

# Sports

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## Baseball: Seventh inning rally sparks Panther sweep of Monticello

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The Union County Panthers cracked the win column in Region 8-AA with a thrilling come-from-behind victory over Monticello in game one of a Friday night doubleheader.

Trailing 7-1 in the third, 9-2 in the sixth and 9-3 entering the bottom half of the seventh, Union County rallied for six runs in their final at-bat to force extra innings, where they prevailed on a Zeke Swartz walk-off single in the ninth.

Riding high on a wave of momentum in game two, the Panthers put five runs on the board in the second inning, en route to a 10-1 victory. Swartz played the role of hero once again after getting the nod from head coach Zach Odom as the game two starter. The sophomore left-hander would fan 16 Hurricanes during a complete game 4-hitter while lowering his ERA to an anemic 1.00 on the year and upgrading his strikeout-to-walk ratio to an impressive 41-to-4.

**Panthers 10, Monticello 9 (9 Innings)** - Swartz knocked in Peyton Ivester with a base hit up-the-middle to complete the Union County comeback in the bottom of the ninth on Friday night.

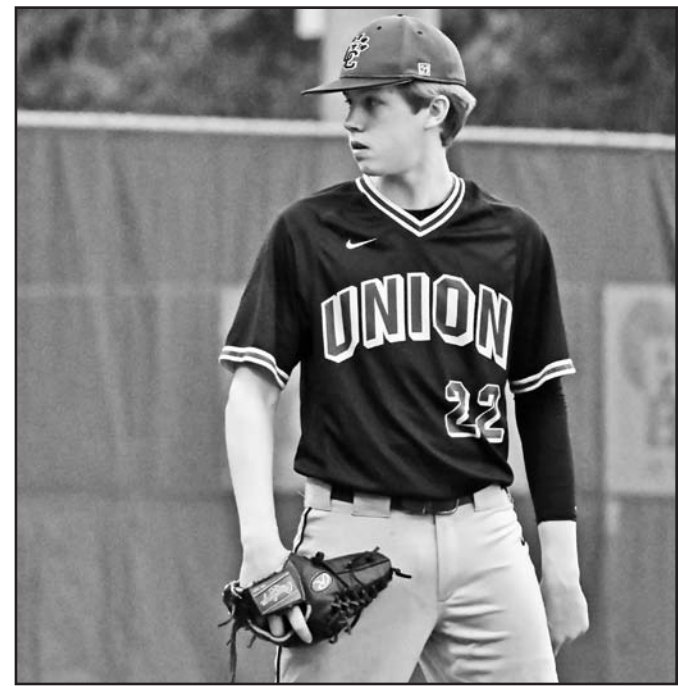
The rally, however, got underway much earlier when the Panthers found themselves in a 9-2 hole after giving up two in the sixth. Sophomore Austin Garrison opened the frame with a single and junior Cayden Rich followed with a one-out, RBI double to trim the margin to 9-3.

After holding the Canes scoreless in the top half of the seventh, Union County exploded for six in the bottom half. Three consecutive singles by Issac Mullinak, Alec Scott and Swartz had the Panthers within five at 9-4. With one down, Garrison made it a 9-5 game with an RBI single, then Alec Youngblood brought home one with a sacrifice fly. Rich followed by drawing a two-out walk allowing senior Coleson Daniel to bring Union within two on a run-scoring single to left. With Ivester pinch-running for Daniel, senior Jonathan Everett smacked a two-run double to center, scoring Ivester and knotting the score at 9-9.

Rich took the mound in the eighth and struck out the side after surrendering a lead off single. The Panthers also wasted a leadoff single of their own in the bottom half of the inning. Swartz opened the frame with a base hit, then Garrison moved him into scoring



Senior shortstop/catcher Alec Scott scoops up a ground ball during a Panther baseball game earlier in the season. Scott had 4 hits and 3 RBIs during the Monticello twin bill. Photo/Todd Forrest



Sophomore Zeke Swartz awaits a sign during an early season game. He's currently sporting an impressive .714 WHIP. Photo/Todd Forrest

position with a one-out single to center but a pop-out and a strikeout sent the game into the ninth.

After Rich survived a pair of walks in the Monticello half of the inning, Ivester was plunked to start the bottom of the ninth. Everett bunted him to second and Mullinak walked and Scott reached on an error to load the bases.

With one down, Swartz lined a single past a drawn-in infield to bring Ivester home as the game-winning run.

Prior to his 16-K outing in game two, Swartz would turn in a 5-hit performance in game one, finishing 5-for-6 with one run and an RBI. Meanwhile, Scott and Garrison each posted career highs with 3 hits apiece - both scoring two runs and driving in one. Mullinak finished 1-for-3 with 3 walks, 2 runs and a stolen base. Everett was 1-for-4 with a walk and 2 RBIs; Daniel, Rich and Youngblood all drove in one during 1-for-4 performances. Hunter Kelly walked and knocked in one, Ivester scored twice and JJ Littles stole a base.

On the mound, Rich picked up his second relief win of the year, working 2 innings, striking out five and yielding one hit.

Mullinak got the start and lasted 2 innings after giving up 3 hits, 5 walks, 2 hit batters and 6 runs (5 earned). Ean Harkins worked 5 innings of long relief, allowing 3 unearned runs on 5 walks and 2 hits. The senior southpaw would also record 8 strikeouts.

**Panthers 10, Monticello 1** - The Union County offense provided Swartz 10 runs of support but he didn't need it as he recorded a career-high 16 strikeouts while working 7 innings for the second time this month.

Mullinak drove in three during a 2-for-2 game at the plate that included a run and two walks. Scott went 1-for-2 with a triple, a run, 2 RBIs and a pair of walks.

Everett and Rich posted identical stat lines, both going 2-for-4 with 2 runs and an RBI. Meanwhile, Daniel and Swartz each finished 1-for-3 with an RBI and Kelly scored once during a 1-for-2 game.

Youngblood walked and scored twice while also stealing a base.

Union County dropped a 5-spot on the Canes in the second after leaving two aboard in the first inning. Youngblood and Daniel each walked and Rich singled to initiate the second inning onslaught - two would score on a Mullinak single then two more came around on Scott's triple. Swartz capped off the inning by scoring Scott with a base hit back up the box.

Everett singled and later scored on a wild pitch to make it a 6-0 game in the fourth. He would also single and score during Union's two-run fifth that opened up an 8-0 advantage.

Monticello got on the board in the sixth with a lead off double and an RBI single. The Panthers would tack on two more in the bottom half of the inning on RBI singles from Rich and Daniel - scoring Youngblood and Kelley, who both reached via a base on balls.

Up next for Union County is a trip to defending Region Champion Elbert County on Friday. Game one is scheduled to begin at 5 p.m. with game two to follow.

(UC box scores from the Monticello games located on Page 3B.)



After opening the season in a slump, Jonathan Everett is hitting .300 over his last three games with 3 RBIs, 2 runs and 2 walks. He also delivered a game-tying 2-run double in game one vs Monticello. Photo/Todd Forrest



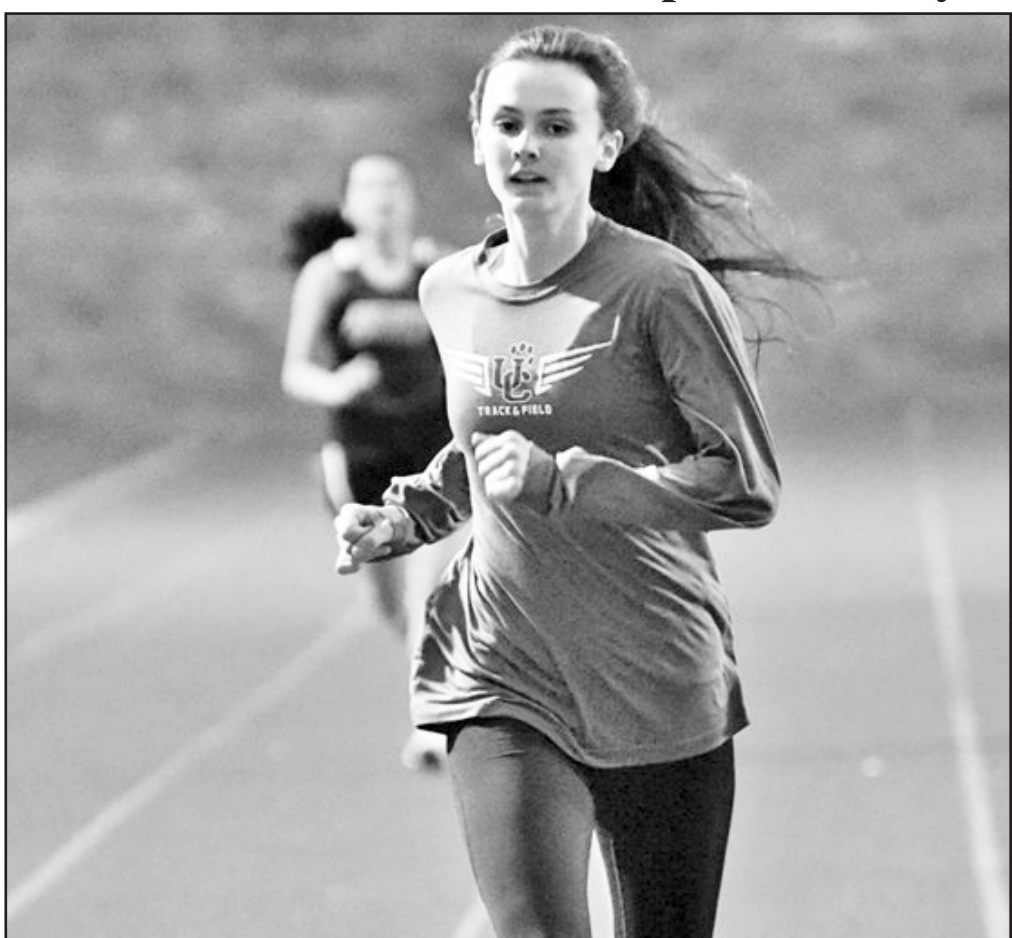
Sophomore Issac Mullinak reached base eight times in 10 plate appearances during Friday's doubleheader. He also drove in 3 runs, scored 3 times and stole his team-leading sixth base of the year. Photo/Todd Forrest

#	Roster	GP	PA	AB	H	1B	2B	3B	HR	RBI	R	HBP	ROE	FC	CI	BB	SO	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS
44	Damien Chitwood	1	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1.000	1.000	1.000	2.000
9	Isaak Mullinak	10	41	26	11	11	0	0	0	3	9	2	1	1	0	13	4	.423	.634	.423	1.057
1	John Mancuso	6	18	15	6	6	0	0	0	3	2	0	1	1	0	2	3	.400	.471	.400	.871
22	Zeke Swartz	10	33	28	11	11	0	0	0	5	2	1	1	2	0	3	4	.393	.455	.393	.847
6	Alec Scott	11	43	37	11	8	2	1	0	7	6	0	1	1	0	4	11	.297	.349	.405	.754
11	Cayden Rich	9	28	24	5	4	1	0	0	3	6	1	1	1	0	2	10	.208	.286	.250	.536
18	Hunter Kelley	9	31	21	4	4	0	0	0	4	1	2	3	2	0	7	4	.190	.419	.190	.610
16	Jonathan Everett	8	25	21	4	3	1	0	0	5	2	0	1	2	0	3	7	.190	.292	.238	.530
30	Austin Garrison	11	38	36	6	6	0	0	0	5	5	1	6	5	0	0	5	.167	.184	.167	.351
31	Peyton Ivester	6	12	8	1	1	0	0	0	5	1	0	0	0	0	3	4	.125	.417	.125	.542
12	Coleson Daniel	7	20	17	2	2	0	0	0	2	2	0	1	1	0	3	6	.118	.250	.118	.368
27	Alec Youngblood	9	32	26	3	3	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	2	0	4	9	.115	.250	.115	.365
5	Mason McCombs	6	13	12	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	4	.083	.154	.083	.237
24	Ean Harkins	9	26	23	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	13	.000	.077	.000	.077
19	JJ Littles	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000	.000	.000
4	Jonah Daniel	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000	.000	.000
15	Matthew Kelley	3	6	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	.000	.167	.000	.167
Totals		11	368	300	66	61	4	1	0	40	46	10	17	20	0	48	88	.220	.339	.240	.579

#	Roster	IP	GP	GS	W	L	SV	SVO	BS	SV%	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HBP	ERA	WHIP
11	Cayden Rich	3.2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	1	0	0	3	7	0	.000	1.091
22	Zeke Swartz	28.0	5	5	1	1	0	0	0	.000	16	7	4	4	41	2	1.000	.714
24	Ean Harkins	10.2	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	.000	6	6	3	7	14	0	1.969	1.219
3	Kaston Hemphill	5.0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	.000	3	2	2	2	4	2	2.800	1.000
30	Austin Garrison	4.2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	8	5	2	5	8	0	3.000	2.786
12	Coleson Daniel	5.0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	7	8	3	2	4	2	4.200	1.800
9	Isaak Mullinak	20.1	5	4	0	1	0	0	0	.000	29	22	17	10	19	6	5.852	1.918
Totals		77.1	11	11	1	2	0	0	0	.000	70	50	31	33	97	12	2.806	1.332

Union County baseball season totals (through March 15 vs Monticello). Hitting (top) and pitching (bottom).

## Track and field: Allie Brey sets new 400-meter school record at Stephens County



Allie Brey - Union County's new 400M school record holder

**TOCCOA** - Despite punching above their weight class once again, Union County more than held its own at Class AAAA's Stephens County last week.

Competing against Stephens and Class AAA Franklin County, freshman Allie Brey

clocked in at 1:06 in the 400-meter, setting a new school record with her first place finish. Luke Gambrell was first in the 3200M and Hunter Hartzog set the pace in the 800M and 1600M events.

Also placing first was junior Zoe Sanchez in the 1600M

and 3200M races.

Union will race locally this week when they visit Fannin on Tuesday. Action is scheduled to begin at 4 p.m.

On Friday they will visit Habersham Central for a 3:30 p.m. start.