

# Softball: Union loses its centerfielder and three of four during tough week

By Todd Forrest  
North Georgia News  
sports@nganews.com

To say the Lady Panthers had a difficult week would be the understatement of the year.

Despite picking up its second win of the season and halting a two-game skid, Union County lost its starting center fielder, Ellie Garrison, to a broken arm at Rabun County. A junior, second year starter, Garrison was diving for a ball during warmups and suffered a broken arm.

On Saturday, the Lady Panthers were still playing with heavy hearts and struggled to generate any offense in a 4-0 loss to Chestatee.

## UC 13, Rabun Co. 6

During their win at Rabun on Thursday, Union County overcame five errors to pick up win No. 2 on the year. Junior Aubree Pack got the start for Union and went three innings but sophomore Megan Bright took over in the fourth and recorded the win. Fortunately, she got plenty of support at the plate as the Lady Panthers throttled Rabun County to the tune of 13 hits and 13 runs. Most of the damage came off the bat of sophomore catcher Mary Wischmeyer, who finished with a career day at the plate: 5 RBIs and three doubles.

Union struck in the first when Katelynn Hodges doubled and Maddie Sutton reached on a bunt single – both eventually scored. They tacked on two more in the second by way of an Adriel Arnold leadoff single and an RBI double from Mary Wischmeyer, who later scored on a Rayfield single.

The lead held until the second when the Lady Cats responded by sending nine hitters to the plate and scoring four runs. An inning later, two Union errors brought another run to the plate and Rabun grabbed a 5-4 lead after three.

Down one, the Lady Panthers exploded with four runs of their own in the top half of the fourth. Arnold reached on an error and Wischmeyer evened things up with her second RBI double of the day. Hodges made it 6-5 with a run-scoring ground out before Rabun recorded two quick outs.

Rayfield kept the inning alive with a full count walk and Lawn made them pay with a 2-run homer to left-center.

Following a scoreless bottom half of the inning from the



Union County junior centerfielder Ellie Garrison smashes her first career homerun on Tuesday off of East Hall's Region Pitcher of the Year Macy Banks. Unfortunately, she suffered a broken arm on Thursday at Rabun County, bringing her season to a premature conclusion. Photo/Todd Forrest

more runs to take a 9-2 lead. A two-run error was followed by a double and another two-run error and the Lady Panthers found themselves facing an insurmountable deficit.

Wischmeyer led off Union's half of the inning with a base hit and Garrison followed with a 2-run shot to center – the first homer of her career – to trim the East Hall lead to 9-4 but that's as close as they would get.

Hodges, Rayfield, and Garrison each finished with a two-hit performance while Hodges and Garrison drove in a pair and Garrison added a pair of runs. Meanwhile, Sutton, Lawn, Wischmeyer and Pack accounted for the other four Lady Panther hits off Banks.

Lawn went the distance, striking out six, walking two, and allowing just three earned runs.

## UC 7, White Co. 15

At White County a day later, Union County watched a 6-1 lead evaporate away as the Lady Warriors outscored the Lady Panthers 14-1 the rest of the way to take a 15-7 victory in five innings.

Union went down in order during the first and White jumped on top 1-0 in the bottom half of the inning. The Lady Panthers answered with six in the second after Lawn,

and Murray fourth with 111 points.

Hayesville, Rabun, Fannin and Towns rounded out the top eight. Tri-County didn't have enough runners to compete in the team competition.

Murray County's Jesse Martinez took home first with a time of 17:36 – nearly 30 seconds better than Underwood.

Union's Luke Gambrell checked in at 18:41 – good enough for fourth. Tim Murphy just missed a top 10 finish with an 11th place time of 20:15.

Will Harkins and Colby Ives placed 13th and 14th, respectively – clocking in at 20:27 and 20:31.

Other Union runners were Guage Shumaker at 21:08, Milo Bauman (21:37), Cole Payne (21:38), Gehrig Patterson (21:39), Elliott Stepp (21:55), Nolan Bachman (21:57), Hayes Glover (22:01), Sam Cockerham (22:11), Thomas Mellendorf (22:40), Cesar Velador (22:55) and Hunter Payne. (23:03).

Union will be at Chestatee on Tuesday where they'll get their first look at some of the top teams in 7-AAA.

Lattie Ryals placed fourth with a time of 23:36, Emmi Schakat was 11th at 25:41.

Lexie Ochoa came in 14th with a time of 25:24 to round out Union's top five.

The other Lady Panther runners and their times were: Sadie Underwood (26:50), Jessie Holbrooks (28:10), Destiny Orelana-Irvin (28:54), Allison Vincent (29:01), Evelyn McBride (31:35), Erika Clouse (32:10), Demi Thom (33:30), Brynn Metz (34:23) and Sarah Steele (34:55).

The team standings were: Union with 54 followed by Rabun (59), Lumpkin (92), Gilmer (105), Fannin (153), Hayesville (238) and Murray (245). Towns and Tri-County were unable to field a full team but had runners competing individually.

On the boys side, Union held edged Gilmer 44-56 with Lumpkin placing third with 87

homerun on Tuesday off of East Hall's Region Pitcher of the Year Macy Banks. Unfortunately, she suffered a broken arm on Thursday at Rabun County, bringing her season to a premature conclusion. Photo/Todd Forrest

more runs to take a 9-2 lead. A two-run error was followed by a double and another two-run error and the Lady Panthers found themselves facing an insurmountable deficit.

Wischmeyer led off Union's half of the inning with a base hit and Garrison followed with a 2-run shot to center – the first homer of her career – to trim the East Hall lead to 9-4 but that's as close as they would get.

Hodges, Rayfield, and Garrison each finished with a two-hit performance while Hodges and Garrison drove in a pair and Garrison added a pair of runs. Meanwhile, Sutton, Lawn, Wischmeyer and Pack accounted for the other four Lady Panther hits off Banks.

Lawn went the distance, striking out six, walking two, and allowing just three earned runs.

## UC 7, White Co. 15

At White County a day later, Union County watched a 6-1 lead evaporate away as the Lady Warriors outscored the Lady Panthers 14-1 the rest of the way to take a 15-7 victory in five innings.

Union went down in order during the first and White jumped on top 1-0 in the bottom half of the inning. The Lady Panthers answered with six in the second after Lawn,

and Murray fourth with 111 points.

Hayesville, Rabun, Fannin and Towns rounded out the top eight. Tri-County didn't have enough runners to compete in the team competition.

Murray County's Jesse Martinez took home first with a time of 17:36 – nearly 30 seconds better than Underwood.

Union's Luke Gambrell checked in at 18:41 – good enough for fourth. Tim Murphy just missed a top 10 finish with an 11th place time of 20:15.

Will Harkins and Colby Ives placed 13th and 14th, respectively – clocking in at 20:27 and 20:31.

Other Union runners were Guage Shumaker at 21:08, Milo Bauman (21:37), Cole Payne (21:38), Gehrig Patterson (21:39), Elliott Stepp (21:55), Nolan Bachman (21:57), Hayes Glover (22:01), Sam Cockerham (22:11), Thomas Mellendorf (22:40), Cesar Velador (22:55) and Hunter Payne. (23:03).

Union will be at Chestatee on Tuesday where they'll get their first look at some of the top teams in 7-AAA.

Lattie Ryals placed fourth with a time of 23:36, Emmi Schakat was 11th at 25:41.

Lexie Ochoa came in 14th with a time of 25:24 to round out Union's top five.

The other Lady Panther runners and their times were: Sadie Underwood (26:50), Jessie Holbrooks (28:10), Destiny Orelana-Irvin (28:54), Allison Vincent (29:01), Evelyn McBride (31:35), Erika Clouse (32:10), Demi Thom (33:30), Brynn Metz (34:23) and Sarah Steele (34:55).

The team standings were: Union with 54 followed by Rabun (59), Lumpkin (92), Gilmer (105), Fannin (153), Hayesville (238) and Murray (245). Towns and Tri-County were unable to field a full team but had runners competing individually.

On the boys side, Union held edged Gilmer 44-56 with Lumpkin placing third with 87

## Union Cross Country just misses out on sweep at Meeks Park

By Todd Forrest  
North Georgia News  
sports@nganews.com

Both Union County cross country teams held off a competitive field to pick up first place honors at last week's season opening meet.

In the girls race, Union County's Zoe Sanchez blew away the competition while Lance Underwood placed second for the boys.

"Both teams exceeded expectations," Union coach Paige Dyer said. "They did amazing. Phenomenal."

With a revamped Meeks Park course to increase difficulty and better prepare both Union teams for the competition that awaits in a brutal Region 7-AAA, Sanchez immediately jumped out front and the rest of the field was unable to keep pace.

"I knew it would be a tough course but we also had some tough competition here today too," coach Dyer said. "We were running against some AAAA schools, Gilmer and Murray, who both have some good runners."

After the first mile, the Union County sophomore had built a commanding 30-second lead. That lead stretched to over 40 seconds at the 2-mile point. When it was all said and done, Sanchez clocked in at 22:06 – more than a minute ahead of second place.

"The first two miles (of the course) are pretty flat but the last mile is what we call 'the mountain' and it's just massive," Dyer said. "To come at the very end like that, it really tests a runner's endurance and perseverance."

Lattie Ryals placed fourth with a time of 23:36, Emmi Schakat was 11th at 25:41.

Lexie Ochoa came in 14th with a time of 25:24 to round out Union's top five.

The other Lady Panther runners and their times were: Sadie Underwood (26:50), Jessie Holbrooks (28:10), Destiny Orelana-Irvin (28:54), Allison Vincent (29:01), Evelyn McBride (31:35), Erika Clouse (32:10), Demi Thom (33:30), Brynn Metz (34:23) and Sarah Steele (34:55).

The team standings were: Union with 54 followed by Rabun (59), Lumpkin (92), Gilmer (105), Fannin (153), Hayesville (238) and Murray (245). Towns and Tri-County were unable to field a full team but had runners competing individually.

On the boys side, Union held edged Gilmer 44-56 with Lumpkin placing third with 87



and Murray fourth with 111 points.

Hayesville, Rabun, Fannin and Towns rounded out the top eight. Tri-County didn't have enough runners to compete in the team competition.

Murray County's Jesse Martinez took home first with a time of 17:36 – nearly 30 seconds better than Underwood.

Union's Luke Gambrell checked in at 18:41 – good enough for fourth. Tim Murphy just missed a top 10 finish with an 11th place time of 20:15.

Will Harkins and Colby Ives placed 13th and 14th, respectively – clocking in at 20:27 and 20:31.

Other Union runners were Guage Shumaker at 21:08, Milo Bauman (21:37), Cole Payne (21:38), Gehrig Patterson (21:39), Elliott Stepp (21:55), Nolan Bachman (21:57), Hayes Glover (22:01), Sam Cockerham (22:11), Thomas Mellendorf (22:40), Cesar Velador (22:55) and Hunter Payne. (23:03).

Union will be at Chestatee on Tuesday where they'll get their first look at some of the top teams in 7-AAA.

Lattie Ryals placed fourth with a time of 23:36, Emmi Schakat was 11th at 25:41.

Lexie Ochoa came in 14th with a time of 25:24 to round out Union's top five.

The other Lady Panther runners and their times were: Sadie Underwood (26:50), Jessie Holbrooks (28:10), Destiny Orelana-Irvin (28:54), Allison Vincent (29:01), Evelyn McBride (31:35), Erika Clouse (32:10), Demi Thom (33:30), Brynn Metz (34:23) and Sarah Steele (34:55).

The team standings were: Union with 54 followed by Rabun (59), Lumpkin (92), Gilmer (105), Fannin (153), Hayesville (238) and Murray (245). Towns and Tri-County were unable to field a full team but had runners competing individually.

On the boys side, Union held edged Gilmer 44-56 with Lumpkin placing third with 87

## Union County Recreation Dept. football

By Blake Lynch  
North Georgia News  
Sports Special

Saturday was opening day for Union County Recreation Department football who begins its first season with a 7th grade team.

The 7th graders took on the West Hall Sparks. Union County took home the win 12-6. Stein Harkins scored the first touchdown but the point after was no good. The second touchdown was made by Darin Patterson. The Panther defense did an awesome job – forcing

a fumble and an interception.

The 8U Panthers also took on West Hall and the Panthers also won that game, 14-6.

Kevin Kilpatrick scored first for the Panthers the point after was made by Bentley Rich. Late in the 3rd quarter Brandon Lynch scored and the point after was made by Kingston Jones.

The 10U Panthers traveled to Dawson County and it was a close game in the first quarter as Conner Schenick scored the only touchdown of the game for a 6-0 final.

## National Hunting and Fishing Day September 23

Each year, the fourth Saturday of September brings National Hunting and Fishing Day. On this day, celebrated Sept. 23 this year, everyone can enjoy any of eight free scheduled celebratory events, according to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Division.

"Attending a National Hunting and Fishing Day event is a great way to spend the day with family and friends," said Rusty Garrison, Director of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Division. "These events are family-oriented, with fun and educational hands-on activities that everyone will enjoy. It is a great way to introduce youth and newcomers to outdoor sports while teaching them about the

important role that hunting and fishing have for Georgia's wildlife conservation programs."

What is National Hunting and Fishing Day? The U.S. Congress and President Richard Nixon established this day in 1973 to recognize generations of hunters and anglers for the time and money they donate to wildlife conservation programs.

Events offered in Georgia include kids' fishing events and Outdoor Adventure Days. Activities will differ at each event – but some highlights include archery and air rifle shooting, trout fishing, snake shows, wildlife programs, exhibits and more. These events are spread out across the whole state – meaning that one is probably near you!

In addition to these events, a free fishing day is offered to all Georgia residents on Saturday, Sept. 23, 2017. On this day, residents do not need a fishing license or a trout license to fish on any public waters in the state including lakes, streams, ponds and public fishing areas.

Want to win a fantastic prize package? Pledge to take someone hunting and/or fishing with you before Sept. 23 and enter to win either a VIP NASCAR package or an outdoor adventure package at Big Cedar Lodge. Enter at [www.nhfd.org](http://www.nhfd.org).

For more information on NHF Day in Georgia, including a complete listing of all events in the state, visit [georgiawildlife.com/get-involved/nhfd](http://georgiawildlife.com/get-involved/nhfd).

## Trout stocking sites week of August 21-25, 2017

Fannin: Rock Creek and Toccoa River Tailwaters (below Lake Blue Ridge Dam)

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](http://www.facebook.com/chattahoocheeforestnfh). The hatchery also provides trout for the state. Please contact Georgia DNR for information on sites stocked by the state.

## Upward Basketball and Cheerleading 2017 registration

House of Prayer Church is glad to announce that it is once again time for our Upward Basketball and Cheerleading 2017 season. On-line registration is now open for boys and girls in grades Kindergarten through 8th Grade at [www.hopb.org](http://www.hopb.org).

The registration is open through October 21st and the price to participate is \$60. Payment plans are available, if needed. Convenient weekly practices commence the week of October 2nd, while 5 games will be played on Saturdays between October 21st and November 18th.

Registrants should attend the evaluation that will be held on Tuesday, September 19th on a drop-in basis between the hours of 5:30 and 7 p.m. at the House of Prayer Family Life Center gym.

For more information regarding registration, call the HOP church office at (706) 745-5925.

Established in 1995, Upward Sports is the world's largest Christian youth sports provider. It remains unique by providing a substitution system that ensures every young athlete plays, and requiring only one 1 hour practice a week with one game per week. Upward Sports develops total athletes mentally, athletically, spiritually, and socially – producing players who excel both on and off the field. Today, approximately 6.2 million players have participated at more than 2,000 churches in 47 states, in camps, clinics, and leagues through Upward Sports' Recreation Division. Information regarding Upward Sports can be found online at [www.upward.org](http://www.upward.org).

## Union County Recreation 2017 Senior Dancing Program

Did you know dance could be fun? You do not need to have coordination to have a great experience dancing! After a successful first session, the Program Director of Union County Parks and Recreation will be leading the second session of beginning ballroom and line dance two times a week for 5 weeks in session 2! This is a great time to socialize and dance with a fun group. We will meet at Union County Recreation Room and dance our hearts out for 60 minutes twice a week! (You did not have to attend the first session in order to be a part of this session.)

Session Two Registration begins on August 28, 2017 and ends September 27, 2017 at the Recreation Office (310 Wellborn St.).

Registration must be done in person due to cap on participants per session. If you have any questions, please call (706) 439-6074. Price discount the more lessons you sign up for.



Ages: 55 and over