

Several Panthers take part in FCA's Georgia-Tennessee senior game



TOP (L-R): Alec Scott (6) with the tackle; Chayton Schafer (5) runs a reverse; Dylan Williams (77) playing offensive line. BOTTOM (L-R) Coaches Wade Hodges, Luther Jones and Paul McBride. Photos by Todd Forrest



William Lueckert (far right - blank helmet) and Chad Buzzard (81 - far left) team up for a stop. Played at Copper Basin High School in Ducktown, TN, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes' "Border War" came to a premature and controversial ending when the officials decided to go home at halftime. Photo/Todd Forrest

Union County Swimming results: Dec. 5th

GAINESVILLE - At Riverside Military Academy on Wednesday, Dec. 5, Brian Williams qualified for State in his fifth individual event, the 200 Individual Medley, where he swims 50 yards of each stroke, fly, back, breast and free.

The high school boys medley and boys' freestyle relay teams continued to lower their respective times from their already State qualified marks. This reduction in time will improve their seeding at the State swim meet in February at Georgia Tech.

The following are the top 10 from the Riverside meet. *ST* - denotes State qualifying time.

200 Yard Medley Relay

1st Place (ST) HS: Steven Williams, Brian Williams, Brendan Bowman, Grayson Blocker
5th Place HS: Luke Gambrell, Hunter White, Alden Wilkes, Ean Harkins
4th Place HS: Grace Weldon, Rachel Reid, Kaiya Wilkes, Olivia Blocker

200 Yard Individual Medley

1st Place (ST) HS Brian Williams

50 Yard Freestyle

2nd Place (ST)	HS	Brendan Bowman
4th Place	HS	Grayson Blocker
4th Place	HS	Steven Williams
2nd Place	HS	Kaiya Wilkes
7th Place	HS	Grace Weldon

100 Yard Butterfly

4th Place	HS	Alden Wilkes
10th Place	HS	Riley Howse

100 Yard Freestyle

2nd Place (ST)	HS	Brendan Bowman
10th Place	HS	Ean Harkins
2nd Place	HS	Kaiya Wilkes

500 Yard Freestyle

10th Place	HS	Tyler Harkins
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200 Yard Freestyle Relay

1st Place (ST) HS: Brian Williams, Steven

Williams, Grayson Blocker, Brendan Bowman	5th Place	HS: Alden Wilkes, Ean Harkins, Hunter White, Luke Gambrell	
11th Place	HS: Nathanael Allison, Preston Perren, Riley Howse, Michael Leird	5th Place	HS: Kaiya Wilkes, Rachel Reid, Olivia Blocker & Grace Weldon

100 Yard Backstroke

4th Place	HS	Steven Williams
8th Place	HS	Grayson Blocker
10th Place	HS	Alden Wilkes
5th Place	HS	Grace Weldon

100 Yard Breaststroke

1st Place (ST)	HS	Brian Williams
6th Place	HS	Hunter White
6th Place	HS	Rachel Reid



State qualifier Brian Williams (center) with coaches Emily Stafford (left) and Kathy Mancuso (right).

Basketball: Woody Gap hosts MACA



SUCHES - Woody Gap hosted Mountain Area Christian Academy and the Lady Falcon Middle School team survived an overtime thriller, 23-19.

Jennifer Marsh poured in 16 points while Abigail Pruitt added 5 points in the win.

Later in the day, the Woody Gap Middle School guys came up short in their bid

to make WGMS 2-for-2. MACA would hang on to the 39-32 victory despite the best efforts of Caleb Harkins and Damon Snow.

The duo combined for 26 points with Harkins putting up a team-high 14.

The high school teams would suffer a pair of defeats to the visiting Lions.

The girls fell 39-10 behind 3 points from Chayil Aponte. The Lady Falcons got 2 points apiece from the WGMS duo of Pruitt and Marsh.

Finally, Luke Mott and Joseph Corbin combined for 18 points (nine each) but it wasn't enough to keep pace with MACA in a 62-20 loss.

Football: Union County and North Georgia represented in NCAA, NFL

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As football season draws its final breaths, the *North Georgia News* is taking a look at former Panthers, and others, who are still buckling up their chin strap every weekend and the coaches leading the way.

Two UCHS Class of 2016 alums, Knox Kiernan and Joe Mancuso recently concluded their respective seasons at Furman and Richmond. Both redshirt-sophomores, Mancuso was named QB-1 in early-October and set the UR single game record with 560 total yards (489 pass, 71 rush) in his very first start.

He would start four games in 2018 finishing with 1185 passing yards and seven touchdowns. He ran for 354 yards and three scores with one receiving touchdown.

Mancuso is the son of Mark and Kathy Mancuso and has one brother, John.

Kiernan, his former Panther teammate is a backup kicker at Furman with two years of eligibility remaining. In 2016 and 2017, Kiernan was named to the Southern Conference Academic Honor Roll.

Kiernan is the son of Mike and Noelle Kiernan, both Furman graduates. He has a brother, Abe, and two sisters, Alex and Annalysse. Mike was a linebacker on Furman's 1988 national championship team.

Meanwhile, former Union County and Georgia Tech quarterback Robby Brown is currently in his fourth season with the NFL's



Joe Mancuso looks downfield at Elon in October. Photo/Todd Forrest



Knox Kiernan warms up prior to a game at Clemson. Photo/Todd Forrest

New York Jets. A 1999 Union County grad, Brown is in his second season as a defensive assistant after spending his first two years on Head Coach Todd Bowles' staff as the team's offensive quality control coach.

Prior to joining the Jets, Brown coached in the college ranks for 10 seasons, working at South Alabama, Northwestern State, Valdosta State, Henderson State, Southwest Baptist and Troy.



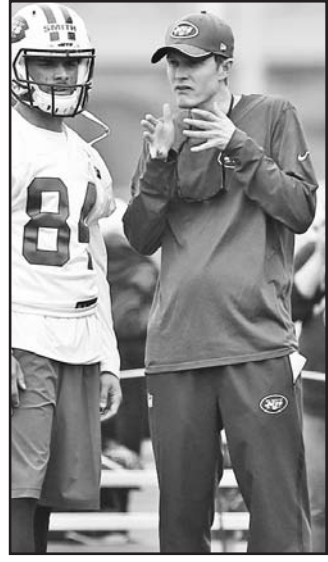
Curtis Turner during warmups prior to a Ga. Tech game. Photo/Todd Forrest



Georgia Tech's Wesley Wells with a PAT vs Miami. Photo/Todd Forrest

is currently on the Ramblin' Wreck coaching staff as a player development coach. A Clemson grad and former Vandy strength and conditioning coach, Turner is in his sixth season in Atlanta.

The 7-5 Jackets are bowl-bound but are in the process of replacing the recently retired Paul Johnson with Temple's Geoff Collins.



Robby Brown

Wells kicked against Union County when the Panthers were members of Region 7-AAA -- and in two non-region contests prior to 2016.

As a preferred walk-on, the freshman kicker finished the regular season a perfect 8-for-8 on field goals and 38-for-38 on extra points.

Meanwhile, former Union County quarterback Cole Wright is at Army-West Point but suffered a foot injury that required surgery. He is expected to make a full recovery and suit up in 2019.

With National Signing Day less than two months away, look for current Union County seniors to begin making decisions regarding their future. Continue reading the *North Georgia News* for all of UCHS athletics' college signing updates.

If there is anyone else from Union County currently playing/coaching football at the next level, please email us at sports@nganews.com and let us know who we missed.