

# Sports

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## Lady Panthers yet to allow a goal; four shutouts in four games

By Todd Forrest  
North Georgia News  
sports@nghanews.com

Four games into their 2015 campaign, the Union County Lady Panthers (4-0, 2-0) haven't allowed a goal.

Offensively, they aren't too shabby either. During their four shutout wins, Union is averaging almost seven goals a game.

The Lady Panthers hosted the Pickens County Lady Dragons (0-2) and cruised to an easy 8-0 victory on Tuesday.

Union would jump back into Region 8-AA action with a 4-0 win over Greene County (1-3, 0-2) on a cold, wet, and windy Friday night at Mike Colwell Memorial Stadium.

The Lady Panthers built a 3-0 lead in the game's first 20 minutes and would take that score into the break.

Union tacked on another goal in the second half after dominating the Lady Tigers in time of possession for all 80 minutes.

Junior Janey Thomas scored Union's first goal, while the second came from sophomore Joanna Irvin on an assist from senior Maddy Morlock.

Senior Emma Smith scored her team's third goal and final of the first half, unassisted.



Alyssa Arnold (7), Maddie Morlock (12), and Rachel Vester (5) with an unfair advantage over a helpless Lady Tiger. Photo/Todd Forrest

Morlock capped off the scoring in the game's 55th minute off a feed from Braedyn Robbins.

The Lady Panthers' quest for a Region 8-AA title continues on Friday when they visit Social Circle at 5:30 p.m., who is 1-1-1 after a tie with Rabun County. Union can clinch at least a State playoff berth with a win at Social Circle on Friday.

On Monday night, the Lady

panthers to Bryson City, NC to face Swain County for a girls-only evening. The final was not available at press time.

Next Monday, March 23rd at 5 p.m., Towns County will come to Blairsville and the Lady Panthers will be looking for their first win over the Lady Indians since 2013. In the last two meetings, Towns owns a win and a tie over the Lady Panthers.

## Unbeaten Panthers edge Pickens, dispose of an improved Greene Co

By Todd Forrest  
North Georgia News  
sports@nghanews.com

The 9th ranked Union County Panthers picked up another important Region 8-AA victory when they took care of Greene County 4-1 on Friday night at Mike Colwell Memorial Stadium.

After being the doormat of the Region, as recently as 2013, the Greene County men just missed the playoffs in 2014 and are expected to be back in the mix once again in 2015.

But on Friday, the Tigers (3-2, 0-2) didn't stand a chance as the Panthers took a 3-0 advantage into the intermission. Union tacked on another goal in the second half before Greene avoided the shutout with a goal in the 66th minute.

Sophomore Sam Seiler scored Union's first goal off an assist from junior Justin Eigel.

The second goal belonged to freshman Omar Godinez off a feed from sophomore Parker McCombs. The next goal came on a Panthers bicycle kick.

Godinez added an assist to his stat sheet when he found senior Phillip Jennings for the Panthers' fourth and final goal. In non-Region action



Senior Kyle Hamby will play an important role in the Panthers' season and possibly the postseason. Photo/Todd Forrest

from last week, a Brett Dietz goal was all Union County would need in a 1-0 win over the Class AAAA Pickens County Dragons (0-3).

The Panthers will face its toughest challenge of the season, thus far, when they visit the 8th ranked Social Circle Redskins (2-2, 2-0) at 7:30 p.m.

Their 2-2 record can be deceiving since their two losses came at the hands of Loganville

(Class AAAA) and Monroe Area (Class AAAA).

However, their two wins were impressive with one over 4th ranked Riverside Military Academy, and the other, a shutout of Rabun County.

On Monday, March 23rd at 7 p.m., the Panthers will be out for revenge when they host Towns County. Last year the Indians defeated the Union men for the first time in team history.

## Mancuso fires a gem at Riverside; Odom and Daniel silence Murphy, NC

By Todd Forrest  
North Georgia News  
sports@nghanews.com

Coming off a pair of blowout victories at Washington Wilkes to open the season, the Panthers found themselves locked in a pitchers duel with a winless Riverside Military Academy on Tuesday.

Despite dropping a pair of games to the same Wilkes squad that Union dismantled 29-1 in two games, the Eagles gave the ball to lefty Ben Walker, and he held the Panthers in check. He struck out nine while surrendering four hits, four walks and one unearned run.

"They threw a nasty lefty

against us and played solid," Union County Head Coach Brandon Bradburn said.

Union would go with junior Joseph Mancuso (2-0), who outdid Walker by firing a two-hit shutout with six K's. Both pitchers were aided by seven innings of error-free defense behind them.

The only run came in the top half of the first when junior Josh Daniel singled and later scored on a passed ball.

Mancuso, along with seniors Jackson Burks and Chase Barnette each recorded a single and a walk. Junior Andrew Brown also walked.

The Panthers drew the Murphy, NC Bulldogs on

Thursday, and after getting on the board early with two runs in the first, offense was hard to come by for Union.

The Bulldogs battled back to tie things up at 2-2 in the top of the third, but the Panthers posted a pair of runs off a Mancuso triple in the bottom of the fifth for a 4-2 lead.

Union's Tyler Odom (2-0) picked up the victory on the mound. The senior right-hander went 4 innings, allowing 4 hits, one unearned run, two walks, while fanning four.

Junior Josh Daniel entered in relief and fired 3 innings with one hit and five strikeouts. At the plate, Daniel scored twice, with the first com-

ing on a leadoff walk and a stolen base, and the second came after he was hit by a pitch.

Senior Hunter Hughes was 2-for-4 with a double, a steal, and a pair of runs, Mancuso went 2-for-3 with a triple and 3 RBIs.

Jake Sisum drove in one during a 1-for-2 game that included a walk.

On Monday, Union hosted Pickens County but results were unavailable at press time. The Panthers travel to Gilmer on Tuesday before returning home for a Friday doubleheader with Oglethorpe County at 5 p.m., that could likely hold Region Championship implications.



Jake Sisum looks on from first as Tyler Odom delivers the pitch vs Murphy, NC. Photo/Todd Forrest



Junior leadoff hitter Josh Daniel and Head Coach Brandon Bradburn chat before Daniel steps to the plate. Photo/Todd Forrest

Union Co @ Riverside							
Union County	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO	LOB
J Daniel	4	1	1	0	0	2	2
H Hughes	2	0	0	0	0	0	1
J Mancuso	2	0	1	0	1	1	0
J Sisum	3	0	0	0	0	1	3
J Burks	2	0	1	0	1	0	1
L Rich	3	0	0	0	0	1	1
A Brown	2	0	0	0	1	2	1
C Barnette	2	0	1	0	1	0	0
R Prunier	3	0	0	0	0	2	3
CR: S Thom...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>12</b>
1B: Daniel, Mancuso, Burks, Barnette TB: Daniel, Mancuso, Burks, Barnette SAC: Hughes Team LOB: 5							
Pitching							
Union County	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
J Mancuso	7.0	2	0	0	2	6	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>

Union Co vs Murphy, NC							
Union County	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO	LOB
J Daniel	2	2	0	0	1	0	1
H Hughes	4	2	2	0	0	0	0
J Mancuso	3	0	2	3	0	0	1
J Sisum	2	0	1	1	1	1	1
J Burks	3	0	0	0	0	1	3
L Rich	3	0	1	0	0	1	1
A Brown	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
C Barnette	2	0	0	0	1	0	1
R Prunier	3	0	0	0	0	2	1
CR: P Bagg...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>12</b>
1B: Hughes, Mancuso, Sisum, Rich 2B: Hughes 3B: Mancuso TB: Hughes 3, Mancuso 4, Sisum, Rich SB: Daniel, Hughes, Baggett Team LOB: 7							
Pitching							
Union County	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
T Odom	4.0	4	2	1	2	5	0
J Daniel	3.0	1	0	0	0	5	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>

## Baseball: Union County Middle School romps White Co, Rabun Co

By Todd Forrest  
North Georgia News  
sports@nghanews.com

Earlier this month, Union County Middle School took care of Rabun County in five innings by a score of 12-2 after the Panthers exploded for nine runs in the bottom of the fifth.

Last week, Union blasted White County, 14-7 after the Warriors scored three in the top half of the first.

In the Rabun win, Alec Youngblood drove in three runs, scored and stole a bag while Chayton Schafer scored twice, drove in one, and walked.

Jackson Colwell started the game for Union and worked two innings with five strikeouts. Cayden Rich took the ball in the third and wound up getting the win, and went two innings without allowing a hit. However, Rabun was clinging to a 2-0 lead when the Panthers came to the plate in the bottom of the fourth and snatched the lead away from the Wildcats with three runs.

Jonathan Everett took the mound in the fifth inning and gave up a hit while striking out

the side. Everett gave way to the offense in the bottom of the fifth, thus ending his night when they put up nine runs and the game was called when the lead stretched to 10.

Against White, the Panthers scored one in the bottom of the first after the Warriors put up three in the top half. Union got four runs in the second but it still wasn't enough as White responded with one in the third and another in the fourth to knot the score at 5-5.

The knockout blow came in the bottom of the fourth when the Panthers tacked on five runs, then followed that up with four in the fifth to take a 14-5 advantage entering the sixth inning.

Colwell went four innings for Union, allowing two hits and striking out six. Rich worked two innings, surrendering three hits, and Pierson Allison allowed one hit in one inning.

Coleson Daniel went 3-for-3 with 3 RBIs and three steals. Allison knocked in two runs, scored twice, and stole two bases. Carter Wright was 2-for-4 with two runs and two doubles, while Everett drove home two with a triple.

UCMS vs White Co							
UCMS	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO	LOB
P Allison	4	2	2	2	1	0	3
C Schafer	3	0	0	0	1	2	5
C Wright	4	2	2	2	0	0	2
C Daniel	4	1	3	3	0	0	0
C Rich	3	0	1	2	0	0	2
J Colwell	3	1	1	0	0	0	3
A Youngblood	1	1	1	0	3	0	0
J Mancuso	3	1	1	0	1	1	3
J Everett	1	0	1	2	0	0	0
S Gillespie	2	3	2	0	2	0	0
J Nelson	2	2	1	1	1	1	3
CR: D Dyer	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>21</b>
1B: Allison 2, Wright 2, Daniel 3, Rich, Colwell, Youngblood, Mancuso, Gillespie 2, Nelson 3B: Everett TB: Allison 2, Wright 2, Daniel 3, Rich, Colwell, Youngblood, Mancuso, Everett 3, Gillespie 2, Nelson SAC: Rich, Nelson SB: Allison 2, Wright 2, Daniel 3, Rich 2, Colwell, Youngblood, Mancuso, Gillespie, Nelson Team LOB: 9							
UCMS	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
C Rich	2.0	3	3	3	1	2	1
J Colwell	4.0	2	2	2	2	6	0
P Allison	1.0	1	2	0	1	2	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>

UCMS vs Rabun Co							
UCMS	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO	LOB
P Allison	2	1	0	0	1	2	0
C Schafer	2	2	1	1	1	1	0
C Wright	1	1	0	0	1	0	0
C Daniel	2	0	0	1	0	1	2
J Mancuso	0	2	0	1	1	0	0
J Everett	1	1	0	1	1	1	0
C Rich	0	0	0	1	3	0	0
A Youngblood	3	1	1	3	0	1	3
H Kelley	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
S Gillespie	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
J Colwell	2	0	0	1	0	1	2
J Nelson	1	1	0	0	1	1	0
I Harkins	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
CR: D Dyer	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>11</b>
1B: Schafer, Youngblood TB: Schafer, Youngblood SB: Mancuso, Youngblood Team LOB: 3							
UCMS	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
J Colwell	2.0	1	1	1	2	5	0
C Rich	2.0	0	1	0	1	3	0
J Everett	1.0	1	0	0	0	3	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>