

Golf: Lady Panthers dominate Region by 40 strokes

Jeremy Herum takes Low Medalist honors at Region Tourney; advances to State

By Todd Forrest
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Monroe - The Union County Lady Panthers golf team proved on Monday that last year's state third place finish was no fluke, and this year, they've got their sights set on an even higher prize.

And with all four golfers returning from last year's team that finished as the No. 2 public school in Georgia, the sky is the limit.

Maddie Horinek was the overall Low Medalist at last week's Region 8-AA Tournament with a 76.

Ally Horinek fired an 80, Megan Rowe finished with a 91, and Grace Wishmeyer shot a 106 to round out Union's top four, that was 40 shots better than Social Circle, who was essentially playing a home match.

Union finished with a 156, compared to Social Circle's 196, whose top two posted scores of 81 and 115.

Rabun County was third at 213 with top two scores of 102 and 111. Oglethorpe County



The 2016 Region 8-AA Golf Champions: the Union County Lady Panthers. Photo/submitted

finished fourth.

In the boys tournament, Union's Jeremy Herum also took Low Medalist honors after firing a tournament-best 81.

However, the team just

missed out on qualifying for the State Tournament after finishing in third - nine strikes back of first place Rabun County.

Herum was followed by a pair of 92's from Brady Lawn and

Luke Watson. Grayson Blocker shot a 99, Charles Johnson a 106, and Eli Dills a 110.

The boys didn't qualify for Sectionals, where they would receive an opportunity to compete



Jeremy Herum took Low Medalist honors at Region. Photo/submitted

for a slot at the State Tourney. Although, if not enough teams shoot low enough to qualify for next month's Sectionals, Union could be allowed to participate.

As more Region scores roll

in from across the State, Union's guys will learn if they qualify for Sectionals later this month.

Meanwhile, the girls will compete at State in Augusta on May, 16.

Soccer: Panthers blank Wilkes; clinch second in Region 8-AA

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Without the services of junior midfielders Lawson Baenninger and Sam Seiler due to injury, Union County guaranteed themselves no worse than a tie for second in Region 8-AA following a 4-0 shutout of Washington Wilkes on Friday.

On Senior Night, senior keeper Justin Eigel scored the first goal of his career on a second half penalty kick to put the finishing touches on the four-goal victory.

"That was a fitting tribute to a four-year starter who has stopped so many goals in his career," Union County Head Coach Tim Hunter said.

Other goals came from junior Parker McCombs, sophomore Lance Underwood, and freshman Brian Smith.

Smith also added an assist, as did Ulises Montelongo.

In Commerce on Tuesday, East Jackson broke a 2-2 tie in the second half to secure a 3-2 victory over Union County last week.

Senior Jake Waltz and Seiler scored Union's goals with sophomore Lance Underwood adding an assist.

This week, Union has three contests beginning at Lumpkin County on Tuesday, then at Oglethorpe on Thursday, and finally, the Panthers will host Towns on Friday in a makeup game.

Baenninger and Seiler will not suit up this week in hopes they can return for the State Tournament on Apr. 28.

Should Union lose to at Oglethorpe, the Panthers would

finish tied for second with Social Circle and Rabun, and since Union beat both, the tiebreaker would belong to the Purple and Gold.

Making the most of Union's final State Tournament in Class AA: In the first round of State, the Panthers will host the No. 3 team from Region 5-AA, and according to Coach Hunter, 8-AA has an excellent shot of sweeping all four first round games from 5-AA.

Region 8-AA and Region 5-AA have already met during the regular season when 5-AA's top team, Bremen fell to Social Circle 5-2. Social Circle also routed Region 5-AA's No. 2 team, Temple 10-0. The Panthers beat Social Circle in overtime last month.

Union's likely first round opponents are Bowdon or Manchester.

Manchester lost 10-0 to Bremen and 5-0 to Temple. Bowdon fell 8-0 to Bremen and 3-0 to Temple.

The first round of State is scheduled for Apr. 28 at Mike Colwell Memorial Stadium.

Panthers 2016 season stats - Goals: Seiler - 9, Brian Smith and McCombs 6, Underwood 2, Lawson Baenninger, Jesus Mancillas, Hayden Smith, Ulises Montelongo, Eigel, Matthew Van Pelt, Sean Dobbins, Waltz 1.

Assists: Underwood 4, Baenninger 3, Seiler, Dobbins, Gehrig Patterson, Brian Smith, Montelongo 1.

Points: Seiler - 19, Brian Smith 13, McCombs 12, Underwood 8, Baenninger 5, Dobbins and Montelongo 3. Van Pelt, Mancillas, Waltz, Hayden Smith, Eigel 2. Patterson 1.



Senior Dylan Byers with family.



Senior Daniel Kumler with family.



Senior Cristian Garcia with family.



Senior Jesus Mancillas with family.



Senior Matthew Van Pelt with family.



Senior Brett Dobbins (24) with family.



Senior Brooks Patterson (20) with family.

Track meet at Dawson a glimpse at Union's future

By Todd Forrest
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Dawsonville - Last week the Union County Track and Field program got up-close and personal with Region 7-AAA, a league Union will be joining at the start of the 2016-17 school year.

Competing with Dawson, Lumpkin, and Fannin Counties, Jacob Kelley and Emma Garrison - who both graduate before Union makes its jump to Class AAA - recorded first place times in three events.

Garrison, the most highly decorated female runner in school history finished first in the 1600M and 800M races.

Kelley placed first in the 400M event and second in the High Jump.

Other runner-up finishes for Union include Zach Stone - Long Jump, Emmeline Stuart - 300M Hurdles, and Courtney

Moose - Shot Put. The girls 4x400 Relay team of Garrison, Stuart, Jordan Stubblefield, and Anna Danek also placed second.

Third place finishes: Danek - 3200M and the boys 4x100 Relay team (Kelley, Stone, Chad Buzzard, Aaron Hill).

Fourth place finishes: Danek - 800M and Triple Jump. Stephanie Busse - Shot Put, Zack Gilliam - Shot Put, Stubblefield - 400M, Hill - 400M, and the boys 4x400 Relay team (Kelley, Stone, Buzzard, Hill).

Fifth place finishes: Busse - 3200M, Evan Brownning - 3200M, Chris Drost - Shot Put and Discus. Cole Payne - 800M, and Buzzard - Triple Jump.

On Wednesday, Union takes part in the region preliminaries at Rabun County.

The top eight in each event will advance to the Region finals on Friday.



Union County freshman Chad Buzzard. Photo/submitted



Trout stocking sites week of April 11-15, 2016

Fannin: Toccoa River, Toccoa River Tailwaters of Lake Blue Ridge, and Rock Creek.

Lumpkin: Etowah River and Nimblewill Creek.

Murray: Holly Creek.

Union: Cooper Creek.

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/Apr20,28)CA



Senior Justin Eigel with family.



Senior Jesus Palomo with family.



Senior Jake Waltz with family.

Union County Soccer Senior Night photos by Todd Forrest