

Garrison repeats as 8-AA Champ; leads Lady Panthers back to State

Union's sophomore sensation returns to Carrollton looking for back-to-back State Championships

By Todd Forrest
North Georgia News
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Gainesville - Emma Garrison is the Region 8-AA Champion again.

Her first place time of 19:19 was 93 seconds better than Rabun County senior Sally Womern, who placed second. A convincing win by most, but a superior performance by Garrison's standards. After her time was announced, the Union County sophomore wasn't pleased, but Coach Jackie Hughes was right there to reassure her runner.

"She was just being a little too hard on herself," Coach Hughes said. "She still had an outstanding time of 19:19."

Last week Garrison completed the same course in 18:52. Yet there were several factors that played into the slower time. One of the main culprits for the slower time was the higher temperatures and increased humidity over last week's race.

"I think the heat was part of it with Emma," Coach Hughes said. "It's also pretty hard to go out there and repeat a performance like the one she had last week, especially when there isn't someone right behind you to push you."

Although it wasn't an improvement over last week, Garrison felt better about her performance after a discussion with Coach Hughes.

"I felt like I did pretty good today, but it was hotter today and harder to go as fast because you get overheated," Garrison said.

Garrison claiming the top spot helped the Lady Panthers



Emma Garrison (center) on the medal stand. Photo/Todd Forrest

secure third place by 30 points over fourth place Oglethorpe County. By finishing third, Union County has earned the right to return to Carrollton as a team for the State Championship Meet on Saturday.

Junior Rachel Todd placed 16th overall with a time of 23:33. Junior Marissa Spaulding came in 18th at 23:37, sophomore Stephanie Busse checked in at 24:09, good enough for 19th, and freshman Cora Bauman rounded out the Top 20 at 24:10.

Sophomore Anna Danek finished 22nd at 25:26 and sophomore Emmeline Stuart was 25th with a time of 25:45.

"I was very pleased with the third place finish," Coach Hughes said. "Third place was where I expected them to finish. What I was extremely proud of was us tightening the gap between us and the second place team. That gap closed up a



Marissa Spaulding in the middle of the pack. Photo/Todd Forrest

whole lot. I had several girls that really stepped it up and finished much higher than they did the week before."

In the individual standings, Garrison was first and Womern second. In third place was Jefferson senior Reese Bowles



Cora Bauman (left) and Stephanie Busse (far right) during the first loop of the course. Photo/Todd Forrest



Emma Garrison crosses the finish line. Photo/Todd Forrest



Rachel Todd (right) finished second for the Lady Panthers and 16th overall in Region 8-AA. Photo/Todd Forrest



Coach Hughes instructs the Lady Panthers. Photo/Todd Forrest

at 21:59. Jefferson sophomore Morgan Mitchell placed fourth and Rabun County junior Jordan Gihl rounded out the first five finishers.

In the team standings, Rabun County upset defending champion Jefferson. The Lady

Cats finished with 34 points thanks to five runners in the Top 11.

The Lady Dragons were four points back of Rabun with 40 despite getting third, fourth, and sixth places. Union was third with 74 points, Ogletho-

rpe placed fourth with 104, Social Circle was fifth at 116, and Washington-Wilkes sixth at 155.

Union will race at Carrollton High School on Saturday beginning at 11:15 a.m. for the State Championship.

Garcia and Panthers peak just in time; ready to shake things up in Class AA

By Todd Forrest
North Georgia News
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Gainesville - Cristian Garcia saved his best race for when it mattered most. Now he gets a chance to turn it up another notch on the biggest stage possible.

The Union County junior shaved 17 seconds off of his time from a week earlier, on the same course, while moving up seven spots from 11th to fourth.

"I was so proud of him," Union County Head Coach Jackie Hughes said. "We've talked so long about him staying with the lead pack because he has held back and hesitated all year. But when I saw him come around that first curve and right with that lead guy from Riverside, I was so proud of him for going out and giving it a shot."

Garcia posted a 17:59 at last week's Region Championship Meet, good enough for a fourth place finish. He was 16 seconds back of third place Sid Wightman from Oglethorpe County and 10 seconds behind Jefferson's Addison Cochran, who placed second. Nobody would catch Riverside senior Marcus Gouthro, who finished 48 seconds ahead of the nearest runner.

"My plan early was to see how long I could stay with the leader," Garcia said. "After that I tried to stay with the second place runner, and I was able to."

Jacob Kelley finished in



Cristian Garcia has no regard for the speed limit. His legs would eventually get him to Carrollton and the State Meet. Photo/Todd Forrest

13th place with a time of 18:43, which was a 9 second improvement over his time from the week before.

Andrew Nelson shaved 5 seconds off his time, coming in at 18:48 and 16th place.

Jakob Brown was 9 seconds quicker the second time around, coming in 25th at 19:37.

Rounding out Union's Top seven were Josh Weaver, coming in at 19:44 and 29th place. Ryan Rogers was 30th at 20:00, and Aaron Stafford placed 36th at 20:19.

The Panthers have earned

a trip to Carrollton this weekend after placing third behind Jefferson and Riverside.

Behind Garcia in the individual standings were Alex Parrish, a sophomore from Jefferson at 18:10. Sixth place was sophomore Mitchell Clegg of Social Circle at 18:16. Riverside junior Taylor Hampton was seventh at 18:24, Jefferson took the eighth and ninth spots and Greene County laid claim to the 10 position. The Top 6 individual qualifiers will participate in the State Meet regardless of the team standings.

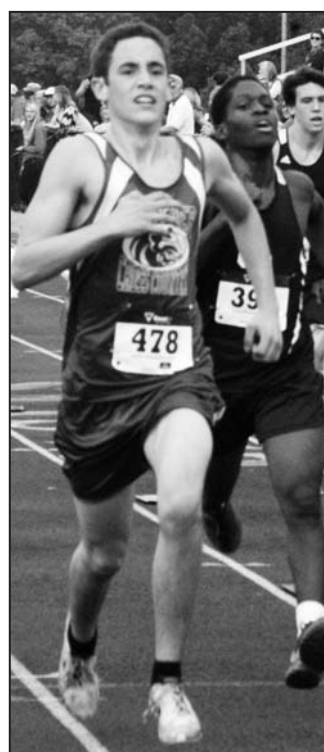


Ryan Rogers (right) passes Greene County's Darius Porter (left) and Oglethorpe County's Garrett McCormack (center). Photo/Todd Forrest

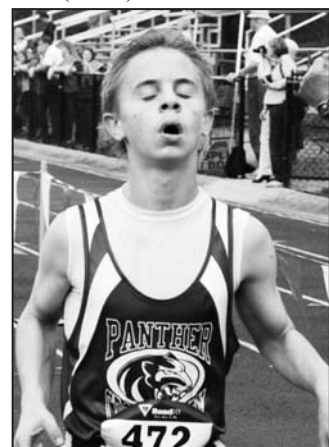
The team standings were Jefferson in first with 35 points with five runners in the first 11 spots. Riverside placed second with first, seventh, and 15th. Union was third, and Oglethorpe rounded out the State qualifiers, picking up third, 12th, and 17th places.

Social Circle missed out on State, placing fifth with 120 points but Clegg will represent the Redskins as an individual qualifier.

The Panthers will travel to Carrollton High School on Saturday where they will begin at 10:35 a.m.



Andrew Nelson holds off Quinton Nash. Photo/Todd Forrest



Freshman Jakob Brown at the finish line. Photo/Todd Forrest



Sophomore Jacob Kelley finished 13th overall. Photo/Todd Forrest

Middle School Wrestling Meet results

The Middle School Panther Wrestling Team hosted the Panther Throwdown individual tournament on Saturday.

The team finished in second behind Lumpkin County and ahead of White County,

Dawson County, Towns County, and Hiwassee Dam.

Individual results were: Tyree Mackey - 1st, Isaac Tritt - 1st, Josh Fletcher - 1st, Gabe Morris - 1st, Matthew Biese - 1st, Evan Browning - 2nd,

Bryan Nelson - 2nd, Grizzly Breedlove - 2nd, Adrian Shaw - 3rd, Austin Nations - 3rd, Devin White - 3rd, Enock Bruce - 4th, Tristan Briley - 4th, Brandon Mickens - 4th, and Alex Youngblood - 4th.

UCHS & UCMS combined wrestling schedule 2013-14

Oct. 14th Mon.
Oct. 28th Sat.
Nov. 2nd Sat.
Nov. 9th Sat.
Nov. 12th Tuesday
Nov. 16th Sat.
Nov. 19th Tues.
Nov. 21st Thursday

Nov. 23rd Sat.
Dec. 3rd Tues.
Dec. 6th and 7th Fri/Sat
Dec. 10th Tues
Dec. 13th Fri
Dec. 13th and 14th

Dec. 20th Fri

Dec. 28th Sat
Jan. 3rd and 4th Fri/Sat
Jan. 7th Tues
Jan. 10th and 11th Fri/Sat
Jan. 14th Tues
Jan. 18th Sat
Jan. 21st Tues
Jan. 25th Sat
Jan. 28th Sat
Jan. 31st & Feb. 1st Fri/Sat
Feb. 5th Wed
Feb. 7th and 8th Fri/Sat
Feb. 13th-15th Thur-Sat

Middle School wrestling starts
Wrestling Starts
Middle School @ Dawson
Middle School @ Mountaineer
Middle School @ Lumpkin w/ White
Middle School @ KOM Towns
Middle/High @ HOME Riverside/Fannin
Middle/High @ Home Hiwassee Dam
(towns and Dawson middle)
UNION TOURNEY HOME High
Middle and High @ Fannin
High @ KOM Towns
Middle and High @ Gilmer
High @ Towns Co. Duals
Middle School Duals and tournament @ Dawson

UNION DUALS @ HOME high

High @ Arrowhead Stephens Co.
HIGH SCHOOL DUALS @ Jefferson
Middle/High @ HOME w/ Stephens Rabun Gap
HIGH SCHOOL DUAL STATE @ MACON
Middle and High @ Rabun Co.
Middle and High @ Towns Co.
Middle and High @ HOME w/ Hayesville
High @ Stephens Co. Tourney
High @ White Co.
High School Duals @ GAC?
High School @ Rabun Gap w/ Asheville
High School Sectionals?????
HIGH SCHOOL STATE @ Gwinnett Arena

Basketball Registration

Union County Recreation Department

Registration Ends

9-10 year olds November 8th

11-12 year olds November 8th

13-14 year olds November 8th

\$45 per player

Registration forms available at Rec Dept. Office
located at: 310 Wellborn Street, Blairsville GA 30512

