Anytime we can improve the structure for our team owners, that's a good thing," France said. "So if we can improve their business model, we can improve their overall structure, then what's going to happen is new owners will be looking to participate in NASCAR and that's a good thing."

"The other good thing is the level of competition goes up. The more team owners there are, the better we're going to be."

NASCAR hopes to have a program in place by season's end, but there's still a lot of work ahead on both sides of the proposal. In a release, NASCAR cautioned about speculating on possible formats before a final decision has been determined.

While team owners have lobbied for some type of team franchise that could be bought and sold, much like as in the NFL and other major league sports, NASCAR



Joey Logano Out Races Harvick at Charlotte. Furnished by NASCAR

seems opposed to the idea.

In reading over France's statement, NASCAR wants to encourage more teams, and not limit the field to a chosen few, which would be the case if franchises were awarded.

Jack Roush is one of the oldest owners in the business. He's been there, done that, and seen teams come and go.

"You couldn't take a business man that was involved in one of the other traditional, capitalistic enterprises that are in our economy, unless they were a race fan, you couldn't interest them in the prospect of a return on their investment for NASCAR," said Roush. "So that needs to improve so we can have dynamic and renewed teams as time goes on."

"When ownership decides that they can't go forward either because the owners get too old or there's some other economic circumstance that befalls the owners, the only thing you've got today is sell your cars and your parts for 10-percent, 20-percent on the dollar and back away. So all of the investment that the early NASCAR racers had, that the early NASCAR teams had, they didn't build any equity that justified the investment they made. They either had to sell the opportunity of a short-term economic benefit or they were race fans."

**Weekend Racing:** The Cup and Xfinity teams will be at the 1.5-mile Kansas Speedway. The Trucks do not race again until Oct. 24.

Fri., Oct. 17; Xfinity Series race 30 of 33; Starting time: 4 pm ET; TV: NBCS.

Sat., Oct. 18; Sprint Cup race 31 of 36; Starting time: 2:15 pm ET; TV: NBC.

**Racing Trivia Question:** Which team does Denny Hamlin drive for?

**Last Week's Question:** Jeff Gordon will retire after the 2015 season. How many Cup wins does he have? **Answer:** He is third on the list, behind Richard Petty (200) and David Pearson (105) with 92 wins.

You may contact the Racing Reporter by e-mail at: hodges@race500.com. NT(Oct14,C)jac

## Ledford, Indians compete at Carney Classic

By Shawn Jarrard  
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Hayesville, NC - Indians Cross Country Coach Jeannie Ledford took home the top spot with help from her former Hayesville Yellow Jacket teammates in a coaches' relay race at the Annual Carney Classic on Wednesday, Sept. 30.

"The Carney Classic is an annual memorial race hosted by Hayesville High School and Coach Jim Saltz, to celebrate and honor the memory of Coach Buck Carney," said Coach Ledford. "This year, Hayesville's Adam Urbanik took it as his senior project."

The coaches' relay was added to this year's event, and Coach Ledford raced with former teammates Julie Stackhouse and Jessie Stackhouse as the Carney Alumni team.

All three women raced in their original high school uniform tops, and they captured the champion spot in a come-from-behind victory as Coach Ledford ran the last leg of the race, chasing down Swain County for the win.

Also that day, both the Indians and Lady Indians cross country teams did well against their counterparts in the Carney Classic.

The Top 5 Indians were: Tyler Grimsley, who came in 31st with a time of 20:50; Corbin Henderson, 42nd, 21:34; Kevin Reardon, 43rd, 21:35; Kaiane Hoffman, 73rd, 25:14; and Jeremy Lovell, placing 76th with 25:35.

The Top 5 Lady Indians were: Hannah Whitehead, who placed eighth with a time of 22:02; Taralee Arrowood, 21st, 24:00; Jasmine Miranda, 28th, 24:54; Emma Kate Ledford, 55th, 28:26; and Lexi Pettengill, who came in 63rd with a time of 31:48.

And on September 22, Towns County's boys and girls cross country teams traveled to Riverside Military Academy, with exceptional times and rankings for the day.

The Top 5 Indians were: Grimsley, who came in seventh with a time of 20:10; Reardon, ninth, 20:26; Marshall Ledford, 13th, 21:14; Henderson, 14th, 21:17; and Gavin Langelier,



Towns County Cross Country Coach Jeannie Ledford pictured with Julie Stackhouse and Jessie Stackhouse.



Taylor Cornett (left) and Hannah Whitehead (right) on the medal stand.

placing 25th with a time of 23:13.

Overall, the boys finished the race in second placed with a team total of 68 behind Riverside. Grimsley, Andrew Rogers and Chase Williams ran faster times this year than last year at Riverside.

Langelier and Williams also achieved faster times than their races at Murphy.

The Top 5 Lady Indians were: Whitehead, scorching into first place with a time of 22:12; Taylor Cornett, who came in a close third with a time

of 23:27; Arrowood, fourth, 23:49; Miranda, fifth, 24:43; and Lydia Moss finished in eighth with her time of 26:11.

Exhibiting terrific grouping, the girls came in first ahead of the Commerce team, which is a state competitor.

Arrowood and Moss achieved faster times than last year at Riverside, and Ledford achieved a faster time than when she raced in Murphy.

Towns County Cross Country Kyra Tallent contributed to this report.

## Register now for Youth Basketball

The Towns County Recreation Department will begin registration for Youth Basketball on Saturday, October 17 until Saturday, October 31st. The program is for ages 6 through 12 both boys and girls. The fee is \$45 per child. The program will begin in early November,

so please register on time.

For registration please come to Towns County Recreation Center. Hours are Monday thru Friday from 9 AM to 8 PM and Saturdays from 9 AM to 4 PM. For more information call 706-896-2600.