

Lady Panthers split two Region matches despite 17 combined goals

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The eighth-ranked Lady Panthers (1-2-1, 1-1) recorded their first win of 2020 on Friday night with a 9-0 rout at Monticello. Earlier in the week, Union County dropped an 8-6 shootout to Rabun County after rallying for a 5-4 advantage in the second half.

Sophomore Melia Whitener and senior Desaray Patterson each recorded a brace for the Lady Panthers. Still, it was not enough as they fell to Rabun for the first time in 10 meetings (2010).

Trailing 1-0 early, freshman Italia Salazar evened the score with a goal in the sixth minute. The Lady Wildcats answered with a free-kick and a penalty-kick goal to take a 3-1 advantage during the 20th minute.

Whitener responded with a goal in the 21st minute, and Patterson answered Rabun's fourth goal with one of her own in the 39th minute to pull within 4-3 at the break.

Senior Mattison Ruff and Whitener both scored in the 47th minute to open up a 5-4 lead, but Rabun tied it up in the 55th minute. Still tied at 5-5 after 66 minutes, the Lady Wildcats scored three goals in eight minutes for an 8-5 advantage.

Patterson picked up her second goal of the evening in the 78th minute to bring the final tally to 8-6.

In Friday's win at Monticello, senior Desaray Patterson sparked the onslaught with a penalty kick goal in the second minute.

Patterson struck again for a 2-0 advantage in the 14th minute. Consecutive goals by Ruff in the 33rd minute made it 4-0 -- the final point coming off a Shelby Poling assist.

Patterson converted her second PK in the 47th minute. Kaylee Helton found Ruff in the 64th for a 6-0 advantage. Patterson completed her haul



L-R: Union County seniors Desaray Patterson and Mattison Ruff each turned in a four-goal haul vs Monticello on Friday. In Tuesday's match vs Rabun County, Patterson finished with the brace plus one assist; Ruff added one goal and one helper in the 8-6 loss. Photos/Todd Forrest



Sophomore Melia Whitener notched a pair of unassisted goals vs Rabun, she also recorded a corner-kick assist at Monticello. Photo/Todd Forrest

Patterson set up Ruff in the 69th minute, and then found Salazar for a 9-0 margin in the 70th.

Union County hosted

Banks County on Monday, March 9, and will travel to Putnam County on Wednesday. The week will conclude Friday when the Lady Panthers host Elbert County.

With a back-loaded region schedule at the end of



Freshman Italia Salazar (R) scored goals in each game last week. She provided Union County's first goal vs Rabun County, then called off the scoring in Friday's 9-0 rout at Monticello. Photo/Todd Forrest

March, the Lady Panthers (1-1 in 8-AA) can use the upcoming three-game stretch to put themselves in position to finish among the top four, or they could find themselves behind the 8-ball by week's end. With a seven-game region

schedule, three wins are a must to qualify for State, and four wins almost guarantee a post-season berth. With Union's three upcoming opponents a combined 3-8-1, running the table would be ideal. Two wins would keep them very much

in the hunt, but anything less would deal a devastating blow to their playoff chances.

Both Wednesday and Friday's matches will begin at 5:30 p.m. with the guys to follow.

Union County Recreation Department: Youth Basketball District 7 Tournament results



The Union County 10U girls finished second at District following a 43-35 title game loss to Lumpkin County. In the previous round, Union defeated Commerce 41-6. The 10U Lady Panthers were coached by Haley Dyer, Stefany Garrett and Heather Akins. The team consists of Clara Akins, Samantha Combs, Jules Dyer, Destiny Hill, McKenna Hood, Gabriela Jimenez, Joanna Kay, Vivian McNabb, Emma Nichols and Miya Totherow.



The 10U boys placed third at District with a 45-14 win over Towns County and a 45-27 loss to Commerce. The Panthers were coached by Trint Rich, Greg Wilson and Derek Hughes. The team consists of: Corbin Combs, Karter Conley, Jax Dillinger, Kason Hughes, Jackson Nichols, Bentley Rich, Easton Shumaker, Brayden Torres, Micah Wallace and Charlie Wilson.



Union County's 12U girls fell 43-38 in the first round to the eventual runner-up Oglethorpe County. The Lady Panthers' were coached by Karen Holding, Jana Hussion and Whitney Kane. The team consists of: Avery Hussion, Izzy Anthros, Ragan McCarter, Kaylee Radar, Lola Hunter, Riley Voss, Tatum Fisher, Kaitlyn Campbell, Mady Adams and Paula Robertson.

Track and Field: Union opens strong at Gilmer



Hunter Hartzog

Ellijay - Union County senior Kyle Morlock set the school record with a discus throw of 110-feet, 2 inches to lead the Panther men to a convincing win over Gilmer and Southeast Whitfield.

Other first place finishers for the guys were: Zion Ross - 100 Meter (12.14 seconds), Long Jump (18-7); Elliot Stepp - 200M (25.61), Thomas Mellendorf - 400M (54.91), Hunter Hartzog - 800M (2 minutes, 6 seconds), 1600M (4:48); Luke Gambrell - 3200M (10:43).

Trevor Guild - 300M Hurdles (47.27), 4x100 relay - Sloan Sutton, Ross, Mellendorf and Morlock (47.0),

4x400 relay - Jonah Green, Ross, Mellendorf and Hartzog, Green - High Jump (5-4), Kyle Smith - Triple Jump (40-1.5), Noah Underwood - Shot Put (36-7.5).

The Union ladies placed second to Gilmer while claiming five gold medals.

Zoe Sanchez - 1600M (5:47), 3200M (12:23); Lexi Sisum 200M (29.23), Evelyn McBride - High Jump (5-0), 4x100 relay - Mia McCombs, Allie Brey, Sisum and McBride (56.92).

Final results: Boys - Union 103, Gilmer 51, SEW 13. Girls - Gilmer 66, Union 49, SEW 42.