

Soccer: Panthers blast Towns County; stumble late vs Riverside

By Todd Forrest
North Georgia News
sports@nganews.com

Union County soccer squared off with its rival Towns County last week and Parker McCombs made absolutely certain that this edition of the Panthers - Indians rivalry wouldn't be another nail-biter decided by one goal or less.

McCombs finished with a career high 5 goals - two coming in the first 98 seconds - to lead Union to a 7-2 victory.

Prior to this season, the previous three meetings with Towns County resulted in a 2-1 win, a 1-1 tie, and a 1-0 loss for Union.

Last season, the Panthers jumped out to a quick 2-0 lead but let their foot off the gas pedal enough for the Indians to score a late goal, forcing Union to fend off a furious onslaught in the final minutes.

Fast-forward to last week: Union scored three goals - two by McCombs - in the opening 127 seconds, but Towns weathered the early storm and managed to get on the board in the game's 22nd minute.

That's as close as Mc-

Combs would allow them to get as the senior struck again; this time he blasted a kick past the Indians keeper from 15 yards out - making it a 4-1 game with less than 13 minutes remaining in the half.

Just over 90 seconds later, McCombs capped off a four-goal half when he tapped a rebound into the net for his team's fifth goal.

His fifth and final goal came early in the second half to spot the Panthers a 6-1 lead.

Goal No. 7 belonged to Brian Smith when he scored from up close with 6:03 to play. Smith also added an assist when he fed McCombs for a goal.

Sean Dobbins scored a goal for Union County when he made it 3-0 off an assist from Gehrig Patterson.

On Friday, the Panthers hosted a former Region 8-AA foe, Riverside Military Academy and appeared to be in control with a 2-0 lead and less than 15 minutes to play.

However, the Eagles mounted a furious rally with late three goals - including one that found its way into the net as time expired at the end of regulation.

Senior Sam Seiler and McCombs accounted for the two Panther goals while Seiler



Seniors Parker McCombs (left) and Sam Seiler (right) during the win over Towns County. The seniors on both Union County soccer teams are looking to make it four trips to State in four years. The Class of 2017 would become the second straight class to accomplish that feat after last year's seniors pulled it off. Photos/ Todd Forrest



also recorded an assist.

Union County will open Region 7-AAA play on Friday when they host Lumpkin County, one of the most decorated mountain soccer programs in Georgia.

This season, the Indians are off to an 0-5-1 start due to a difficult non-region schedule that includes Chestatee, Calhoun, Lakeview, White County and Class AAAAAA's

Mountain View.

Lumpkin's lone region contest was a 1-0 loss to 10th ranked North Hall.

Three other boys' squads from Region 7-AAA currently reside in the EuroSport Class AAA Top 10: Greater Atlanta Christian (2nd), East Hall (3rd) and Dawson County (8th).

Union and Lumpkin will get underway Friday

at 5:30 p.m. with the girls

contest.

The guys are scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m.

On Monday night, Union County and Lumpkin County's JV teams squared off but the results were after the Monday deadline.

Next week, Union will continue region play when they host Fannin County on March 14 before traveling to

East Hall on March 17.

The Panthers will visit North Hall and GAC during the week of March, 20.

Things slow down following non-region contests at Gilmer on March 31 and vs Rabun County on Apr. 4.

The next varsity contest will come 17 days after the Rabun game when Union hosts Dawson in the 7-AAA finale on Apr. 21.

Lady Panthers rout Tri-County; drop 1-0 heartbreaker to Towns

By Todd Forrest
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sports@nganews.com

The Lady Panthers split its two games last week to take a 3-1 record into region-action that gets underway this week.

On Monday, Union had little trouble dismantling Tri-County Early College as they cruised to an 8-0 victory.

On Thursday, Union and Towns battled it out in a scoreless tie that lasted more than 66 minutes before the Lady Indians converted a Lady Panthers' miscue into a goal with 13:18 left in the game.

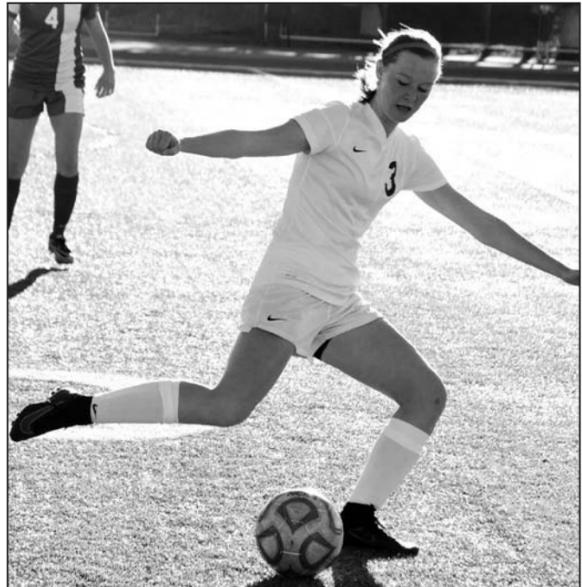
As the ball bounced around between several Union defenders, senior goalkeeper Emmi Schakat managed to keep the ball out of the net but her team mates were unable to clear the ball from in front of the goal, and eventually, the Lady Indians slipped a shot past Schakat for the 1-0 lead.

The one goal advantage would stand as Towns' Jordan Hyatt was able to win what turned out to be a battle of the goalkeepers, despite facing a relentless Lady Panther attack in the final minutes.

Hyatt came up with a tough save just over five minutes into the second half. Then, she dodged a bullet when Braedyn Robbins missed wide during a 1-on-1 opportunity with 22:50 remaining.

Less than three minutes removed from Towns' goal, Union got off a good shot that was drilled into Hyatt's chest. Two minutes later, she came through again with a sliding save to keep the shutout intact.

The Lady Panthers appeared to catch a break when



Madison Yost vs Towns County. Earlier in the week she scored four goals during Union County's win over Tri-County Early College. Photo/Todd Forrest

Hyatt was issued a yellow card with 6:21 left in the game - forcing Towns to turn to its backup goalkeeper Lea Neumeyer for nearly two minutes.

Union could only produce one shot attempt while the substitute keeper was on the field, and it missed wide right.

With Hyatt back in the game at the 4:30 mark, Robbins, Madison Yost, and Brenna Innis continued to send shot-after-shot at Hyatt but only two shots were on goal - resulting in saves. The remainder of the kicks missed wide.

Earlier in the week, the Lady Panthers dominated Murphy, NC's Tri-County Early College thanks to four goals from Yost, en route to an 8-0 victory.

Union will have its hands full this week when they open Region 7-AAA on Friday with 6th ranked Lumpkin County at home.

The Lady Indians are

currently 6-1 with their only loss coming to Mountain View from Class AAAAAA - the largest classification in Georgia.

Lumpkin County owns an impressive resume with a 2-1 win over 7th ranked Chestatee (Class AAAAA), an 8-0 victory over Lakeview (Class A Private with a 5-2 record), 2-1 over 2nd ranked Wesleyan (A-Private), 3-1 over White County (AAAA), 5-1 including a 3-2 win over Towns), and a 3-0 shutout of Johnson-Gainesville (AAAAA, 3-2).

The Lady Indians are also 1-0 in region play following their second straight shutout victory - a 3-0 win over North Hall.

On Tuesday, Lumpkin County will visit Towns County at 5 p.m.

As of this writing, Region 7-AAA has three girls teams in the top six: Greater Atlanta Christian - 2nd, Dawson County - 3rd, and Lumpkin County - 6th.

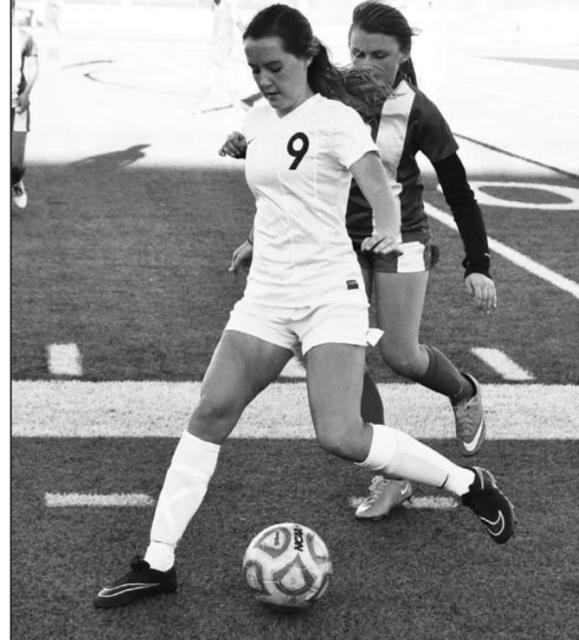


Lady Panthers keeper senior Emmi Schakat (far left) defends the Union Co. goal along with six of her teammates but after several shots at point-blank range, Towns was able to find the net and the victory. Earlier in the week she recorded a shutout victory over Tri County. On the year, Schakat has only allowed 3 goals in four games. Photo/Todd Forrest

Friday's contest with Lumpkin will get underway at 5:30 p.m. at Mike Colwell Memorial Stadium.

Come out and support both Union County soccer teams this Friday as they attempt to open region-play on the right foot.

Let's show the rest of the region that UCHS' recent run of success at the AA-level will continue in Class AAA.



Braedyn Robbins (9) looks for room during the first half of the Towns County game. Photo/Todd Forrest

Official season for Butternut Creek Ladies Golf League opens April 6th

Do you enjoy playing golf with a great bunch of ladies?

Well, the time is coming up to give you a chance for some great golf, fellowship, different games each Thursday and just golfing fun!

Beginning the first Thursday in April through the last Thursday in September, the Butternut Creek Ladies Golf Association offers a fun and competitive 18-hole golf league at the Butternut Creek Golf Course in Blairsville.

In addition to different golf games each week, our league offers a Hole-in-One Club, a charity golf event and a ladies invitational.

For league members and guests on Thursdays, the green fee is \$25. Joining the Butternut Creek Golf Course will reduce your green fee to \$16 any day during the week. League dues are \$20 and tee times start at 10 a.m. with arrival at the golf course by 9:15 a.m.

A handicap is required to participate, however, as a



new member we will work with you to establish a handicap.

Please check out our fabulous website for more information www.butternutcreekgolf.com.

If you want to join us on a Thursday, call Jane Childers at 706-838-5599.

So make plans to join us - we welcome you! (NMar8,29)

Bowling scores

Monday Night Ladies: Candace Theriot 246, Series 601.

Monday Night Men: Taz Matetzschk 256, 235, 234, Series 725, Jeb Plott 204, 205, Ron Wingate 237, Greg Wittenburg 205, Bonnell Thomas 215, 204, 219, Brian Cuthbert 221, John Delphino 200, 249, Doug Tanner 211, Ken Clark 214, Stanley Tyler 216, Jay Burrell 220, 243, Ken Clark 214, Stanley Tyler 216, 243, Joe Teague 207, Derick Rice 215, 224.

Young @ Heart Seniors: Del Neiffer 223, 213, Ron Wingate 201, Nell Rice 201, Ken Thigpen 201, Bob Landis 212, Gene Langford 231, Bryan Cuthbert 248, Mel White 249, 203, Series 599, John Delphino 264, Series 636, Gordon Stanton 202, Paul Napolitano 213, Bill Cox 202, 200, 100, Series 604, Dewey Allen 203, 225, 246, Series 674, Ron Gaucher 227.

Thursday Night Fun Mixed: Ray Everett 223, Branden Hartness 241, Doug Roberts 244, 203, Brett Hogsed 225, 208, Series 624, Shay Roberts 224, Tim McVay 216, 201, Ron Wingate 236, Dewey Allen 208, 201, Stanley Tyler 200, 233, Justin Miller 267.

9th Annual STRA Trials Bike Competition at Trackrock Campground & Cabins March 18 and 19



The 9th Annual Trackrock Trials will be held on March 18th and 19th from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. This free family friendly event is a must see with no other like it in this area. Participants from 6 to 75 years of age must possess extraordinary balance and agility skills to weave their way over 8-10 difficult courses in rough terrain that are different each day of the event. The course is easy walking for spectators and a great day outdoors.

At 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, there will be a Youth Trials Division competition

for the "up and coming" riders. Ages 6-10. There are over a dozen different levels of competition, including Champs, Intermediate, Novice, Women and Vintage. See www.stratrials.com for more info.

A delicious lunch will be available for purchase.

The Southeastern Trials Riders Association (STRA) is a group of members located in 7 southeastern U.S. states. They are dedicated to the ex-

citing and family friendly sport of Observed Motorcycle Trials. They cater to both the serious competitor and the casual or fun rider. The competition schedule consists of 12 or more STRA championship events with classes for modern and vintage bikes.

Information about the Campground and directions can be found at www.trackrock.com or on at Trackrock Campground & Stables.



Annual Trackrock Trials