Softball: Union clinches No. 2 seed in upcoming Region 8-AA Tournament

Lady Panthers to host Senior Night ceremony following Tuesday's region finale vs Rabun

By Todd Forrest
Sports Editor
sports@nganews.com

L-R: Junior Trinity Queen struck out six in the 1-0 loss to Banks. Junior catcher Hannah Patton records an out up against the netting in foul territory vs Banks. Photos/Todd Forrest

After going hitless in a 1-0 loss to Banks County in the de facto Region 8-AA title game, the Union County Lady Panthers bounced back with a 6-1 victory at Oglethorpe County to lockdown second place in 8-AA's final regular season standings.

As a result, the Lady Panthers will host No. 7 seed Putnam County (1-12, 0-5) in the opening round of the Region 8-AA Tournament. The winner will secure a spot in the Class AA State Tournament

Entering last Thursday's contest with Oglethorpe County, the Lady Patriots were only one game back of second place Union County and jumped out to an early 1-0 lead.

Still reeling from a gut-wrenching loss to Banks County, the Lady Panthers got off to a slow start, stranding five runners over the first three innings.

Defensively, two errors in the bottom half of the third allowed Oglethorpe to grab the lead on a sacrifice fly. Senior Megan Bright would pitch around a walk and an error in the fourth and a hit batter in the fifth as she waited for the bats to come to life.

Union County finally awoke with six runs in the sixth as they sent 11 hitters to the plate during the inning.

Three-straight one-out singles by Rebekah Kelley, Emma Roxbury and Aubrie Banton tied the game at 1-1.

A two-out error off the bat of Mary Wischmeyer made it 2-1. A two-run triple by Lexi Sisum followed by consecutive RBI doubles by Hannah Patton and Trinity Queen spotted the Lady Panthers a 6-1 advantage.

Bright retired six-straight to end the game as Union improved its Region 8-AA record to 5-1.

Earlier in the week, Banks County came to town.

Unfortunately, they also brought along Tybee Denton, who struck out nine in a no-hit victory over the Lady Panthers.

Union County junior Trinity Queen allowed a triple to lead off the top of the first, followed by an RBI ground out.

From there, she matched Denton the rest of the way, but the offense struggled mightily to solve Denton.

An error and two Union walks had the tying run on base three different times, most notably in the sixth when Caley Davis led off the inning with a base-on-balls. With one down, Wischmeyer crushed a high fly into deep left-centerfield that stayed in the yard thanks to the wind, resulting in a long out at the fence.

The Lady Panthers would go down 1-2-3 in the seventh as the defending State Runner Up Leopards escaped with the 1-0 victory.

Over the weekend, Union traveled to West Georgia and fell 8-0 to Heard County and 12-9 to Newnan.

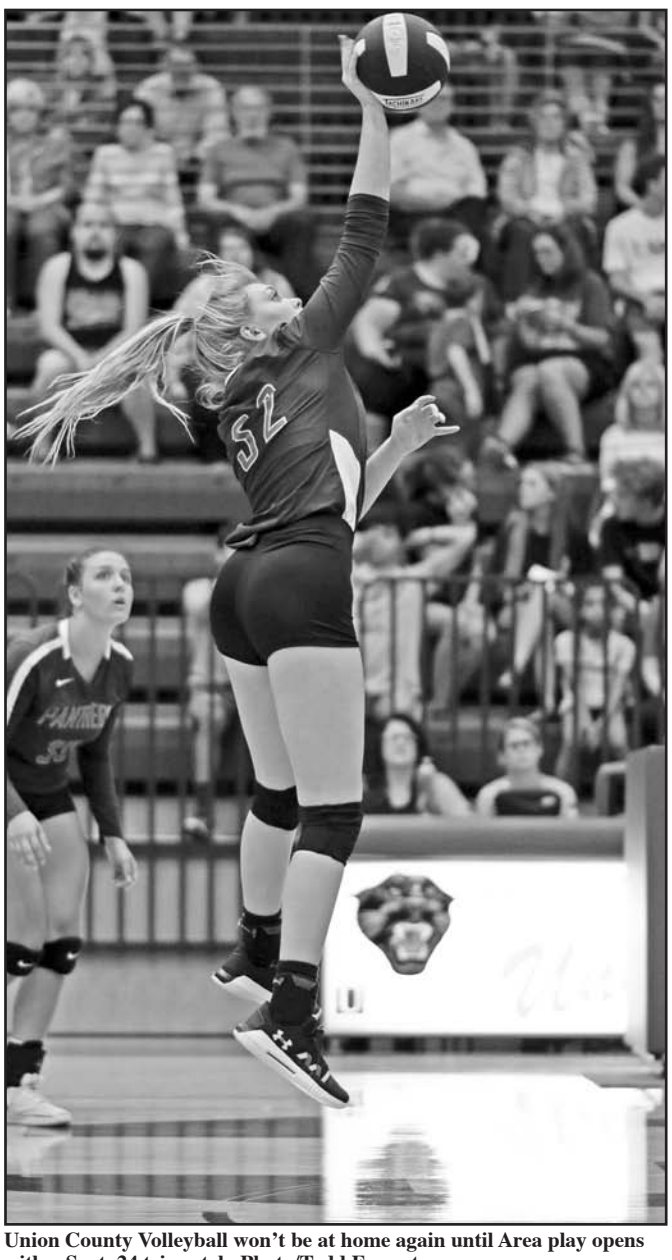
On Tuesday, the Lady Panthers will host Senior Night following its 5:30 meeting with Rabun County -- the final region contest of the regular season.

On Monday night, Union County traveled to the University of North Georgia to face Madison County. No additional information was available as of Monday's deadline.

The Lady Panthers will host Gilmer on Wednesday at 5:55 p.m. They will also host East Hall on Monday, Sept. 23 in the regular season finale. First pitch is slated for 5:55 p.m.

Volleyball: Union sits at 5-13 with one final week of tune-ups before Area play

By Todd Forrest
Sports Editor
sports@nganews.com



Union County Volleyball won't be at home again until Area play opens with a Sept. 24 tri-match. Photo/Todd Forrest

Union County dropped three matches last week to fall to 5-13 overall with one more week of action before the real season begins at home on Tuesday, Sept. 24.

Last week got underway on Monday, Sept. 9 with a 3-0 loss to a 6-4 Hayesville, North Carolina squad.

The Yellow Jackets took the first set 25-20 before a comfortable 25-16 victory in the second set put the visitors in control. The Panthers battled to the very end during the third set but eventually fell short, 25-21.

A day later, Union County lost a 3-1 match with Lumpkin County, who split the first two sets before taking the final two.

The Panthers bounced back from a narrow 26-24 loss in the first set to take the second set, 25-23. The Indians regained control with a 25-19 third set before edging Union County 26-24 in the finale.

The Panthers went on the road to White County on Thursday, Sept. 12 to battle the Class AAAA Warriors.

Despite taking White County down to the wire in the second set, Union County came out on the wrong end of a 2-0 final score.

The Warriors appeared primed for an easy victory when they took care of business 25-14 in the opening set. The Panthers refused to quit, however, giving White County all they could handle during a 25-23 second set.

Union visited Hiwassee Dam, North Carolina after Monday's deadline. On Tuesday, they're back on the road with a visit to a very tough Dawson County squad, who is hosting a quad-match with Union, Athens Christian and Alcovy.

On Thursday, Sept. 19, the Union County "Road Warriors" will pay a visit to Tellico Plains, Tennessee in the final contest before Area play opens next week.

The Panthers will play host to Oglethorpe County and Washington Wilkes on Tuesday, Sept. 24. Area play resumes on Thursday, Sept. 26 when they travel to Rabun County to face the Wildcats and Putnam County.

Union County Youth Football teams open strong

Union County 48, Chestatee 0 (9-Under): Kevin Kilpatrick scored the first touchdown and Hutson Collins made the extra point to put the Panthers on top 7-0.

The War-Eagles turned it over back to the Panthers and Kamden Kendrick punched it in for a touchdown. Micah Wallace would get the extra point and the Panthers went up 14-0.

At the beginning of second quarter, Wallace would record an interception and return it for a touchdown. Kilpatrick would convert the extra point to make it 21-0 in favor of Union County.

Later on in the second quarter, the War Eagles would throw another interception, this time it was Isaiah Stepp with the pick and the Panthers took a 35-0 halftime lead.

In the third, Kilpatrick would rush for another touchdown and Wallace would tack on the extra point as the Panthers would go on to win 48-0.

Union County is now 2-0 on the season.

Chestatee 38, Union County 13 (10-Under): It was a rough game for the Panthers, who were down 26-0 at halftime.

Chetley Cox would score the first touchdown to get the Panthers on the board but they wouldn't get the extra point for a 32-6 score.

The War-Eagles continued to dominate the Panthers but Isaac Milam would score another Union County touchdown and Chetley Cox would get the extra point to pull within 19 points.

That's as close as they would get as the Panthers took a 32-13 loss to fall to 1-1 this season.

Up next: Both Panther teams will be playing at home and facing the Gilmer County Bobcats.

Last week's results:

Union County 39, Dawson 0 (9-under): The Panthers were hyped up and ready to go, scoring 20 points in the first quarter.

Corbin Combs recovered two onside kicks and the team's leading rusher, Kilpatrick, scored three touchdowns in the victory. Kendrick scored two rushing touchdowns and Wallace tore off a long rushing touchdown.

The defense played amazing as they held Dawson to negative numbers in the rushing department, resulting in a 39-0 victory.

Players of the game:

Offensive player was Kilpatrick -- scored 3 touchdowns and is the leading rusher on the team

Defensive Player was Corbin Combs, who recovered two onside kicks.

Union County 13, Dawson 7 (10-under): The 10U Panthers took on Dawsonville and this was a very competitive game.

At the end of the first quarter it was tied at 0-0. Later on in the second quarter, Cox connected with Jaxon Totherow for the first touchdown of the game to take a 7-0 advantage into the half.

In the third, Dawson scored on a rushing touchdown to even it up at 7-7. Later in the fourth, Cox found Totherow for another touchdown to go on top 13-7.

Fast-forward to the final minute: Dawson has the ball with 45 seconds left, it's fourth down and the Panthers need a stop to win the game.

That's when Alan Godinez delivered, making the big stop as he slipped through the line and tackled the ball carrier in the backfield to preserve a 13-7 Panthers' victory.

Players of the game:

Offensive Player of the Game was Jaxon Totherow, who scored two touchdowns.

Defensive player was Alan Godinez for making the big stop to win the game.

Youth Football League - September schedule

** Denotes a bonus game that wont count towards league standings

Week 1 — 9/7

Fannin				
9:00am	Pickens	AT	Fannin	6U
10:30am	**Pickens	AT	Fannin	7U
12:00pm	**Pickens	AT	Fannin	8U
1:30pm	Pickens	AT	Fannin	9U
3:00pm	Pickens	AT	Fannin	10U
4:30pm	Pickens	AT	Fannin	11U
Union				
9:00am	Dawson	AT	Union	9U
10:30am	Dawson	AT	Union	10U
12:00pm	Dawson	VS	Gilmer	11U
Chestatee				
9:00am	**Gilmer	AT	Chestatee	6U
10:30am	East Hall	VS	Dawson	6U
12:00pm	**East Hall	AT	Chestatee	7U
1:30pm	Gilmer	AT	Chestatee	9U
3:00pm	Gilmer	AT	Chestatee	10U
White				
9:00am	Lumpkin	AT	White	6U
10:30am	**Dawson	AT	White	7U
12:00pm	**Lumpkin	AT	White	8U
1:30pm	East Hall	AT	White	9U
3:00pm	Lumpkin	AT	White	10U
4:30pm	Lumpkin	AT	White	11U

Week 1 Byes:
8U Gilmer
11U East Hall

Week 2 — 9/14

East Hall				
9:00am	**White	AT	East Hall	6U
10:30am	**White	AT	East Hall	7U
12:00pm	Pickens	AT	East Hall	9U
1:30pm	**Pickens	AT	East Hall	11U
Gilmer				
9:00am	Fannin	AT	Gilmer	6U
10:30am	**Fannin	AT	Gilmer	8U
12:00pm	Fannin	AT	Gilmer	9U
1:30pm	Fannin	AT	Gilmer	10U
3:00pm	**Fannin	AT	Gilmer	11U
Lumpkin				
9:00am	Dawson	AT	Lumpkin	6U
10:30am	**Fannin	VS	Dawson	7U
12:00pm	Pickens	AT	Lumpkin	8U
1:30pm	Dawson	VS	White	9U
3:00pm	Dawson	AT	Lumpkin	10U
4:30pm	**Dawson	AT	Lumpkin	11U
Chestatee				
9:00am	Pickens	AT	Chestatee	6U
10:30am	**Pickens	AT	Chestatee	7U
12:00pm	Union	AT	Chestatee	9U
1:30pm	Union	AT	Chestatee	10U
3:00pm	**Pickens	VS	White	10U

Week 2 Byes:
8U White
11U White

Week 3 — 9/21

White				
9:00am	Fannin	AT	White	6U
10:30am	Fannin	AT	White	7U
12:00pm	Fannin	AT	White	8U
1:30pm	Fannin	AT	White	9U
3:00pm	Fannin	AT	White	10U
4:30pm	Fannin	AT	White	11U
Union				
9:00am	Gilmer	AT	Union	9U
10:30am	Gilmer	AT	Union	10U
12:00pm	Gilmer	VS	Chestatee	6U
1:30pm	Lumpkin	VS	Chestatee	10U
Pickens				
9:00am	Dawson	AT	Pickens	6U
10:30am	Dawson	AT	Pickens	7U
12:00pm	**Gilmer	AT	Pickens	8U
1:30pm	**Dawson	AT	Pickens	9U
3:00pm	Dawson	AT	Pickens	10U
4:30pm	Dawson	AT	Pickens	11U
East Hall				
9:00am	Lumpkin	AT	East Hall	6U
10:30am	Chestatee	AT	East Hall	7U
12:00pm	Chestatee	AT	East Hall	9U
1:30pm	Gilmer	AT	East Hall	11U

Week 3 Byes:
8U Lumpkin
11U Lumpkin

Week 4 — 9/28

Dawson				
9:00am	Chestatee	AT	Dawson	6U
10:30am	**Chestatee	AT	Dawson	7U
12:00pm	Chestatee	AT	Dawson	9U
1:30pm	**Chestatee	AT	Dawson	10U
Fannin				
9:00am	East Hall	AT	Fannin	6U
10:30am	** East Hall	AT	Fannin	7U
12:00pm	Union	AT	Fannin	9U
1:30pm	**Union	AT	Fannin	10U
3:00pm	East Hall	AT	Fannin	11U
Gilmer				
9:00am	White	AT	Gilmer	6U
10:30am	Lumpkin	AT	Gilmer	8U
12:00pm	**East Hall	AT	Gilmer	9U
1:30pm	**Lumpkin	AT	Gilmer	10U
3:00pm	Lumpkin	AT	Gilmer	11u
Pickens				
9:00am	**Lumpkin	AT	Pickens	6U
10:30am	**White	AT	Pickens	7U
12:00pm	**White	AT	Pickens	8U
1:30pm	White	AT	Pickens	9U
3:00pm	White	AT	Pickens	10U
4:30pm	White	AT	Pickens	11U

Week 4 Byes:
8U Fannin
11U Dawson

Six Straight... continued from 2C

Drake ended up with three grabs, 50 yards and a touchdown. Rich finished with three catches for 27 yards after missing last week's game vs Towns County. Meanwhile, Sutton toted the rock four times for 28 yards. He also chipped in seven tackles, a sack and an interception on defense.

Up next: The Panthers host Monticello (0-3) at 7:30 p.m. Friday as Region 8-AA play gets underway with last year's No. 4 seed.

In last season's meeting in Monticello, Union County overcame a sloppy start in a 38-22 victory.

Leading 7-6 early, 21-14 in the second and 24-14 in the third, the Panthers never put away the Hurricanes until back-to-back touchdown runs by Daniel and Chad Buzzard made it 38-14 in the fourth.

Pierson Allison recovered from his first interception of the season to throw for 284 yards on 19-of-28. He also ran for a career-high 135 yards and two scores on 13 attempts.

Meanwhile, Daniel and Buzzard combined for 134 yards and three scores on 24 carries. Drake had six grabs for 91 yards; Rich finished with 71 yards on three catches.

The Hurricanes' offense finished with 207 rushing yards on 6.1 yards per carry. They also completed 13-of-22 passes for 203 yards, two scores and a pick.

However, starting quarterback Jaymerious Fleetwood (203 passing, 105 rushing yards last year vs Union) graduated, as did running backs Dylan Jackson (89 yards vs UC) and Chance Hope (13 yards).

This year's squad is led by senior running back Jaylon Mitchell (91 yards per game) and senior quarterback Matt Cain, who currently sports a 39% completion percentage with three interceptions and no touchdowns while averaging 69 passing yards a game.

Others to watch are sophomore running backs Keyshawn Ammons, who's averaging an explosive 14 yards per carry, and Shamarion Green, who is putting up 30 YPG on the ground and 29 yards per kickoff return.

Junior Graeme Williams leads the team with three catches, while seniors Jordan and Jaylon Mitchell have two grabs apiece.

"They are big, physical and athletic," Coach Allison said when asked what concerned him about this week's opponent. "We're going to have to do a much better job of tackling than we did down there last year.

"We had a hard time tackling their quarterback and we threw an early interception. We're going to have to fix all that and I expect it to be another battle."

Monticello is coming off a 28-21 loss to Class A's 8th ranked North Cobb Christian. The week before they surrendered 24-unanswered at Bowdon after taking a 7-0 lead into the second quarter.

In the opener, Mount de Sales handled the Canes, 35-6. On the season, Monticello's three opponents have a combined record of 8-0, so it's safe to say they're much better than their 0-3 record might indicate.

"They graduated their quarterback but they have another good one this year," Coach Allison said. "They also have a couple pretty good running backs, so we're going to have our hands full."

Kickoff is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on Friday night.

Union County Men's League Soccer Champions

The "Legends" squad consisted of (back row, L-R): Jason Majors, Chris Robbins, Kyle Hamby, Lawson Baenninger, Keaton Dyer, TJ Smith, Kyler Robbins, Kobi Robbins. Front row: Jon Krieger - Coach, Aaron Helton, Sam Seiler and Steven Seiler.