

# Sports

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## Kendra Tanner's walk-off single extends winning streak to five Lady Panthers hand first place North Hall its first region loss; will host second place East Hall on Thursday

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Kendra Tanner delivered a one-out RBI single in the bottom of the seventh inning to hand North Hall its first region loss of the season, and more importantly, extend Union County's winning streak to five games and remain one game back of second place East Hall, who the Lady Panthers (7-7, 5-3) will host on Thursday in another critical Region 7-AAA contest.

Laken Chambers went the distance in Union's 2-1 victory over North Hall, allowing six hits and striking out seven.

She also received a little help from her defense when sophomore right fielder Maddie Sutton cut down a Lady Trojan base runner at the plate with one out in the sixth inning to keep the score tied at 1-1.

Following Chambers' only walk of the game, Union County Head Coach Jessica Stewart elected to intentionally walk North Hall cleanup hitter Julian Garrett, who already doubled in the second and tripled home a run in the fourth.

With two aboard and one down, Macy Clark singled to right but Sutton came up firing to freshman catcher Mary Wischmeyer for the second out. The Lady Panthers would escape the sixth on a fly-out to Sutton. Chambers struck out two in the seventh to send her team into the bottom half of the inning all tied up.

Sophomore Ellie Garrison smacked a double into the gap right-center to lead off the inning. One pitch later she advanced to third on a wild pitch



Kendra Tanner knows as soon as she made contact that it was enough to score the game-winning run. Photo/Todd Forrest

to put the winning run on third. Sutton drew a walk and stole second, putting two in scoring position with nobody out.

North Hall's Niki Carver recorded a strikeout to bring Tanner to the plate with one down. The senior lined a base hit over the head of the first baseman to score Garrison for the game-winner.

Union County struck first when they took a 1-0 lead in the third off a two-out, RBI double by Jillian Lawn to score courtesy runner Skyler Ludlum.

The Lady Trojans, who

were playing in Class AAAAA last year, answered in the fourth with a one-out, run-scoring triple by Garrett. They were unable to inflict further damage after Chambers caught the next hitter looking at strike three then induced a grounder to shortstop Braden Poteete to end the inning.

The Lady Panthers left two in scoring position in the first and one in the second, third, and fifth innings. Meanwhile, North Hall stranded runners in the second, fourth, fifth, and sixth innings.



Skyler Ludlum slides into home just inches (literally) ahead of the tag to give Union a 1-0 lead. Ludlum entered as a courtesy runner and scored from first on a Jillian Lawn double. Photo/Todd Forrest

Tanner finished 2-for-4 with a double and an RBI. Lawn was 1-for-2 with an RBI double. Garrison went 1-for-2 with a run, Lydia Arrowood reached twice on Lady Trojan errors, while Wischmeyer drew a walk.

Union County will travel to Dawson County on Tuesday for a 6 p.m. region showdown with the Lady Tigers. In the last meeting, the Lady Panthers held on to a 1-0 victory behind a complete-game shutout from Chambers.

Dawson is currently 1-6 in region-play but would love nothing

more than to knock Union out of the hunt for a top-two seed entering the tournament.

When Union hosts East Hall on Thursday, the first pitch is scheduled for 5 p.m.

Last Tuesday, the Lady Panthers paid a visit to a former region rival when they traveled to Rabun County and came away with a 4-0 win.

The sophomore duo of Sutton and Aladriel Arnold did all of the damage at the plate with two RBIs each.

Garrison and Wischmeyer each finished with a two-hit

game while Tanner, Arrowood, Chambers, and Lawn all had one hit for Union.

Lawn went the distance from the circle – striking out three and scattering six hits in her first shutout of the season.

The Lady Panthers got a run in the first when Arrowood singled and scored on a base hit from Arnold.

Sutton drove in two with a double in the sixth to make it a 3-0 game. Chambers singled and scored in the top half of the seventh on Arnold's second run-scoring base hit of the game.

## Panthers dominate in all phases at Andrews; cruise to 45-20 victory

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Andrews, NC - Union County improved to 3-0 for the third straight year behind four first half touchdowns from junior quarterback Cole Wright, as the Panthers opened up a 38-0 advantage at the break. Andrews, NC.

Union County would coast to a 45-20 victory on Friday night despite overcoming an 11-to-1 penalty differential in favor of the Wildcats. The win also marks the fourth time in five years that the Panthers have sported a 3-0 record.

The Panthers were flagged nine times in the opening quarter but still managed to jump out to a 17-0 advantage after the first 12 minutes of play. They extended their lead to 38-0 after two, thanks to three Andrews fumbles in the first half. Union was also aided by a pair of high punt snaps that resulted in excellent field position.

For the second straight week, the Panthers' offense took advantage of a short field with an average starting fielding position at the Wildcats' 37-yard line during the first two quarters.

Meanwhile, Union continued to play lights out on the other side of the ball before giving way to the junior varsity in the second half. Not only did Head Coach Brian Allison's defense force three turnovers in the early-going, they kept the home team's offensive attack on the negative-side of zero with minus-6 total yards, and only one first down before halftime.

The onslaught began on the game's opening play from scrimmage when the Panthers recovered an Andrews fumble at the 20-yard line and converted it into a touchdown one play later when Wright hit Bo Lynch on a swiping pass that the senior running back took to the house from 22 yards out.

On the ensuing Wildcats' possession, Union forced a three-and-out, then brought down the punter inside the 20 when he was forced to scoop up a bad snap into the endzone. He managed to return the errant snap out to the 15-yard line where Wright and the offense were forced to settle for a field goal.

The Panthers were victimized by a pair of holding penalties that led to a 3rd-and-24 from the 29-yard line. Wright scrambled for 17 yards on third-and-long to bring up manageable field goal attempt from sophomore Brian Smith, who split the uprights to give his team a 10-0 advantage



Senior running back Bo Lynch leaves a trail of bodies in his wake as he takes a pass 22 yards to the house on Union County's first offensive play of the game. Photo/Todd Forrest



Bryan English (42), RJ Banton (middle), and Zach Stone (7) celebrate following a tackle-for-loss. The defense held Andrews to negative yardage in the first half. Photo/Todd Forrest

with 7:02 left in the first.

Just over a minute later, Andrews coughed up the football and Union took over just 21 yards away from another six points.

A third down, 16-yard scoring run by Lynch was called back, putting Union into another third-and-long. This time, a Dobbins catch was good for 17 yards and Cole Dockrey moved the chains on fourth down with a gain of 11. From just outside the goal line, Wright would punch it in for his first rushing score of the game to provide the Panthers a 17-point lead.

Both teams swapped punts as the second quarter got underway with the Wildcats at their

own 20-yard line.

Another three-and-out by the Union defense resulted in another punt, but this time, the Panthers would begin with their worst starting field position of the half – at their own 22.

Looking at a 3rd-and-3 from the 29, Wright made it a 24-0 game by tearing off a 71-yard touchdown run, where he somehow managed to stay inbounds while tip-toeing the Union County sideline.

Wright tacked on his fourth score of the game after the Panthers took advantage of another bad snap during a Wildcats' punt attempt. Starting from the 8-yard line, Wright found Austin Pattee for an 8-yard scor-

ing strike with 6:36 remaining in the half.

Leading 31-0, the offense would tack on one last score before the intermission when they opened their drive at the 31-yard line. Union County relied heavily on the ground game as they chewed more than four minutes off the clock and capping off the drive on a Dockrey 3-yard touchdown run with 13 seconds left in the half.

Lynch opened the scoring drive with a 9-yard gain followed by runs of 14, 15, and 17 yards by Dockrey.

The only completion of the series was a first down pass to Erik Strayer for nine. With a 1st-and-goal from the six, Dockrey



Sophomore Brian Smith was perfect on all of his kicks and sent every kickoff into the endzone. Photo/Todd Forrest



Cole Wright lobbs a touchdown pass over a defender to Austin Pattee for an 8-yard scoring completion. Photo/Todd Forrest

would power his way into the endzone with a pair of 3-yard runs to make it a 38-0 game.

It appeared as if the Panthers would get one last crack at the endzone when they recovered another fumble with 7 seconds left on the clock. However, they would elect to take a knee, and a 38-point lead into the break.

Defensively, RJ Banton would finish with 12 tackles with two coming for a loss. Luke Winkler also totaled double-digit tackles with 10.

Bryan English tallied one sack and Zach Stone recorded a tackle-for-loss.

Dockrey, English, and Stone recovered fumbles in the first half while Jackson Colwell and Kyle Williams had one each in the second half.

The varsity would give way to the junior varsity squad

following halftime and the second half began with Union's only mishap of the game when a punt snap sailed high into the endzone and was recovered by Andrews for six points.

Later in the third quarter, Colwell scooped up the Wildcats' fourth fumble of the game and returned it 24 yards for a touchdown to give the Panthers a 45-6 lead at the 7:33 mark of the third.

Andrews would make it a 45-14 game with 1:08 left in the third after they were awarded a first down on a roughing the kicker penalty against Union.

They would tack on another score with 35 seconds to play when they scored on a 4th-and-goal at the 1-yard line.

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