

Baseball...continued from page 12A

rett Nix entered for Duck, but the wind nabbed a deep fly by Aulet, resulting in the second out. Bentley grounded to second to end the inning and send the contest into extras.

The Dragons went down without a fight in an 11-pitch top half of the eighth.

The bottom of the eighth saw the baseball gods intervene on Jefferson's behalf again when Everett, who singled to open the inning, was clipped by a grounder off the bat of Rich, keeping Everett out of scoring position and putting the first out on the board. The exact same play happened to the Panthers during the latter stages of the first meeting at Jefferson. A pair of ground outs by Patton and Croskey followed and the game headed to the ninth.

A pop up to Odom was sandwiched between two strikeouts and Duckworth put the Dragons away 1-2-3 in the top half.

Pinch hitter Robert Prunier and Odom struck out in the bottom of the ninth and Duckworth's slow roller to short resulted in Ford's barehanded scoop, sending the game into the 10th.

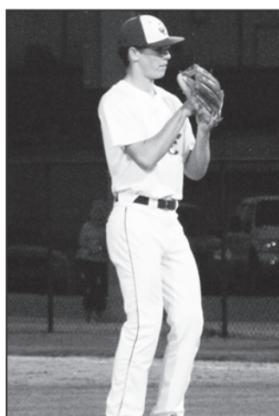
A leadoff walk was followed by a Panther error, and another free pass loaded the bases, while knocking Duckworth out of the game and essentially opening the flood gates for the Dragons.

Freshman Joseph Mancuso entered in a difficult situation, but quickly got ahead of Micah Carpenter, but a two-strike double brought in two.

Mancuso got Trent Sorrells to bounce back to the mound for an out. The next two hitters drew a base-on-balls, the second bringing in a run, but the Panther freshman blew a 3-2 fastball by Jake Franklin for out number two.

Trailing 4-1, Union allowed a two-run double, that brought sophomore Tyler Odom to the mound.

Tyler Odom gave up a



Joseph Mancuso

two-run single but got the third out when Aulet made a spectacular play on a pop up on the steps of the visitors' dugout.

Facing an 8-1 hole, Union County went down in order in the bottom of the 10th. Despite a lop-sided final score, Bradburn and his team know that they can play with anyone as it took the the No. 1 team in the state 21 innings to post a multi-run inning against the Panther pitching staff.

"I'm so proud of our guys, we really showed some toughness in holding down one of the best teams in AA for so long," Bradburn said. "We are upset about losing, but hoping our best days are still ahead of us and we will get the bats hot soon."

In the end, the Panthers were out hit 14-6, with Jefferson doing most of its damage in the 10th. Union committed two errors and other than a passed ball, the Dragons played a flawless game defensively.

"I felt like we hit the ball pretty hard, but again they were right at them," Bradburn said. "They played great defense and that is how it goes sometimes."

The Panther arms allowed 10 walks and struck out 6, while Jefferson's sophomore duo of Carpenter and Franklin walked 4 and struck out 8 Panthers. Also, Carpenter and Ford



(L-R) Everett, Bradburn, Barnett

tallied three hits each to lead the Dragon offense.

"Walks have hurt us this season," Bradburn said. "Our defense usually bails us out, but it's no way to live. It gives me grey hairs. It finally came back to bite us in the 10th inning, lead off walks and two-out walks are hard to pitch around."

The Panthers had a tough time getting clutch hits, and against a top-tier team like Jefferson, runs are at a premium and it showed as Union left 10 runners on base and went 1-for-13 with runners on.

Jefferson could say the same as they left 15 runners on base, but five of their eight runs came with two-outs, and that was the difference.

"We had several situations where they could have scored earlier in the game, but we pitched around them and played pretty good defense to keep them off the board," Bradburn said. "Our pitching did not lose the game for us, it was simply not getting those hits to drop with runners in scoring position."

The Panthers next Region game will be Tuesday at Riverside Military Academy where a win could lock up the No. 2 spot in 8-AA and guarantee that Union will host the first round of the State Tournament. With the potential of hosting a playoff series for the first time in 18



Duckworth gets hit by a pitch

years, Bradburn wants his team to go for the knockout early.

"A win against Riverside will pretty much lock up the No. 2 seed," Bradburn said. "And even if we lose, we still have a really good chance of holding on to that spot. But I'm going to stress getting out to a fast start against Riverside."

Riverside fell 12-2 to Jefferson on Friday, giving Union a three-game lead over the Eagles and putting Riverside on the outside-looking-in when it comes to the State playoffs.

Rabun County swept a double-header from third place Oglethorpe County, moving the Wildcats into third, one game back of Union and dropping the Patriots into fourth place, two games back of Union.

The Panthers swept both Rabun and Oglethorpe giving Union the tiebreaker, essentially putting Union two games ahead of Rabun, who visits Jefferson on Tuesday. A Union win at Riverside, combined with a Rabun loss to the top-ranked Dragons will secure Union a home field State playoff series.

Friday, Union hosts a 4-16 Washington Wilkes squad for a doubleheader. The Tigers lost twice to both Jefferson and Rabun, by a combined score of 40-4 in the four games. The double-header also will be Union's Senior Night.

Playoff time: Woody Gap tennis completes its regular season

By Todd Forrest
North Georgia News
sports@nganews.com



Last week Woody Gap traveled to Area opponent Lakeview Academy in Gainesville, and Class AAA's Dawson County as No. 1 Lady Falcon Amber Gooch won both of her matches.

Meanwhile, Falcon No. 1 Eli Gooch won his match 8-5 over Lakeview's Bennett Smith, but fell 6-8 at Dawson County.

Amber Gooch had little trouble in her match at Dawson County taking it in straight sets 8-0.

At Lakeview, Amber Gooch disposed of the Lady Lions' No. 1 by a score of 8-5.

Woody Gap No. 2 Shelby Tumlin won her match 8-6 and No. 3 Kanesha Martin dropped her match 3-8.

The Falcons' No. 2 Easton Wood dropped his match 0-8, but was more competitive than the score indicated.

ton Wood dropped his match 0-8, but was more competitive than the score indicated.

"It was extremely competitive," Woody Gap Head Coach Glen Kough said. "It was an even match but the score does not show it."

No. 3 Dakota Etheridge

picked up a win by a score of 8-3.

In doubles competition at Lakeview, Staci Clark and Rebecca Etheridge fell 2-8 and Lauren Adams and Brooklyn Dockery dropped their match 1-8.

Dakota Etheridge and

Easton Wood dropped their doubles match 1-8, but Casey McKim and Konnor Sosebee picked up an 8-2 win, giving Woody Gap the overall win by a score of 3-2.

In other matches at Dawson County, Tumlin fell 1-8, Clark and Rebecca Etheridge fell 5-8 and Adams and Martin dropped their doubles match by a 3-8 score.

"Martin and Adams were losing 7-0, but didn't want to be shutout so they won three straight games before the end of the match," Kough said.

In boys' doubles action, Dakota Etheridge and Wood fell 1-8 but McKim and Sosebee responded with another win, taking their match 8-6, after falling behind 3-0 early.

Up next for Woody Gap will be the Area Tournament at The Darlington School in Rome on Monday, April 22nd as they will look to reach State.

Donkey Ball at Woody Gap



Woody Gap P.T.S.O. and K.I.S.S. Club introduces Donkey Ball! On April 18th at 7 PM, at the Woody Gap Gymnasium. Tickets: adults \$8; children \$6; and children 5 and under free! Call for more details! 706-747-2005.

Woody Gap fundraiser

On April 27th, the Seniors of Woody Gap will have a booth set up at Ingles in Blairsville. We will have a variety of wood projects hand crafted and built by the students at Woody Gap.

To list a few of the items: Indoor Shuffle Board Game, Corn Hole Game, Indoor and outdoor Planters, Country Grandfather Clock, Lighthouse CD, DVD Holder, Bird Houses, Laundry Room Clothes Hanger Holder, Clothes Hamper Organizer, Wooden Cross with Jesus and more.

Please come by and help the seniors raise money for their Senior Trip. We will be there from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Also, we will have a catalogue of projects if you would like anything built or customized.

Boy Scout Troop 101 Annual Chicken Q Fundraiser

Boy Scout Troop 101 will be holding their Chicken Q Annual Fundraiser on Saturday, April 20, 2013 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the GM-REC Experiment Station. \$7 donation per plate includes: 1/2 BBQ chicken, coleslaw, baked beans, roll, and bottle water.

Help these young men raise money for summer camp and other scouting adventures. If you are interested in Boy Scouts come see what we are all about. N(Apr17,21)CA

Eagle on #5



Eddie Alexander

Eddie Alexander hit two great shots on number five hole (Par 5 Hole) at Butternut Golf Course then proceeded to putt for an Eagle and made the shot!

This tremendous effort was witnessed by Jack Reis of Towns County. Hats off to Eddie! N(Apr17,27)CA

Batting Cages

Meeks Park Automatic Batting Cages now open for the season. Mon, Tues, Thurs, and Fri 5:30pm- 7:30pm. Sat from 10am-2pm closed on Wed.

Joe Collins

Tips from the Range

Now that we have learned a lot about the fundamentals that control the set up and backswing, lets take a look at getting the club through impact, or in other words, the downswing.

Last week we looked at the weight transfer and how it helps lead the start of the backswing. We also touched on the beginning of the downswing in relation to that weight transfer. The center of gravity moves to the back foot by rotating the upper body and the club is then released to the top of the arc where it will begin its downward motion into impact.

At this point in the swing, you should feel as though you are away from the ball with your knees bent. Your balance should be over the ankles with most of your weight on the inside of the back foot. I like to think of this inside position as the "pivot point" of the weight transfer. Keeping the weight over the pivot point will really help you maintain your balance and allow you to start the downswing with the lower body.

Now that your weight is on the back foot and located over the pivot point, we must focus on the position of the spine angle. The spine must remain in the original position that you estab-

lished at address so the shoulders can rotate on the same path back and through. The proper shoulder rotation is crucial in keeping the club on the proper path during the downswing.

Another very important aspect of the downswing is keeping the forward arm straight. This rigidity of the forward arm is the main connection of the club to the shoulders and will allow the club to follow the correct inside path it needs in order to be square at impact. Make sure that you don't re-grip the club during the start of the downswing or the club face will not square correctly at impact.

When the above mentioned elements are in place, things become pretty simple. You push of the inside pivot point and rotate the hips to transfer the weight to the front foot while keeping your back toward the target for as long as you can. Let the arms fall to the inside of the backswing path so the forward arm will rotate the club face square. Don't force any action with the hands and make sure you keep your head behind the ball.

The downswing is a complicated motion and requires some dedicated movement. Take it slow and make sure the positions you place the club in are correct in relation to your balance because balance is the key to making the swing happen correctly.

Good luck and I will see you on the course!

North Georgia Gun Show returns

The North Georgia Gun Show is rolling into Blairsville this Friday, April 19th and Saturday, April 20th! This show will have over one hundred plus tables of ammo, rifles, pistols and related gun accessories and merchandise. Two show dealers will be selling "assault rifles" exclusively. These are the guns that are causing most of the political rhetoric across the nation. In the near future, if the politicians have their way, gun shows could become an extinct American past time.

The 2nd Amendment "controversy" is headlining on all the news channels and is on top of everyone's mind these days. On Saturday, at 2 p.m., Dr. Dan Eichenbaum will be doing a visual and audio presentation on this God given Amendment. The North Georgia Gun Show is a buy, sell and trade style show. You may bring your

unloaded weapons for vendors to consider for trade or sale.

In typical North Georgia Gun Show fashion, political trivia questions will be asked to the show goers with prizes given away every hour.

By bringing two cans of food for the Union County Food Bank, you will be entered into an exclusive grand prize drawing of an one hundred dollar gift certificate to Cherokee Discount Guns and More in Murphy, NC. (Winner does not need to be present to win.) This can drive helps hungry families in Union County.

Gun Show hours are: Friday 2 p.m. - 8 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Food and beverage will be available and tickets will be only available at the door for \$7 with kids ten and under free. For more information, please go to the Website, www.ngagunshow.com.

Boating Safety course being offered

On Saturday, April 27th from 8 AM to 5 PM the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Law Enforcement Section and the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary will be conducting a Boater Education course. This course will cover topics such as basic boat nomenclature, rules of the road, required safety equipment and maritime navigation.

A new law that is intended to bring a safer boating experience for all Georgians and visitors to our waterways will become effective on July 1, 2014. This law requires that all persons born on or after January 1, 1998 to successfully complete a boater education course.

The Boater Education course will be held at the Haralson Memorial Civic Center at 185 Welborn Street in Blairsville. To sign up for this course or for any boating

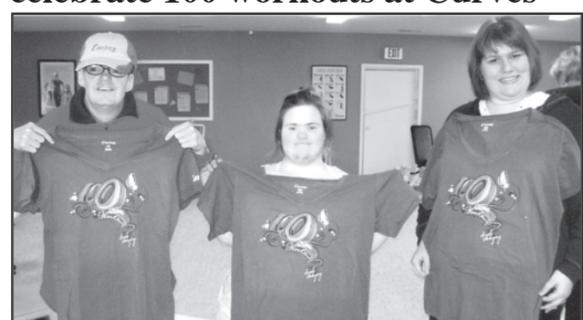
related questions, please call the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Office in Gainesville at 770-535-5499. Anyone interested must sign up by April 22, 2013.

The Boater Education Course may also be taken as a home study program. There is a one-time fee for this option. You can find out about this method by contacting:

BOAT ED - 1-800-460-9698. U.S. Power Squadron - www.americasboatingcourse.com. Online versions are also available for a one-time fee. Information can be obtained about this method by contacting: Boat U.S. Foundation - 800-336-2628. BOAT ED - 800-830-2268. PWC Safety School - www.pwcsafety-school.com. Boater Exam - www.boaterexam.com/usa/georgia.

Have a safe and enjoyable boating season. N(Apr17,21)SH

Day Retreat Ladies celebrate 100 workouts at Curves



Day Retreat Ladies showing off their "100 Workout T-shirt" awards. Amy Land, Marie Legg and Stephanie Fiske recently completed their 100th workout at Curves. The ladies have been attending Curves every week since 2011. Together they have lost weight and gained self-esteem. They are proud of themselves!

For their achievement they were awarded t-shirts from the staff at Curves that proudly display their 100 workouts. The staff at Curves have been very supportive to

the ladies as have their clients. We look forward to going to Curves every Thursday! Keep up the great work ladies! We are very proud of you at Day Retreat!

Day Retreat is a center for people with developmental disabilities. It is a person centered facility that focuses on independent living, life and social skills as well as community integration. For more information please contact Kym Szczepanski at 706-370-2318.

Trout stocking sites week of April 8-12, 2013

Fannin: Big Creek, Hemptown Creek, Rock Creek, Toccoa River Tailwaters (below Lake Blue Ridge Dam). Lumpkin: Etowah River and Nimbwill Creek. Murray: Holly Creek. Union: Cooper Creek, Toccoa River, and Winfield Scott Lake. Note: Information is subject to change. Please call the hatchery at 706-838-4723 for questions. The hatchery also provides trout for the state. Please contact Georgia DNR for information on sites stocked by the state. N(Apr17,25)CA

Turkey Shoot

May 4th • 9 a.m.

Sponsored By

ALEXANDER'S STORE

20 Rounds of Shooting with prizes every round donated by Alexander's Store with Grand Prizes also.

It's for a GREAT cause!

For More Information Contact:

Larry Stover 706.897.9769

Directions from Blairsville: Take Hwy 129 South (Gainesville Hwy.) approx 8 miles. Turkey Shoot will be held in the field on the left just past Owltown Rd. If you make it to Hwy. 180 East you've went too far.