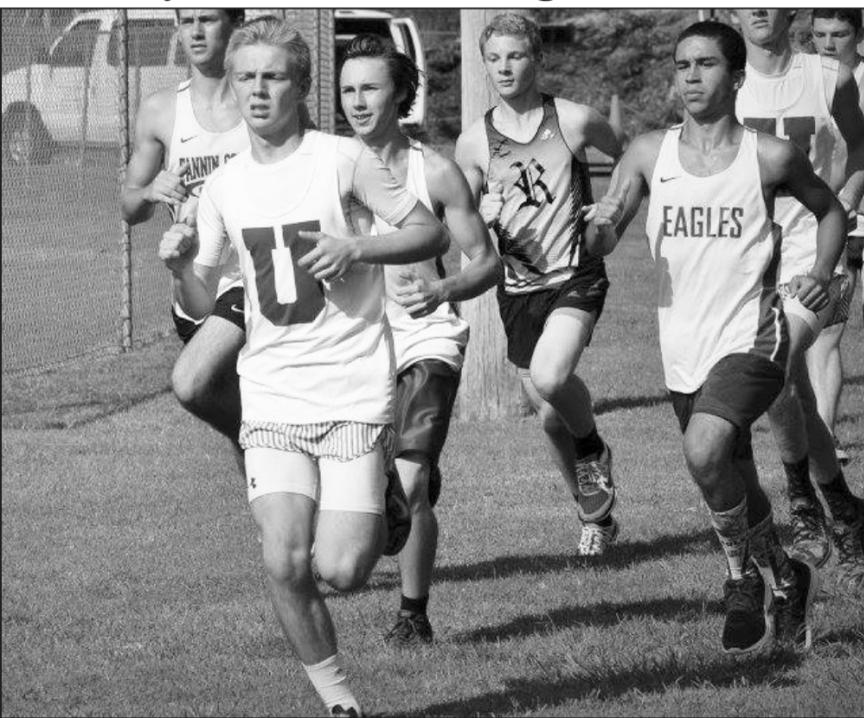


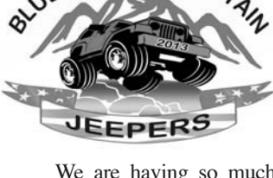
Union Cross Country wraps up regular season Thursday at Meeks Park; region meet Oct. 27



The Union County Cross Country teams have one race left before the region meet on Oct. 27th at Unicoi State Park. Union will be on their home course this Thursday afternoon at 4:30 p.m. when they get underway at Meeks Park. Last week the teams got one last look at Unicoi when they, and 25 other schools gathered for the Runners Fit Mountain Invitational. Lance Underwood (pictured, top) placed 10th and led Union to a 16th overall finish with a time of 17:03. Adam Bachman came in 68th, Will Harkins was 80th, Timothy Murphy (pictured, bottom right) placed 95th, and Gehrig Patterson finished 122nd. Colby Ives and Cole Payne rounded out Union's top seven runners. Meanwhile, the ladies placed 12th out of 23 teams with Zoe Sanchez clocking in 18th with a time of 20:45. Lexi Ochoa was 59th, Sadie Underwood came in 79th, Allison Vincent finished 94th, and Destiny Orellana was 99th. Kaitlyn Gallagher and Jessie Holbrook rounded out Union County's top seven.

Both the guys and the girls came in behind region foes Dawson County and North Hall at Unicoi last week. If they can qualify in the top four at region, the entire team will return to Carrollton for the State Championships in November.

Union County Cross Country Photos by Jenni Dixon



Of course, we still go out on weekly rides. Recently, we drove through the clouds on Forestry Road 100 through an archway of flowering bushes. When we stopped for lunch, we all admired our lovely Jeep Wranglers covered in pretty pink flower petals. Terri set up a small table and lit up a pumpkin candle for ambiance during our picnic. Our club is open to all Jeep enthusiasts. Whether you enjoy driving through the forest on a gravel road, or prefer to engage your 4WD and wrangle

with the challenging landscape of Beasley Knob, we've got your ride. Feel free to join us for any of our events. You can view our schedule of upcoming activities on our website, www.blueridgemountainjeepers.com. Come join us at one of our club meetings and meet a lot of great people. Our meetings are the second Tuesday of every month at Steve's Steakhouse. Join us for dinner at 5 p.m., or when the meeting starts at 6 p.m.

Whittenburg bowls perfect game



September 26th was a special night for Greg Whittenburg. In the second game of the Monday Night Men's league he shot twelve strikes in a row for a perfect score of 300. To top it off he rolled a 712 series to finish out the night.

Tigers prevail... continued from 2B

Friday night will be the annual "Pink Out" game for Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The opponent on the field will be the North Hall Trojans, a team Union hasn't met on the gridiron since 1967.

Now the two share a region and both are desperate for a win. Obviously, the Panthers don't want to fall to 1-3 in region play. That would force Union into a "must-win-out" scenario, just for a shot at the No. 4 seed, which means a trip to the 5-AAA champion.

For the record, 5-AAA is one of the toughest regions in all of Georgia with Pace Academy (Class AA defending State champs), Westminster (Class AAA defending State champ), and Cedar Grove (Class AAA Final Four in 2015). North Hall, on the other hand, is coming off a 28-20 win over Lumpkin and is still in the mix for the No. 1 seed with only one loss. However, a second loss would crush their hopes at finishing first and would force them to beat GAC to remain in the hunt for home field in the first round.

The Trojans are a run-first, Wing-T offense with the region's leading rusher in Kyle Bacus. The senior running back averages more than 150 yards-per-game (YPG) with 11 touchdowns.

Head Coach David Bishop also features a plethora of talent in his stable with three backs (not named Bacus) that still average more than 7 yards-per-carry (YPC) and have at least one touchdown.

Overall, the Trojan rushing attack is good for 283 YPG. Senior quarterback Jackson Madonna averages less than 10 passing attempts per game but he does have a 3:1 touchdown-to-interception ratio.

Madonna doesn't always throw the ball, but when he does, he prefers senior Maddox Turner, who has twice as many catches as the team's second leading receiver.

Defensively, North Hall runs a 3-4 and the last time they faced a spread offense, they held Fannin County to only one touchdown. However, the Rebels don't possess a signal caller that's as deadly with his legs as Cole Wright.

Fannin's Brad Davis, while a threat to run, prefers to stand in the pocket and pick defenses apart with his arm. It's safe to say that Dawson's Coey Watson and Wright

are the top running quarterbacks in the region.

One week after the Fannin win, the Trojans were defeated at home by Watson and Dawson County by a similar score as the Panthers, 45-27.

Another common opponent is White County, who defeated North Hall in overtime and scrimmaged Union. Playing White County and Gilmer has afforded the Panthers an opportunity to prepare for offenses with similar tendencies as North Hall.

"(North Hall) is well coached and (Coach Bishop) does a great job," Allison said. "I think our offense can match up with their defense a little bit. Their fullback (Bacus) is a really good player and so is their wing back, who also plays safety. I think he is the only player that starts both ways. They have several that play both ways, but I believe he is the only one that starts."

Team stats: Union County: 375 yards of total offense. RUSHING: 39 carries, 219 yards. PASSING: 17-for-29, 156 yards.

Dawson County: 412 yards of total offense. RUSHING: 37 carries, 271 yards. PASSING: 9-for-14, 141 yards.

Individual stats: (OFFENSE) Wright 17-for-29, 156 yards, 3 INT. 16 carries, 160 yards, 2 TD. Lynch: 22 carries, 62 yards, 2 TD. 2 receptions, 44 yards.

Dyer: 5 receptions, 34 yards. Dobbins: 4 receptions, 27 yards. Hemphill: 2 receptions, 27 yards. Banton: 2 receptions, 10 yards. Strayer: 1 reception, 9 yards. Stone: 1 reception, 5 yards.

(DEFENSE) Complete stats unavailable at press time. (KICKING) Smith 2-for-4 on PATs

Scoring summary: 1ST QUARTER

DC: 9 plays, 87 yards 30-yard TD pass

DC: 5 plays, 12 yards. 1-yard TD run

2ND QUARTER: UC: 9 plays, 80 yards. Wright 38-yard TD run

DC: 6 plays, 55 yards. 6-yard TD run

DC: 9 plays, 80 yards. 39-yard TD run

3RD QUARTER: UC: 10 plays, 82 yards. Wright 2-yard TD run

DC: 3 plays, 60 yards. 44-yard TD run

UC: 80 yards on 11 plays. Lynch 2-yard TD run.

DC: 60-yard kickoff return

DC: Int. return for TD

4TH QUARTER:

UC: 74 yards on 16 plays. Lynch 1-yard TD run

Game notes: Wright's 160 rushing yards gives him 885 for the year - five yards less than Joseph Mancuso's total of 890 rushing yards through seven games last season - the most through seven games by a Union County quarterback in recent history.

Wright's five, 100-yard rushing games this season put him two behind Joseph Mancuso's total of seven, 100-yard rushing games in 2015. Although, Mancuso only had six 100-yard games during the 2015 regular season.

Lynch's two touchdowns at Dawson leave him one shy of reaching 25 for his career. He is also eight total yards away from reaching 2,000 for his career (1,803 rushing, 189 receiving).

Meanwhile, Wright is just two touchdowns away from reaching 25 total scores for his career (11 rushing, 8 passing, and 4 receiving).

Defensively Chris Thompson recorded his 260th career tackle, Zach Stone reached 160 tackles for his career, and Banton topped 125 career tackles at Dawson.

After giving up 40 points to East Hall in the second half, Union allowed 57 to Dawson in the first three quarters - a total of 97 points allowed over a five quarter span.

Allowing 103 points in two games is the most Union has allowed since 2013 when they surrendered 105 to the defending State Champ Jefferson (49) and the eventual State Champ Lovett (56) in the first round of State.

The record for a non-playoff, two-game span is 104 - coming back in 1994 when the Panthers lost 50-6 to Buford, then fell 54-27 to Commerce in consecutive weeks.

Giving up 138 points over a three (non-overtime) game span is the most since 2003 when Union gave up 150 points to Lumpkin County (61), Wesleyan (40), and Buford (49).

The Panthers still own the all-time series vs Dawson County with 18 wins in 30 meetings. However, 57 points is the most by either team in the series, but Union can still claim the two largest margins of victory in the series - a 43-0 victory in 1988 and a 41-0 win back in 1977.

This week, the Panthers will be looking to extend their regular season, home winning streak to 10 games. The last home, regular season loss came in 2014 to Rabun County, 45-31.

New USAPA Ambassadors appointed to the Blairsville Pickleball Club

Bud and Kathi Patrick are enthusiastic to lead the Blairsville Pickleball Club as it increases in size, activity, and skill level. They have already been great promoters of the game by teaching all age groups the techniques and rules in both Towns and Union counties.

USAPA Ambassadors are committed to promoting the game of Pickleball and teaching correct rules, play techniques, and court etiquette. Bud and Kathi Patrick are already planning club clinics, tournaments, and travel play for BPC members, and they look forward to representing the Blairsville Pickleball Club and Union County. According to Kathi Patrick, "we are excited to be a part of the expansion of such a healthy and social sport in this area, and we are thankful to be associated with such a great organization.

We want to compliment former Ambassador David Block—he was dynamic in starting and leading the



(L-R): Ambassadors Bud Patrick, Kathi Patrick, Hiawassee; back: Nolan Lang, Interim President, Blairsville

Blairsville Pickleball Club. He formed it from the ground up, with zero facilities or equipment, and, thanks to him, we now have 110 members and a good indication of permanent courts. We hope to see this versatile sport taught in our schools. And we plan to not only help our members im-

prove their skills and knowledge, but to be able to teach the game to others."

The Blairsville Pickleball Club meets at the Meeks Park tennis courts Monday, Wednesday, and Friday afternoons, and Tuesday and Thursday mornings. All are welcome to attend. NT0612,26)CA

Senior Wii Bowling Champs



(L-R): LeAnna England, Albert Hollis, Dorothy Hughes, Bobby Clark; not pictured - Dorothy Patterson

Union County Senior Center Wii Bowlers won the Legacy Link sponsored Senior Center Bowling Tournament again, making us the winner for the third year! We appreciate the participation of our seniors! N0612,25)CA

Taz Matetzschk 227, Jeremiah Plott 215, 235, 212, Series 662, Bonnell Thomas 201, Joe Teague 235, 237, Series 654, Derick Rice 215, 238, 245, Series 698, Bob Bischoff 207, Greg Whittenburg 214, 300, 198, Series 712.

Monday Night Ladies: Nell Rice 216.

Young at Heart Seniors: Paul Napolitano 212, 213, Mel White 212, 254, Series 661, Ken Thigpen 203, Stanley Tyler 225, 247, Bob Landis 211, Bart Rodgers 275, 247, Series 693, John Delphino 239, 214, Ron Gaucher 265.

Thursday Night Fun Mixed: Brett Hogsed 213, Shay Roberts 222, 197, 226, Series 645, Tony Lynch 201, Curtis Corn 211, 220, Bonnell Thomas 229, Greg Whittenburg 246, 237, 203, Series 686, Mike Arnold 209, 221, Tim McVay 200, 204, Ray Everett 245, 256, 201, Series 702, Dewey Allen 209, Brandon Hartness 255, Tee Turner 227. N0612,21)SH

Youth Bowling Boot Camp

Free bowling lessons for youth 5-15. Learn something new and practice it each week during class time. Dates: October 9th & 16th; time: 1 PM to 2:30 PM; at Blairsville Galaxy Bowling, 104 Backyard Lane Blairsville, GA, phone: 706-745-4444.

Bowling scores

Monday Night Men: Brandon Hartness 205, 215, Stanley Tyler 278, 213, Series 658, Jay Burrell 242, 223, Series 658, Tom Griffiths 214, Walt Whitlock 209, Jim Kidder 200, 227, Mel White 209, Bart Rodgers 219, Doug Tanner 224,