

Hannah Hughes highlights All-Region Team

By Todd Forrest
North Georgia News
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Region 8-AA named its All-Region Team last week and five Lady Panthers made the cut, with Hannah Hughes being awarded with the big one, the Region 8-AA Player of the Year.

Senior shortstop Shawanna Brown, senior center fielder Carly Adams, and sophomore catcher Courtney Busbee were given First Team honors. Senior pitcher/infielder Bailey Byers was named to the Second Team.

Hughes, who set school records in home runs, RBIs, and walks, was actually a bit shocked that she was given the award.

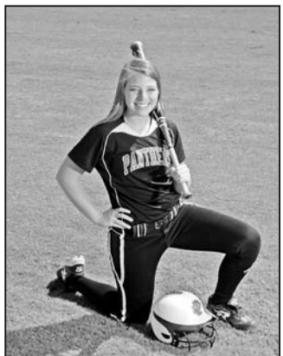
"I was very surprised," Hughes said. "It was a huge honor and I really appreciated receiving this award. This would have to rank either first or second on my achievements this year."

The award, voted on by the coaches, shouldn't have caught Hughes off guard since none of the coaches around 8-AA would even pitch to the Lady Panther slugger.

"It was very hard not to get frustrated when being walked so many times and I had to take the opportunities that were given to actually hit when



Hannah Hughes



Bailey Byers



Carly Adams

I got them," Hughes said. The Union County first baseman finished the 2012 season with team highs in nearly every offensive statistic and played flawless defense, leading Union with a .982 fielding percentage, while starting every game during each of her four years.

Hughes, who signs with North Georgia College on Wednesday, hit .448 on the season with 10 homers, 36 RBIs, 13 doubles, two triples, 32 runs, and 18 walks, all team-highs.

Brown finished second on the team with a .408 batting average and 14 RBIs. She also led the team with 35 singles and was third in runs with 18.

Adams was the anchor for a solid Union County outfield all season long. Adams ranked third in batting average at .349 and had four doubles



Shawanna Brown



Courtney Busbee

and 13 runs.

Courtney Busbee was steady behind the plate while posting a .344 batting average and knocking in 13 runs – third best on the team.

Byers led the Lady Panthers from the circle, winning 11 games with a 2.65 ERA.

She could also handle the bat, knocking in 13 runs to go along with six doubles.

"I am proud of all of them, especially the other seniors," Hughes said. "It was a great last year together and it has been an honor to play with all of them."

Union's Youth Football comes to an end

By Joe Collins
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

The odds were stacked against the first place North 8&U Youth Football League Panthers Saturday as they took the field against a large and fast Flowery Branch Falcons team in the YFL semi-final game, at Mike Colwell Memorial Stadium.

"They had a big front line and we knew going in we would need to control the trenches but we just never could get it done. I kept trying to change the numbers on the line to get a good combination but nothing seemed to work," said a humble Head Coach Shawn Wright.

The game was an even duel for most of the first quarter with neither team moving the ball very well until Union's Logan Helcher scored the first touchdown of the game and the Panthers only points of the day.



Logan Helcher breaks loose in the first quarter for a Panther touchdown. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

The Falcons had one substantial drive that resulted in a score but the Panthers held strong and the extra point attempt failed and game was tied at 6-6.

The Falcons found some running room just before half and hit a big play for a score.

line.

The momentum seemed to have shifted until the big fullback of Flowery Branch found a hole off the left side tackle and ran 65 yards for the score. The extra point was good and the Falcons led 19-6. Union battled back and got the ball into the red zone twice but turnovers took their toll. The Panthers never got another chance as a Falcons interception from the 9-yard line made the clock the twelfth player for Flowery Branch and they ran out the time defeating Union 19-6.

"We had a fine season. The kids worked hard and making it to the final four is something to be proud of. Flowery Branch has a good football team and we needed to keep them from making the big plays and we didn't. I'm still very proud of our guys for finishing 8-1 on the season," praised Wright as the team huddled for the final prayer of the 2012 season.

The extra point was good and Flowery Branch now had the lead 13-6 as the first half ended.

The Panthers kicked off to the Falcons to start the second half and were able to stop them at the Falcons 35-yard

UCMS 2012-13 Basketball Schedule

- Nov. 15 vs White County
- Nov. 16 vs Fannin
- Nov. 26 vs Wilbanks
- Nov. 29 @ North Habersham
- Dec. 3 @ Lumpkin County
- Dec. 10 @ White County
- Dec. 13 vs Towns County
- Dec. 14 @ Lumpkin County
- Jan. 7 vs Lakeview (8th Grade)
- Jan. 10 vs South Habersham
- Jan. 11 @ Rabun County
- Jan. 15 vs Coker Creek (7th Grade)
- Jan. 18 @ Fannin County

UCHS 2012-13 Basketball Schedule

- Nov. 19 vs Andrews, NC
- Nov. 20 vs Hiwassee Dam, NC
- Nov. 27 @ Andrews
- Dec. 1 @ Towns County
- Dec. 4 vs White County
- Dec. 8 @ Lumpkin County
- Dec. 14 vs Lumpkin County
- Dec. 15 vs Towns County
- Dec. 27-29 @ Battle of the States
- Jan. 3 @ Murphy, NC
- Jan. 4 vs Greene County
- Jan. 11 @ Oglethorpe County
- Jan. 12 vs Andrews
- Jan. 15 vs Riverside (Boys)
- Jan. 18 vs Social Circle
- Jan. 19 @ Fannin County
- Jan. 22 vs Rabun County
- Jan. 25 @ Washington-Wilkes
- Jan. 28 @ Jefferson
- Feb. 1 @ Rabun County
- Feb. 5 @ Riverside (Boys)
- Feb. 8 vs Jefferson

Hunters, let's go Canada goose hunting

The license is free for residents and non-residents and the season is open from November 17-25 and December 8-January 27.

The bag limit is 5. The early 22-day hunting season this past September makes this the longest Canada goose season in Georgia on record.

Why so long, you may ask? Because they have become a nuisance, as Towns County residents well know. The Canada geese love the well-manicured lawns and ball fields, making it dangerous for adults and kids to slip and slide in their poop. One of the big polluters of Lake Chatuge has been found to be the droppings of the Canada geese. In other words, the Canada geese are killing our "Golden Goose!"

The Canada geese used to migrate from Florida to Canada, and no more; they knew a good thing when they found Towns County and Lake Chatuge. It all started in 1975 when biologists with the Georgia WRD (Wildlife Re-

source Development) decided to begin a restocking program in Georgia because of the Canada goose declining population. They captured birds up North, clipped their wings, and brought them back for release in reservoirs and farm ponds throughout Georgia. They knew that if the parent birds nested and bred here, their offspring would stay here—and did they ever. Their population has grown to nuisance proportions at an estimated 150,000. During the September season it was reported by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service that about 8,000 of these birds were killed with the number of goose hunters at around 10,000. So, hunters, get on board. Hunters in the Lake Chatuge area might just ask landowners on the lake if they will allow them to hunt Canada geese on their land.

Read more: www.gamendfishmag.com/2010/10/04/hunting-ducks-geese-hunting_ga_a121204a/#ixzz2AVrzyWAO.

Upward indoor soccer registration



Online registration is now open for Upward Indoor Soccer for boys and girls in Grades Kindergarten through 6th Grade at www.hopb.org or at www.fununioncounty.org. The early registration price to participate is \$55. There will be an additional \$10 fee for registrations received after December 14th. If needed, payment plans are available. Convenient once per week practices will begin the week of January 7, 2013, while games will be held on consecutive Saturdays between January 26 through March 2, 2013.

Everyone is encouraged to attend one evaluation. These will be held on December 11th and 13th from 6 to 7:30 PM at the House of Prayer Family Life Center.

Form and registration fees may also be dropped off, Monday through Friday, at First United Methodist's business office or the House of Prayer Family Life Center between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. For more information, contact either church office at FUMC (706) 745-2073 or HOP (706) 745-5925.

Upward Sports, the world's largest Christian sports program for children, was created with a vision to introduce kids and families to Jesus Christ and to provide the best sports experience possible for every child while ensuring equal playing time for all. Each year some 1 million people around the world play, coach, referee, or volunteer in Upward Sports leagues and camps hosted by more than 2,600 churches. Everyone is welcome to participate or volunteer in Upward Sports. The goal of Upward Sports is to bring out "the winner" in every child – regardless of the game's score.

Joe Collins

Tips from the Range

One of the greatest assets of a solid golf game is confidence. The belief that you can play well is a major score improvement area that we all need to look at. Confidence is really the only way a golfer can overcome the first tee jitters or sink that short putt for the lowest score they've ever had while their nerves are on edge. Positive results like a good shot on a certain hole you hit every time you play that hole or a putt you made that is similar to the one you are facing to win a match or shoot that career round we all dream of. As they say, "Confidence is key."

I have interviewed many good pro golfers and they all play better when their mental attitude stays positive and their emotions stay level. Tom Watson says, "Never get too high and never get too low. The game is bigger than that when you are playing well or finding the day to be a struggle. An even temper is based in confidence."

This coming from one of the greatest ball strikers to walk the earth who knew he could hit the ball the way he wanted most of the time. We, on the other hand, must follow this example to steady ourselves when our shots find the rough and our score starts to rise, even though we are not on his level. His calm demeanor and patience won him many championship titles. His caddy, the late Bruce Edwards, was a friend of mine and he explained Watson's ability to win tournaments this way, "We would just rely on Tom's confidence in himself and play steady while everyone else backed up trying to do something that was out of their comfort zone. His confidence proved to be his biggest advantage over the rest of the field and gave him patience."

Another example of confidence being important was the failures Watson had with his putter in the eighties. He simply lost his confidence in the short putts that he was used to making and after awhile he had no positive thoughts about putting, just the negative thoughts about all the missed short putts that had cost him several Major tournaments. He lost his confidence in his putter and therefore lost control of his ability to sink the ones that mattered. If he could have regained his positive attitude about his putting stroke then he would have won at least three more Master's titles in the mid to late eighties.

To build good confidence, a golfer must stay calm. Throwing clubs or using bad language to describe how you are performing on the course will always leave you with a bad case of the doubts and that is very detrimental to your game. If, and when, you hit a bad shot don't let it surface. You may be boiling on the inside, but if you stay calm about the situation, your focus on the rest of the round will help you score better. Every round has bad holes and good holes. Stay confident that the good holes are on the way and you will have a chance to improve your overall score somewhere on the course, so be patient. When you finally hit that good shot, you will be more confident on the next shot even though you are playing bad. My friend Toby Swartz is one of the best examples of confidence controlling ones game as anybody I have ever played

with. His calm approach to his game just exudes confidence and therefore makes him a really tough competitor. We have had some great matches that have come down to the wire because we both knew that the good shots were on the way and we were confident of that fact.

When I asked the late and great Chuck Matlack, who played on the P.G.A. Tour for over twenty years, how he held it together during a big tournament he would answer with one word: Confidence. "I knew I could hit certain shots and I believed in myself so that gave me the edge I needed to play well. It is confidence that overcomes the bad in a round of golf. You must believe in your ability and know your limitations. Find your strengths and use them to your advantage, if you know you can do it then the nerves are easy to control."

Confidence is built through positive results on the course. Do you have a certain hole you play often and you find yourself hitting the same good shot there over and over? That is confidence. Have you ever been addressing a putt and you knew without a shadow of a doubt, even with your eyes closed, it was going in the hole? That is confidence.

I was playing a U.S. Open qualifier in Newnan in the late nineties and I was paired with then P.G.A. touring pro Peter Jordan. The last hole was a dogleg right around a fairway trap that was perfectly placed on the corner of the fairway to catch wayward drives but was "in play" if you wanted to attack the hole. As we teed off, Jordan was three under and I was even. I knew I wasn't going to qualify but he felt he could get to four under he might have a chance. He cut that drive around that corner trap and found the right side of the fairway. The pin was cut on the far left of the hole and he had placed himself perfectly to go for birdie. The pin was a "sucker" pin and tucked in behind a green side bunker. He hit the perfect little draw to within ten feet of the hole and sunk the putt for a 68. As we were walking off the green he made the statement, "I wish I could bottle the confidence I had on that hole and carry it with me always. I could win tournaments on a regular basis if I could maintain that positive approach." You see it was the need to make birdie and a positive experience from his memory that triggered that needed birdie. His confidence made it happen.

Next time you tee it up and you find yourself doing better than normal, don't tighten up. Think back in your past and find a good shot you hit somewhere and focus on that good shot. Use the positive aspects of the good shot you had before to influence the round you are in at the time. This is how you build confidence, it doesn't just happen overnight. Stay calm on the outside and remember to think about the positive shots you have hit before and not the bad shots you've made. Build a bank of good shot memories to pull from and your handicap will start to fall.

Remember, you must practice building up confidence whether you are a rookie or a seasoned veteran of the game. Without positive shot thoughts your confidence will be in the freezer and so will your game. Stay positive and build confidence by focusing on the good shots and not dwelling on the bad.

Good luck and I will see you on the course!

Rec Basketball Registration

Basketball registration is still going on for all ages at the Union County Recreation Department, except for the 5 and 6-year and 7-8 years old age groups.

registration came to an end on Nov. 9th and registration for all other age groups will come to an end on Nov. 19th.

Seven- and 8-year old

For more details contact UCRD at (706) 439-6074.

Blairsville School of Dance to offer free Beginning Tap Package

Beginning Thursday, November 29, Blairsville School of Dance will kick off a free 3 week beginning tap package for ages 7-adult. The sessions will be held on November 29, December 6 and December 13 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Participants should plan on attending all three sessions.

participating in the Free 3-Week Session should reserve a spot by calling (706)835-1415 or emailing blairsvilledance@yahoo.com. While the session is free, space is limited, so a reservation is required. Participants must be age 7 or older.

The class will be instructed by Brett Taylor, who is beginning her fourth season as an instructor at BSoD. Taylor has an extensive career in dance and is excited offer this free workshop program at BSoD. She also teaches ballet technique, pointe, lyrical and jazz classes at BSoD and is a fitness instructor at Hiwassee Valley Pool and Wellness Center in Murphy. In addition, she has an extensive background in tap instruction, choreography and performance, as well as competition.

Blairsville School of Dance is located at 80 Blue Ridge Street in the Merchant's Walk Plaza across from the Blairsville Police Department. BSoD also offers classes in ballet, clogging, break dance, hip hop, jazz, lyrical, ballroom, Zumba, musical theater, creative movement and preschool classes for ages 2-adult and is the home of the BSoD Tour de Force competition dance teams. Participants should arrive about 5-10 minutes before the start of classes. For more information, call (706) 835-1415 or email blairsvilledance@yahoo.com.

Those interested in par-