Union County Cross Country narrowly misses sweep at Meeks Park

By Todd Forrest North Georgia News sports@nganews.com

Union County Cross Country began a new era on Thursday as new Head Coach Paige Dyer and both Union squads opened the 2016 season by taking three first place finishes and one second.

Union claimed both individual titles with junior Lance Underwood setting a blistering pace in the boys competition - completing the Meeks Park course in 17 minutes, 32 seconds.

Earlier in the day, freshman Zoe Sanchez was victorious in the first high school varsity race of her career - edging a Rabun County runner by 25 seconds with a time of 21:53.

However, Rabun's girls took first place in the team standings after placing more runners in the top 10.

Union senior Emmi Schakat placed third with a time of 22:56. Overall, four of the Lady Panthers' top five runners were freshman.

Lexie Ochoa placed ninth, Sadie Underwood was 12th, and Allison Vincent took

Freshman Jessie Holbrooks and sophomores Erika Clouse and Destiny Orellana-Irvin rounded out the Lady Panthers' top eight.

Senior Kaitlyn Gallagher

Lady Panthers... continued from 4B

one out in the seventh, Lawn

Wischmeyer scored Chambers'

courtesy runner, Bright, with a

fielder's choice.

they scored the go-ahead run in the seventh, then slammed the door on the host team in the bottom half of the inning to prevail 6-5 over Habersham Central.

Lawn got the start from the circle and worked four innings, surrendering three runs (one earned) before giving way to Chambers, who yielded two unearned. Both pitchers overcame four errors in the field to hang on for the win.

The 3-4-5 hitters in the Union lineup (Chambers, Lawn, and Wischmeyer) were a combined 7-for-12 with 4 RBIs, and 4 doubles.

Moose, Garrison, and Tanner also added one hit each for the Lady Panthers.

Union got two in the first when Lawn drove in Arrowood and Wischmeyer doubled home courtesy runner Megan Bright.

Habersham scored two in the first and one in the third to take a 3-2 lead into the third where the Lady Panthers struck for two more.

Moose and Garrison each delivered a two-out, RBI single to take a 4-3 advantage. They extended their lead to 5-3 in the fifth when Chambers doubled and Lawn drove her in with an RBI single. The Lady Raiders made it a 5-4 game in the bottom of the fifth, then tied it up at 5-5 in the sixth.

Freshman Zoe Sanchez lead wire-to-wire. Photo/Todd Forrest





Emmi Schakat finished third at Meeks Park. Photo/Todd Forrest

Lance Underwood Chambers doubled with nail down the victory.

On Tuesday, Union hosts

through region play. The sec-

ond round of region action

begins on Thursday when the

Union must win to avoid the sweep, which would award Lumpkin the tiebreaker in the event the two teams finish tied in the final standings.

was unable to run due to an

injury but Coach Dyer expects

her to return for the next race at

first place in the team standings

thanks to Underwood and sixth

clocked in ninth, while senior

Adam Bachman and junior

Gehrig Patterson rounded out

amazing job in their first race

and I couldn't be more proud

of them," Coach Dyer said.

"It was unusually hot but that

didn't stop them from giving it

their best. Our teams are young

and that is very optimistic see-

ing how well they are already

performing."

Union's guys captured

Freshman Will Harkins

"Our runners did an

Chestatee on Tuesday.

place Timothy Murphy.

the Panthers' top five.

In other news, Chambers RBIs for her career.

lie Dyer's school record of 106 | 9-of-22, 195 yards.

is one RBI shy of equaling Cal-

"Defensively, (Gilmer) did

what we expected them to do, but their front-six were probably a little better than we expected,' Coach Allison said. "We had a hard time blocking them. They have one kid who is committed to Mercer and another who is 300 pounds, so they were pretty

good." The Bobcats took over in the shadow of their own endzone when Beise made them pay with a safety. Strayer led Union County with 48 receiving yards on three grabs and Lynch caught two balls for 37 yards.

Early in the second quarter, the Panthers missed another scoring opportunity when they were knocking on the Bobcats' door once again until a personal foul inside the 10-yard line dropped Union back to the 25-yard line.

The drive opened with a kick return to the Gilmer 41yard line by sophomore Kanon Hemphill that provided excellent starting field position.

A 19-yard pass to Stone of penalties, including the personal foul, derailed the drive.

Facing a 4th-and-15, the Panthers still had a shot to put three on the board when Brian Smith attempted a 32-yard field goal, but the kick traveled outside the left upright by a matter of inches.

On Friday, Union will host the 0-2 Hayesville Yellow Jackets, who are coming off a pair of one-sided defeats to Towns County and Copper Basin, TN. However, the Yellow Jackets are led by a an experienced senior quarterback, Kyle Rhinehardt.

Team stats: Union County: 400 yards of total offense. RUSHING: 34 carries, 236 yards. PASSING: 12-of-17, 164 yards.

Gilmer County: 237 yards of total offense. RUSHING: 39 carries, 42 yards. PASSING: Individual stats (OF-

NASCAR 2016

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

Larson Gets First Cup Victory

A WIN

down pass from Wright. touchdown run. 4TH QUARTER:

GC - 3 plays, 66 yards in 1:01. 49-yard touchdown pass.

UC - 7 plays, 53 yards in 2:40. Cole Wright 6-yard touchdown run.

GC - 1 play, 80 yards in 0:15. 80-yard touchdown pass. UC-Zach Stone 84 yard

kickoff return for touchdown.



it was a convincing win. He led 24 of 48 laps to beat Brendan Gaughan to the checkered flag by just over half a second

(0.534). "The team called all the ight shots, and we were in the right position there at the end" said McDowell. "This is huge. I've got to thank all of my guys back in Michigan; Circle Sport-Leavine Family Racing for letting me be here. They know how bad I wanted this victory at Road America. So thankful to do it.

Purple Storm... continued from 4B a fumble kept Union out of the endzone. FENSE): Wright: 12-of-17, 164 yards, 1 TD. 14 carries, 126 vards, 2 TD. Dobbins: 2 carries, 64 yards, 1 TD. 2 receptions, 41 yards. Strayer: 3 receptions, 48

yards, 1 TD. Lynch: 2 receptions, 37 yards. 10 carries, 17 yards. Stone: 2 receptions, 24

yards. Dockrey: 4 carries, 10 vards. 1 reception, 8 yards.

Rodriguez: 2 carries, 17 yards. Slade Thompson: 2 receptions, 6 yards. Buzzard: 2 carries, 2 yards.

Individual stats (DE-FENSE): Winkler: 12 tackles. Rodriguez: 11 tackles, 2 TFL. Banton: 10 tackles, 1 TFL. Day: 8 tackles, 1 TFL. Dockrey: 6 tackles. Beise: 6 tackles, 1 TFL.

Gilliam: 5 tackles, 1 TFL. McConnell: 5 tackles, 1 sack. Montelongo: 4 tackles, 1 TFL. Nelson: 4 tackles. English 3 tackles. Stone: 3 tackles, 1 TFL. Gilbert: 2 tackles.

Dobbins: 1 tackle. Williams: 1 tackle. Hemphill: 1 tackle

Scoring summary: **1ST QUARTER:** UC - 6 plays, 81 yards had Union on the move but a pair in 1:45. Cole Wright 13-yard

touchdown run. UC - Safety. Matthew Beise sack for 2-yard loss.

2ND QUARTER: GC - 10 plays, 32 yards in

4:17. 21-yard field goal. **3RD QUARTER:**

UC - 9 plays, 67 yards in 2:05. Erik Strayer 20-yard touch-

UC - 1 play, 14 yards in 0:10. Sean Dobbins 14-yard

in the bottom of the seventh to rematch of the season – a game **Congratulations to Lady Golfers**

around a pair of two-out singles County for their first 7-AAA

Chambers worked Lady Panthers visit Lumpkin

followed with a single, and GAC to wrap up the first trip



\(L-R): Terie McCombs, Lilly Adams, Cynthia Moorehead

Creek Ladies Golf Associa- a hole-in-one.

At our regular play day Club. This game starts over with on Thursday, August 11, 2016 the ladies joining the club again three ladies of the Butternut for the next lucky lady that gets

Ganassi Chevrolet got his first career Cup Series win this past Sunday at Michigan. position

Larson, who led twice for 41 laps, had a slow pit stop during a caution on lap 181 of the 200-lap race. Chase Elliott was able to get out of the pits first and led until another caution with 11 to go.

On the race's last restart, Larson and Elliott were lined up 1-2 on the front row. Both drivers spun their tires. Brad Keselowski, who was behind Larson gave him a push, sending him into the lead which he never relinquished for the remainder of the race.

BROOKLYN, MI -- Kyle 15. McMurray-616 (0), 16. New-Larson, driver of the No 42 Chip man-601 (0). Note: The number man-601 (0). Note: The number

tion, were in the news at our

Terie McCombs, Treasure os BCLGA, made a beautiful card that was presented to Lilly Adams for her Hole-in-One on #12 August 4th, it was loaded with a 'Pot-of-Dough' from the over the green, to her surprise it ladies joining the Hole-in-One was in the cup! N(Aug31,Z7)CA

Cynthia Moorehead signing up time for our regular came out with a 2 on Hole #15 for her EAGLE. Cynthia was thinking about laying up after her drive, but Rhea Martinez said, "Oh, go for it, what do you have to lose?" Cynthia went for the green but she thought it went

"Oh boy, I was feeling things build up in my stomach dur-ing those last laps," said Larson. We messed up on that last pit stop, but fortunately, we had a good enough car to win. We both spun our tires on that last start, but Brad really pushed me out front and allowed me to get the lead.'

Elliott led 31 laps, and appeared to be headed to the first victory of his career before the last restart cost him the lead, and circumstances intervened to relegate him to a runner-up finish.

'I saw the opportunity to get back out front and lead the race, but I spun my tires and didn't do what I should have done," said Elliott. "It was my fault and I really hate it for all the team."

Brad Keselowski was third, followed by Ryan Blaney, Kevin Harvick, Jimmie Johnson, Carl Edwards, Jamie McMurray, Denny Hamlin, and Joey Logano.

Kyle Busch struggled for most of the race, but managed to finish 19th. His car did not handle well at the start and he had a right front tire blow out during lap 27, putting him a lap down.

Martin Truex Jr. was another loser. He started 14th and by lap 58 of 200 had taken the lead. He went on to lead seven consecutive laps before coming down pit road for a routine four-tire green flag stop. Unfortunately for Truex, the

pit stop didn't turn out to be routine. When it came to replacing the left side tires, the jack dropped before the the left-rear tire was stabilized. The incident caused major damage to the rear quarter panel section on Truex's No. 78 Toyota.

"We were never the same after that pit stop," said Truex, who was credited with a 20th-place finish. "We made a number of unscheduled stops to try to fix the problem, but the damage was just too severe to overcome.

The No. 88 team with Alex Bowman subbing for Dale Earnhardt Jr. had engine problems. He wound up finishing 30th.

With only two races left before the 10-race Chase for the 2016 Sprint Cup begins, here is the official Chase Outlook, showing each driver's wins: 1. Keselowski-774 (4), 2. Kyle Busch-696 (4), 3. Harvick-709 (2), 4. Edwards-724 (2), 5. Hamlin-691 (1), 6. Johnson-648 (2), 7. Kenseth-633 (2), 8. Kurt Busch-721 (1), 9. Logano-716 (1), 10. Truex-652 (1), 11. Larson-582 (1), 12. Buescher-334 (1), 13. Elliott-628 (0), 14. A. Dillon-622 (0),

Gaughan led once during the early stages of the race, but was unable to mount a serious challenge to the leader as the laps wound down.

"Well, we gave it all we had," said Gaughan. "We came on strong, but just couldn't get to the front in time."

Remaining top-10finishers: 3. Brennan Poole, 4. Daniel Suarez, 5. Ryan Reed, 6. Justin Allgaier, 7. Alex Tagliani, 8. Elliott Sadler, 9. Darrell Wallace Jr., 10. J. J. Yeley.

Top-10 leaders after 23 of 33: 1. Sadler-770, 2. Suarez-723, 3. Allgaier-770, 4. T. Dillon-713, 5. Gaughan-707, 6. E. Jones-678, 7. Poole-667, 8. B. Jones-652, 9. Wallace Jr.-606, 10. Reed-568.

Note: We would like to apologize for the error in last week's column. We mistakenly reported that the Xfinity Series had the weekend off.

MOFFITT TAKES MICHIGAN TRUCK RACE

Here are the results of Saturday's Michigan Truck Series Race: 1. Brett Moffitt, 2, Timothy Peters, 3. Daniel Hemric, 4. William Byron, 5. Cameron Hayley, 6. Ben Rhodes, 7. Matt Crafton, 8. Grant Enfinger, 9. Johnny Sauter, 10. Tyler Young.

Top-10 leaders after 14 of 23: 1. Byron-379, 2. Hemric-343, 3. Peters-335, 4. Sauter-335, 5. Crafton-322, 6. Kennedy-309, 7. Bell-305, 8. Nemechek-288, 9. Hayley-288, 10. Custer-285.

ÉARNHARDT'S RACING FUTURE STILL CLOUDY

Dale Earnhardt hasn't raced in more than a month, and Hendrick Motorsports announced last week that he will miss the Michigan and Darlington races.

In an article by WSOC-TV in Charlotte, Earnhardt said he still struggles with his ability to keep his eyes on an object while moving.

As he's recovering, he's giving fans an inside look at treatment for a concussion, an issue for athletes at every level.

Earnhardt's routine includes ball exercises, basketball and the most intriguing, walking backwards through a dark room with disco lights.

He has not indicated he wants to retire, but conversation about NASCAR's most popular driver and his future is unavoidable.

Kyle Larson gets First Cup Win

Former Charlotte racing promoter Humpy Wheeler said Earnhardt has no reason to risk coming back.

'He doesn't need any more money. He doesn't need to race anymore and he's at an age where a driver really ought to think about retirement anyway," Wheeler said.

The television reporters spoke to race fans at Hendrick Motorsports and they said they are optimistic he will return. But they also said if Earnhardt does retire, racing will live on.

"You know, like NFL losing Peyton Manning. Yeah it stinks for a while, but it'll come back," race fan Will Dewese said.

As NASCAR's favorite driver takes even more time away to recover, some believe he might never return, even though he hasn't called it quits yet.

"I think this is a very pressing situation for him," said fan Walt Edwards. "Whether there is something physical going on within him, or if it's all in his mind, it's very real and I think he's smart to pay attention to it."

No official announcement has been made by Hendrick or Earnhardt about his future plans.

What is your opinion of Earnhardt's future racing plans? Send us an e-mail expressing your views and we'll send you a photo

Weekend Racing: The Sprint Cup and Xfinity teams will be at Darlington, while the Trucks travel to Montreal Canada for a road race.

Sat., Sept. 3, Xfinity Series race 24 of 33; Starting time: 3:30 p.m. ET; TV: NBC.

Sun., Sept. 4, Truck Series race 15 of 23; Starting time: 2:30 p.m. ET; TV: Foxsports1.

Sun., Sept. 4, Sprint Cup race 25 of 36; Starting time: 6 p.m. ET; TV: NBC.

Racing Trivia Question: Who has the most Cup wins at Darlington?

Last Week's Question? Which team did Carl Edwards drive for before moving to Joe Gibbs Racing? Answer. Roush

Fenway Racing. You may contact the Racing Reporter by e-mail at: hodges@ race500.com. NT(Aug31,Z20)CA

enjoy a delicious lunch prepared by our View Grill in the Banquet Room. As players were enjoying their lunch, score cards were tallied up and winners posted according to the couple's net score in their applicable flight.

And the winners were:

1st Flight: 1st Place went to Jennifer and David Jetton a with a net score of 60; 2nd Place went to Megan & James Rowe with a net score of 61; 3rd Place went to Mary & Ron Mallory with a net score of 64.

2nd Flight: 1st Place went to Odena Gibson & Jamey Gibson with a net score of 58; 2nd Place went to Cindy & Andy Andrews with a net score of 60; 3rd Place went to Tori Lord & Thomas Arp with a net score of 61.

3rd Flight: 1st Place went to Lilly Adams & Stephen Adams with a net score of 64; 2nd Place went to Mary Lou Nash & Louis Pintaro with a net score of 66; 3rd Place went to Jane Childers & Jeff Childers with a net score of 67.

We also had competition for the Closest to the Pin on all Par 3s and Longest Drives for Ladies (#6) & Men (#6) and the winners were:

Ladies: Longest Drive -Cindy Andrews #6; Men: Lon-

Ladies: Closest to Pin #12

gest Drive - Thomas Arp #6.

- Michelle Berg; Ladies: Closest to Pin #17 - Odena Gibson; Men: Closest to Pin #4 - David Jetton; Men: Closest to Pin #8 - James Rowe.

The Butternut Creek Ladies would like to thank the following for donations to the Sadie Hawkins Golf Tournament: United Community Bank, Circle K, a private donation, O'Reilly Auto Parts, Dunkin' Donuts & Grinds & Glazes.

Betty Taylor & Lilly Ad-Co-Tournament Chairperams, sons, would like to thank all participants for making our 31st year a success! Also, a great big 'thank you' to the personnel at Butternut Creek for helping us with this tournament.



Mountain High Hikers schedule two hikes every Tuesday, one long and one shorter, as well as occasional specialty hikes. Weekly trail maintenance trips are scheduled every Thursday.

Come enjoy the beautiful mountains and waterfalls we have here. Check the website www.mountainhighhikers.org for schedule and contact numbers

2016 Annual Sadie Hawkins Golf Tournament at Butternut Creek Golf Course, Blairsville, GA

turnout for the Sadie Hawkins Golf Tournament on Saturday, August 13, 2016. This was our 31st year of the Annual Sadie Hawkins Golf Tournament! We are proud that this tournament has reached the 31st year of ladies & gentlemen playing as a team! The Butternut Creek Ladies organized this annual golf tournament on July 10, 1985 and are proud to say that it is still going!

All participants were welcomed as they entered the Banquet Room for registration, purchasing mulligans, raffle tickets and enjoying the beautiful decorations that had been provided by Kathie McAfee. After enjoying a delicious breakfast, prepared by our ladies, a group picture was made of all couples participating with the Butternut Creek Golf Course in the background! Scott Thompson welcomed all participants, thanked the ladies for a delicious breakfast and gave out final instructions to be followed before we entered the field.

We had a field of 18 couples (36 players) who were very anxious to get started. Excitement was building up as each couple was looking forward to being one of the winners in their flight!

Sometime around 1 p.m., players came in from the field to

We had a very successful

day of play.

2016 Annual Sadie Hawkins Golf Tournament