

Sports

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Golf: Lady Panthers second at Class AAA State Championships

Boys Golf: Union County individual qualifier Jeremy Herum places 34th out of 68 at state

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Blackshear - The Union County's girls golf team traveled as far south as possible within the State of Georgia for the Class AAA State Championships at Okefenokee Golf Club last Monday and Tuesday.

Prior to the 2016-17 school year, the Georgia High School Association approved the expansion of the State Golf Championships from one round to two. But early on, it appeared as if Mother Nature would limit the finals to just one round.

Across the state, many classifications were forced to call off the second round due to the unrelenting downpours that flooded the southeast last Tuesday.

Luckily for Union County, they were so far south that they avoided the brunt of the storms and were able to get in both rounds of golf.

Senior Maddy Horinek shot a 168 (+24) over the two-day tournament for an eighth place finish.

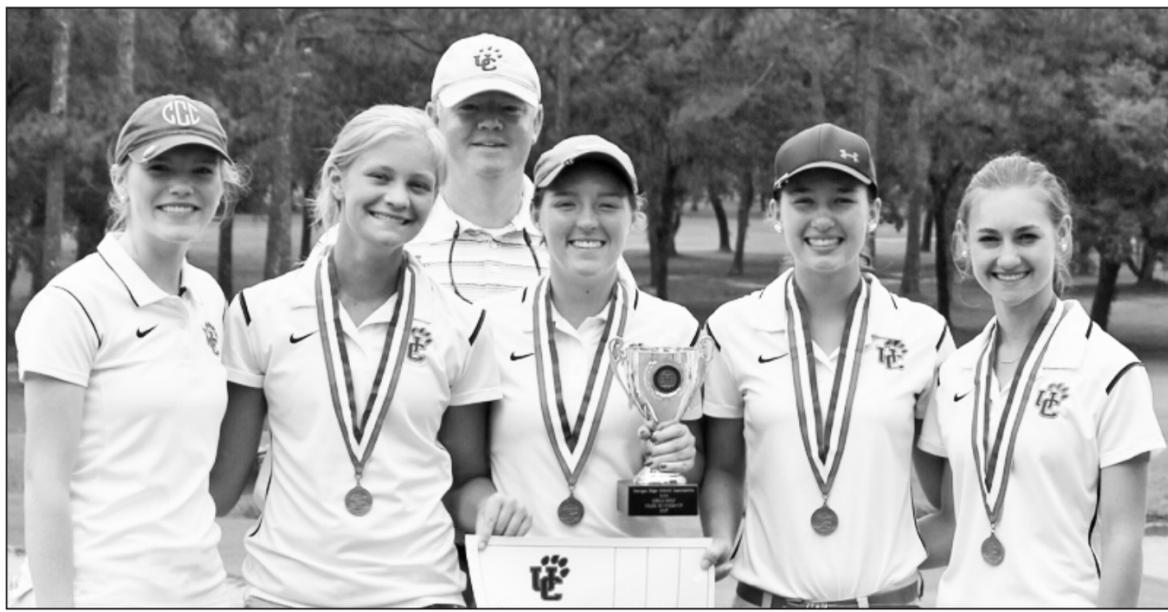
On day one, Horinek fired an 83 - good enough for a tie for fifth but nine shots off the lead.

Juniors Ally Horinek placed 12th with a 174 (+30) and Grace Wischmeyer was 17th with a 180 (+36) for a team total of 522 - thirteen shots back of Calhoun and 12 strokes better than third place North Murray.

Union's Megan Rowe shaved nine strokes off her first round score of 97 with an 88 in round two, but only the top three scores are used when determining the team totals. Although, Rowe's two day total of 185 was good enough to finish 23rd overall in a field of 68.

After day one, Union found themselves in third place - six shots back of Calhoun and three behind second place Bremen.

However, both Maddy and Ally Horinek posted slightly higher scores on day two with Maddy going from 83 to 85 and Ally from 86 to 88.



Following a second place finish last week at Okefenokee Golf Club, the Union County Lady Panthers golf team has finished among the top three in the state for three consecutive seasons

But luckily for Union, the play of Wischmeyer kept her squad in contention.

After opening with a round of 22-over (94), Wischmeyer turned in a top 13 performance on day two with an 86 to help Union overtake Bremen for second with a 259 on day two - the second lowest score of the day by nine strokes.

On Tuesday, Bremen dropped 18 strokes, prompting a stumble into fourth place. Unfortunately, Calhoun wouldn't falter on day two.

The Lady Yellow Jackets were five shots better than day one with a 252 in round two.

Kate Mashburn, Calhoun's No. 1, posted back-to-back 77s while Katie Kaufmann turned in an 86-90 and Maddie Crump overcame a rough start (96) in round one to fire an 85 on day two.

Meanwhile, Molly Mashburn's 94 on day one was good enough to qualify but her 91 on day two left her out of her team's top three.

The Lady Panthers' second place finish marks the third consecutive season that Union finished amongst the top three in the state after placing second and third over the previous two seasons in Class AA.

Individually, Maddy Horinek finished 22 shots behind state champion Carroll Pyon of Rutland, who pulled away from the field with a two-day total of 146 (+2), eight shots better than Tori Owens (Murray County) and Kate Mashburn (Calhoun), who tied for second with a 154 (+10).

Pyon put on a performance for the ages - scoring an eagle on the first hole of the tournament en route to a 33 on the front nine.

After birdies on three and 16 during the opening round, Pyon began day two with a 1-under, 35 on the front nine.

On the back nine, she began to appear human. Momentarily.

Two bogeys and a double bogey over a four hole stretch (12-through-15) provided a glimmer of hope to the rest of the field.

That was until she birdied 16 and aced 17.

And no, that's not a typo. On the par three, 17th hole, Pyon recorded a hole-in-one.

That proved to be more than enough to pull away from Owens who was only two shots back after round one.

However, Owens' 80 on day two allowed Pyon to pull

away, and Kate Mashburn to catch up.

Maddy Horinek finished six shots back of fourth place, four shots behind sixth, three back of seventh, and two strokes better than ninth place Clara Hulsev of Sonoraville and four strokes ahead of tenth place Rachel Wohn of Savannah Arts Academy.

Maddy opened the tournament with a 40 on the front-nine following pars on the first two holes and bogeys on three and four.

Her back nine got off to a rocky start with bogeys on 10 and 11 along with double-bogeys on 16 and 18 to close out the round with an 83.

Her second round began with a 42 on the front nine that included four pars, however three bogeys and two double bogeys to open the back nine put a top 10 finish in serious jeopardy.

But "Mad Dog" would prove why she's been the anchor on her back-to-back region/area championship squads.

The final four holes resulted in four straight pars, including holes 16 and 18 that netted a pair of double bogeys the day before.

On the final hole, Maddy Horinek sank a par putt to close out her remarkable high school career.

As for her younger sister, Ally Horinek, the junior picked up five pars while firing a 41 on the front nine. The back nine saw Ally par 11 and 15 on her way to a 45.

Day two began with a 47 on the front nine, but like her sis, Ally also closed with a bang - scoring a par 3 on the 17th hole and a birdie 3 on 18.

On day two, Wischmeyer picked up a birdie on the par-4 sixth hole during a stretch that saw the junior shoot 1-under par over eight holes.

Following a double-bogey on the third hole, Wischmeyer recorded back-to-back pars on four and five.

Her birdie on six led to three straight pars to close the front nine with a 39 - Union's lowest nine hole score of the tournament.

After picking up consecutive pars to close off the back nine, Wischmeyer triple bogeyed the 12th to end her string of eight straight holes without a bogey.

Meanwhile, Rowe left the tournament as Union County's birdie leader with three

over 36 holes.

Her first birdie came Monday on the 494-yard, par-5 eighth hole.

On Tuesday, she birdied the same hole then proceeded to score a birdie 4 on the 523-yard, par-five 12th hole.

Only three other golfers accomplished the feat of scoring a birdie on the same hole both days.

The boys tournament was held down the road at Lakeview Golf Club and Union County senior Jeremy Herum finished with a two-day total of 162 (82-80) - good enough for 34th place.

Herum was just six shots back of a top 25 finish while finishing three shots better than 40th place.

With a field of 68, Herum placed among the top half of golfers in the state.

His opening round score of 82 was highlighted by a birdie 3 on the par-4 fourth hole and a 40 on the front nine.

Herum stormed out of the gates on day two with a 39 on the front nine, punctuated by a birdie 4 on the par-5 seventh hole.

He recorded another birdie on the par-five 12th hole while polishing off the back nine with a 41.

Like Maddy Horinek, Herum capped off his Union County career by sinking a par putt on the final hole of the tournament.

His second round score of 80 was the 29th best score of the day after posting the 36th best score in round one.

Herum's score of 162 was better than five of the six Dawson County golfers and the Tigers finished 10th.

Greater Atlanta Christian placed second and North Hall was seventh to give 7-AAA three teams in the top 10.

Shout outs to the community - Union County coach Greg Chambers and the Union County High School golf teams would like to thank Old Union and Butternut Creek golf courses for everything that they've done for the golf program. "We couldn't do it without them," Coach Chambers said.



Union County senior Maddy Horinek graduates as one of the most decorated golfers in the program's history.

Pos.	Team	Total To Par Gross	R1	R2	Total
1	Calhoun Calhoun	+77	257	252	509
2	Union County Union County	+90	263	259	522
3	North Murray North Murray	+103	267	268	535
4	Bremen Bremen	+106	260	278	538
5	Pierce County Pierce County	+129	275	286	561
6	Franklin County Franklin County	+133	286	279	565
7	Westminster Westminster	+152	299	285	584
8	Southeast Bulloch Southeast Bulloch	+158	295	295	590
9	Savannah Arts Academy Savannah Arts Academy	+161	297	296	593
10	Hart County Hart County	+187	325	294	619
11	Dawson County Dawson County	+200	312	320	632
12	Pace Academy Pace Academy	+217	329	320	649
13	Lumpkin County Lumpkin County	+222	311	343	654
14	Adairsville Adairsville	+227	331	328	659
15	Peach County Peach County	+275	388	319	707
16	Pike County Pike County	+298	421	309	730