

Sports

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Lady Panthers stun East Hall; rout Lumpkin, Andrews

Daniel joins the 1,000-point club during the first quarter of win at Andrews, NC

By Todd Forrest
Sports Editor
sports@nganews.com

Union 58, East Hall 55, RABBITTOWN - The Lady Panthers used a 17-7 second quarter to take leads of 31-24 at the break and 45-38 after three before fending off a late East Hall rally by forcing three misses from downtown in the final seconds to preserve the win.

In a contest that was scheduled to take place in Blairsville on Tuesday, a broken pipe forced the game to be moved to East Hall the following night.

The pipes weren't all that needed to thaw. The Lady Vikings shot 21-percent from downtown (8-for-39) and 29-percent (21-for-72) overall.

Meanwhile, Bailey Daniel, Andelin Hill, and Kait McCarter combined for 45 points on 19-for-36 from the floor and 6-of-7 at the line.

Daniel finished with a team-high 17 points with eight boards, five assists, and three steals.

Hill recorded her second double-double of the year with 14 points and 10 rebounds. McCarter also poured in 14 points to go with eight boards and three blocks.

As a team, Union County blocked a season-best seven shots on Wednesday night.

Mary Wischmeyer added 17 points and five rebounds; Brooke Dockrey had 2 points, five boards, and three assists; Adeline Dockrey finished with 2 points, four rebounds, and a blocked shot; while Jordan Rogers chipped in 2 points and three boards.

Union 53, Lumpkin County 34 - Union County didn't suffer a letdown following the East Hall victory when they hosted Lumpkin County two days later.

The Lady Panthers raced ahead 12-3 after a quarter and were never threatened during a 53-34 victory.

Daniel led the way with 19 points - 14 in the second half - while McCarter netted 18 points on 7-of-12 shooting, seven boards, and two blocks. McCarter led a Union frontcourt that imposed its will on the visitors, out-rebounding them 36-19 while shooting a season-high 46-percent (21-for-46) as a team and 89-percent (8-for-9) at the line.

Daniel and McCarter scored 5 points each in the first quarter as Union responded with a 12-1 run after the Lady Indians got on the board first.

A stick-back from McCarter extended the lead to 14-3 before Hill answered a Lumpkin three with one of her own at the



Bailey Daniel (holding basketball) with teammates following the win at Andrews, NC where she scored the 1,000th point of her career. Photo/Todd Forrest

4:19 mark of the second.

After more than three minutes without a point from either side, the Lady Indians turned two consecutive Union turnovers into four points, trimming the lead to 17-10. McCarter countered with a 3-point play but Lumpkin closed the half with a basket to pull within eight at 20-12.

McCarter went to work inside and stretched the lead back to 10, less than 20 seconds into the third. Two free throws by Daniel kept the margin at 10 before the Lady Indians sank two from the line with 4:18 left in the period.

Holding a 24-16 advantage, Union County went on a 10-0 run during a three-minute span to open up a 34-16 lead with a minute left in the third. Brooke Dockrey drove the lane for two, then Daniel followed suit with a dribble drive of her own. A McCarter and-one came off a put-back before Hill nailed a trey from the top-of-the-key.

The Lady Indians managed to knock down a triple in the final seconds of the period to cut the Union lead to 34-19 after three.

A slashing layup by Daniel and another McCarter and-one quickly stretched the margin to 20, less than a minute into the fourth.

The Lady Panthers took their largest lead at 47-21 at the midway point of the quarter thanks to a steal-and-score and two free throws from Daniel, along with a Rogers put-back.

Inside of three minutes to play, Daniel added two more baskets and Rogers tacked on another deuce during the final minute before Lumpkin scored four points in the final 11 sec-

onds to trim the final margin to 19.

Hill finished with 6 points, five boards, and two steals; Brooke Dockrey had 4 points and four assists; Rogers added 4 points and five rebounds while Adeline Dockrey scored 2 points, pulled down five rebounds, and blocked two shots.

With a 3-1 region record, Union County is currently tied for second with North Hall - who already own a home victory over the Lady Panthers. East Hall is a game back in fourth and Union's next opponent, Dawson County, is off to a disappointing start with a 1-3 record - good enough for fifth in 7-AAA.

The Lady Tigers have been plagued by injuries but recently returned to full strength prior to their 66-36 win over Forsyth Central on Saturday.

No. 1 Greater Atlanta Christian is atop the region, and the state rankings, with a 4-0 record inside 7-AAA.

Union 48, Andrews, NC 29, ANDREWS, NC - The Lady Panthers (11-4, 3-1) jumped in front 13-3 after one, then put Andrews away with a 12-5 third quarter for a 38-21 lead entering the fourth.

Coming into the contest, Daniel needed 7 points to reach 1,000 for her career and she didn't waste any time.

A basket and two free throws by McCarter spotted Union an early 4-0 lead when Daniel sank a corner-three off a skip pass from Hill with 4:24 remaining in the first.

McCarter made it 9-0 a minute later when she scored inside off a lob from Brooke Dockrey. At the 2:00 mark, Daniel drove the base line for

a layup to bring her within two points of 1,000.

On the ensuing possession, Wischmeyer came up with a loose ball and passed ahead to Daniel on the break but she was fouled on the layup attempt, sending her to the line. Both free throws were on the money for points 999 and 1,000.

Daniel would finish the game with 7 points and a career-high eight steals as the Lady Panthers cruised to their 11th victory - already matching last year's season win total (11-16).

"I'm glad I got to 1,000 so I can put it behind me now and just focus on playing," Daniel said after the game. "It's such a relief. I knew I was close yesterday (vs Lumpkin) but today I knew I only needed seven (points)."

McCarter scored 10 first half points for the second consecutive game, en route to a game-high 16 points and seven rebounds.

Leading 26-16 at the break, McCarter scored 6 of her team's 12 third quarter points while Brooke Dockrey, Adeline Dockrey, and Andelin Hill tacked on one bucket apiece in the period.

Rogers scored all of her season-high 5 points in the fourth quarter while Hill added 4 points to help Union County put the Lady Cats away for good.

Hill ended up with 11 points, six boards, and four steals. Adeline Dockrey matched a season-high with 6 points.

Megan Bright finished with 3 points and a career-best six boards; Brooke Dockrey had 2 points and a game-high five assists; Wischmeyer added 2 points, three rebounds and

three assists.

The Lady Panthers overcame a poor shooting performance (37-percent from the floor; 11-percent from three) and 16 turnovers with a solid defensive effort and by controlling the glass.

Union limited Andrews to just 27-percent shooting (12-for-45 overall and 1-for-8 from three). They also forced 23 Lady Cat turnovers and scored 19 second chance points.

Up next - The Lady Panthers visit Dawson County (9-7, 1-3) on Tuesday (6 p.m.) where they take on a Lady Tigers squad that climbed as high as 7th in the Class AAA rankings last month. Unfortunately, a Kaylee Sticker (who's healthy now) ankle injury caused Dawson to drop 4-of-5, including back-to-back region games to Lumpkin and GAC.

At 7 p.m. on Friday,

Union County will host rival Fannin County (5-4, 1-4), who is fresh off a 39-36 victory over Lumpkin County in Blue Ridge on Saturday night. On Friday they fell 65-29 to GAC and will host East Hall on Tuesday.

Saturday the top-ranked Lady Spartans of Greater Atlanta Christian visit Union County for a 6 p.m. tip-off. GAC is 4-0 in region play with its four wins coming by an average margin of 39 points.

The Lady Spartans are led by 5-star, Auburn commit Robyn Benton and her 17.1 points per game. Benton is rated as the No. 6 guard in the state and No. 17 overall prospect, according to *ESPN*.

Running point for GAC is a 3-star Middle Tennessee commit, Taylor Sutton - *ESPN's* No. 28 point guard in Georgia.

In the post is 6-foot, 3-star, Hofstra commit Caria Reynolds - *ESPN's* 47th rated player in Georgia at her position.

Daniel's 1,000 - Daniel became just the second Lady Panther this decade (and tenth overall) to reach the 1,000-point plateau, joining Becca Merritt (2009-12), who is the sister of (2009-12) the Lady Panthers assistant coach Seth Merritt - who also scored 1,000 points at UCHS.

Daniel is the first Lady Panther guard to reach 1,000 since Candace Williams (2006-09) and is the fourth guard in 25 years to reach 1,000, joining Nikki Gurley (2001-04) and Mandy Bradley-Hunter (1991-94) - also a Lady Panther assistant.

Other 1,000-point scorers (5-on-5 only) are: Kenya Lance-Patton, Jana Tallent-Hemphill, Andrea Neely, Jamesa Dobbs, and Kris Lance-Gooch.

Daniel becomes the just 21st Union County basketball player (boy or girl) since 1970 to reach 1,000 points.



Bailey Daniel with head coach Corey Garrett postgame. Photo/Todd Forrest



Sophomore Brooke Dockrey (3) helps out another sophomore with a double-team in the post as Kait McCarter (30) swats a Lumpkin County shot attempt on Friday night. McCarter finished with 18 points, seven rebounds and two blocked shots in the win. Photo/Todd Forrest



Junior Jordan Rogers goes up for two during the second half of Union County's Region 7-AAA victory over Lumpkin County. She finished with 4 points and five rebounds vs Lumpkin County then scored 5 points on Saturday at Andrews, NC. Photo/Todd Forrest