

# Sports

See the Sports Section at ngame.com

## Dockrey injures knee in 17-7 scrimmage loss to Chestatee

By Todd Forrest  
Sports Editor  
sports@ngame.com

Union County left Friday night's 17-7 scrimmage loss to Chestatee with more questions than answers following struggles on both sides of the ball and a potentially serious injury at the quarterback position.

Junior quarterback Cade Dockrey left the game with a left knee injury during the second quarter after attempting to cut inside on a first-down scamper near midfield. As of Monday morning, no further info was available regarding his status going forward.

"Right now, we have a plan with [Dockrey at QB] and a plan without him," Union County head coach Michael Perry said Sunday afternoon. "Regardless, even if it's not serious, he's probably going to be out for a while. But when he was in [the game Friday], he played really well."

Despite the final tally, Friday's preseason contest showed promise in the early going when Union put 7 points on the board during the game's opening drive.

Starting from the 30, Dockrey hit junior Tyler Parker for 6 yards, then senior running back Connor Schuknecht bounced outside for 62 yards. Two plays later, Dockrey blasted his way in from the 1-yard line, and sophomore Grant Smith converted the PAT.

That was all the scoring Union County could muster as Chestatee's power-running game took control, while the Panthers' offense couldn't regain their footing.

The War Eagles answered via an 18-play scoring drive that covered 70 yards, scoring on a 36-yard completion -- the only pass attempt of the series.

"Right now, outside linebacker and defensive line looks like a huge weakness," Perry said. "Getting Ethan [Lester] back will be a big boost to our defense. We have another kid, Micah Wallace, who will



Junior quarterback Cade Dockrey (1) celebrates with Maddox Young (2) and Tyler Parker (11) after capping off Union County's opening drive with a 1-yard touchdown run. Dockrey left the game in the second quarter with a left knee injury. Photo/Todd Forrest

probably start as a freshman at linebacker, but he wasn't there Friday because of a death in the family."

According to Perry, Union County's defensive standouts were Kaden Combs, Kevin Kilpatrick and Darin Patterson.

"I can't say enough about Kaden Combs and his effort. He never came off the field. I don't know how many tackles for a loss he had on defense and he was pancaking people on offense. It's a pleasure to coach a kid like that."

"Another one is Kevin Kilpatrick. He's never played for us before but he did his job and put people on the ground. I'm really proud of him."

"I'm also very proud of

Darin Patterson," he continued. "He's another kid that hasn't played for us, but he's a high-effort guy and does everything he can for us."

All tied up at 7-7, a penalty derailed Union's next drive after Dockrey and Parker hooked up again, then Dockrey moved the chains with his legs. Chestatee took over at the 25 following a punt and advanced inside the Union 10 on 11 plays.

However, a costly penalty against the offense limited the War Eagles to a 27-yard field goal.

Union failed to answer after a holding flag dropped Union into 1st and 17, and Dockrey left the game after moving the chains with his legs on third down.

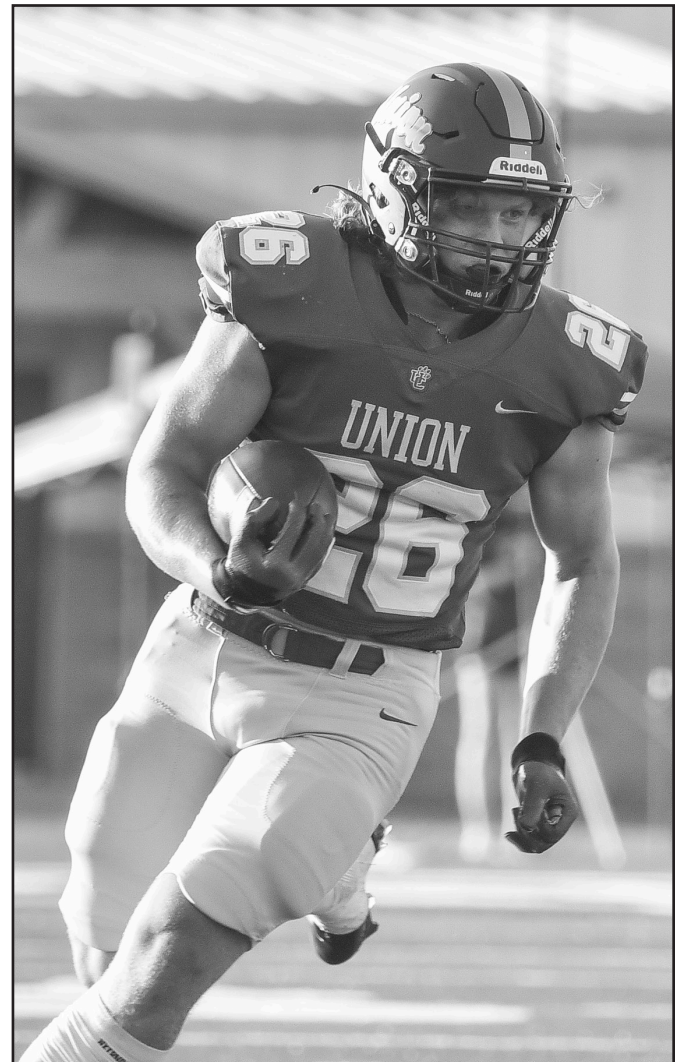
Sophomore Chetley Cox replaced the injured starter behind center, but the drive stalled when Chestatee dropped Cox on a third-down sack.

After the Panthers' defense forced its first stop of the night, the offense went three-and-out in the final minute of the half.

Chestatee opened the third period with a 20-play, 70-yard scoring drive for a 17-7 advantage.

Cox and the offense moved the chains when the quarterback scrambled for 12 on third and 11, but the drive eventually stalled near midfield.

The Union defense stood its ground but an interception derailed the Panthers' ensuing offensive possession.



Senior running back Connor Schuknecht breaks a 62-yard run on Union County's second play of the game during Friday night's scrimmage loss to Chestatee. Photo/Todd Forrest

The JV squads took over in the fourth and freshman Camden Kendrick replaced Cox. Unfortunately, a tipped pass led to another Panthers interception on Kendrick's second attempt, but Chestatee gave it right back when Union pounced on a fumble deep in its own territory. From there, Kendrick settled in and completed four straight passes on the next drive and had Union County inside the War Eagles' 10 before the drive stalled.

"We're going to have to get creative at the quarterback position," Perry said. "We're going to look at the other quarterbacks we have, and probably give some other guys a look."

"And if it ends up a worst-case scenario with Cade,

thank goodness we have two weeks to try and get someone ready."

The Panthers will have two weeks to regroup before opening the season at Gilmer on Aug. 23 at 7:30 p.m.

"We had some bright spots [on Friday], but we just have to put our heads down and get to work and figure out some solutions and go from there."

"We need to establish some running backs other than Connor [Schuknecht]," he added.

"But we had a great crowd [on Friday] and it's always fun to be back under the lights at Mike Colwell Memorial Stadium and it was cool to have the band there for a scrimmage."



Senior Kaden Combs records a tackle for loss near the Chestatee sideline. Combs' play on both sides of the ball earned the praises of his head coach. Photo/Todd Forrest



Sophomore defensive back Kevin Kilpatrick was all over the field on Friday night and was one of the bright spots in the scrimmage according to Coach Perry. Photo/Todd Forrest

# Volleyball: Union County opens 2024 with 3-1 loss to Pickens

By Todd Forrest  
Sports Editor  
sports@nganews.com

Union County dropped a tightly-contested 3-1 home matchup to Pickens in the 2024 season opener on Thursday, Aug. 8, falling 25-27, 25-27 and 25-22 during the first, third and fourth sets.

Union secured the second set 25-17.

**Set One: Pickens 27, Union 25** - The Panthers erased a 20-16 margin, eventually seizing a 25-24 advantage until Pickens rattled off three straight to close the set.

Juniors Reese Jones and Mady Adams spotted Union County an early 4-2 edge until the Dragons raced ahead 12-7 and maintained the lead until the home stretch.

**Set Two: Union 25, Pickens 17** - The Panthers never trailed in the second set after Jones helped spot her team a quick 3-1 lead. Adams, along with seniors Katelyn Brown and Lily Brookshire kept Union out front by scores of 9-5, 11-6 and 13-7. Senior Mallory Rouse and sophomore Payton Murphy got in on the scoring to mount a 16-8 advantage before Pickens scored the next three.

Kills from Jones and Adams halted the Dragons' momentum, then a Charlei Robinson ace made it 20-11.

Later, with Union up 23-17, Brown and Brookshire closed the set with consecutive kills.

**Set Three: Pickens 27, Union 25** - Knotted at 6-6 in the early going, Pickens scored the next five before a pair of Brown aces had Union within



Sofia Foster came delivers a timely point during the third set of Union County's 3-1 loss to Pickens on Thursday, Aug. 8 at the UCHS gymnasium. Photo/Todd Forrest

three at 12-9.

With Robinson on the serve and her team trailing 17-14, Union County rallied to even things up at 17-17 before Pickens answered. Jones, Rouse and Robinson led the way in a 7-5 stretch that saw the Panthers grab a brief 24-23 edge until their set-point serve didn't clear the net.

Later, following another Pickens point, Brookshire's kill evened the score at 25-25.

**Set Four: Pickens 25, Union 22** - The Panthers nearly erased a 20-12 deficit, behind a late surge led by Robinson, Jones, Brown and

sophomore Sofia Foster.

Two aces from Robinson and a pair of kills by Jones cut the margin to 21-17. After Brown and Robinson made it a 24-20 contest, Foster's block narrowed the gap to 24-21.

**Up next:** Union County will host Rabun County and Stephens County beginning at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 13. The Panthers travel to Franklin County on Thursday, Aug. 15 to face the Lions and Commerce.

Union County welcomes Andrews, North Carolina on Monday, Aug. 19.



Senior Lily Brookshire in front of packed house during the 2024 season opener. Photo/Todd Forrest



Katelyn Brown (10), Charlei Robinson (13) and the Panthers celebrate a point vs. Pickens. Photo/Todd Forrest

# Softball: Dyer's heroics lift Union County past Dawson County

## Lady Panthers blanked at White, fall to Prince Avenue and Alcovy

By Todd Forrest  
Sports Editor  
sports@nganews.com

The Lady Panthers (3-4) dropped three of four last week, winning their lone home contest 8-5 over Dawson County on Thursday, Aug. 8.

Earlier in the week, Union County suffered a 9-0 loss at White County before taking a pair of losses on Saturday to Alcovy and Prince Avenue Christian.

Union resumed action on Monday, Aug. 12 vs. White County and will open region play at Rockmart on Thursday, Aug. 15. The Lady Panthers will travel to Dahlonega on Saturday to face Lumpkin County and Lanier.

**Lady Panthers 8, Dawson County 5** - Sloane Dyer's 3-run homer in the bottom of the sixth inning made the difference in Union County's third win of 2024.

With two down and two aboard in the sixth, Dyer belted the first pitch of the at-bat over the centerfield fence, spotting Union County an 8-5 advantage.

Mikala Souther opened the Union sixth with a single to center, then advanced to second on Delaney Moses' sacrifice bunt. A strikeout brought Izzy Anthros to the plate, and the sophomore reached on an error, putting runners at the corners for Dyer.

Anthros locked down the 118-pitch complete-game victory in the seventh, facing four batters and working around a two-out single. The sophomore finished the day with 8 strikeouts, allowing 5 hits and 2 earned runs over 7 innings.

Dyer led the way at the dish, going 3 for 4 with 3 RBIs and 3 runs. Moses homered during a 1-for-2 day; senior Jordane Mullanack went 2 for 4.

Dawson jumped out front in the first courtesy of an unearned run, but Union responded with two in the bottom half via an Anthros double, a Dyer single and a Lady Tigers' error.

Moses' solo homer to left grew the lead to 3-1 in the second, but Dawson answered with one in the third.

The Lady Panthers built a 5-2 lead in their half of the frame, capitalizing on four singles and a sacrifice fly.

The score remained locked at 5-2 until the fifth when Dawson used a walk, a hit by pitch, a single and a double to even the game at 5-5. Union County wasted a leadoff single in the bottom half before Dyer's big blast in the sixth put Dawson away.

Lily Helton finished 1 for 3, Addison Whitener went 1 for 2 and drove in a run; Reese Kelley added a sacrifice fly and Stella Collins scored once.

**Lady Panthers 0, White County 9 (5 inns)** - The Lady Warriors jumped out front 4-0



Senior Sloane Dyer singles during a recent game. Dyer went 3 for 4 with 3 RBIs and a homer during last Thursday's 8-5 win over Dawson County. Photo/Todd Forrest

after two in Cleveland, then put up a 4-spot in the third and tacked on a run in the fourth.

Singles by Anthros and Mullanack and a Souther walk was all the offense Union County could muster. Jaslyn Roberts and Anthros reached on errors.

Whitener went 3 innings, giving up 8 hits, 5 earned and striking out one. Anthros allowed a solo homer during an inning in relief.

**Lady Panthers 5, Alcovy 10** - Union County couldn't dig its way out of a 5-0 deficit during the first of two losses at Prince Avenue Christian on Saturday.

Dyer doubled and stole a base during a 2-for-4 day with an RBI. Mullanack doubled and knocked in two runs; Anthros went 1 for 2 with a triple, a walk and 2 RBIs.

Union County trailed 5-0 heading to the bottom of the fourth but free passes to Kelley and Souther allowed Anthros to clear the bases with her two-out triple.

Alcovy bumped its lead to 8-2 in the fifth before adding two more runs in the sixth.

With their team trailing 10-2 and two down in the Union half of the sixth, Zady Ludlum singled, then Peyton Grisham and Roberts worked a base on balls.

Dyer scored Ludlum via an infield single and Mullanack's double brought home two more.

Anthros went 3 1/3, surrendering 7 hits, 5 earned, 2 walks and striking out five. Whitener gave up 3 hits and 2 earned over 2 1/3 innings; Roberts allowed 3 hits and 3 earned during 1 1/3.

Souther went 1 for 3



Senior centerfielder Jordane Mullanack homered during Union County's 11-3 loss to Prince Avenue. On the year, she leads the team in BA (.522), OBP (.542), SLG (.913) and RBIs (12). Photo/Todd Forrest

with a walk and a run; Ludlum ended her day 1 for 1 with a run; Grisham, Moses and Roberts added one run each.

**Lady Panthers 3, Prince Avenue 11 (5 inns)** - Union County scored three in the fifth after falling behind 9-0 after four.

Mullanack homered during a 2 for 3 day and Dyer went 1 for 3 with a double and an RBI. Whitener also doubled during a 1 for 3 performance.

Anthros and Ludlum added base hits; Roberts scored a run.

Union's fifth began when



Junior Delaney Moses homered during Union County's win over Dawson County. Photo/Todd Forrest



Mikala Souther's single sparked Union's three-run sixth vs. Dawson County. Photo/Todd Forrest



Travel Baseball for  
seasons  
Fall 2024 and  
Spring 2025

Sign Ups are open for the seasons  
in the following age groups:

Ages 9-10

Ages 11-12

Ages 13-14

For more info contact  
Derek at 706-994-8973

