

# Sports

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## Panthers sink Andrews thanks to 22-9 third quarter outburst

By Todd Forrest  
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The Union County Panthers remained unbeaten in the Glenda Gooch Foundation Tip-Off Tournament as they pulled away from Andrews, NC 63-45 on Tuesday night.

The Panthers were set to host Lumpkin County on Monday but the visitors cancelled due to the threat of icy roadways later in the evening.

The cancellation left the Panthers with one game during the Tournament.

Yet there were no opening game jitters for the Panther backcourt as junior Kyle Hamby came off the bench and led all scorers with 16 points on four treys. Junior Hunter Hughes also finished in double figures with 10 points.

Union County has lacked a consistent post presence over the last two seasons but this season appears to be different.

The Panthers got 12 points from senior forward Dylan Coyne, 10 from junior center Thomas Danek, and 9 from junior forward Ralston Drake.

Clinging to a 5-point lead at the break, Hamby scored 13 of his 16 points in the second half to help Union open up a double-digit lead in the third quarter and put the visitors away.

However points were at a premium in the early going. Both teams came out of the gates ice cold with Union holding just a 9-6 lead after a quarter.

Hughes hit two from the stripe, Coyne connected on a baseline jumper, senior Eliyah Ryals drove the baseline for a deuce, and Hamby capped off the first quarter scoring with a corner three.

In the second quarter, Ryals hit two free-throws before going to the bench with foul trouble. Coyne scored twice in the paint, Danek and Hughes added lay ups and the Panthers led 19-12.

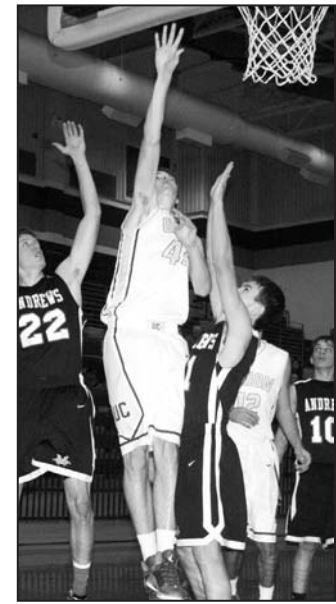
The Wildcats would cut into the Union lead late in the second. A 9-5 spurt cut the Panther lead to 24-21 with 1:06 left in the half. Coyne added a free-throw but Andrews responded with a bucket and were within two at 25-23. Danek went to work inside and scored before an Andrews turnover sent Coyne to the line with 3 seconds left. The senior hit 1-of-2 giving the Panthers a bit of



Junior Kyle Hamby applies full court pressure. Photo/Todd Forrest



Senior Eliyah Ryals takes it strong to the basket. Photo/Todd Forrest



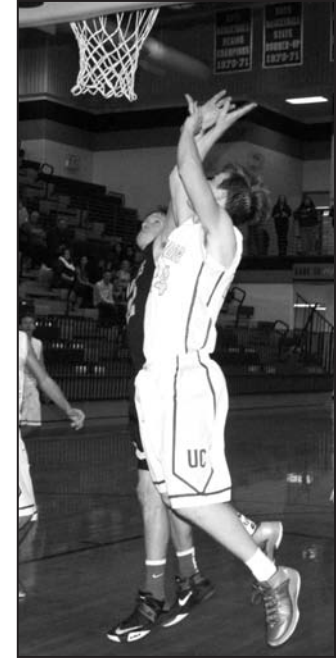
Junior Thomas Danek with two.



Senior Dylan Coyne sinks a baseline jumper. Photo/Todd Forrest



Junior Hunter Hughes is fouled hard on a lay up. Photo/Todd Forrest



Junior Ralston Drake with a bucket.

breathing room with a 28-23 lead at the half.

Union opened the second half with a 9-3 run to take a 37-26 lead. Coyne started the second half with a bucket, followed by a trey from Hamby. Junior Tyler Odom added a steal and score and Drake connected from the baseline to give Union the 11-point advantage.

The Panthers continued to stretch the lead when Hamby hit two from the line at the 3:38 mark and junior Matthew Wasko hit a short jumper 15 seconds later. Drake added a lay up, Hughes connected from downtown, Danek scored on a putback, and Hughes drove for two more as the

third quarter came to an end. Entering the fourth, the Panthers led 50-32.

The Wildcats got within 13 points in the final frame but Hamby finished them off for good.

The junior guard connected on a corner three then a 15-footer to put the Panthers on top 55-40 with 4:20 to play.

Ryals scored on an offensive board and Hamby connected again from long distance with 2:13 remaining, putting the finishing touches on the victory.

Drake added a late free throw and Coyne scored from the baseline for the final Panther points of the game.

Ryals finished with 4 points despite being plagued with foul trouble. Odom was limited to 2 points, and Wasko added 2 more.

This week, the Panthers will look to extend winning streaks over three different opponents.

On Tuesday, Union will visit Andrews, NC in a rematch from last week.

The Panthers haven't lost to Andrews since 2005 and look to continue their winning ways against the Wildcats.

On Friday, Union will host Lumpkin County, who they currently own three straight wins over - dating back to 2010. The

Panthers have won six of the last seven meetings.

Although, the Indians (3-0) are much improved with four returning starters, and already own wins over North Hall, White County, and Tellico Plains, Tenn.

The wins over North Hall and White could be deceiving since both schools reached the playoffs in football. North Hall graduated five starters and replaced its coach. While White County lost three starters, including its leading scorer Rand Rowland, who is now a walk-on at Georgia Tech.

On Saturday, the Panthers look to extend one of the longest

winning streaks in north Georgia when they visit Towns County.

Union County currently owns 30 straight wins over the rival Indians - a streak dating back to the 2000 Sub-Region Tournament.

In the last 15 meetings the Indians have come within 10 points just three times. Union won the last meeting in Hiwassee 48-38 but Towns County will be shorthanded as leading scorer Dallas Manus is out until Christmas with a leg injury.

The Indians also lost a key post player who moved to Florida. Towns is under the leadership of new head coach Duncan Weekley.

## Lady Panthers put clamps on Andrews with 30-1 second half

By Todd Forrest  
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The Lady Panthers were never challenged in their 68-11 season opening win over Andrews, NC.

Union took an early 8-0 lead and led 22-6 after one. They stretched their lead to 38-10 at the half and 57-11 after three quarters.

Junior Brooke Maddox scored 17 of her game-high 22 points in the first half. She also led the way with 5 assists while adding 4 steals.

Junior Kaitlyn Day scored all 12 of her points in the first half as she and Maddox combined for 29 of Union's 38 first half points.

In the first quarter, junior Lisa Nalaschi opened with a lay up, senior Madison Rich and Maddox followed with lay ups and Day connected on a jumper.

Leading 17-6, Nalaschi took an Andrews turnover coast-to-coast for two.

From then on, it was all Maddox and Day.

The junior duo scored whenever and from wherever they wanted, combining for four treys in the first half.

In the final moments of the half Adalyn Rogers connected from downtown giving the Lady Panthers a 38-10 lead at the break.

Maddox hit a quick three to open the second half and moments later, Rich connected from long distance. Maddox added a lay up off a steal for a 46-10 lead just 90 seconds into the third.

Rich nailed another trey, Nalaschi hit a short jumper, and senior Allie Stroman scored off a turnover to cap off Union's 15-0 run to open the half.

The Lady Wildcats' only point of the second half came from the foul line at the 2:11 mark of the third. Ashley Fair put an exclamation mark on the quarter with a basket in the final seconds, giving Union a 57-11 lead entering the fourth.

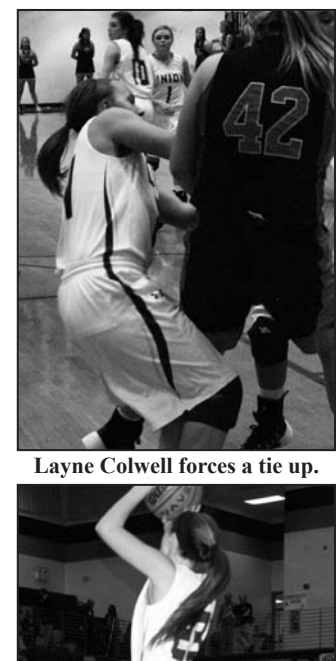
The fourth quarter was cut to 6 minutes due to Union's 46-point lead and Coach David Tucker was able to get the



Junior Brooke Maddox with a steal and lay up. Photo/Todd Forrest



Junior Kaitlyn Day launches a three-pointer. Photo/Todd Forrest



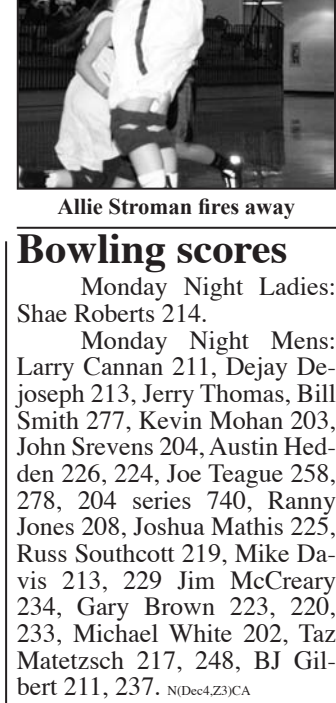
Layne Colwell forces a tie up.



Junior Lisa Nalaschi gets off a shot despite contact. Photo/Todd Forrest



Senior Madison Rich gets into the paint for two. Photo/Todd Forrest



Allie Stroman fires away

younger players some action.

Rogers connected on her second trey of the contest to start the fourth, Kim Coyne knocked down 1-of-2 from the line, and Madison Laricy added two more.

Coyne converted an old-fashioned three-point play and Laricy scored off a turnover in

the final minute.

Rich finished with 8 points, Nalaschi and Rogers had 6 each. Coyne and Laricy finished with 4 each.

Day led the Lady Panther defense with 5 steals while Nalaschi had a game high 8 boards. Laricy added 4 steals and junior Ariel Maurer blocked a shot.

### Bowling scores

Monday Night Ladies:  
Shae Roberts 214.

Monday Night Mens:  
Larry Cannan 211, Dejay DeJoseph 213, Jerry Thomas, Bill Smith 277, Kevin Mohan 203, John Srevens 204, Austin Hedden 226, 224, Joe Teague 258, 278, 204 series 740, Ranny Jones 208, Joshua Mathis 225, Russ Southcott 219, Mike Davis 213, 229 Jim McCreary 234, Gary Brown 223, 220, 233, Michael White 202, Taz Matetzsch 217, 248, BJ Gilbert 211, 237. (NDec4,23)CA

### Experienced youth

#### baseball players needed

Mountain Rampage Travel Baseball Club is looking for a few experienced players for spring and summer. Players needed for 11u, 14u, and 15u. Contact John Weaver (11u,14u) 828-557-3367, Greg Childs (14u) 828-269-8321 or Frank Whidden (15u) 828-361-3370. (NDec4,F)SH