

Volleyball: Lady Panthers notch wins over Chestatee and Stephens County

By Todd Forrest
Sports Editor
sports@nganews.com

Union County volleyball cracked the win-column last week, logging a 2-0 road win at Chestatee and a 2-0 home victory over Stephens County.

The 8th-ranked Lady Panthers began the week with a Tuesday visit to Chestatee to face the Lady War Eagles and West Hall in a non-area tri-match.

In the opener, Union County took down Chestatee 2-0 (25-19, 25-23) before dropping a 2-1 nailbiter to West Hall. The Union County junior varsity, however, dominated West Hall in straight sets, 25-6 and 25-11.

We had a great week of competition," Union coach Anna Chapman said. "The girls came out strong versus Chestatee and really worked together to get a big win.

"Chestatee was a big opponent with a lot of strengths, but we kept the ball moving and really showed what we've been working on. The focus at practice last week was hitting and I think it was obvious based on not only our stats, but also the level of our hitters exhibited.

"West Hall was another great opponent and one that I really would have loved to take. We had impressive stats, but they ultimately made less errors than we did."

The Lady Panthers returned home Thursday to face



Emma Whicker (L) and Morgan Fussell (R) celebrate as Haley Noe (white jersey) and Molly Kay West (back left) join in. Photo/Todd Forrest

Class AAA White County in a top-10 showdown. Despite two competitive matches, the Lady Warriors held on for a 2-0 victory.

"The White County match was a killer one to watch," Chapman said. "Our energy was up, our rallies were intense and the girls played amazing. We struggled with errors in a few places and will have to spend time cleaning those up. The points didn't end up in our favor,

but overall we felt confident in how we played as a team and how we've continued to improve over the past few weeks."

In the nightcap, Union and Stephens County faced off and delivered a thrilling first set with the Lady Panthers surviving 25-22. But the second frame, was all Union County in a 25-16 victory.

Trailing 4-1 in set two, the Lady Panthers outscored Stephens 13-3 to grab a 14-7 advan-



Olivia Blocker shows off her vertical leap during Union County's win over Stephens County. Photo/Todd Forrest

tage. Molly Kay West sparked the surge with a pair of aces to even the score at 4-4. Down 6-5 and attempting to even the score, the Lady Indians were denied by a Riley Allison kill that spotted Union a 7-5 lead.

Another Allison point all but put Stephens away when she awarded the Lady Panthers a 17-10 advantage.

Scores of 18-12 and 19-13 were as close as it got before Union outscored the visitors 6-3

down the stretch, highlighted by a kill from senior Katie Baumeister.

Stephens also jumped out front in the first set, taking leads of 7-4 and 8-5, before Union raced ahead 11-9 thanks to a pair of Haley Noe aces.

Morgan Fussell got in the scoring, extending the margin to 13-10 with a kill. Later, she kept the Lady Panthers up three, using an ace to make it a 15-12 game. The Lady Indians evened

the score at 16-16 but Allison's kill spotted the home team an 18-16 lead. All square at 19-19. Fussell's play at the net swung momentum back to Union before an ace from West made it 22-19.

Stephens never seriously threatened again as the two squads traded points the rest of the way, resulting in a 25-22 Lady Panther victory.

"The win against Stephens County felt great," Chapman said. "We continued playing at the level that we played White County and were able to put it all together. Our senior Katie Baumeister came in and had an incredible kill to get our 24th point at the end of the second set. Our hope is that the tough opening weeks of the season over-prepare us for our (area) matches".

Up next: Union County visits East Hall for a tri-match with Banks County on Tuesday. Later in the week, Union travels to Dawson County for a tri-match with Johnson-Gainesville on Thursday. Both contests get underway at 5 p.m.

Stats vs Chestatee: Kills - Fussell and Saylor Noe 7; Aces - Emma Whicker 3.

Stats vs West Hall: Kills - Fussell 10, Allison 8, Saylor Noe 7; Aces - Haley Noe, West, Whicker - 4

Stats vs Stephens: Kills - Swartz 6; Aces - West 4. No stats available vs White County.

Football and Cross Country to open 2020 campaigns at home

UCHS releases COVID-19 guidelines for spectators at Mike Colwell Memorial Stadium

By Todd Forrest
Sports Editor
sports@nganews.com

The final round of high school sports action is slated to kickoff later this week when cross country opens Thursday at Meeks Park and the gridiron Panthers welcome rival Fannin County to Mike Colwell Memorial Stadium on Friday night.

According to Union County Athletic Director Mandy Hunter, a list of safety guidelines will post Tuesday to UCHS social media accounts -- pending BOE approval -- regarding all home football games.

Tuesday's announcement, however, is not expected to include any significant changes. There will be no limited seating but fans are strongly encouraged to practice social distancing and to wear masks.

The student section and band areas will remain in the bleachers with both sections roped off. Spectators are also encouraged to self-screen before arrival - anyone running a fever should stay home, Hunter said.

Sideline access is limited to school personnel and working members of the media. All faculty and press must undergo a screening before access will be granted.



Coach Brian Allison looks on as junior Logan Helcher performs quarterback drills. Photo/Todd Forrest

Concessions will consist of pre-packaged items only and all workers are required to wear masks and gloves.

On the field, head coach Brian Allison says he has no plans of holding anything or anyone back, despite the lack of scrimmage games and practices.

"This is a regular-season

game and we're treating it like all the rest of them, we're going out there to win," he said. "We also understand that things are going to be a little different than in the past. Not having one or two scrimmages to see where we're at could result in things being a little sloppy. So we're going to try and keep things a bit simpler."

Coach Allison said he feels comfortable enough with the depth chart that Fannin County will be the central focus of this week's practices.

"The (depth chart) is about 95% set so we're preparing for Friday night," he said. "Our kids are excited and ready to play after all the adversity they've dealt with."



Cross Country begins Thursday at Meeks Park. Photo/Todd Forrest

For the most part, Union County will enter Friday with a healthy roster. According to Allison, one offensive lineman is banged up and could miss a few weeks, but that's the extent of Union's significant injuries.

"We've got a few other guys that are nicked up, but there's nothing major as of right now."

Union County Cross Country gets underway Thursday at Meeks Park. The first race is at 4 p.m. with Lumpkin, Towns, Fannin, Rabun, Gilmer, Murray and Union Counties all participating.

Last week's practice run at Lumpkin County was rained out but Union expects to return to Dahlonega on Sept. 16.

According to coach Paige Dyer, the 2020 schedule remains up in the air and nothing is set in stone.

Should the current schedule hold, Union will visit North Hall on Sept. 10 and Gilmer on Sept. 24.

October begins with the Unicoi meet on the 1st, followed by a visit to Banks County on Oct. 8.

The region meet is slated for Oct. 28 at Unicoi with State being held Nov. 6-7.

Unfortunately, Malachi Patrick - Union's No. 4 runner at State - will likely miss the season following surgery.

BASKETBALL

**Union County Recreation Department
Basketball Registration is open!**

Ages 5-12
Age you are September 1st
is the age group you play in.

Registration fee is \$50.00
and open to both boys and girls.

Registration can be completed online
at unioncountygga.gov
or at the Recreation Office.

Registration will end September 25, 2020.
If you need any additional information,
please call 706-439-6074.

Local Racing Report: Tri-County

By Blake Lynch
Racing Reporter
North Georgia News

Brasstown, NC - Tri-County Racetrack went back in time on Saturday night, hosting First Responders Night and a full program, demo derby and Tuff Trucks. Here are the top five from each division.

FWD - Coming in first place was No. 3 Josh Deese. In second was No. 101 Jacob Lynch. Taking third was No. 21 Trenton Moss, placing fourth was No. 401 Brent Lynch and in fifth was No. 05 Glen Cocker.

Crate/Limited - Coming in first was No. 7 Jason Deal. In second was No. 4h Levi Hicks, placing third was No. 30 Devin Dilbeck, coming in fourth was No.

03 Randy Nichols and fifth went to No. 56 Kip Cochran.

Beginner 602 - Coming in first was No. 22 Tucker Anderson. Second was No. 03 Dante Curtis, Coming in third was No. 55 Brad Sosbee, fourth was No. 9 Wyatt Hopkins and fifth was No. 100 Cooper Twigg.

Modified Street - In first was No. 25 Jacob Hamby. Coming in second was No. 38 Jamie Oliver. Taking home third was No. 81 John Howard, finishing in fourth was No. 4 Jacob Parris and coming in fifth was No. 37 Michael Barnett.

Street Stock - Coming

in first was No. 95 Alex Vance. In second was No. 76 Bobby Thrasher, coming in third was No. 21 Troy Turner, in fourth was No. J69 Jim Weller and finishing fifth was No. 01 Jacob Lynch.

Pony - Coming in first was No. 00 Adam Brooks. Placing second was No. 6 Koulten Herbert. Third was No. 4m Marty King, coming in fourth was No. 1 Danny Burnett and taking home fifth was No. 104 Ricky Queen

Tough Trucks - Overall winner - Justin Blair

Demo Derby - Richard Ames

Old Union Women's Golf Association hosts 'Who Wants to be a Millionaire' golf tournament

'Who Wants to be a Millionaire' was loads of fun and a complete success for the Old Union Women's Golf Association on Monday, August 24. Money bags with 'millions of dollars' were given to each player. According to play, 'money' was passed back and forth among the ladies until a 'winner' was determined. Two places were paid out in four flights.

Congratulations to the following winning golfers: Nancy Hamilton, Flight A, 1st place, Glenda Geddings, Flight A, 2nd place, Cappie Harper, Flight B, 1st place, Alison Taylor, Flight B, 2nd place, Jennie Kulzer, Flight C, 1st place, Martha Quijano, Flight C, 2nd place, Gloria White, Flight D, 1st place, Kay Kirkland, Flight D, 2nd place.

Special acknowledgements go to Jinna Wheeler, Martha Quijano and Martha Zimmer for birdies during the tournament. Sharon McClure and Cynthia Panter each boasted two chip-ins while each of the following ladies had one: Pat Westbrook, Sheila Baggett, Donna Stone, Martha Quijano, Jane Childers and Geni Preece. Sharon McClure won a free round of golf because it was stamped on one of her \$100 bills in her money bag.

Mary Holmes continues to offer Golf Clinics at Old Union Golf Course. The cost is \$20 plus range ball. Max number in a group is six, and the clinics are an hour long. Mary will have two classes... the first one at 8 AM and a second clinic at 9 AM. You must sign up on the website to partici-

pate in the clinic. Mary Holmes was the ladies' golf coach at LSU, and we are delighted with her offer to lead the Golf Clinics. Sign up soon as the classes will fill up quickly!

The Old Union Women's Golf Association is now offering a new 9 Holes League which will also be played on Mondays. This league is perfect for those players who are new to the game, who may have time constraints or those players who want to play only 9 holes. Come join the best league in the North Georgia Mountains!

If you are interested and would like to come as a guest, or for more information, visit our website at www.OUWGA.com or call/text Karen at 352-638-3649 or Cynthia at 706-633-7587. N(Sep2,20)CA

Fall Session 2020- Fitness Family Programs

Union County Recreation Department

Ages: 50 and over

Fall is quickly approaching! Union County Recreation Department will be offering many fabulous fitness class options for the Fall session. Here is a list of the following fitness classes we will offer, and take a look at our class offerings for 18 years and older! We also offer some of our classes online for those that wish to work out at home!

- Regular Aerobics (T/Th) @ 8:30-9:30 AM
- Advanced Strength-Core class (M/W/F) @ 9:45-10:30 AM
- AM Beginner Strength and Core class (T/Th) @ 11:15-12:00 AM
- AM Intermediate Step-Aerobics class (M/W/F) @ 10:45-11:30 AM
- Chair Fitness-Aerobics class (T/Th) @ 1:15-2:00 PM
- **Zumba-Latin w/Lisa (M/W/F) @ 8:30-9:30 AM (Age 18 and over)
- **PM Dance Jams (Monday class only) @ 5:00-6:00 PM (Age 18 and over)
- **Zumba Fitness w/Beth @ 4:45-5:45 PM (T/Th)
- **Online Fitness Class options (Call or come in for pricing)

*Fall Session 2020 New Registration begins on August 21, 2020 and ends September 10, 2020 (or until classes fill to capacity) at the Recreation Office (310 Wellborn Street).