

# Sports

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## Mock Trial dominates at District



Union County's Mock Trial Team District competition award winners (left to right): Sage Royston - Outstanding Attorney, Kat Capstick - Outstanding Witness, Matt Penney - Outstanding Witness, Canaan Dyer - Outstanding Witness, Brooke Hamby - Outstanding Attorney.

**Cartersville** - The Union County High School Mock Trial team has done it again.

Over the weekend, the Mock Trial team defeated Pinecrest Academy at the Bartow County Courthouse for its second District Championship in three years.

Through the first two rounds of the competition, Union County was victorious in all four courtrooms - winning

12-out-of-12 evaluator ballots, and outperforming Union's 2014 District-winning Mock Trial team that won 11-of-12 ballots.

Five team members claimed a total of seven individual awards for their performance: Sage Royston and Brooke Hamby each won two Outstanding Attorney awards.

Kat Capstick, Canaan Dyer, and Matt Penney each won

Outstanding Witness awards.

Union County is now one of the final eight teams in the State and will take part in the State competition on Saturday, March 19th at the Gwinnett Justice Center in Lawrenceville.

Two years ago when Union County reached State, Capstick and Royston - then sophomores - each picked up Outstanding Awards - with Capstick claiming two.

## 10&U All Stars headed to State



Back row L-R: Assistant Coach Jason Seabolt, Coach Shane Mullanack. Middle row: Jaycee Seabolt, Lara Turner, Kyla Mullanack, Morgan Warren, Tessah Collins, Assistant Coach Kayla Phillips. Front row: Kamryn Mull, Chloe Potts, Georgia Patton, Emily Lockwood, Layla Akins.

**Cleveland** - Congratulations to the Union County Recreation Department's 10&Under Girls All Star Team, who placed second at last weekend's District Tournament in White County, and will travel to Rabun County for the State Tournament beginning on March 4th.

The Lady Panthers defeated Banks County and Rabun

County to earn a spot in the District Championship against Lumpkin County, who came out on top.

However, the Lady Panthers still qualify for this weekend's State Tournament in Rabun County where they will face Berrien County at 6:45 p.m. Friday on Court 2.

A win for Union on Friday and they will play Saturday morning at 11:30 a.m. on Court 1 vs the loser of Rabun County/Morgan County.

A loss and they will play at 10:15 a.m. on Court 2 vs the winner of Rabun County/Morgan County.

Admission is \$5 for adults and \$2 for senior citizens and students.

## Panthers and Indians split early-season doubleheader

By Todd Forrest  
North Georgia News  
sports@nganews.com

Union and Towns split a doubleheader on Saturday with Union rallying for an 8-7 victory in game one after the Panthers' 6-0 advantage evaporated into a 7-6 deficit entering the bottom of the sixth inning.

The second game saw the Indians put up four runs in the first inning en route to a 5-2 victory. Towns County combined for 12 runs in two games despite recording only six hits total (three infield singles) during the doubleheader.

With the Panthers' basketball team reaching the Sweet 16, Head Coach Robby Roxbury's baseball team was without eight key players until last Monday. However, lousy weather limited Union's ability to practice with a full squad. Meanwhile, the Indians only one game of the season came one week prior, and they also fell victim to the cold, wet and windy weather that hit North Georgia last week. As a result, the first meeting between the two teams lasted more than three hours with both squads suffering from a myriad of walks and errors.



RJ Banton clears the bases with a two-out double. Photo/Todd Forrest



Will King



Andrew Brown with one of his two 2-out, RBI hits. Photo/Todd Forrest



Cole Davis with a base hit vs Towns County. Photo/Todd Forrest

**Panthers 8  
Towns County 7**

In the opener, the Panthers drew first blood with a pair of runs in the second inning when sophomore Crawford Colwell was hit-by-a-pitch with the bases loaded to put Union on the board. Senior Andrew Brown followed with an RBI single to stake the Panthers to a 2-0 lead.

Union struck again with two outs in the third inning on a bases clearing, opposite field double by sophomore catcher RJ Banton to deep left.

Leading 5-0 in the top half of the third, senior Will King relieved starting pitcher Joseph Mancuso with two on and two outs and recorded a strikeout to preserve the five-run advantage.

In the bottom half of the inning, sophomore Patrick Baggett drew a two-out walk and stole second allowing senior Lance Rich to drive him in with a line drive single to left.

Trailing 6-0 after three, Towns made it a game by responding with four runs in the fourth. The Indians opened with a walk and an infield single, then a passed ball put runners on second and third with nobody out. An Indians' bunt resulted in a force out at home, however, a free pass loaded the bags and Towns recorded its second run on a sacrifice fly to left field off sophomore Candler Colwell, who entered with the bases loaded and one out.

The Indians added two more runs on a dropped fly ball in the ensuing at bat to make it a 6-4 game. Union escaped the

inning thanks to an shallow, off balance catch in shallow right field by sophomore second baseman Logan Dyer to steal a hit and save a run.

Towns took the lead in the sixth with a pair of hit batters to open the inning, then another outfield error brought in a run. The Indians followed with their only extra base hit of the series - a double to deep centerfield that scored two more runs and gave the visitors a 7-6 lead. Candler Colwell recorded a K for the second out and sophomore Cole Davis made a running catch in right field to end the Indians' half of the inning.

With one out in the bottom of the sixth, Banton was hit by a pitch and freshman Ean Harkins entered as his courtesy runner. Up next for the Panthers was junior Dawson Groves who laced an opposite field triple to right-center to knot the score at 7-7. With two outs, Brown

delivered in the clutch with another two-out base hit and Union entered the seventh and final inning up 8-7.

Freshman Coleson Daniel took the mound for the Panthers and got the leadoff man to fly out to right. The next hitter beat out a slow roller to third but Union's freshman right-hander fanned the next two hitters to nail down the save.

**Panthers 2  
Towns County 5**

In the second game, Union out-hit the Indians 4-to-2 but four errors were the undoing of the Panthers in a 5-2 loss.

After stranding two runners in the top half of the first, Towns posted four runs in the bottom half of the inning off of Rich.

A leadoff walk was followed by a run scoring single but Rich struck out the next



Union Head Coach Robby Roxbury has a conference with his pitcher and infield. Photo/Todd Forrest

hitter for the first out. Two more walks would load the bases but Rich recorded another strikeout for the second out. Unfortunately an infield error allowed the Indians to bring home two more runs and take a 4-0 advantage after one inning, despite Rich striking out the side.

Union got a run back in the second when Brown reached on an infield single, stole second, then scored on a base hit by Davis. Up next, Baggett reached to put two aboard but the Indians escaped without allowing any further damage.

With freshman Jackson Colwell taking over on the mound, Towns capitalized on a one-out walk in the bottom of the second, thanks to a pair of Panther errors that spotted the Indians a 5-1 lead entering the third inning of the second game that was only scheduled for five innings.

Mancuso doubled to left to leadoff the third and later

scored Union's second and final run of the contest.

Davis, the left-hander, took the mound and silenced the Indians in the fourth inning but the top of the Panthers' lineup went down 1-2-3 in the fifth and final inning.

**Game one stats:**  
OFFENSE - Baggett 1-for-2, a double, 2 runs, 2 walks, and a stolen base. Rich 2-for-3, an RBI, 2 runs, and 1 walk. Mancuso 1-for-4 with 1 run. Banton 1-for-2, a double, 3 RBIs, and 1 walk. Groves 1-for-4, a triple, 1 RBI, and 1 run. Crawford Colwell 0-for-1, an RBI, and 2 walks. Brown 2-for-4 with 2 RBIs. Candler Colwell 1-for-4. Davis 1-for-4 with a run. Harkins 1 run.

**PITCHING** - Mancuso 2 2/3 innings, 0 runs, 1 hit, 7 strikeouts, and 4 walks. King 2/3 inning, 4 runs, 2 earned runs, 1 hit, 1 strikeout, and 3 walks. Candler Colwell 2 2/3 innings, 3 runs, 2 earned runs,

1 hit, 2 strikeouts, and a walk. Daniel 1 inning, 0 runs, 1 hit, 2 strikeouts, 0 walks. Winning pitcher - Candler Colwell. Save - Daniel.

**Game two stats:**  
OFFENSE - Baggett 1-for-3, Mancuso 1-for-2, a double, 1 run, 1 walk, and 2 stolen bases. Banton 0-for-1 and 1 walk. Brown 1-for-2, a run, and 1 stolen base. Davis 1-for-2 and 1 RBI.

**PITCHING** - Rich 1 inning, 4 runs, 2 earned runs, 2 hits, 3 strikeouts, and 3 walks. Jackson Colwell 2 innings, 1 run, 0 earned runs, 0 hits, 0 strikeouts, 1 walk. Davis 1 inning, 0 runs, 0 hits, 1 strikeout, and 2 walks.

**Upcoming games:** Tuesday, March 1st at Fannin County - 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 3rd vs Gilmer County - 5 p.m.

Friday, March 4th vs Washington Wilkes (doubleheader) - 4:30 p.m.