

# Sports

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## Emma Garrison to run track, cross country at UGA

By Todd Forrest  
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After compiling one of the most successful resumes in the history of Union County High School athletics, cross country and track-and-field star Emma Garrison will depart Region 8-AA to set the pace in the Southeastern Conference over the next four years.

While the rest of the state was elated to see Garrison, the two-time State Champion graduate last month, the state's university was able to nab the Blairsville native and keep her home, where she will be christened as a Bulldog in the fall.

Garrison will be running both track and cross country at UGA and there is no doubt that her competitive drive and work ethic caught the eye of the Bulldog coaching staff.

Instead of taking it easy following graduation, Garrison will train six days a week over the summer before school begins in August.

The Georgia women's track team is made up of a majority of freshmen and sophomore distance and mid-distance runners, but did graduate a pair of juniors and featured four seniors this past season. However, the women were unable to qualify any runners for the NCAA Championships.

Currently on the UGA roster is a pair of runners that Garrison has faced before in Lovett's Hailey Branch (rising-junior, who also runs cross coun-



Left to right: Then-freshman Emma Garrison crosses the finish line at the 2012 Class AA Cross Country State Championships for the first of two State titles. Photo/Todd Forrest. Middle: Garrison runs in Carrollton for the final time at the 2015 Cross Country State Championships. Photo/Todd Forrest. Right: Garrison atop the medal stand after taking home a pair of Region 8-AA Track and Field titles in Rabun County earlier in the spring. Those would be the final two of 8 individual Region Championships that Garrison would claim during her four years at UCHS. Photo/Submitted

try - finishing 76th at the SEC XC Championships) and rising sophomore Caroline Dickey from North Hall.

The UGA track season begins in the winter with the SEC and NCAA Championships taking place in May.

The Bulldog women's cross country team placed 10th at the SEC Championships back in October with a team-best individual finish of 48th by junior Victoria Coppage.

Junior Lauren Kelley was 56th, sophomore Allie Castro was

64th and senior Brooke Koblit placed 66th.

A pair of sophomores and a pair of freshmen rounded the remainder of the UGA team that finished between 76th and 107th place.

Like the high school season, college cross country is held in the fall, although the distance of the races increases from five to six kilometers at the next level.

While running cross country at UCHS, Garrison won two individual State championships in 2012 and 2013, three individual

Region 8-AA titles (2012, 2013, 2015), and two Region 8-AA team championships (2014 and 2015).

She claimed one individual Region 8-AA second place finish while battling injuries (2014) and her team finished second in Region 8-AA twice (2012, 2013).

In 2014 Union County rejuvenated its track and field program with Garrison winning the Region 8-AA Championship in the 1600M race and placing second in the 800M race.

Garrison would then lead

the upstart track and field program to State during its first season in more than 20 years where she went on to claim fifth in the 1600M and third in the 800M.

In 2015 Garrison was the Region 8-AA Champion in the 1600M and 800M races and placed sixth in the 800M and seventh in the 1600M at State.

Last month, Garrison was second in State in the 800M race and fourth in the 1600M race after owning 8-AA in both events at the Region meet, back in April.

Not only does she leave

as a 10-time Region Champ and back-to-back State Champion, she also leaves UCHS as the school record holder in the 3200M, the 1600M, 800M, 300M Intermediate Hurdles, and was a member of a record holding 4x400 relay team, not to mention numerous cross country records.

Garrison has also claimed six top 10 finishes in State (track) and her Lady Panthers cross country teams placed seventh, 10th, 11th, and 10th at State in the team standings during their four trips to Carrollton.

## UCHS soccer standout Ansley Garrison signs with YHC



Left to right: Ansley Garrison with family as she signs with Young Harris. Middle: Garrison in a game during her senior season. Photo/Todd Forrest. Right: Garrison during her junior season of 2015. Photo/Todd Forrest

By Todd Forrest  
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Union County's Ansley Garrison will follow up one of the most dominating stretches in the history of UCHS soccer by signing her name on the dotted

line to become a Young Harris College Mountain Lion.

For the past four years, Garrison has played a major role in the success of Coach Tim Hunter's soccer program and as a junior and senior, she guided Union County to consecutive Region 8-AA Championships,

back-to-back trips to the Class AA Elite 8 where the Lady Panthers were the last public school standing in a classification that has been ruled by the metro-Atlanta private schools in recent years.

Now Garrison will have the opportunity to carry her winning mentality from UCHS to a

Young Harris program that's only a few minutes down the road but is miles away from the perennial conference/region-contending squad that Garrison's Lady Panthers have become.

Young Harris finished 5-9-1 overall last fall with a 3-7-1 record in the Peach Belt Conference

but were led, both offensively and defensively by a solid nucleus of underclassmen.

One similarity for Garrison will be the coaching change at YHC, something that took place before her freshman year at UCHS. In January, Christie Lessa was named the YHC

women's soccer coach following a four-year stint at Iowa Central.

Young Harris will open the season with a scrimmage game on Aug. 20th.

Garrison finished her senior campaign with 5 goals and 11 assists - good enough for fourth on the team in points with 21.

### Blairsville PTO, INC.

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Annual S.O.S. Glow Golf Tourna-

(Support Our Schools) 4 Person Scramble

## Saturday, September 10

### Butternut Creek Golf Course

**Awards for:**  
Top Gross Foursome • Top Net Foursome  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place Net Foursome • 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Net Foursome

### Incredible Door Prizes/Putting Contest

\$75 per player • \$300 per foursome  
Registration starts at 4 p.m.  
Tee Off @ 5:30 p.m. • Dinner/Raffle @ 8 p.m.ish  
Glow Golf Begins - 8:45 p.m.

**Awards at Conclusion of Play**

Player 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Handicap: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Player 2: \_\_\_\_\_ Handicap: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Player 3: \_\_\_\_\_ Handicap: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Player 4: \_\_\_\_\_ Handicap: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail form & payment (check/money order) to  
Blairsville PTO  
P.O. Box 1476  
Blairsville, GA 30514  
or email registration info to  
ptoglowgolf@gmail.com

For more information on the tournament and/or Sponsorship information call 706.835.5322

### Mountain High Hikers Hiking Club

Mountain High Hikers schedule two hikes every Tuesday, one long and one shorter, as well as occasional specialty hikes. Weekly trail maintenance trips are scheduled every Thursday.

Come enjoy the beautiful mountains and waterfalls we have here. Check the website [www.mountainhighhikers.org](http://www.mountainhighhikers.org) for schedule and contact numbers. NT(Jun8,Z1)CA

### Bowling Scores

Thursday Summer Mix: Week #3 Tim McVay 201, Michael Whitehead 256, Stanley Tyler 221, Mike Arnold 207, Branden Hartnes 203, Week #2 Braden Hartnes 201, 207, Tee Turner 209, Vanessa Flander 199, Nicole Lovell 200, Michael Whitehead 206, 226, Tony Lynch 254, 248.

Young At Heart: Stanley Tyler 201, Bob Landis 237, 237, 246, Series 720, Margaret Scaglione 180, Nell Rice 181, Greg Langford 202, Ron Wingate 202.

Summer Solar Fun-Youth: Christian Theriot 172, DJ Robbins 127, Ben Love 90, Eric Fox 137, Jared Edwards 216, Michael Fox 163, Nick Love 100, Sabrina Willis 116, Michaela Caldwell 138, Ivy Robbins 144, Dalton Ayers 89. N(Jun8,Z4)

### Trout stocking sites week of May 30 - June 3

FANNIN: Toccoa River, Toccoa River Tailwaters of Lake Blue Ridge, and Rock Creek.  
LUMPKIN: Etowah River and Nimblewill Creek.  
MURRAY: Holly Creek.  
UNION: Cooper Creek.

\*\*\*NOTE: Information is subject to change. Please call the hatchery at 706-838-4723 for questions. The hatchery also provides trout for the state. Please contact Georgia DNR for information on sites stocked by the state. N(Jun8,Z4)gg

### TUCKER'S BASKETBALL CAMP

#### Union County High School

June 20-23, 2016  
David Tucker  
106 Sherwood Ave.  
Box 26  
Calhoun, TN 37309  
(423) 336-3045

Union County High School is hosting a basketball skills camp for boys and girls K-12<sup>th</sup> grade. The camp will begin daily at 8:30 a.m. and end at 11:30 a.m. Every camper will receive a camp T-shirt. There will be an awards ceremony on Thursday at 11 a.m. The cost for each camper will be \$60. You may bring this form and money on June 20th, or mail this form and money to David Tucker at the address above.

David Tucker - Union County Panthers Head Girls Coach  
Junior Tucker - Walker Valley High School  
Jon Tucker □ Polk County High School  
Mandy Hunter □ Union County Panthers  
Ray Stone - Tennessee Wesleyan Basketball  
Lane Colwell □ Union County High School

Activities will include: Ball handling drills, dribbling drills, shooting drills, offense and defense instruction, contests, 5-on-5 play, 3-on-3 play, and one-on-one-play.

Camper's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_  
Shirt Size \_\_\_\_\_ Do you have health insurance on this child? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
Emergency Contact \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_