

Sports

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Baenninger, Innis represent UCHS in GACA All Star Soccer game

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Brunswick - Soccer in the Northeast Georgia mountains is quickly catching up to the metro-Atlanta hot beds, and last month's Georgia Athletic Coaches Association's (GACA) All Star game is another example why.

Suiting up for victorious North team were Union County's Layne Baenninger and Brenna Innis, along with Towns County's Brooke Barrett.

Joining the trio of local players were Union County High School coaches Tim Hunter and Lee Baenninger.

Playing at Glynn County Academy, the North team jumped out to a 2-0 advantage before pulling away for a 5-1 victory. Barrett lead the charge for the North with 3 goals and an assist.

This, the first annual GACA All Star game, is designed for rising-seniors and was divided into four 15-minute quarters (instead of two 40-minute halves) due to the scorching South Georgia heat. The extra breaks were used to keep the players hydrated.

The scoring got underway within the first minute when Jefferson's Lizz Quilliams put the North on the board off a feed from Locust Grove's Chloe Welch.

Just beyond the midway point of the second, a pair of former Mountain United Soccer Association (MUSA) teammates hooked up to spot the North a two goal advantage.

With 9:42 to play in the second period, Union's Layne Baenninger found Towns' Barrett, who laced a rocket past the South keeper from 25 yards out. The Baenninger-Barrett connection came much to the delight of Coach Lee Baenninger, who also coached all three girls in the local youth leagues and has been vital to the recent success of Union County soccer.



The Towns-Union trio with coaches. Left-to-right: Lee Baenninger, Brooke Barrett, Layne Baenninger, Brenna Innis and Tim Hunter. All photos courtesy of Blairville's John Innis - Official Photographer of GACA Soccer

"I have to thank Lee (Baenninger) for all that he does for our program and for our kids," Hunter said. "He does so much and never seeks the credit that he deserves."

Meanwhile, the South squad quickly responded to Barrett's kick with its first and only goal of the day -- trimming the North lead in half at the intermission.

Still clinging to a 2-1 lead early in the third and looking for breathing room, the North team knew where to turn.

At the 13:34 mark of the quarter, Chapel Hill's Devyn Thompson dished off to Barrett and she found the net once again -- making it a 3-1 game.

Barrett returned the favor with an assist in the fourth quarter when she set up Wayne County's Andrea Mendez for another North goal.

Then with just under five minutes to play, the North put an exclamation point on its dominant performance.

The fifth goal gave Barrett the hat trick with the assists going to Thompson and

Welch.

Baenninger started by-passing to Thompson and those four moved the ball around with ultra-quick passing to create what Hunter described as, "one of the most amazing looking goals that I have ever seen."

When asked about the performance of Baenninger and Innis, Hunter was more than impressed.

"(They) played fantastic the entire game," he said. "They always do so much that doesn't always show up in the stat sheet. They played very strong possession soccer and were just natural fits with the other midfielders."

"This comes from them having such good technical skill and tactical knowledge. They also gave us an advantage because I played them in multiple positions allowing us to sub our midfield players more, which really made a difference in the second half in the intense heat."

"I also used them to attack a couple of weak points on the south defense which they exploited well. And it didn't matter if they moved those

players to the other side, if it wasn't Layne going by them it was Brenna."

As for Barrett, she has committed to play at Georgia Southern despite receiving offers from Georgia and Kentucky. According to Hunter, she chose GSU for the opportunity to play right away.

"These three girls grew up playing soccer together," Hunter added. "This was a huge event for all the kids who took part. These were incredible players but even more so, they were great kids to be around. We practiced at an amazing facility on St. Simmons Island that was separated from the beach by about 100 yards of palm trees. There was a boardwalk that we walked down and let the kids walk on the beach."

"I'm so proud of all the kids who participated and I'm very proud of the event. I told the kids at the end, 'there will be a lot of special events that happen in this game in the future but no one else could be a part of the first (GACA All Star Soccer game) ever.'"



The opening kickoff: Innis kicks to Barrett to get the inaugural GACA All Star Soccer game underway. Photo/John Innis



Union County's Brenna Innis (4) advances the ball. Photo/John Innis



Layne Baenninger in action during the all star game. Photo/John Innis



The victorious North team with coaches Tim Hunter (left) and Lee Baenninger (right). Photo/John Innis



Trout stocking sites week of July 3 - 7, 2017

Fannin: Rock Creek, Toccoa River and Toccoa River Tailwaters below Lake Blue Ridge Dam
Lumpkin: Etowah River and Nimblewill Creek
Union: Cooper Creek

Note: Information is subject to change. Please call the hatchery at 706-838-4723 for questions. Stay up-to-date with stocking and events through Facebook www.facebook.com/chattahoocheeforestnfh. The hatchery also provides trout for the state. Please contact Georgia DNR for information on sites stocked by the state. N0Jul12Z12/CA

NEW Start Smart Basketball Program

**Union County
Recreation Department
2017 Start Smart
Basketball Program
Ages: 3-5**

Beginning this fall, Union County Recreation Department will now be offering Start Smart Basketball! Your child can learn the beginning fundamentals of the sport of Basketball in a fun and safe-noncompetitive setting.

All Start Smart sports beginner programs are led by a highly qualified Program Director for Union County Recreation Department.

*Session One Registration begins on July 5, 2017 and ends August 3, 2017 at the Recreation Office (310 Wellborn St.) Registration can be completed in person or online! If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer at (706) 439-6074. *Season runs from September 5 through October 12 with 15 sessions.



Looking for a free fun summer activity?

How about four days of free dance classes ages 5-12! North Georgia Dance Arts "Try Everything!" Free! Ballet, Lyrical, Tap, Jazz, Hip Hop, and Acrobatics. It's true! North Georgia Dance Arts is paying it forward with free dance classes this summer! Open to everyone ages 5-12! No obligation, no fees! Just come and dance! Create memories!

Dates: July 11th and 13th 9:30-12; July 18th and 20th 9:30-12. Call now to register or check our Facebook page! Or walk-ins welcome! 706-896-0016. N0Jul12Z17/CA



MUSA Fall Registration



Mountain United Soccer Association's fall soccer registration is open for boys and girls ages 4-16.

You may register online at www.mountainsoccer.org. Registration deadline is Aug. 9. Players registered after deadline will incur a late fee and will be placed on roster waiting list.

Volunteer coaches also are needed. Questions: email: musa.soccer@gmail.com

Tennis Scores

Summer 2017 USTA Mountain Tennis Southern Combo 18 and Over Women's Flight 6.5 Doubles: Meeks Park vs Blue Ridge Blue Jays - July 1, 2017 @ Meeks Park; Line 1: Sherry Savage/Linda Johnson vs Jennifer Morrison/Dena Saip 6-3, 6-1 (Meeks Park -w); Line 2: Jane Childers/Kim Duval vs Shannon Brown/Laura Ellen Grant 1-6, 6-4, 6-4 (Blue Ridge -w); Line 3: Susan Ross/Karen Matthews vs Angela Cantrell/Nancy Cantrell 6-0, 6-3 (Meeks Park -w).