

# Baseball: Eight runs not enough vs Rabun; region play opens this week

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The Panthers dropped their second game in-a-row last Wednesday evening with a 13-8 loss to Rabun County that saw Union County surrender 16 hits and 12 earned runs.

The offense kept the Panthers in the game until the Wildcats struck for four in the sixth and two in the seventh. The six-run outburst came after Union stormed back for an 8-7 advantage after trailing by scores of 4-0 and 7-6.

After leading the team in batting average through the first five games, junior centerfielder Candler Colwell was moved to the 3-hole in the lineup and continued to deliver for Coach Robby Roxbury's Panthers.

Colwell went 2-for-5 with 3 RBIs, 2 runs, and a pair of stolen bases. Meanwhile, Crawford Colwell finished with Union's only three-hit game during a 3-for-4 performance at the plate.

Five different pitchers took the mound for the Panthers but none were able to find a groove.

Following a six-run third and a two-run fourth that gave Union an 8-7 lead, senior Josh Nachtrieb was responsible for Rabun County's only scoreless inning - a two strikeout fifth that was aided by catcher Dawson Groves when he gunned down a base runner at second on a failed steal attempt.

The Panthers were un-



Candler Colwell with an RBI single during Union's six-run third inning vs Rabun County. Photo/Todd Forrest



Senior catcher Dawson Groves drives in a run with a sacrifice bunt vs Rabun County. Photo/Todd Forrest

able to build on its one-run lead in the bottom half of the fifth when a Slade Thompson base hit and a Patrick Baggett walk went to waste after consecutive strikeouts ended the inning and the scoring threat.

The Wildcats regained the lead with a four-run sixth that Union was unable to recover from.

Four singles in five at bats off Nachtrieb to open the inning put Rabun on top 9-8. An RBI groundout and an RBI triple made it an 11-8 game before Nachtrieb escaped further damage with an inning-ending

strikeout.

The Panthers loaded the bases in the sixth but once again, back-to-back strikeouts doomed the home team.

RJ Banton was hit by a pitch, Crawford Colwell singled to the opposite field, and Del Ruff reached on an error before the next two batters struck out swinging.

Rabun tacked on two more runs - one earned - in the seventh off of Jackson Colwell, thanks to a double and an error. Cayden Rich entered with two down and got the final out with a swing-and-miss at strike

three.

The Panthers would go down 1-2-3 in the bottom half of the seventh to drop to 4-2 on the year.

A two-run, two-out single off the starter Banton gave the Wildcats a quick 2-0 lead after a half inning of play. In the bottom half of the inning, a leadoff single by Baggett would go to waste.

Another two-out base hit opened up a 3-0 advantage for Rabun in the second before a leadoff double, a passed ball, and a ground out to shortstop made it a 4-0 game entering the

bottom of the third inning.

The Panthers answered with six runs in the third thanks to a combination of small-ball and timely hitting.

Cole Davis led off the inning by going the other way with a base hit to left. Slade Thompson reached on a bunt single to third and Baggett loaded the bases by beating out a roller to first.

Logan Dyer put Union on the board with a single up-the-middle and Candler Colwell made it a 4-3 game with a line drive base hit to right field. Groves tied the game

when he scored Dyer with a squeeze bunt and Candler Colwell put Union on top when he stole third, resulting in an errant throw into left field.

Ean Harkins drew a walk and Crawford Colwell singled before a strikeout brought Davis to the plate with two down. For the second time in the inning, Davis singled to left - bringing home courtesy runner Pierson Allison for a 6-4 Panther lead.

Two singles, a double, an intentional walk, and a sacrifice fly in the top of the fourth allowed Rabun to retake the lead at 7-6 and chase Banton from the game - bringing Harkins to the mound, who recorded two fly outs and a groundout to keep Union within a run.

With one down in the fourth, a base hit by Dyer was followed by a passed ball that allowed Candler Colwell to bring him home with a single back up the middle. A stolen base and a groundout put Candler Colwell on third when Banton put Union back on top with an infield single.

Nachtrieb took the hill with Union clinging to an 8-7 lead and faced the minimum in a scoreless fifth.

The Panthers open Region 7-AAA play this week with a three-game series vs Lumpkin County that was scheduled to open in Blairsville on Monday before getting postponed.

Game two will be Wednesday in Dahlonega before the rubber match on Friday back in Blairsville. All three games begin at 5:55 p.m.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E
RBNC	2	1	1	3	0	4	2	13	16	3
UCHS	0	0	6	2	0	0	0	8	14	3

Lineup	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	K
Patrick Baggett	4	1	2	0	1	0
Logan Dyer	5	2	2	1	0	2
Candler Colwell	5	2	2	3	0	3
Dawson Groves	3	0	0	1	0	1
RJ Banton	2	0	1	1	0	0
Ean Harkins	0	0	0	0	1	0
Pierson Allison	0	1	0	0	0	0
Crawford Colwell	4	0	3	0	0	0
Del Ruff	4	0	0	0	0	1
Alec Scott	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cole Davis	4	1	2	1	0	1
Slade Thompson	3	1	2	0	0	0
Hunter Kelley	1	0	0	0	0	1
Jackson Colwell	-	-	-	-	-	-
Coleson Daniel	-	-	-	-	-	-
Josh Nachtrieb	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cayden Rich	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Totals</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>

**Batting**  
**TB:** Crawford Colwell 3, Patrick Baggett 2, RJ Banton, Candler Colwell 2, Logan Dyer 2, Cole Davis 2, Slade Thompson 2  
**RBI:** Dawson Groves, RJ Banton, Candler Colwell 3, Logan Dyer, Cole Davis  
**SAC:** Dawson Groves  
**ROE:** Del Ruff  
**FC:** Slade Thompson, Del Ruff  
**HBP:** RJ Banton  
**SB:** Candler Colwell 2, Slade Thompson

Pitching	IP	#P	S%	H	R	ER	K	BB	HR
RJ Banton	2.2	62	.548	6	4	4	1	3	0
Ean Harkins	1.1	20	.650	3	3	3	0	1	0
Josh Nachtrieb	2.0	45	.756	5	4	4	3	0	0
Jackson Colwell	0.2	16	.375	2	2	1	0	1	0
Cayden Rich	0.1	4	.750	0	0	0	1	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>.612</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>

**Pitching**  
**HBP:** Josh Nachtrieb  
**Pitches-Strikes:** Jackson Colwell 16-6, Josh Nachtrieb 45-34, RJ Banton 62-34, Ean Harkins 20-13, Cayden Rich 4-3  
**Groundouts-Flyouts:** Jackson Colwell 1-0, Josh Nachtrieb 1-0, RJ Banton 2-4, Ean Harkins 2-2, Cayden Rich 0-0  
**First pitch strikes-Batters faced:** Jackson Colwell 1-5, Josh Nachtrieb 9-11, RJ Banton 9-17, Ean Harkins 5-8, Cayden Rich 0-1

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and Lumpkin played the second OT with the wind at its back.

Less than a minute into the second OT, the Indians had a one-on-one opportunity with Rodriguez inside the box, however, the shot ricocheted off the left post, and the Panthers dodged a bullet.

Union County was able to get off shots at the 2:52 and 1:11

marks of the second OT but both missed wide.

"I had some simple words of encouragement and confidence with a couple of the players, but it was Coach Jon Krieger who really took the helm with our penalty takers," Sarrell said when asked what he told the guys prior to the penalty kick session. "I spent most of

my time talking to Nick and going over some of the little nuances of penalty shootouts. It did not take much encouragement from me though, Nick knew his job and was ready get out there and do it."

The Panthers will resume region play on Tuesday when they host Fannin County at 5 p.m. (girls) and 7 p.m. (guys).

On Friday, Union will travel to East Hall to square off with the third ranked team in AAA at 7:30 p.m.

The Vikings are currently 7-1 and are coming off a State Runner Up finish in 2016.

They are currently 1-0 in region play following a 7-1 victory over Fannin County.



The Blue Ridge Mountain Jeepers are looking forward to 2017, being outdoors, jeeping and socializing. Members that spent the winter farther south will soon be back in town, and we are looking forward to seeing them and getting our Jeeps on the road.

Our group consists of a happy bunch of family-oriented people who love their Jeeps. If you are like-minded, read on, or better yet come and join us. BRMJ meets the second Tuesday of each month at Steve's Steakhouse, the Cookie Jar in Blairsville. Food and fellowship begin at 5 p.m. and the meeting starts at 6 p.m.

Weather permitting, we ride once or twice a week on all kinds of rides: easy street rides, forestry road rides, and the men (and a few adventurous ladies) take on more challenging rides such as Beasley's Knob and The Flatlands.

If you own a Jeep, we welcome you to come and have fun with us. Visit our website, www.blueridgemountainjeepers.com, to view our calendar of upcoming events. Pictures and videos of recent rides are posted for your enjoyment.

## Bowling scores

Monday Night Men: Bryan Cuthbert 279, John Delphino 236, Doug Tanner 218, 242, Series 639, Bob Bischoff 254, Bill Cox 201, Ken Thigpen 202, Greg Wittenburg 217, Bill Smith 208, Taz Matetzschk 223, Jeremiah Plott 253, 244, Series 688, Stanley Tyler 257, Jay Burrell 225, 226, Series 642, Nick Bongiovanni 211, Ray Everett 204, 200, 216, Series 620, Randy Jones 227, Joe Teague 225, 216, Series 624 Derick Rice 231, 244, 257, Series 732, Walter Carpenter 201, Dewey Allen 219, Tom Griffiths 225, Ron Wingate 221.

Young @ Heart Seniors: Bob Landis 201, 218, Paul Napolitano 201, Del Neiffer 226, 225, Series 640, Bill Cox 202, John Delphino 221, 212, 212, Series 645, Mel White 233, 236, 241, Series 710, Ron Wingate 215, 224, Series 619. Thursday Night Fun Mixed: Doug Roberts 234, 208, Series 640, Brett Hogsed 202, Shay Roberts 246, 211, Ray Everett 224, Tee Turner 209, Chuck Reeves 202, Stanley Tyler 214, Tony Lynch 215, Curtis Corn 223, Dewey Allen 202, David Carroll 214, Greg Wittenburg 201, 201, Branden Hartness 211.

## 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



Annual Trackrock Trials

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 Facebook at Trackrock Campground & Stables. N(Mar15,F)JCA



## Blairsville Pickleball Club holds tournament



(L-R): BPC Ambassador Kathi Patrick, Hiawassee; Robin Ruth, Suches; Nancy Smith; BPC President Nolan Lang; BPC Secretary Christine Ferras, Blairsville; Marty Evans; BPC 2nd Vice-President Dave Evans, Morganton; Chuck Herrera, Jared Sandler, Blairsville; Blake Harper, Young Harris; BPC Ambassador Bud Patrick, Hiawassee, GA

The Methodist Activity Center gym in Blairsville, GA was filled with spectators and players for the second annual Pickleball tournament, held on March 9.

The sixteen competitors were required to be at a 3.0 level or above, and played in a Round Robin style, which was fast and exciting. Medals were awarded to: 1st place Men's Mixed Doubles, Blake Harper; 2nd

place, Jared Sandler; and 3rd place, Chuck Herrera. In the Women's Mixed Doubles, Medals were won by Robin Ruth, 1st place; Nancy Smith, 2nd place, and Christine Ferras, 3rd place.

President Nolan Lang remarked, "It was a great competition, with awesome skills shown, and dominated by good humor and friendliness, which are typical of the Blairsville Pickleball Club."

The Novice tournament will be held on March 16th in the MAC gym, 1-4 p.m. Both tournaments were organized by Dave and Marty Evans. Medals were provided by Ambassadors Bud and Kathi Patrick. Visitors are welcome to attend all tournaments.

For information, contact Bud and Kathi Patrick, at kathipatrick2@gmail.com. N(Mar15,Z)JCA

## New Benton MacKaye Trail Hiking Director



Ken Cissna

April 1 (Saturday): Byron Reece to Blood Mountain: Hike to the highest point on the Georgia Appalachian Trail. five strenuous miles, including over two miles of uphill climbing.

April 13 (Thursday) Green Mountain Trail: An easy/leisure hike of about four miles. April 23 (Sunday) Two Trail History Hike - Unicoi Turnpike Trail to Unicoi Gap, then BMT to Hwy 68.

Join one of the BMTA Founders, George Owen, for a moderate 7.4 mile history-laden hike where, in parts, the Cherokees walked. For more details and information on how to register, see the Activities Calendar on www.bmta.org. NT(Mar15,A3)gg