

Union County returning to Region 8-AA through 2019-2020 school year

By Todd Forrest
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THOMASTON - Union County is returning to Region 8-AA following a two-year stint in Class AAA.

The Georgia High School Association's Reclassification Committee met last week to hear appeals and ratify region alignments through 2020.

Union County High School Principal C.T. Hussion's request to return to Class AA for the next two school years was approved unanimously by the committee. Later in the day, Union County was placed in Region 8-AA, as expected.

In a nutshell, the move basically voids Union's 2015 appeal to move up a classification despite an enrollment that places them squarely in Class AA.

UCHS will rejoin long-time region-foe Rabun County, who shared a region with the Panthers from the 1950s up until Union's recent departure



C.T. Hussion

for AAA.

Another familiar opponent in Region 8-AA is Banks County, who also shared a region with UCHS from 1984 through 2012.

Oglethorpe County and Social Circle will remain in the region and are two schools that Union has become well acquainted with.

Elbert County joined 8-AA when Union departed two years ago and will stay put. Elbert and Union last shared a region in 2012 before the Blue Devils

spent four seasons in AAA.

Putnam County and Monticello round out Region 8-AA and will provide the two longest road trips for the Panthers.

Putnam County spent two seasons in Region 8-AA back in the mid-2000s as members of Sub-Region 8-AA South. Union and Putnam met twice in football in 2006 and 2007.

In 2016, the Lady Panthers basketball team traveled to Putnam County for a State Sweet 16 contest - the most recent meeting between the schools.

For two seasons in the mid-1990s, Monticello and Union County were each members of Region 8-A and met on the gridiron in 1994 and 1995.

Replacing Union County in Region 7-AAA is Cherokee Bluff, a new high school in southern Hall County that will pull students from both Flowery Branch and Johnson.

Union County will begin Region 8-AA play in August when softball, football, volleyball, and cross country get underway.

UCHS/UCMS Swim Team Results

Gainesville - Five school records were set as both Union County swim teams attended a meet at the Frances Meadows Aquatic Center on Saturday.

Both Union County High School relay teams set school records in the 400-Yard Freestyle Relay. Meanwhile, UCMS swimmer Hunter White set two school records in the 50-Yard Backstroke and the 100-Yard Individual Medley.

Last but not least, Courtney Foster continues to improve on her own school record time in the 50-Yard Backstroke.

The results are as follows:

400 Yard Free Relay (HS Record for both boys and girls): First Place HS: Brian Williams, Grayson Blocker, Luke Gambrell and Alden Wilkes. Third Place HS: Leilani Shroeder, Kindle Kolb, Kaiya Wilkes, and Grace Weldon.

200-Yard Medley Relay: Second Place MS: Liam Smith, Hunter White, Riley Howse, and Michael Leird. Eighth Place MS - Scarlett Murphy, Ryan Barnett, Courtney Foster, and Jewell Massey.

200-Yard Individual Medley: Second Place HS: Grace Weldon.

100-Yard Individual Medley: 2nd Place MS: Hunter White (MS Record).

50 Yard Freestyle: Fourth Place HS: Brian Williams. Sixth Place HS: Luke Gambrell. Seventh Place HS: Grayson Blocker. Tenth Place HS: Alden Wilkes. Second Place HS: Kaiya Wilkes. Ninth Place HS: Grace Weldon.

100-Yard Butterfly: 4th Place HS: Alden Wilkes.

50-Yard Butterfly: Seventh Place MS: Liam Smith. Sixth Place MS: Courtney Foster.

100 Yard Freestyle: Third

Place MS: Michael Leird. Sev-

enth Place MS: Riley Howse.

200-Yard Freestyle Relay: Fifth Place HS: Grayson Blocker, Luke Gambrell, Brian Williams, and Alden Wilkes. Second Place MS: Michael Leird, Liam Smith, Riley Howse, and Hunter White.

100-Yard Backstroke: Third Place HS: Brian Williams. Fifth Place HS: Luke Gambrell. Eighth Place HS: Grayson Blocker. Third Place HS: Kaiya Wilkes.

50-Yard Backstroke: First Place MS: Hunter White (MS Record). Third Place MS: Michael Leird. Seventh Place MS: Liam Smith. Ninth Place MS: Daniel Herrera. Fifth Place MS: Courtney Foster (MS Record).

50-Yard Breaststroke: Third Place MS: Riley Howse. Fourth Place MS: Tate Murphy. 10th Place MS: Ryan Barnett.

Lady Panthers... continued from 2C

Brooke Dockrey had 8 for Union County despite limited minutes due to foul trouble. Wishmeyer added 6 and McCarter netted 5.

The first quarter saw the Lady Panthers hold leads of 11-5 and 12-6. Rabun's first buzzer-beater made it 12-8 after one.

After an early trey sliced the Union lead to 14-13, the Lady Panthers responded with six-unanswered as Aubree Pack scored on consecutive offensive trips and

Jordan Rogers added a lay-in for Union's largest lead of the game at 20-13.

The Lady Cats turned it over 22 times and shot just 26-percent from the floor (18-for-68) despite forcing 30 Lady Panther turnovers and dominating the offensive glass by a 2:1 margin (27-13). Rabun County shot 8-of-13 (62 percent) from the line while Union finished 11-of-21 (52 percent).

Union County's woes con-

tinue at Rabun, where they haven't defeated the Lady Cats since 2009 when Candace Williams and the Lady Panthers won their last region title by upsetting Rabun on its home floor. The Lady Panthers' last home win over the Lady Cats came during the 2014-15 season when they knocked off Rabun but later fell to them in the 8-AA Region Championship game.



Union County wrestles at King of the Mountain over the weekend

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HIAWASSEE - Union County's Issac Tritt placed fourth at Towns County's King of the Mountain wrestling tournament last weekend.

Competing at 145 pounds, Tritt defeated West Hall's Parker Campellone and Rabun Gap's Cole Owens before falling by decision to Stephens County's Nikko Beady.

Tritt was victorious over Campellone for the second time, earning a spot in the third place match, where he was defeated by David Bertrand of Mt. Pisgah.

At 152 pounds, Logan Tritt won a pair of matches after falling in the opener but came up one win shy of reaching the third place match.

Other Union County wrestlers competing at King of the Mountain were Ben Howard at 126 pounds, Alex Barrett at 132, Trevor Guild at 138, Bryan Nelson at 170, and Dakota Havard at 195.

(If anyone that competed at KOM was overlooked, please email their name and weight class).

Overall Union County (39 points) placed 18th out of 26 schools ahead of Creekview, Washington-Wilkes, Cherokee, NC, and Hart County.

Fannin County, Pickens County, Harris County, Morgan County, and Franklin County rounded out the top five.

Host team Towns County placed 12th.

Up next for Union County is a trip to East Hall on Tuesday before hosting Friday Night Fights this Friday.



- 11/11 Saturday: Jackson County Scramble
- 11/14 Tuesday: @ Habersham High School
- 11/18 Saturday: UNION SCRAMBLE
- 11/21 Tuesday: Franklin County Duals
- 11/22 Wednesday: Monroe Area Duals
- 11/28 Tuesday: @ Fannin County
- 12/1 Friday: King of the Mountain (KOM) Towns County
- 12/2 Saturday: KOM
- 12/5 Tuesday: @ East Hall w/ Stephens County
- 12/8 FRIDAY NIGHT FIGHTS Union County
- 12/12 Tuesday: @ Andrews
- 12/15 Friday: @GAC
- 12/16 Saturday: UNION INVITATIONAL
- 12/19 Tuesday: East Hall Invitational
- 12/22- 23 Friday-Saturday: Swain County NC Duals
- 12/29 Friday: Amicalola Classic @ Dawson County
- 12/30 Saturday: Amicalola Classic @ Dawson County

- 1/5 Friday: Area Duals @ Jackson Co.
- 1/6 Saturday: Area Duals
- 1/9 Tuesday: @ Murphy High NC
- 1/12 Friday: @ Towns with Hayesville
- 1/13 Saturday: @ GAC for GAC Scramble
- 1/16 Tuesday: @ Rabun County
- 1/19 Friday: @ Stephens Duals
- 1/20 Saturday: @ Rabun Gap Tournament
- 1/22 MONDAY: LAST WRESTLE OFF OF THE SEASON
- 1/23 Tuesday: SENIOR NIGHT w/ Fannin, Hart, Rabun Gap
- 1/26 Friday: Traditional Area @ Morgan Co.
- 1/27 Saturday: Traditional Area
- 2/2 Friday: Sectionals @ GAC
- 2/3 Saturday: Sectionals
- 2/8-2/11 STATE



Union County Wrestling at King of the Mountain photos by Todd Forrest