

No contest: Lady Panthers overpower Social Circle

By Todd Forrest
North Georgia News
sports@nganews.com

Following a slow start, Union County exploded for a 40-4 burst during the second and third quarters in a 57-12 Region 8-AA victory over Social Circle.

Eleven different Lady Panthers reached the scoring column as the Union starters were pulled with 4:48 to play in the third quarter.

Brooke Maddox led the way with 11 points - all in the first half, while Zollinger's 8 points came in the first two quarters, and Jeanelle Arnold scored 7 of her 8 points in the first 16 minutes.

Maddox connected on two early treys to turn a 2-2 tie into an 8-3 Lady Panther advantage. A put back by Zollinger gave Union a 10-3 lead after one.

A 28-4 second quarter was all Union needed to pick up its 12th win of the season and remain in the hunt for the No. 1 seed in the Region 8-AA Tournament next month.

Seven different players scored during Union's second quarter barrage with Arnold putting up seven, Zollinger six, and Maddox five. Hannah Hughes hit three from the stripe, Allie Stroman converted a 3-point play, Shawna Brown scored on a put back, and Camryn Carter scored off a Lady Redskins' turnover.

Arnold hit a free throw and Carly Adams nailed a trey



Junior guard Madison Rich looks for room against Social Circle on Friday. Photo/Todd Forrest

to give Union a 42-7 lead when the starters exited with just under five-minutes left.

The Lady Panther bench entered a continued Union County's third quarter shutout as they closed the frame with an 8-0 run.

Lisa Nalaschi connected on a jumper, Kaitlyn Day got three the old fashioned way, then hit a runner from the wing, and Madison Rich capped the run with a free throw in the final seconds of the third.

Carter went to work in the fourth quarter, hitting a corner trey and a baseline jumper, while Nalaschi knocked down a jumper from the elbow.

Maddox added 6 steals to compliment her game-high 11 points. Arnold hauled in 5 offensive boards for a total of 6 rebounds. The senior guard also picked up 4 steals. Zollinger scored 8, Carter had 7 points and 2 assists, while Adams had 5 points and 5 steals.

Day chipped in with 5 points, Nalaschi had 4, Hughes scored 3 points with 6 steals, Stroman had 3 points and 2 assists. Brown added 2 points and Rich 1 points and 2 assists. Ariel Maurer had 5 boards and blocked a shot.

Union hosts Rabun County on Tuesday at 6 p.m. in a pivotal Region 8-AA



Camryn Carter



Allie Stroman
Photos by Todd Forrest

matchup.

A win keeps Union in a tie for second with Jefferson, while a loss puts the Lady Panthers into a must-win situation at Washington-Wilkes on Friday night and at Jefferson on Tuesday, Jan. 29th.

UCMS' Seventh Grade Panthers claim first place



Dahlonega - Congratulations to Coach Kevin Hughes and the Union County Middle School 7th Grade Panthers on taking home first place at the 2013 Northeast Georgia League Tournament. The road to victory began with a win over North Habersham. In the second game, the Panthers toppled Wilbanks, then knocked off White County in the Championship Game. Team members are: Patrick Baggett, R.J. Blanton, Candler Colwell, Crawford Colwell, Cole Davis, Cole Dockery, Timothy Murphy, Austin Pattee, Gehrig Patterson, Slade Rowan, Devin White, Cole Wright, and Manager Kaemon Young. Way to go Panthers! The future of Union County basketball appears to be in great hands.

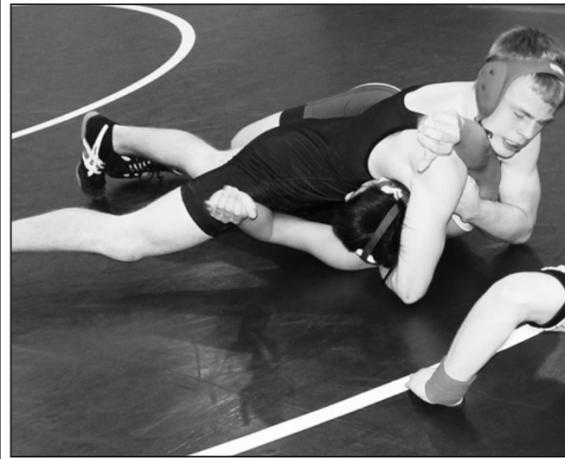
Wrestling prepping for Area

Union County had another solid showing on the mat last week.

The Panthers wrestled Rabun Gap and won 54-15. The Panthers then wrestled White County and lost 24-54. The final match of the night was Towns vs Union and it came down to the last match but Union fell 39-40.

"I was very proud of how my boys and young ladies wrestled today," Union Coach Michael Smith-Foot said. "Everyone is getting better everyday and several people not only went undefeated for the night but had three pins. Keep in mind every team is still getting 12 free points because we can't fill the 106 weight class or the 120. We had the team bumped up one weight class to fill 160 and 170 classes due to wrestlers being out sick or hurt."

The Area Tournament will be Feb. 1-2 at Greater Atlanta Christian in Norcross. Sectionals are Feb. 8-9 in Dublin and the State Tournament is Feb. 15-16 at Macon.



Union County wrestling in action at Towns. Photo/ Lowell Nicholson

McCombs leads Union in walloping of Redskins

By Todd Forrest
North Georgia News
sports@nganews.com

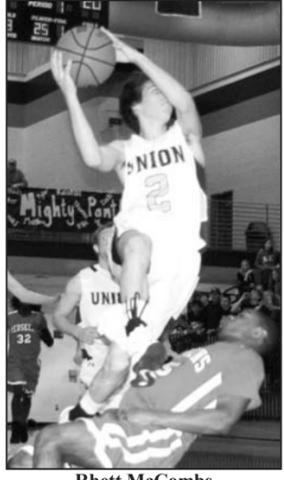
Union County's Rhett McCombs was up to his old tricks again, this time at the expense of the overmatched Social Circle Redskins.

McCombs poured in 20 first half points while connecting six times from long distance as Union rolled to a 76-41 victory.

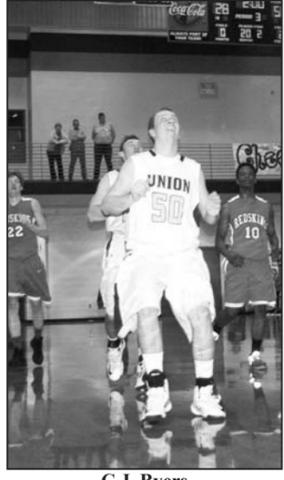
The Panthers sprang out to an 18-2 lead following four quick treys by McCombs to open the game, en route to a 14-point quarter. Zach Odom added six in the first, Dylan Coyne, James Rowe, and C.J. Byers each added a bucket and Union was firmly in control at 26-7 after one.

After a quick Redskin trey to open the second, Union went on another tear when Coyne nailed a 3-pointer and McCombs followed suit with consecutive treys to give the Panthers a commanding 35-10 lead.

Zach and Tyler Odom got into the action in the second quarter, with Zach knocking down a trey and Tyler hitting a long two from the top-of-the-key. Byers and Rowe scored in the paint, late in the first half to put Union on top 44-20 at the



Rhett McCombs



C.J. Byers



Elijah Ryals

Union County Panthers basketball photos by Todd Forrest

intermission.

McCombs opened the third with a steal and score then Rowe nailed a trey. Thomas Danek connected from 16-feet before another steal by McCombs resulted in a lay up.

Rowe's second trey of the quarter gave Union a 30-point lead at 56-26 with 3:05 to play in the third. Coyne then rattled off four straight points and Zach Odom tossed in four in-a-row to close the quarter with Union leading 64-34.

Hunter Hughes made his presence felt in the final frame, scoring 6 points. Kyle Hamby,

Elijah Ryals, and Matthew Wasko each added a basket in the fourth.

McCombs finished the contest with 24 points and 4 steals. Zach Odom went for 13 points, 7 assists, and 3 steals. Rowe scored 10 points, grabbed 8 boards, and picked up 5 assists.

Coyne added 9 points and 3 steals, Hughes had 6 points, Danek chipped in 4, Byers had 2 points and a blocked shot, while Ryals, Hamby, and Wasko each finished with 2 points.

The Panthers now be-

gin the toughest stretch of its schedule with four of the last six games on the road.

Union plays host to Rabun County on Tuesday in another vital Region contest. Currently the Panthers sit tied for second - one game back of first place Greene County.

The Panthers must travel to Washington-Wilkes on Friday, Jefferson next Tuesday, Rabun on Feb. 1st and Riverside on Feb. 5th to wrap up a four-game road trip.

The Panthers will return home on Feb. 8th to face Jefferson on Senior Night.

Woody Gap goes out in style, sweep at The Nest

By Joe Collins
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Suches - The Woody Gap basketball teams got their brooms out Friday night as they did some early spring cleaning of the Falcons Nest by winning all three of their last games of the season.

The middle school boys got the ball rolling with a big victory 26-13 as the varsity girls followed with an impressive win 31-10. The varsity boys closed the night as they dominated their opponent 63-28. It was an awesome night for the athletes as they said farewell to their only Seniors Amber Gooch and Staci Clark of the girl's varsity team.

The middle school boy's team got things going in the right direction for Woody Gap as they hit the floor fired up. From the opening tip to the final buzzer it was hustle and grit that saw the Falcons move the ball with authority and hit the boards hard. Austin Clark was an athlete on a mission as he got after the ball hard on defense and worked well with Easton Wood to secure the offense around the circle. Clark ended the game with 8 rebounds,

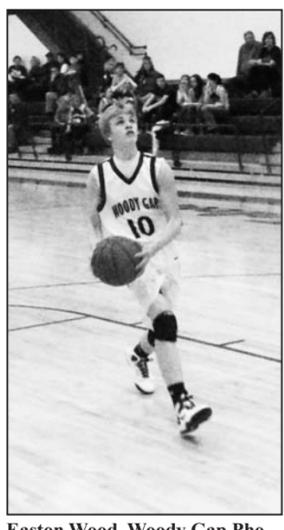


Amber Gooch and Stacy Clark

7 points, 3 assists and 2 points. Wood was also impressive as he led the team in assists with 5 to compliment his 10 rebounds, 6 points and 3 steals.

The Falcon star of the game was Zeb Harkins as he was absolutely on fire. He covered the court like a veteran high school star and ended the game with a team leading 12 points. His performance in the paint was solid as he recorded 13 rebounds to enhance his 4 steals. Alex Carroll controlled the wood under the basket as he cleaned the boards with 6 rebounds and 3 blocked shots. Devin Martin totaled 3 points and 2 rebounds and Joseph Corbin added 2 points and a steal. It was a very well played game for the team and the boys won 26-13.

Head Coach Glenn Kough was proud of his teams effort, "We have really improved as the year has progressed and the boys played really well tonight.



Easton Wood. Woody Gap Photos by Joe Collins

It was a good season for the middle school."

The varsity girls took to the wood for the next game of the night but before of taking care of business they honored Kough for his work this season. It was a shock for him as the girls presented him with a signed and framed photo of the team. Gooch and Clark were also honored as graduating seniors by receiving an autographed team ball and a bouquet of flowers. Tears were shed as the families were allowed to help the athletes say good-bye to their beloved school.

The girls were focused as the game got underway. Gooch and Clark only played the first quarter of the game in order to unselfishly give the rest of the team some playing time. Still, Gooch managed 4 points, 3 rebounds and an assist while Clark added 2 points and a steal.

"We only played our seniors in the first quarter to give

the other girls some playing time since it was the last game of the season. We were cold early but picked up the pace in the second half and moved the ball well off the boards. I am very pleased with our season," declared Kough.

The rest of the team picked up the slack and absolutely played their hearts out. Lauren Adams led the team in scoring with 7 points and added 5 rebounds, 2 steals and an assist. Kianna Martin was second in scoring with 6 points while adding 4 rebounds and 2 steals. Hannah Skipper followed with 5 points including a 3-point goal but most impressively she had 9 rebounds and 6 steals. Shelby Tumlin helped the team with 4 points, 2 steals and an assist. Rebecca Etheridge had 5 rebounds and 2 points and Brooklyn Dockery hustled for 5 rebounds, 3 steals and one point. Kanniesha Martin, Heather Sorrells and Kelli Tritt got in on the action by providing some solid defense to help the Lady Falcons win 31-10.

The varsity boys commanded the floor next and put on a show. There were no seniors to honor on their team so it was business as usual for the guys and they got busy early and often to claim the victory 63-28.

Eli Gooch took control of the inside as the big man on the court and kept the opponents from controlling the boards. He led the team in stats with 17 points, 14 rebounds, 3 blocked shots and 2 assists. Konner Sosebee was solid on the night and followed with 16 points, 9 rebounds, 2 steals and 2 assists. Casey McKim had 12 points 6 steals, 3 rebounds and 2 assists. Larry Chancey was very aggres-

Union County Recreation Department 2013 upcoming events

The Union County Recreation Department announces 2013 upcoming events, for more information contact 706-439-6074.

The Baseball/Softball/Coach Pitch/T Ball/Start Smart registration for ages 3 - 14 began on January 14th and will end on February 15th. \$50 fee, anyone not registered by

February 15 will be charged an additional \$10 late registration fee and will be placed on a waiting list. Ditch the workout and join the party! Zumba/Ab & More/Toning schedule is available at www.unioncountyrecreation.com. \$5 per class or \$35 monthly unlimited classes.

I was very pleased with how we moved the ball off the boards and got it down the court to score. It was a great game and a good way to end a season that saw the young guys learn a lot about how to play the game. We have no graduating seniors this year so next year could be even better," proclaimed Kough.

Congratulations Woody Gap Falcons basketball team on a great season. We all look forward to next year and the prospects it holds.

Spring MUSA Registration

The Mountain United Soccer Association is ready for Spring Soccer. Registrations are now being accepted. Registration forms will be mailed to past registered players. You can also get forms at www.mountainsoccer.org.

The Fall 2012 season was a big success. Younger teams played in Blairsville, Hiawassee, and Blue Ridge. The older age groups competed throughout Georgia.

In Blairsville, Cott Beverage is our community host for the soccer fields. In Hiawassee, the fairgrounds through the recreation department have been the host The league is grateful for their commitment and support for the youth in our communities.

The Spring season will begin in April. Anyone who is interested in playing needs to get a registration form in as soon as possible, in some cases space is limited.

NEW! Now being offered... Get in shape this season with the Fitness/Kickboxing class now being offered by the Blairsville School of Dance Thursdays at 6:30

Blairsville School of Dance 706-897-2042

Blairsville School of Dance Now offering Twirl Classes at the Blairsville School of Dance on Thursdays at 5:30 706-897-2042