

Lady Panthers drop a pair over the weekend following win at Social Circle

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The Union County Lady Panthers enter the final week of the season looking for momentum as the postseason approaches.

Union County traveled to Social Circle on Tuesday where they were hoping to work out the kinks. And despite a sloppy first quarter, the Lady Panthers turned it on and won easily 61-35.

On Friday, Union County welcomed first place Rabun County and the Lady Panthers actually led in the fourth quarter before the Lady Cats used a 19-2 run to put Union away and remain undefeated in Region 8-AA with a 64-47 victory.

The Lady Panthers traveled to Putnam County on Saturday where the Lady War Eagles were out for revenge after Union handed them their first region loss of the season, earlier this month.

Putnam County jumped out to an 11-2 lead after one and 13-3 early in the second before the Lady Panthers stopped the bleeding. Once they were settled, Union began chipping away but could never get any closer than a four-point margin in a 41-32 loss.

(Due to the threat of winter weather on Tuesday, the North Georgia News was forced to print early on Monday, before the articles were complete. Here is an abbreviated version of the Lady Panthers' three games from last week. I apologize to Coach Corey Garrett and his team for not receiving a full story - TF.)

Lady Panthers 61, Social Circle 35 - Leading 12-9 after the first quarter, Union County turned it on with a 15-4 second quarter to cruise to victory on the road Tuesday night.

Coming out of the break with a 27-13 advantage, juniors Andelin Hill and Kait McCarter combined for 14 points in the third as the Lady Panthers pulled away 50-22 after three.

Union County was led by freshman Ava Hunter's 17 points -- 14 in the first half -- and 7 rebounds in the win.

Hill and McCarter added 10 points each while Brooke Dockrey turned in an 8-point, 7-assist performance.

Adeline Dockrey scored 6 points, Ansley Collins had four, Riley Allison 3, Kyla Locklear 2 and Rebekah Chambers had one.

Brianna Hemphill had 2 rebounds while Adelia Pyle and Landry Baenninger had one board each.

Lady Panthers 47, Rabun County 64 - Union County ran out of gas after battling the 22-1 Lady Cats well into the fourth.

The Lady Panthers closed the third quarter with a 6-0 run to tie things up at 36-36 to start the fourth. Hunter began the final frame with a pair of free throws to give Union its final lead of the night 38-36 at the 7:40 mark.

Rabun would score the next 11 points before Brooke Dockrey momentarily halted the run with a dribble-drive layup, just shy of six minutes to play.

Trailing 47-40, the Lady Panthers yielded a 9-0 run and found themselves down 56-41 when Hill hit a free throw with 2:23 remaining.

With most of the starting lineup fouled out, Hunter



Coach Corey Garrett looks on as Andelin Hill hits a three at Social Circle last Tuesday. Photo/Todd Forrest



Ansley Collins drives the base line at Social Circle. Photo/Todd Forrest

continued to play hard until the final buzzer, scoring the final two baskets of the game.

The freshman post would finish with a game-high 25 points -- 16 in the second half -- while Hill added nine and McCarter had eight.

Hemphill and Brooke Dockrey scored 2 points each while Adeline Dockrey had one.

Union County would lead 11-8 after one behind six first quarter points from Hill. Rabun would turn the tables in the second and take a 25-19 lead into the intermission.

The Lady Cats led most of the third until the Lady Panthers' late run that was sparked by a pair of McCarter baskets.

Lady Panthers 32, Putnam County 41 - Union County fell behind 13-3 early before outscoring the Lady War Eagles 9-4 to pull within five at the break.

Union would get within four on two occasions in the third but could get no closer. The Lady Panthers trailed 18-14 early in the third and 27-23 on a McCarter basket in the final moments of the period.

McCarter scored 12 of

her team-high 17 points in the second half but it wasn't enough as Putnam opened the third with six-straight for a 33-23 lead.

Union would get within seven on a few occasions in the fourth but no closer.

Hunter finished with six, Hill had five, Brooke Dockrey and Allison added two each.

Big Picture: Union County can finish in fifth place if Elbert loses to both Monticello and Putnam County and the Lady Panthers win one of its final two games.

Up next: With winless Oglethorpe County coming to Blairsville on Friday, the Lady Panthers know they have at least one win left on the schedule.

On Tuesday, however, Union must travel to Banks County (weather permitting) to face the Lady Leopards, who are currently tied for second with Putnam.

If Union finishes fifth, they will likely meet Monticello in the first round, which will be played next Tuesday at Rabun County.

Both games this week are scheduled to tip at 6 p.m. with Friday being Senior Night.



Freshman post Ava Hunter goes up for two of her 25 points vs Rabun County. Photo/Todd Forrest




Junior point guard Brooke Dockrey with a scoop layup at Putnam County. Photo/Todd Forrest



Senior guard Brianna Hemphill attacks the basket against Rabun County on Friday. Photo/Todd Forrest

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