

Softball: Lady Panthers pummel Rabun Co.; fall to Lumpkin Co.

By Todd Forrest
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Union County softball split a pair of games last week after Tuesday's attempt at a makeup date with Greater Atlanta Christian was rained out for the second time this season.

The Lady Panthers other region contest didn't go as planned as Lumpkin County pulled away late during a 9-4 slugfest after consecutive pitchers duels between Union and the Lady Indians ended with scores of 1-0.

On Wednesday the Lady Panthers picked up a one-sided non-region victory over Rabun County by the score of 14-3. Junior Maddie Sutton led the way for the Union lineup with the first four-hit game of her high school career, while scoring three times and driving in three runs with two singles, a double, and a triple.

From the circle, senior Jillian Lawn picked up the win with 6 strikeouts in 4 innings of work.

Skyler Ludlum also posted the first three-hit game of her career while Aladriel Arnold continued to swing a hot bat with a three-hit game.

The Lady Cats did jump in front, momentarily, with a run in the top half of the first but the lead was short-lived.

In the Union half of the first, Katelynn Hodges, Sutton and Lawn opened the game with three consecutive singles. Hodges scored on Lawn's base hit and courtesy runner Kristen Poteete scored on an RBI single from Mary Wischmeyer to take a 2-1 advantage. The Lady Panthers tacked on two more



Senior Jillian Lawn doubles in the first inning vs Lumpkin County. From the circle she finished with 10Ks - a career high for a non-extra inning game. She also fanned 10 hitters the last time Lumpkin came to Blairsville (2016) but that game went nine innings. Photo/Todd Forrest

her in with a base hit, and Arnold brought her home with a one-out single. With two down it didn't appear as if the Lady Panthers would add nine more runs but the next eight batters reached base to open up a 14-3 advantage after four innings.

Aubree Pack drove in Arnold with a single to center and Hannah Patton kept the inning alive with another base hit up-the-middle. Ludlum scored Pack with a single to left and pinch hitter Madeline Tanner made it a 9-3 game with a base hit to right.



Maddie Sutton went 4-for-4 with 3 RBIs vs Rabun - the first four-hit game of her career and second 3-RBI game. Photo/Todd Forrest

Hodges drew a walk and Sutton brought home Ludlum and Tanner with a double to centerfield. Lawn followed suit with a double of her own - clearing the bases for a 13-3 lead. Arnold drove in the final run when Poteete scored for the second time off a single to center.

Freshman pitcher Trinity Queen entered in the fifth and worked around a two-out hit-batter to retire the side and end the game via "mercy rule."

At the end of the day, Union County pummeled the Lady Cats with a season-high 20 hits - two coming from Hodges, Lawn, Pack and Patton. Wischmeyer and Tanner each drove in a run during a one-hit game.

The following day the Lady Panthers hosted Lumpkin

County and Lawn pitched well enough to win but nine errors plagued Union County as they fell to the Lady Indians for the second straight time.

In the early-going, the Lady Panthers proved they weren't intimidated by Lumpkin ace Natalie Robinson, who no-hit Union County last month in Dahlonega. Back-to-back first inning doubles by Lawn and Arnold spotted the Lady Panthers a 1-0 advantage.

The narrow lead would hold until the fourth when Lumpkin took advantage of two errors to open the inning. Lawn eventually pitched out of trouble but not before Union found themselves trailing 2-1.

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XC: Union takes first in three of four races

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The Union County boys cross country team won both of its races last week beginning at Lumpkin County on Thursday, then at Murphy, NC over the weekend.

The girls were victorious at Lumpkin County and placed third at Murphy, NC.

At Saturday's "Valley River Mudder" in Murphy, NC, Union County sophomore Zoe Sanchez placed first overall with a time of 19:43.

As of press time it is believed that Sanchez's time set a new course record. However, the course record could not be confirmed by Monday's deadline.

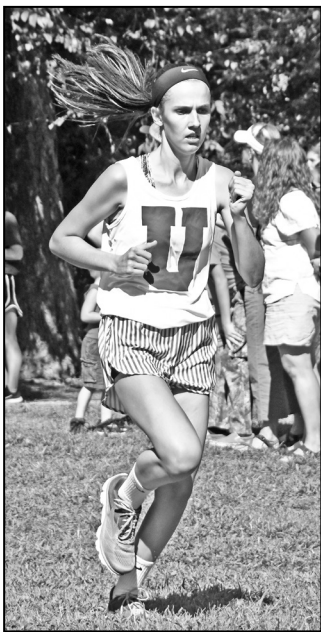
Meanwhile, senior Lance Underwood also took home first during the boys race with a time of 16:41.

Freshman Luke Gambrell placed fifth overall in the guys race with a time of 17:36. Junior Latty Ryals was sixth in the girls race at 21:34.

Other boys times were: Timothy Murphy 18:08, Colby Ives 18:41, and Guage Shumaker 18:46.

Girls: Lexie Ochoa 23:37, Sadie Underwood 24:27, and Jessie Holbrooks 25:37.

Other schools competing at Murphy were: Fannin County,



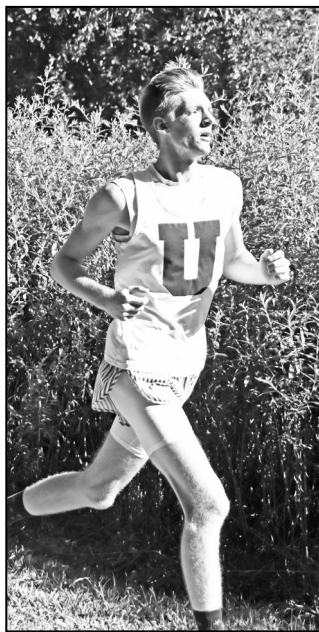
Latty Ryals

Murphy, Hayesville, NC, Robbinsville, NC, Smoky Mountain, NC, Tri-County Early College, NC, and Towns County.

On Thursday, Union County took part in Lumpkin County's "Up on the Ridge" meet vs Lumpkin County, Murray County, West Hall and Woody Gap.

Underwood and Sanchez both picked up top honors while leading their respective teams to first place, as well.

Ryals finished in second overall in the girls race. The rest of the top five were: Ochoa, Emmi



Timothy Murphy

Schakat, and Sadie Underwood.

The remainder of the boys top five at Lumpkin County were: Gambrell, Murphy, Ives, and Shumaker.

"All the girls and guys that ran did a wonderful job and represent Union County High School very well both on the course and off," Union County Cross Country Coach Paige Dyer said.

The West Hall Invitational has already been cancelled due to the remnants of Hurricane Irma. Union County is scheduled to race at Fannin County on Thursday.

Union County plays hosts to youth football

By Blake Lynch
North Georgia News
Sports Special

Union County youth football was in action at home last Saturday with three different teams took the field at Mike Colwell Memorial Stadium.

Seventh Grade: The Union County Panthers took on the West Hall Spartans on Saturday and it was a tough game for the Panthers as Darin Patterson scored the only touchdown for the home team.

The Panther offense turned the ball over twice resulting in a 20-7 defeat. The 7th Grade panthers are 1-2 so far on the season.

8U Panthers: The Panthers took on the Fannin County Rebels and Kevin Kilpatrick scored the only touchdown for the 8U Panthers.

Union County would drop this game by the score 14-7. The 8U Panthers are now even at 1-1 so far this season.

10U Panthers: The Panthers took on the West Hall Spartans and the defense did an awesome job only allowing one touchdown. The offense did a great job also by working together and keeping their blocks. Union would go on to win 24-6 to improve to 2-0 this season.



The Union County 10U Panthers during their 24-6 victory over West Hall on Saturday. Photos by Todd Forrest

Local First Responders recognized Friday night

UCSO's Mitchell Henderson brings game ball via helicopter

By Todd Forrest
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Prior to Union County football's home opener with Andrews, NC on Friday night, UCHS paid tribute to local first responders - law enforcement, fire fighters, paramedics, and all those you see rushing to the emergency while everyone is running away.

In a special pregame ceremony, Mitchell Henderson of the Union County Sheriff's Office arrived by LifeFlight helicopter with the game ball.

The chopper arrived approximately 15 minutes prior to kickoff and landed on the Elementary School playground, aka: the old high school baseball field.

Henderson was greeted by fellow law enforcement personnel before getting escorted to midfield for the coin toss.

The following was read over the P.A. system by public address announcer Tim Hunter.

"On behalf of Union General Hospital, tonight's football game is in honor of all Public Safety personnel in Union County. We appreciate all their hard work and dedication in keeping our community safe and secure."

"These Public Safety individuals walking onto the field include: EMS, Fire & Rescue, Police Department, Sheriff's Department and the medical helicopter crew from Air Life Georgia 14, which has brought Union County Sheriff's Department Deputy, Mitchell Henderson, our honored guest to the game tonight."

"Our special recognition tonight is for Union County Sher-



iff's Deputy, Mitchell Henderson. Mitchell was flown into tonight's game on the Air Life Georgia 14 helicopter. As Mitchell is coming onto the field we will tell you the incredible story of how numerous Public Safety individuals came together to help save his life.

"While responding to a call on Sept. 19th, 2016, Deputy Henderson was involved in a serious vehicle accident. Poor weather prevented flying him to a trauma center, so Town's county EMS brought him to Union General

Hospital. The Union General Hospital Emergency Department began stabilization and treatment and prepared to send him to the regions closest trauma center- Northeast Georgia Medical Center.

"Due to poor weather conditions, Mitchell was transported by Union General Ambulance Service. Since the Air Life GA 14 helicopter crew based at Union General Hospital was grounded, they also went in the ambulance with him. This meant a team of 2 paramedics and 2 nurses were able to work to

keep Mitchell alive during the 1 hour and 4 minute transport time to Gainesville. Mitchell was given 6 units of blood en route and other life-saving interventions were performed during the transport.

"Once at Northeast Georgia Medical Center, Mitchell's 1st surgery lasted 6 hours and he needed another 13 units of blood. He had sustained multiple injuries including a crushed pelvis, spinal fractures, skull fracture, brain bleeds and extreme blood loss. He had to overcome collapsed lungs and kidney failure while in a month long coma. He was transferred to the Shepard Spinal Center in October, where he had to learn to walk, talk and eat again. Through hard work he was discharged from Shepard Spinal Center on Jan. 3rd and received therapy through Pathways for another 8 weeks.

"Tonight we are honored to have Union County's own Deputy Mitchell Henderson present the game ball.

"Alongside of Mitchell, is the Air Life Georgia 14 Flight Team that cared for him on the way to Northeast Georgia Medical Center."

Racing Report: Tri County

By Blake Lynch
North Georgia News
Sports Special

Leo Elliot.

Super Late Models: The winner was No. 17 Kurt English. Second was No. X15 Shawn Chastain, third went to No. 00 Jonny Chastain, in fourth was No. 8 David Payne rounding out the top five was No. 38 Jamie Oliver

Modified Street: No. 88 Ricky Smith took home the win while second went to Kenny Taylor. Third was Bobby Elkins, fourth was No. 34 Greg Southern and fifth was No. 74 Joey McCoy.

Limited: In first place was No. 1C Kenny Collins. No. #13 George Mashburn was the runner up. No. 102 Clayton Turner took home third, fourth belonged to the No. 19B of Kevin Bradshaw, and fifth was No. 16W belonging to Wesley English.

Crate: First place was No. 7 Jason Deal. Second was No. T31 Shane Tankersley. Third was No. J71 of Drew Benfield. Fourth was No. J39 of Jimmy Elliot and 5th was Daniel Wilson.

Fastor Pastor: Jay Lynch won the race for the fifth straight year. Second place was Ben Hogsed and third was Chris Rumpfelt.

Allegheny Masonic Lodge to host charitable golf tournament

Allegheny Masonic Lodge #114 will be hosting a charitable golf tournament October 7, 2017 at Butternut Creek Golf Course in Blairsville. It will be a four man scramble (best ball). Many prizes will be handed out including a set of Mizuno irons and Yeti soft cooler and thermos just to name a couple.

We are looking for hole sponsors and players. Hole sponsors are \$50/black and white 18"x24" tee box sign or \$75/full color 18"x24" tee box sign

with your business information. Teams are \$300 or \$75/player. Proceeds go towards our charity account which helps support the Masonic Children's Home of Georgia, local high school scholarships, Union County 4-H, The Boy Scouts of America; just to name a few.

So if you're a golfer or a business or both, call Ivy Smith at 478-731-6050 or Dick Fleming at 770-833-7690 to sign up or sponsor a hole. Thank you.

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