

Sports

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No. 2 Panthers storm past No. 8 Providence Christian in OT thriller

Providence Christian pulls away from Lady Panthers in second half

By Todd Forrest
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The 8th ranked and defending State runner-up Providence Storm couldn't withstand the No. 2 Panthers' late offensive deluge in a heavyweight clash on Friday night at Mike Colwell Memorial Stadium.

Union County's version of the "Kardiac Kids" delivered a rain-soaked, come-from-behind overtime victory vs. Providence Christian on Friday, March 8, scoring two goals over the final 13 minutes to force OT.

During the second 10-minute overtime session, senior Zuriel Mancillas knocked in the game-winner, spotting the Panthers a 3-2 edge in the 95th minute.

Mancillas' goal came via a free kick from 28 yards out, skidding across the rain-soaked turf, just inside the left post and beyond the fingertips of the diving keeper.

Moments earlier, a Providence foul against senior Evan Bohms, a yard outside the penalty area, brought on Mancillas for the deciding goal.

With frustration setting in on the visitors bench, Storm head coach Kenny Adeshigbin was sent off with a red-card ejection after picking up an early yellow for arguing. Additionally, two Providence players drew red cards on Friday night.

The Storm raced out to a 2-0 halftime lead and held a two-goal edge into the 67th minute, but senior Wes Seiler sparked the rally, flicking a pass toward the box, allowing Bohms to gather the 50-50 ball



Senior Zuriel Mancillas is mobbed by teammates after scoring the go-ahead goal in the second overtime vs. Providence Christian on Friday night. Photo/Todd Forrest

and blast a shot into the net from 8 yards.

Union County (6-1-1, 2-0) continued attacking, with shots by Mancillas and Bohms getting turned away in the 68th and 70th minutes, respectively.

A Bohms' free kick in the 74th preceded Antonio Solario's equalizing header goal in the 75th after the Providence keeper tipped Bohm's shot out of bounds. Mancillas' left corner kick found a crashing Solario, who flicked a shot into the back of the net from

point blank.

Bohms nearly ended the contest in regulation, sending an open look from 19 yards wide left in the 76th. Later, Providence stopped a Mancillas free kick and Bohms' header, sending the contest to overtime.

During the first OT, senior keeper Ethan McBride swatted away Providence's last scoring opportunity on a shot from just inside the penalty mark.

Up next: Union Coun-

ty's non-region March 13 fixture vs. No. 5 Rabun County has been rescheduled until April. The Panthers resume region play on Friday, March 15 at Banks County.

The Leopards are 0-1 in region play following a 2-1 loss to Athens Academy, who Union County routed by an 8-2 final.

Lady Panthers 0, Providence 5 - The Storm broke things open with four second-half goals on Friday night in Blairsville.

With an 0-2 start in re-

gion play, the Lady Panthers

need two wins in their next three games to extend their postseason streak to six years. However, with a trip to No. 1 Fellowship Christian waiting in the Region 8-AA finale, Union County must take care of business at Banks County on Friday, March 15, and vs. East Jackson on March 19.

In the Providence loss, Union County hung tough until surrendering a goal in the 26th minute but managed to take a 1-0 deficit into the

intermission.

Freshman keeper Gabby Jimenez stopped two shots during the first 5 minutes of the second half, but the Storm eventually tacked on in the 47th.

Providence added two more goals before the 65th and capped off the scoring in the 76th.

Union County and Banks County will kick off at 5 p.m. on Friday, March 15 with the guys to follow.



Senior Evan Bohms vs. Providence Christian. Photo/Todd Forrest



Sophomore Ty Hogsd vs. Providence Christian. Photo/Todd Forrest



Lady Panthers vs. Providence Christian (L-R) Katelyn Brown, Lily Brookshire, Taylor Reese, Ariel McCarter. Photo/Todd Forrest

Baseball: Bats come alive in wins over Hayesville, Gilmer

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Union County won consecutive home games last week, improving to 3-3 and matching its 2023 season win total.

The Panthers rallied past Hayesville, NC on Monday, March 4, turning a 3-0 deficit into a 7-4 victory. A day later, Union County scored three in the first and third innings before holding on in a 7-6 win over Gilmer.

That ended the week for Union County when the return trips to Hayesville and Gilmer were rained out.

The Panthers open region play on Tuesday at 5:55 p.m. against the defending 8-AA champion, Fellowship Christian. Union County travels to Fellowship on Saturday for a noon doubleheader.

Panthers 7, Hayesville, NC 4 - Sophomore Eli Gwynn settled in following a tough-luck first inning that spotted Hayesville an early lead via three unearned runs.

Gwynn went six-strong, allowing no earned runs, five hits and a walk while striking out eight. Sophomore Bo Brown nailed down the win, punching out two batters during a scoreless seventh.

Junior Travis Tracy went 2 for 2 with 3 RBIs, a double and two walks. Senior Eli Sosensky drove in one during a 2-for-3 day.

Hayesville pushed across three in the first, all with two outs, via a passed ball, an error and a two-run single. Union County answered with four in the second, beginning with Tracy's two-run single that scored



Junior Travis Tracy leads Union County in nearly every offensive category through the first six games. Photo/Todd Forrest

Moses Stevens and Gwynn. An error off the bat of Will Doyle plated Tracy, and Connor Swanson's RBI groundout brought home Doyle.

The Panthers loaded the bags with nobody out during a two-run third after Gwynn singled, Tracy doubled and Gunnar Akins was hit by a pitch. A bases-loaded walk by Doyle made it 5-3, and Sosensky's sacrifice fly stretched the lead to 6-3.

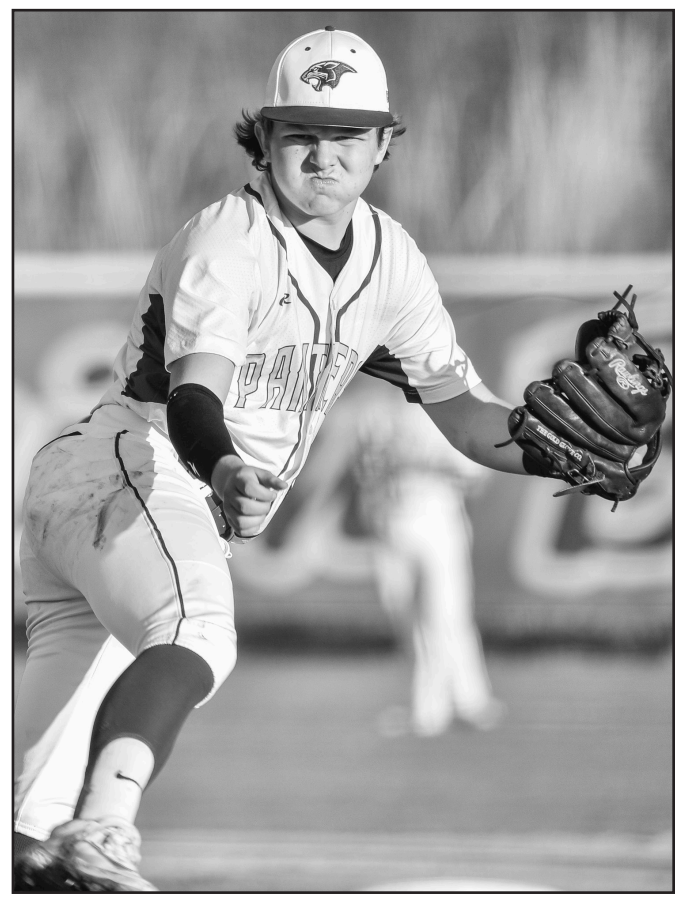
Tracy's bases-loaded walk built a 7-3 advantage, scoring Hayden Hughes during

the fourth.

A pair of Union errors in the fifth cut the gap to 7-4 but that would be all the offense for the evening as Gwynn retired the last five batters he faced.

Brown worked around a hit batter in the seventh - fanning the final two Yellow Jackets.

Gwynn scored twice during a 1-for-2 game; Hughes went 1 for 3 with an RBI; Stevens added a run while going 1-for-4 at the dish. Junior Davis and Will Doyle added a walk apiece.



Eli Gwynn deals during Union County's win over Hayesville on Monday, March 4. Photo/Todd Forrest

Union added another run via Bobcats' error.

Hughes took the mound in the fifth, and his leadoff walk led to a Gilmer run and a 6-5 Union advantage. But Hughes got it back in the bottom half when he tripled and came around on an error.

Gilmer's sacrifice fly in the sixth narrowed the margin to 7-6, then Hughes pitched around two singles in the seventh, retiring the Bobcats with consecutive strikeouts - blowing his fastest pitch of the night (79 MPH) by the Gilmer batter

to end the game.

Hughes struck out six and gave up three hits and two unearned runs over four frames. Akins allowed four earned over three, fanning four and issuing three free passes.

Tracy went 1 for 4 with an RBI, two runs and a stolen base; Colten Gibson also finished 1 for 4 with a steal; Maddox Patton singled, walked and scored during a 1-2 night; Haney ended his night 1 for 4.

Junior Davis walked twice, swiped a bag and scored; Gwynn added a run.



Junior Hayden Hughes tripled and scored vs. Gilmer. Photo/Todd Forrest



Moses Stevens went 1 for 4 with a run vs. Hayesville. Photo/Todd Forrest



Gunnar Akins applies the tag on a pick off attempt at first base. Photo/Todd Forrest



Senior shortstop Eli Sosensky fires to first. Photo/Todd Forrest

Mountain Gymnastics Center's AAU Copper first at Woodstock's Winter Blast

Woodstock - MGC's AAU Copper team took home first at the Jan. 20 Winter Blast.

Liv Wynn led the way with a first place individual finish - posting a 36.925 all-around score. Wynn placed first on vault with a 9.50 score and was second on bars at 9.10. She also took third on beam at 8.9.

Callie Kirkpatrick was second with a 36.9 all-around score - taking first on beam (9.25) and floor (9.6), and second on vault (9.375).


Charlotte Smith's all-around score of 36.75 was good enough for third place behind a first on bars at 9.275.

Autumn Hintze was fourth at 36.425 with a second on beam (9.15) and third on bars (8.925). Maisie Henderson came in fifth; Skylar Hintze was sixth.

Zoe Ramos placed first in AAU Bronze with a 36.775, coming in first on bars (9.4) and floor (9.4).

Lana Kate Williams was first on beam at 9.5 and third on floor (9.175) - good enough for a second-place all-around score of 36.85.

Rosie Tanner placed first on floor at 9.425 and came in



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fifth all-around. Allie Kamber also recorded a first place performance on floor at 9.45. Khloe Wiggins placed second on bars at 9.3. Charlotte Williams finished second on vault at 9.4. Aniston Kotchenreuther was third on floor (9.10).

Braislee Blanchard's 9.05 on floor was good enough for fourth place. Eliza Colwell came in fifth on the vault at 9.075.

Scarlett Munn placed first in AAU Silver with high scores on vault (9.4), bars (9.45) and floor (9.525) for an all-around total of 37.4.

Kenzie Slate was second all-around with a 36.625 - placing second on vault (9.3) and beam (9.1).

Avalynn Urbanowski was third at 36.05 - finishing second

on beam (9.125). Mattie Kate Alexander placed fourth with a total of 35.425 - coming in second on beam (9.125).

Jaxi-Jule Taylor was second on floor (9.25) and third on vault (9.2) for a sixth-place all-around score (35.325). Aria Beaudoin also placed sixth all-around in AAU Silver.

Emma Schuette was first in USA Diamond - sweeping all four events for a 36.525 all-around score.

Addison Harkins placed second in USA Platinum at 35.025 - coming in third on bars and beam. Addyson Lee was third in USA Platinum - finishing third on vault and bars.

Shaylyne Davis was second on floor; Madelyn Primeaux was eighth in USA Gold.

UCHS to host first Track & Field meet at new facilities on Tuesday

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