

Home Stretch... continued from 1C

Baenninger.
Following his fourth quarter heroics at Fannin County on Friday, Allison picked up where he left off on Monday when he sank two first quarter treys at Andrews. Drake, Union's other freshman starter, also sank an early three during a 5-point first as the Panthers built an 18-13 lead after one.

Union continued pulling away in the second quarter behind five from Crawford Colwell and four from Banton as they took a 32-22 advantage into the half. Also contributing to the scoring column were Wright and Davis, who each posted three first half points for the Panthers.

The third quarter was all Union thanks to a 22-10 outburst that allowed them to open up a 22-point advantage entering the fourth.

Crawford Colwell hit 3-of-3 at the line, en route to a 7-point quarter while Allison knocked down a trey along with a deuce during the third. Banton chipped in four, Drake, Candler Colwell, and sophomore Cole-son Daniel rounded out Union's

third quarter scoring.
Junior Riley Barrett crushed the Wildcats slim comeback hopes with seven in the final frame on 3-of-4 shooting from the line. Allison and Crawford Colwell each sank a pair at the line while Banton and Candler Colwell each added a basket for the Panthers.

Panthers 47, GAC 62 – After suffering a 44-point loss to the Spartans in Norcross last month, Union County was able to hang around with private school powerhouse Greater Atlanta Christian, despite never pulling within single-digits after halftime.

The Spartans opened with a 7-2 run and led 17-7 after one before the Panthers settled down and made some noise in the second quarter.

Trailing 20-9, Union pulled within seven on multiple occasions but couldn't claw any closer. A technical foul was issued to Coach Jones after the officials missed an obvious out-of-bounds call in front of the scorer's table that turned into a lay-up on the other end.

A few feet from the play,

Jones questioned the blown call and was quickly T'd up. Already in the midst of an 8-2 run, GAC used the technical to extend the run to 12-2 and take a 34-17 lead late in the second quarter. Finally a basket by Barrett ended the run and the Panthers trailed 34-19 at the half.

The Spartans continued to pull away following a 19-9 third quarter that put Union in a 53-28 hole entering the fourth.

A technical on GAC for hanging on the rim while attempting a dunk allowed the Panthers to open the fourth with an 9-2 run to pull within 18 at 55-37.

Following a Spartan basket, Union answered with five unanswered to make it a 15-point game with 1:49 to play.

Crawford Colwell was the only Panther in double figures with 14. Banton finished with nine, Wright and Barrett scored seven each, while Candler Colwell and Davis had 4 points each. Meanwhile, Allison finished with 2 points.



Junior forward Crawford Colwell (24) goes up for two of his game high 15 vs Hayesville, NC. Photo/Todd Forrest

Lady Panthers... continued from 1C

Union was unable to prevent GAC from stretching its advantage to 20-plus before halftime.

At the 2:40 mark of the second, the Lady Spartans went up 39-19 before taking a 45-21 lead into the intermission.

Down 49-21, Daniel rattled off five straight points to pull Union back within 23 at the 4:40 mark of the third. However, GAC closed the period on a 12-1 run for a 61-27 lead.

The Lady Panthers took the final frame by score of 13-6 as six different Union County

players scored a basket.

Daniel, Adeline Dockrey, freshman Mary Wischmeyer, Brooke Dockrey, and McCarter each recorded a deuce. Meanwhile, sophomore Brianna Hemphill sank a 3-pointer with five ticks left on the clock to bring Union's total to 40.

Daniel finished with 18 points and 5 boards, while Adeline Dockrey had 5 points and 2 steals. McCarter scored four, and Fair continued to do a little bit of everything - scoring 3 points, grabbing 6 boards, dishing out

3 assists, and coming up with a pair of steals.

Brooke Dockrey also scored 3 points to go with 5 rebounds. Hemphill's late, long-distance hook-up gave her 3 points for the game. Mary Wischmeyer had 2 points and 2 steals. Grace Wischmeyer also finished with 2 points.

"Our two seniors have been an enjoyment to coach and they are just great kids," Tucker added. "They come from great families too. Their parents are always involved."



Hayesville attempted to get Union Co. junior Bailey Daniel off her game with physical play whenever she drove into the paint. However they were unsuccessful as Daniel scored 16 of her team's 34 points. Photo/Todd Forrest

Union Wrestling at Burnt Mountain Classic



Union County wrestling at the Burnt Mountain Classic in Pickens County over the weekend. The Panthers went toe-to-toe with some of the top programs in North Georgia, such as Class AAAA's Gilmer County and Sonarville and more than held their own. Pictured above right is senior Bryan Nelson (far left in picture) after placing third. And pictured on the bottom right is senior Zach Payton (far left) after placing third in his respective weight division.



SAVE THE DATE

for

Daddy Daughter Dance



When: February 11, 2017 6 pm-9 pm
at North Georgia Technical College
Cost: \$50 per couple
*** \$10 for each additional Daughter**
Dinner is included and Limo rides are available
on a first come first serve basis.
A limited number of tickets are available at the Union County Recreation Office located at 310 Wellborn Street.
You must purchase in advance.

NASCAR 2017

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

NASCAR HOF Inducts New Members

CHARLOTTE, NC -- Five new members were inducted into the NASCAR Hall of Fame, Friday, Jan. 20, 2017. They are: Richard Childress, Rick Hendrick, Mark Martin, Raymond Parks, and Benny Parsons.

Real heroes know how to persevere in the face of disaster, and that is why Richard Childress, Rick Hendrick, and Mark Martin, three living legends were chosen.

Childress, who started off as a driver, almost left the sport after his friend and driver, Dale Earnhardt was killed at Daytona in 2001.

"Losing Dale was like losing a part of myself," said Childress. "It wasn't just me that was affected, it was the entire team. He represented so much to the organization. After Dale won his last championship, we got complacent. For a couple years we didn't do too well. We had been relying on Dale's driving ability and got behind the technology curve."

"Not only was he a great driver, but almost everyone revolved around him. I mean, we depended on him. He was our leader."

"So, it wasn't just an emotional time for us, we had to make a totally new adjustment in the way we raced. But during the turmoil we learned new things, others in the shop stepped up, and very slowly, things worked themselves out."

"It would have been easy with the number one driver in racing gone, to just give up. I couldn't do that, because the people around me wouldn't let me. If I had just decided to sell out and retire, I wouldn't be able to help my grandsons (Austin and Ty Dillon) develop their racing career."

"It's easy to use hindsight, but when hard times come, you've got to face them. Life is like racing in some ways. You're not going to win every time, but you've got to stay in the game."
Long before he became one of the preeminent car owners in NASCAR history, Childress was a race car driver with limited means. A self-made racer, he was respectable behind the wheel. Between 1969-81 he had six top-five finishes and 76 top-10s in 285 starts, finishing fifth in the NASCAR Cup Series standings in 1975. Having formed Richard Childress Racing in 1972, Childress retired from driving in 1981. He owned the cars that NASCAR Hall of Famer Dale Earnhardt drove to six championships and 67 wins between 1984-2000. In addition to Earnhardt's championships, Childress drivers have given him five others. Childress was the first NASCAR owner to win owner championships in all three of NASCAR's national series, and his 11 owner titles are second all time. Childress also owned the vehicles driven by NASCAR Xfinity Series driver champions Clint Bowyer (2008) and Austin Dillon (2013), as the 2011 NASCAR Camping World Truck Series driver champion Austin Dillon.

When Rick Hendrick was diagnosed with Leukemia in 1996, things looked bleak for him and his organization. But after months of treatment, and good leadership, Hendrick and his organization returned stronger than before his illness.

"I'm fortunate to be here," Hendrick said. "I have to go every 90 days to get blood work done. I've been in remission since 2000."

"I never thought I wasn't going to make it. I thought I'd make it and loved it so much. I had my brother and my dad, and my son working there."

"It was a family affair and it never crossed my mind to quit."

Another adversity struck Hendrick in 2004, when his brother and his son lost their lives when a Hendrick plane crashed into a mountain as it was preparing to land for the fall race at Martinsville. Hendrick never thought about getting out of the business then, either, and

his appearance at the team shop in the days following the tragedy helped carry the organization through its grief.

He knew his family members would want him to continue racing.

The founder and owner of Hendrick Motorsports, Rick Hendrick's organization is recognized as one of NASCAR's most successful. Hendrick Motorsports owns an all-time record 11 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series car owner championship titles - six with Jimmie Johnson, four with Jeff Gordon and one with NASCAR Hall of Famer Terry Labonte. Hendrick also has 14 total NASCAR national series owner championships, most in NASCAR history. Gordon and Labonte combined to win four consecutive titles from 1995-98. In 2010, Johnson won a record-extending fifth consecutive championship. Hendrick also owned the car driven by 2003 NASCAR Xfinity Series driver champion Brian Vickers. Hendrick's 242 owner wins in the premier series rank second all-time.

Mark Martin struggled to get a start in NASCAR.

Martin had a successful career in the American Speed Association (ASA), before his first attempt at NASCAR in 1982. He was able to use funds from the family trucking business, but he finished 14th in the standings. His family funding ran out and he had to auction his equipment. He landed a ride but was fired amid struggles, so he returned to the Midwest to compete on the short tracks with ASA for another two years.

"When I left NASCAR to go back to Wisconsin, I was a broken man; physically, emotionally, and economically," Martin said.

"I fell on my face and had to go home and start my career all over again. The perseverance ... and building my way back to a second chance is probably the biggest thing I've done."

He returned to NASCAR in 1987 to what is now the NASCAR Xfinity Series, won two of his first 11 races and found himself back full time in Cup in 1988 with team owner Jack Roush.

Martin said he actually made the move back to NASCAR because he wanted his ASA crew chief Jimmy Fennig to move to NASCAR and the loyal Fennig said he would only leave Martin if Martin stopped running in the ASA. They were later reunited at Roush.

He is often described as the "greatest driver never to win a championship," but Martin's legendary career is so much more than that. He came incredibly close to that elusive title many times - finishing second in the championship standings five times. Over the course of his 31-year Cup Series career, Martin compiled 40 wins (17th all time) and 56 poles (seventh all time). Martin saw success



Richard Childress at Talladega in 2011

at every level of NASCAR. He won 49 times in the Xfinity Series, holding the series wins record for 14 years. He retired with 96 wins across NASCAR's three national series, seventh on the all-time list. In 1998, Martin was named one of NASCAR's 50 Greatest Drivers.

The three living inductees joined 1973 Cup champion and broadcaster Benny Parsons and 1949 Cup championship team owner Raymond Parks as part of the 2017 class.

Raymond Parks is one of stock-car racing's earliest - and most successful - team owners. Funded by successful business and real estate ventures in Atlanta, Parks began his career as a stock-car owner in 1938 with drivers Lloyd Seay and Roy Hall. His pairing with another Atlantan, mechanic Red Vogt, produced equipment good enough to dominate the sport in the late 1940s and early 1950s. Red Byron won the first NASCAR title (modified, 1948) and first premier series title (1949) in a Parks-owned car. Parks' team produced two premier series wins, two poles, 11 top fives and 12 top-10s in 18 events.

Benny Parsons won the 1973 NASCAR premier series championship and could be called "Every Man's" champion: winning enough to be called one of the sport's stars but nearly always finishing well when he wasn't able to reach Victory Lane. He won 21 times in 526 career starts but finished among the top-10, 283 times - a 54 percent ratio. One of Parsons' biggest victories came in the 1975 Daytona 500. He was named one of NASCAR's 50 Greatest Drivers in 1998. Parsons also was known as a voice of the sport making a seamless transition to television following his NASCAR career. He was a commentator for NBC and TNT until his passing in 2007, at the age of 65.

Racing Trivia Question: Who was the winner of the 1959 Daytona 500?

Last Week's Question: What year was the first Daytona 500 held? Answer: 1959.

You may contact the Racing Reporter by e-mail at: hodges@race500.com. NT(Jan25/2017)CA

Taz Matetzsch bowls perfect game



Stanley Tyler presents Taz Matetzschk "300" Game Award Trophy

On Monday, January 16th, Taz Matetzschk reached the pinnacle in the game of bowling. Taz has bowled for years and is the Secretary for the Monday Night Men's league. Needless to say, It was a great night. Congratulations Taz! NT(Jan25/2017)CA