

Sports

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Panthers to open Region Tournament with North Hall

Final week of regular season ends with win at Lumpkin County, loss to Dawson County

By Todd Forrest
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With both squads locked into the No. 3 and No. 4 spots, respectively, in this week's Region 7-AAA Tournament, Dawson County took an uninspired 59-47 victory over Union County on Friday night.

The loss gives Dawson County the regular season sweep over the Panthers, just three days removed from Union County capping off a sweep of Lumpkin County.

This Tuesday at 4:30 p.m., the Panthers (16-8, 5-7) will travel to East Hall to face North Hall, another team Union County swept in the regular season.

However, the Trojans will enter the postseason with a bit of momentum. North Hall (9-15, 4-8) recently ended a six-game skid by winning back-to-back region contests for the first time this season.

"The motivation (for North Hall) comes easy -- it's worth or go home," said coach Casey Jones. "We know North Hall is very capable of beating us. The two times we beat them was the easy. We're going into this game knowing we have to play well to win."

North Hall's final regular season game was a 67-50 Union County victory over Lumpkin County -- a contest that determined the 5th seed and the Panthers' opponent.

Union 66, Lumpkin 58: DAHLONEGA - The Panthers secured the No. 4 seed in the Region 7-AAA tournament behind sophomore Pierson Allison's second double-double of the year.

Allison poured in a game-high 15 points to go with 10 rebounds, two assists, and a blocked shot while getting a strong effort from his supporting cast.

Patrick Baggett and Sawyer Drake finished with 11 apiece, including 3-of-6 from downtown (all three makes coming in the second period) by Baggett.



Senior Crawford Colwell is swarmed by his Panther teammates after scoring the 1,000th point of his career - a 3-pointer during the second quarter of Friday night's loss to Dawson County. Photo/Todd Forrest

Clinging to a 14-11 advantage after one, Union County points off turnovers.

Game Notes (Individual) Allison hit 5-of-8 from the floor, 1-for-4 from downtown and 4-of-4 at the line to finish with 15 points.

Baggett went 4-for-7 from the floor, en route to 11 points. Drake finished with a game-high 5 steals to go with two boards and two assists.

Candler Colwell was perfect on two attempts from beyond the arc while pulling down seven boards and scoring nine points.

Crawford Colwell finished with six points and two steals; RJ Banton had four points and three steals. Davis hit 3-of-4 from the charity stripe while coming up with a pair of steals.

Junior Coleston Daniel finished with two points, one rebound, and a steal.

Game Notes (Team) Union County shot 49-percent from the floor - hitting of 23-of-47 shot attempts. The Panthers also connected on 32-

percent (6-for-19) from three and 56-percent (9-for-16) at the line.

Union County hauled in 25 rebounds - nine on the offensive glass, resulting in seven-second chance points. They also turned it over 13 times, leading to nine Indian points.

Lumpkin County shot 41-percent (16-for-39) from the field and 63-percent (12-for-19) from the foul line. The Indians also collected 13 offensive boards, resulting in 13 second-chance points.

Dawson County 59, Union 47 - Senior Crawford Colwell scored his 1,000th career point in the second quarter but that would be the highlight of the evening as the Panthers were unable to keep pace with the visiting Tigers, who were led by 22 apiece from Cullen Reed and Jeremiah Crumley.

Baggett finished with 17 points and three steals on 3-of-8 from downtown. He also converted a 4-point play early in the game with Union trailing 7-2.

His trey and free throw pulled the Panthers within one but that's as close as they'd get the rest of the way.

The Tigers quickly answered the other end when Crumley sank three free throws after drawing a foul on a 3-point attempt.

Leading 13-9 after one, Dawson pushed its lead out to 18-11 before a Candler Colwell three sliced the margin to four.

Crawford Colwell kept his team within four at 25-21 by nailing a trey at the 1:35 mark - giving him 1,000 career points.

Consecutive Tiger baskets stretched the difference to eight before Allison drilled a trey with 26 seconds remaining before the intermission. Dawson, however, was able to beat the buzzer with a put-back to take a 31-24 lead into the locker room.

The Tigers stormed ahead 37-24 with three straight baskets to open the third before a Baggett free throw ended the drought, nearly three minutes in. On the ensuing possession, Dawson

opened up its largest lead of the night at 40-25 on a Crumley 3-pointer.

Davis responded by sinking a contested three on the other end, then Drake cut the lead back to 10 with a breakaway layup.

Unfortunately, Union County was unable to find much consistency on offense as a Baggett steal-and-score accounted for the only Panther points over the final four minutes of the quarter.

Trailing 45-34 after three, both squads exchanged 1-for-2 trips to the charity stripe early in the fourth. With 5:07 remaining, Baggett gave the Panthers a bit of life with a triple - pulling Union within eight at 46-38.

Drake went inside for a deuce, then Baggett followed suit by attacking the rim for two more. The Panthers, however, had a difficult time coming up with stops on the defensive end and would never get any closer than the 50-42 score at the 3:48 mark.

Game Notes (Individual) Crawford Colwell finished with six points and five rebounds. Banton scored four points on 2-of-2 from the floor.

Candler Colwell recorded a game-high six assists while hauling in four boards. Drake finished with eight points, seven rebounds, three assists, and two blocks.

Allison was limited to three points and five boards on 1-of-8 shooting. Davis, Waller, and Daniel chipped in two points apiece.

Game Notes (Team) Union County shot 34-percent (17-for-50) from the field, 28-percent from three (7-for-25), and 67-percent (6-for-9) at the line.

The Panthers pulled down 30 rebounds - 11 were offensive, resulting in three second-chance points.

Both teams turned it over eight times, leading to eight Dawson County points and seven Union County points.

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Lady Panthers fifth in region tourney; earn rematch with Dawson

Union hangs on at Lumpkin; falls to red-hot Dawson County to set up a Wednesday rematch

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Union County (15-9, 6-6) found themselves in a three-way tie for second place in Region 7-AAA following a 36-33 victory at Lumpkin County on Tuesday. On Friday, they ran into a buzzsaw.

Coach Steve Sweat's Dawson County squad has been firing on all cylinders of late, and as a result, the Lady Panthers came out on the wrong end of a 42-point shellacking.

"I am really proud of the girls for getting after it the way they did," Sweat said after the game.

The Lady Tigers and Union County each finished the regular season with identical 16-6 region records, but Dawson owns the tiebreaker due owning the season sweep over the Lady Panthers.

Union and Dawson will battle for the third time on Wednesday when the two squads travel to East Hall for a 4:30 p.m. tip-off.

Union 36, Lumpkin 33: DAHLONEGA - Kait McCarter and Bailey Daniel combined to score 25 of the team's 36 points as the Lady Panthers held off a late Lumpkin rally.

Union County jumped out to a 10-2 lead after one behind eight points from McCarter. The Lady Indians climbed back into contention in the second with a pair of threes and 4-for-4 shooting at the line.

When the teams went to the locker rooms for halftime, the Lady Panthers were in a fight at 19-16.

With 12 points at the break, McCarter was held scoreless in the third but Daniel, Adeline Dockrey, and Brooke Dockrey provided all the Union County offense in the third as Lumpkin pulled within one, 28-27, entering the final period.

Sophomore Andelin Hill made it a 30-27 game with a put-back early in the fourth, then Jordan Rogers stretched



Senior Grace Wischmeyer checks out of the game vs Dawson to a warm ovation following her first action of the season. Photo/Todd Forrest

the lead to 32-27 with a layup off a high-post feed from McCarter.

Following a Lumpkin bucket that made it a 32-29 game, Rogers returned the favor when she found McCarter under the basket for a layup with 4:14 remaining.

Lumpkin answered with a deuce on the other end but Daniel sank two from the line -- Union's final points of the game -- for a 36-31 advantage at the 3:03 mark.

The Lady Indians scored their final basket with a runner in the lane with 1:56 to play.

With 22 seconds to play, the Lady Panthers were whistled for an offensive foul, awarding Lumpkin one last chance to force overtime but the trey bounced off the back iron and into the hands of McCarter.

Game Notes (Individual) McCarter's 14-point, 13-rebound game was her 11th straight game scoring in double-digits and her fifth double-double during that 11-game span.

Daniel finished with 11 points and five rebounds, Hill had four points and six boards, while Brooke Dockrey added three points and two assists. Rogers chipped in two

points and two boards. Mary Wischmeyer added a team-high three assists.

Game Notes (Team) Union County shot 36-percent (14-of-39) from the floor, 30-percent (3-for-10) from deep, and 50-percent (5-for-10) at the line.

The Lady Panthers turned 15 offensive rebounds into 11 second-chance points. Overall, Union out-rebounded Lumpkin 39-26.

The Lady Indians converted 15 Union County turnovers into 13 points. Meanwhile, Lumpkin only turned it over eight times - leading to three Lady Panther points.

The Lady Indians shot 25-percent (12-for-28) from the floor, 14-percent (4-for-29) from distance, and 71-percent (5-of-7) at the line.

Lumpkin's 13 offensive rebounds led to 11 second-chance points.

Dawson County 70, Union 38 - It was all Dawson after the Lady Panthers held early leads of 3-0 and 7-5.

The Lady Tigers began to separate themselves in the second after a slim 11-9 margin turned into a 32-21 advantage at the break.

Dawson (14-10, 6-6) kept its foot on the gas in the third as they blew things open with a 17-6 run that led to a 49-27 lead with 1:50 left in the quarter. When the horn sounded after three, the Lady Tigers had things well in hand at 54-31.

Dawson's Kaylee Sticker scored a game-high 25 points despite not scoring in the fourth. Eleven players reached the scoring column for the Lady Tigers.

Game Notes (Individual) Leading the way for Union County was McCarter with 8 points - ending her streak of 11-straight games scoring in double digits.

Brooke Dockrey finished with seven points, two rebounds, and two assists. Daniel had six points, four boards, and three steals.

Adeline Dockrey scored six points while leading the team with 7 boards and blocked a shot. She also matched a team-high with two assists.

Hill added six points, six rebounds, and steal. Senior Grace Wischmeyer made her season debut and had three points, three rebounds, and one assist on Senior Night.

Megan Bright chipped in two points and a rebound; Mary Wischmeyer finished with three boards and two

assists. Maddie Sutton and Aubree Pack recorded one rebound each as both work their way back into game-shape following extended absences due to injury.

Game Notes (Team) Union hit on just 26-percent (13-for-50) from the

floor, struggled mightily at the line - shooting at a 41-percent clip (11-for-27) - and 10-percent (1-for-10) from beyond the arc.

The Lady Panthers turned 16 offensive rebounds into 10 second-chance points while out-rebounding Dawson County 40-37 overall.

As for the Lady Tigers, they scored 20 points off 20 Union turnovers. They would shoot 47-percent from the field (24-for-51), 33-percent from downtown (7-for-21), and 56-percent (15-for-27) at the line.

Up next - The Lady Panthers and Dawson County square off at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday at the East Hall gymnasium.

Should Union County knock off the Lady Tigers, they would play GAC on Friday in Dawsonville. The region semifinals, finals, and consolation games will all be played at Dawson County High School on Friday and Saturday.

The other side of the bracket includes No. 2 seed East Hall, No. 3 seed North Hall, No. 6 seed Fannin County and No. 7 seed Lumpkin County.



Union County Recreation Department 2018 Evening Step-Aerobics Program Ages: 50 and over

You asked and we listened! Union County Recreation Department is now offering evening fitness classes! If you are looking for an indoor exercise program to fit your work schedule and other needs, then come on down to the Union County Recreation Department and sign up for our new Step-Aerobics program. The Program Director of Union County Parks and Recreation will be leading step-aerobics sessions two times a week for February and March for 45 minutes. This is a great time to socialize and exercise with a fun group for a very low cost. Step-Aerobics Registration begins on January 15, 2018 and ends February 2, 2018 at the Recreation Office (310 Wellborn St.) Registration must be done in person due to class size limits. If you have any questions, please call our office at (706) 439-6074. (NJan17.M1)SH