

Panthers one win away from clinching fourth in 7-AAA

Union defeats North Hall for second time; unable to preserve late lead vs East Hall

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The Panthers (15-7, 4-6) proved too much for North Hall on Tuesday, then Friday were on the verge of scoring the program's first-ever win over East Hall but were unable to hang on in another heartbreaking home loss to the Vikings.

Union County can clinch the No. 4 seed in the upcoming Region 7-AAA Tournament with one win in two games this week. On Tuesday, the Panthers visit Lumpkin County (2-8 in region play), who could still potentially force a tie for fourth with Union by knocking off the Panthers on Tuesday and North Hall (2-8) on Friday.

On Friday, Union County will host Dawson County for Senior Night where six seniors will be recognized at halftime.

Greater Atlanta Christian is currently in the driver's seat for the top spot in 7-AAA while East Hall and Dawson will meet Tuesday in a contest that will likely determine second.

Union County 55, North Hall 42 – Trailing 7-2 in the early-going, the Panthers went on to outscore the Trojans 27-9, en route to their second straight victory over the Trojans.

Pierson Allison had 13 points and Crawford Colwell scored 11 to lead Union County. Meanwhile, senior Patrick Baggett scored all of his 11 points in the final 8:10 to help the Panthers put North Hall away. After starting 0-for-4 from downtown, Baggett hit 3-of-4 with his first trey coming in the final seconds of the third – sending Union into the final frame with a 42-31 lead.

The Trojans pulled within seven at 44-37 early in the fourth but Baggett nailed back-to-back treys to stretch the lead to 50-37 with 4:46 to play. Allison put the game away with a reverse layup at the 3:16 mark. Then he sank 1-of-2 at the line 55 seconds later to extend the margin back to 13.

Baggett put the finishing touches on the win with two from the charity stripe – giving Union a 55-40 advantage at the two-minute mark.

Sophomore Sawyer Drake was limited to 8 points after spending much of the night in foul trouble. However, it was a pair of driving layups by Drake that gave the Panthers their first lead of the game after falling behind 7-2, less than two minutes in.

Leading 11-9 after one, Union opened the second with



Sophomore Sawyer Drake soars for a layup during Union County's third quarter comeback vs East Hall. Photo/Todd Forrest

a 9-2 run sparked by a pair of baskets by Coleson Daniel and an Allison trey. Following a 5-0 spurt from the Spartans, Candler Colwell converted an old-fashioned 3-point play, Allison hit a trey and two free throws, and Crawford Colwell sank 1-of-2 at the line for a 29-16 advantage.

The final four points of the half belonged to North Hall to pull within single digits at the intermission.

Drizzle drives by Drake and Crawford Colwell stretched the lead back to 13 in the early stages of the third. North Hall would rally to within six on two separate occasions but buckets by RJ Banton and Drake, along with free throws by Crawford Colwell kept the Trojans at bay until Baggett's 3-ball gave Union an 11-point lead after three.

Game Notes (Individual): Allison had 13 points, five rebounds, and three assists. Crawford Colwell finished with 11 points, five boards, four steals, and two assists on 3-of-6 shooting. Baggett had one rebound and an assist to go with his 11 points on 3-of-8 from long distance.

Drake scored 8 points with three rebounds. Candler Colwell had 4 points, four assists, three steals, and two rebounds. Daniel finished with 4 points, three steals, and one rebound. Banton added 2 points and two boards; Cole Davis also had 2 points.

Game Notes (Team): Union shot 19-for-40 (48-percent) from the floor, 5-for-17 (29-percent) from three, and 12-for-19 (63-percent) at the line.

The Panthers finished with seven offensive rebounds, 22 total boards, and 2 second-chance points. Union turned it

over 17 times resulting in 16 Trojan points.

North Hall shot 15-for-36 (42-percent) from the floor; 3-for-15 (20-percent) from beyond the arc and 9-for-12 (75-percent) at the line.

The Trojans pulled down 22 rebounds and six offensive boards – leading to 7 second-chance points. North Hall turned it over 23 times, awarding Union 19 points.

East Hall 55, Union County 49 – The Panthers overcame a 15-point first half deficit to lead by as many as six but watched as East Hall closed with a 16-4 run to escape with the win.

The Vikings jumped out to a 17-3 lead through one quarter after getting to the basket at-will. Trailing 30-15 late in the second, Union County closed the first half with five unanswered points to cut the difference to 10 points at the break.

The Panthers picked up where they left off in the second half, opening the third period with a 12-2 run to even the score at 32-32. Drake contributed 5 points and Allison knocked down a three during the Union County run.

Still tied at 34-34, an East Hall trey was answered by three free throws from Allison after he was fouled beyond-the-arc. The Panthers' first lead came when Drake hit 2-of-2 at the line with 44 seconds left in the quarter. Union regained the lead when Daniel scored an uncontested layup, then Allison made it a four-point advantage with a short-jumper in the final seconds of the third.

Allison missed the front-end of a 1-and-1 early in the



Left: Pierson Allison dishes off vs East Hall. Right: Patrick Baggett nails a 3 vs North Hall. Photos/Todd Forrest

fourth but East Hall received a technical foul when they were unable to come up with the rebound and a Viking player lost his cool and slammed the ball onto the floor, sending it bouncing towards the spectators that were standing up-top along the railing.

Allison sank both technical free throws to give Union its largest lead at 45-39 lead with 7:43 to play. After each team came up empty on its next possession, Baggett had a 1-on-1 fast break opportunity and the senior guard sank the layup while drawing contact. However, the officials saw things differently and he was tagged with a charging call.

Instead of a nine-point Union lead with an and-one, East Hall seized momentum, answering with a pair of baskets to pull within two at the 5:15 mark. Banton hit a pair from the line to push the lead back to four but the Vikings answered with a deuce on the other end.

After two more Union County baskets were waived off due to an offensive foul and a traveling violation, East Hall tied the score at 47-47 with 3:35 to play.

Still tied at 47-47 with less than two minutes left, East Hall was fouled on a 3-point basket, allowing the Vikings to open up a four-point lead. Drake would cut the East Hall lead to two with 55 seconds left but the Vikings would hit their next four free throws to put the Panthers away.

Game Notes (Individual): Allison scored a game-high 15 points on 7-of-8 from the line with four rebounds, four assists, and a steal. Drake finished with 14

points on 5-of-7 shooting. He also came up with four steals, two boards, two blocks, and an assist. Candler Colwell had 7 points, four boards, three steals, and one assist.

Banton added 4 points and four rebounds; Baggett had 3 points, two steals, and two rebounds; Crawford Colwell was held to just 2 points but hauled in a team-high seven rebounds. Davis and Daniel each finished with 2 points and one rebound.

Game Notes (Team): The Panthers shot 15-of-41 (37-percent) from the floor; 3-for-11 (27-percent) from long distance and 16-of-20 (80-percent) at the line.

Union County finished with 31 boards – nine on the offensive glass resulting in only 2 second-chance points.

REGION 7-AAA BOYS STANDINGS

- | | | |
|---------------|-------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. GAC | 10-1 (19-3) | Remaining opponents: Fannin |
| 2. E. Hall | 8-2 (13-10) | @Dawson; Fannin |
| 3. Dawson | 7-3 (15-7) | EHall; @Union |
| 4. Union | 4-6 (15-7) | @Lumpkin; Dawson |
| 5. Fannin | 2-7 (3-17) | @GAC; NHall; @EHall |
| 6. North Hall | 2-8 (7-15) | Lumpkin; @Fannin |
| 6. Lumpkin | 2-8 (3-17) | Union; @NHall |

SPRING SOCCER REGISTRATION

Age Groups U6-U16

Register online at: www.mountainsoccer.org. Registration forms are also available to print from the website. Forms can be mailed to PO Box 1862, Blairsville, GA 30514.

Deadline to register is January 31, 2018. For additional information please check out our website at: www.mountainsoccer.org or email us at: musa.soccer@gmail.com.

Union County Middle School hosts girls basketball tournaments

UCMS basketball photos by Todd Forrest



The 7th Grade girls team placed second after defeating Banks County and White County to reach the finals, where they fell 38-32 to Habersham.



The Union County 8th Grade girls lost a close one to White County on the opening day of the tournament.



Union County's 7th Grade battles in the paint during a physical championship game vs Habersham.

2018 VARSITY FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

August 10		Habersham Central (Scrimmage)	
August 24	H	East Hall	7:30
August 31	A	Towns County	7:30
September 7	H	Fannin County (MS/Rec night)	7:30
September 14	A	Monticello	7:30
September 21	H	Putnam County (Homecoming)	7:30
September 28	A	Elbert County	7:30
October 5		Open	
October 12	H	Banks County	7:30
October 19	A	Oglethorpe County	7:30
October 26	H	Social Circle (Senior Night)	7:30
November 2	A	Rabun County	7:30

Junior Varsity Schedule

August 30	A	Dawson County	5:30
September 6	H	Gilmer County	5:30
September 13	H	White County	5:30
September 20	A	Pickens County	5:30
September 27	A	Lumpkin County	5:30
October 11	H	Rabun County	5:30
October 18	A	Fannin County	5:30



UCMS students were out in full-force to support the 7th Grade girls basketball team during its bid for a league title.