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Preseason: Lady Panthers finish week 2-1-1

By Todd Forrest North Georgia News sports@nganews.com

The Union County Lady Panthers had a busy week with two games on Monday and two more on Tuesday.

Monday, Union fell to Fannin County 4-2 before defeating Towns County 4-2. On Tuesday, the Lady Panthers tied Heritage-Conyers at 7-7 and knocked off Gilmer County 3-2.

Against Fannin and Towns, Coach Jessica Stewart gave the ball to freshman Laken Chambers in both games. She would go the distance in both contests.

In Union's loss to Fannin, the Lady Panthers' lone loss on the Summer League season, the Lady Rebels jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the third. Union got a run back in the fifth but Fannin responded with a run in the sixth, and another in the seventh - taking a 4-1 lead entering Union's final at bat.

The Lady Panthers put two on, bringing the tying run to the plate with one out, but only managed one run as consecutive strikeouts derailed the Union rally. Three hits was all the

Lady Panthers could muster offensively, as the 1-through-4 hitters in the lineup were a combined 0-11. Sophomore Maddie Garrett was the only hot bat in the

lineup, as the centerfielder went 2-for-2 with a double, a run, and a walk. Junior infielder Hallye

King finished 1-for-3, including a single in the bottom of the seventh.

Chambers got out of trouble in the first inning, leaving two Fannin runners stranded by inducing three ground balls to keep a goose egg on Fannin's side of the scoreboard.

Union went three-upthree down in the bottom half of the first, and Fannin did the same in the second. Chambers struck out the first two hitters of the inning before the third out came via a tapper back to

The Lady Panthers missed a scoring opportunity in the second, leaving Garrett stranded at third.

Junior Courtney Busbee's slow roller to short put lined an opposite field double to

the gap in right center. With one out and Garrett in scoring position, King's deep fly to right was corralled by the Fannin outfielder, allowing Garrett to tag-up and advance to third. Unfortunately, Kelsey Nix's grounder to second re-

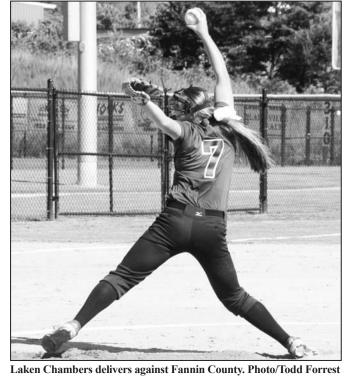
sulted in the third out. The Lady Rebels struck in the third when a lead-off error put a runner on with nobody out. Then a bunt single put two aboard, before sacrifice bunt both runners into scoring

position.

A double to deep center brought in two Fannin runners for the first runs of the contest. However, Chambers would settle down and record a grounder back to the circle and striking out the final batter,



Madison Horinek





Maddie Garrett singles against Fannin County. Photo/Todd Forrest



Courtney Busbee fields a Lady Rebel bunt. Photo/Todd Forrest

one out on the board but Garrett Busbee bounced out to short third out. setting up the third out, when an out trying to reach third on the throw to first.

The top of the fourth saw Chambers work around a lead-off single and stolen base. The freshman righty got two grounders then sat down the third out looking.

The Lady Panthers did walk in the bottom of the

After Madison Rich and Chambers were retired, Courtney Busbee reached on a free pass, Garrett singled, allowing Courtney Busbee to score when the right fielder let Garrett's single roll under her glove. That

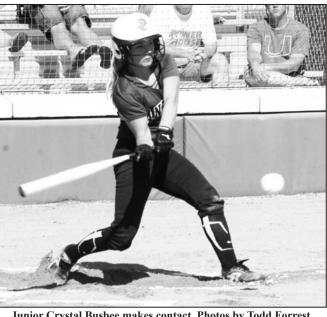
on an errant throw from the was all the damage Union could Fannin pitcher. A strikeout deliver as King's hard grounder followed then junior Crystal to short was snagged for the

Fannin went down in aggressive Stroman was thrown order in the fifth, but a leadoff walk from Union went to waste due to a missed sign, resulting in failed steal attempt.

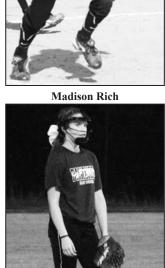
Fannin benefited from a leadoff double, a passed ball, and a two walks to get a run in during the sixth, making it a 3-1 game.

A 1-2-3 inning was the take advantage of a two-out story in Union's half of the sixth, and Fannin was able to add an insurance run in the

seventh. A single to open the inning was followed by a sacrifice bunt. With two outs, the Lady Rebels delivered a single to take a 3-run advantage into the bottom of the seventh.



Junior Crystal Busbee makes contact. Photos by Todd Forrest



Kendra Tanner



Courtney Busbee flew out but Garrett reached on a walk. King singled, bringing freshman Kendra Tanner into the game as a pinch runner. With the tying run at the plate, Union went down swinging for the second out, and we're caught looking for the third final out.

In the second contest, Union faced the Towns County Lady Indians and jumped out to a quick 4-0 lead after one

Towns picked up two in the fourth but the Lady Panthers held on 4-2.

Coach Jessica Stewart went with her bench for the entire game, starting all freshmen and sophomores, giving eight of her nine starters a break.

Chambers struck out 10 in the five-inning affair, allowed three singles, and four

Freshman Madison Horinek went 1-for-1 with two walks and a run. Another freshman, Lydia Arrowood finished 1-for-3 with a walk and a run. Chambers helped her



Johnna Langston

MUSA registration currently underway

Association is ready for Fall

Registrations are currently being accepted. Forms have been mailed to players who have participated in previous seasons.

Forms are also available by visiting the league's website: www.mountainsoc-

In Blairsville, CottBeverage is our community host for the soccer fields. In Hia-

Mountain United Soccer wassee, the fields at the Towns youth player. Field Sponsors, County Fairgrounds are utilized through the cooperation of the local recreation department. The league is grateful for their commitment and support.

The fall season will begin in early September. Anyone who is interested in playing needs to register promptly. In some cases space is limited.

MUSA is a volunteer run organization and is also a 501C3 nonprofit. Any and all donations are directed to the org

Sign Sponsors and Team Sponsors are always needed. If you are interested in

supporting the youth soccer players in our community through sponsorship and/or donation, please contact the association. For additional infor-

mation contact the league at 706-994-4351, musa.soccer@ gmail.com or visit us on the web at www.mountainsoccer.



Photo courtesy of MUSA

Joe Collins



Tips from the Range

This simple game of golf that we play is a determination of accuracy. If scores will be lower.

pitch and putt the ball better and in turn we learn how to move the club properly. This is, and should be, a major priority when pursuing the game. If your swing is sol-

id then theoretically you ball keep that spot and your should play better, but if target line in your periphyour aim is bad, then it eral vision until you have doesn't really matter how well you strike the ball.

caddie was quoted as saying after his boss hit a shot into the sand, "Aye man, ya hit towards was off." What the caddie was actually saywas wrong boss.'

you hit it well if you don't correctly. line up your shots correctly. Alignment is very important.

Watch the pros very carefully next time you view a tournament or happen to be there in person. They really pay a lot of good fundamentals but alattention to correct align-

The "Big Easy" checks his alignment almost every time by simply looking at alignment. his feet in comparison to his mid-section and then sneak into your game at finally the shoulders.

be aimed at the same point mentals and mechanics. and not the feet in one direction and the shoulders more time and make sure pointing somewhere else. your "towards" is correct. This will cause you to cast Good luck and I will see the club and change the you on the course! path of the club head.

It is hard to aim at a point far away so pick out an "intermediate" target that is only a couple of feet in front of your ball

To do this you need to stand behind the ball and find a small target to represent your main target you are accurate, then your point. A blade of grass or spot on the ground that is We work really hard directly in line with your and practice ways to hit, aiming point but in front of your ball.

By standing behind the ball you can see the target line that the ball should start on. Always align you body parallel to the target line. As you address the finished your alignment sequence and are ready to As the old Scotsman's hit the ball. Now do a visual to see

if you are aimed correctly by checking to make sure that a good one but you're that you are square and pointed in the right direction. It is correct to be a ing in today's translation little open to your target at would be, "Your alignment address because the club path is inside on the down-It doesn't matter if swing if you are swinging

Pay attention to your alignment and watch the ball striking get better. Our goal is to control the swing with our sub-conscious so that it is reactionary. Build your swing on

ways remember that if you line up wrong the swing will be compromised and it will react to the false Poor alignment can

any time and cause all sorts He wants all three to of problems to your funda-Always take a little

Local Youth selected for 2013 Rotary Youth Leadership Award



Amelia Turner and Will Stone were selected to the 2013 RYLA

program this summer. Union County High School were selected to attend the 2013 Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) program this

Amelia Turner and Will Stone participated along with seventy-two young adults from across north Georgia. The four day event held at Tallulah Falls School in Rabun County was packed full with outside activities and guest speakers. rafting on the Chattooga River, YMCA Camp leadership training with a ropes course and zip line, and tour of the Tallulah Gorge

The evenings were spent with magician and hypnotist Kyle Jarrard, leadership trainer Rob Langston, and "The Sensational Guy" Duane Cummings who gave a great message about personal success and living an enriched life.

The intent of the various activities was to challenge the participants to expand their

personal comfort zones.

Two students from the interactions with other participants as well as the physical challenges. One of the highlights included meeting 16 year old singer Drew Ryniewicz, who finished top 5 on Simon Cowell's TV show, The X Factor.

> The Union County Rotary Club is proud to have Amelia and Will represent their club and Union County at this event.

Rotary Youth Leader-Events included white water ship Award (RYLA) is Rotary's leadership training program for young people. RYLA participants can be ages 14-30, but most clubs and districts choose to focus on a narrower age range, such as 14-18.

RYLA emphasizes leadership, citizenship, and personal growth, and aims to: demonstrate Rotary's respect and concern for youth, provide an effective training experience for selected youth and potential leaders, encourage leadership of youth by youth, and recognize publicly young people who are rendering ser-They did this through vice to their communities.