

Sports

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Soccer: Lady Panthers thump East Hall 6-2; improve to 1-1 in region

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Rabbittown - Madison Yost and Anzly Sherman combined for five goals with Yost recording a hat trick and Sherman picking up two assists in Union's 6-2 victory at East Hall, last Friday.

The Lady Panthers led 3-0 at the intermission before extending their advantage to 6-0 with under 22 minutes to play.

With under 15 minutes remaining, the Lady Vikings tacked on two late goals during mop up duty to avoid the shutout.

Yost got the scoring underway during the 10th minute, off an assist from Layne Baenninger and Braedyn Robbins.

In the 25th minute, Joanna Irvin found Yost for goal number two.

Fifty-five seconds later, Ellie Garrison got in on the action off a feed from Sherman. Garrison's shot made it 3-0 and was the only Union County goal by someone not named Yost or Sherman.

Less than eight minutes into the second half, Yost completed the hat trick off a pass from Sherman - her second assist of the evening.

Later in the half, Sherman would strike twice in less



Union County used six unanswered goals to put East Hall away before the Lady Vikings added two late goals during the final 15 minutes of play. Braedyn Robbins (left) picked up an assist on Union's first goal of the game - one of three for Madison Yost. Brenna Innis (right) assisted on the Lady Panthers' final two goals of the game - both off the foot of Anzly Sherman. Photos courtesy of John Innis

than 20 seconds to open up a 6-0 advantage.

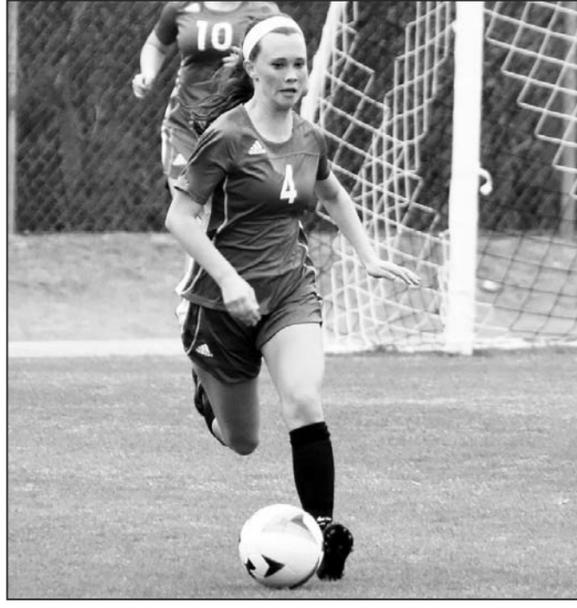
Sherman's quick 1-2 punch began with 22:14 to play off assists from Brenna Innis and Robbins.

Nineteen seconds later, Union was back on the offensive, and once again Innis set up Sherman for the goal - administering a sense of deja vu to the Lady Vikings.

The win moves the Lady Panthers to 3-2 overall and 1-1 in Region 7-AAA with another region road trip to Hall County scheduled for Tuesday night.

Union and North Hall will get underway in Clermont at 5:30 p.m. in what could potentially serve as a state tournament elimination game.

The Lady Trojans have dropped four of their last five



overall and are currently 1-2 in Region 7-AAA with losses coming to Dawson, 2-0 and Lumpkin, 3-0.

Their victory came at Fannin County by a score of 5-2.

North Hall opened region play with three consecutive road games setting up Tuesday's showdown with Union County as the Region 7-AAA home-opener for both Trojan squads.

North Hall is currently sporting a 4-4 overall record after beginning 3-0 with wins over East Jackson, Stephens County, and at West Hall.

They followed up the unbeaten start with three-straight losses - one coming in region play to Lumpkin County along with a pair of non-region losses to Jackson County and Chastatee.

Then came a 5-2 win at

Fannin earlier this month before a 2-0 loss at Dawson last Friday.

This coming Friday, the Lady Panthers will have their hands full when they pay a visit to private school powerhouse and perennial state championship contender Greater Atlanta Christian.

Winners of three State Championships since 2012, the Lady Spartans are consistently one of the top programs in the state among all classifications and are hungry to return to the title game after being denied by region-foe and eventual champion Lovett in the 2016 Class AA Final Four.

Six weeks earlier, GAC defeated Lovett 3-1 but fell by the same score with a spot in the championship game on the line.

The previous season, GAC took down Lovett in the finals for the second of back-to-back Class AA State Championships.

The Lady Spartans are currently 6-2 overall with a 1-0 record in region - a 3-0 win over Lumpkin County, who defeated Union 8-1.

Friday's action will get underway at 5:30 p.m. in Norcross at the GAC soccer field.

Union's game with Fannin last week was rescheduled for March 27th due to the winter weather that passed through the area.

Baseball: Lumpkin takes two-of-three from Panthers to open region play

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The Panthers dropped two of three in their region-opening series with Lumpkin County last week when winter weather canceled Monday's game, forcing a Friday doubleheader in Blairsville.

After dropping the first game on Wednesday, Union responded with a game two victory at home but the Indians took the series by forcing a split during Friday's twin bill.

UC 9, Lumpkin 3
The Panthers fell to 5-4 overall and have now lost four-of-five following a 4-0 start while their region record stands at 1-2 thanks to 4-3 and 4-1 losses to Lumpkin sandwiched around a 9-3 victory that saw Union come out red-hot with 8-unanswered runs through the first five innings.

Both teams swapped runs in the sixth before Lumpkin added a pair in the seventh to bring the final score to a respectable 9-3.

Union out-hit the Indians 12-8 and were aided by three errors via the Lumpkin defense.

Junior RJ Banton picked up the win in five innings of work - scattering six hits and fanning three while allowing one unearned run. At the plate, Banton blasted a solo shot to center (his first of the year) to give Union an 8-0 advantage in the fifth.

Patrick Baggett finished with a 3-for-4 performance, including 3 RBIs, a walk, and a stolen base.

The junior shortstop put the Panthers on top in the second inning when he scored Coleson Daniel (who singled earlier in the inning) with a base hit to center.

Baggett brought in another run in the third when he drew a bases loaded walk to make it a 4-0 game. Junior Logan Dyer followed with a free pass of his own to spot Union a 5-0 lead after three.

Earlier in the inning, Banton reached on an error then Crawford Colwell and Josh Nachtrieb singled to bring Daniel to the plate with the bags full. The sophomore bounced a grounder to short that resulted in the second Indians error of the inning - making it a 2-0 game when freshman courtesy runner Pierson Allison scored.

Cole Davis followed with a base hit to right to score Colwell and bring Baggett to the plate with his team up by three.

Davis made it a 6-0 game in the fourth when he drove in Colwell -- for the second time in as many innings -- with an infield single. Baggett's third RBI came on a base hit to right -- scoring Nachtrieb, who was hit by a pitch.

Allison tossed a scoreless sixth - striking out one during a 13-pitch inning.

Fellow freshman Cayden Rich gave up one earned in the seventh while fanning two and surrendering two hits.

At the plate, Davis also recorded a three-hit game while driving in two.



Junior RJ Banton is one of three Union County hitters with a home run in 2017. Photo/Todd Forrest

Colwell finished 2-for-3 with two runs, two steals and a walk. Dyer walked twice and drove in a pair from the two-hole in the lineup.

Senior Dawson Groves singled and Del Ruff scored a run for the Panthers.

Nachtrieb and Daniel each singled and scored twice with Daniel adding an RBI.

Dalton Stephens got the start on the mound for the Indians and lasted 2 1/3 innings before Austin Black entered in the third. Jace Seabolt worked the final 2 1/3 innings for the visitors while going 2-for-2 at the plate with 2 RBIs, a double, and a run.

UC 1, Lumpkin 4
Union was unable to pull off the home sweep on Friday and Lumpkin took two-of-three in the series with a 4-1 victory, despite being out-hit by the Panthers 8-to-5.

Baggett was responsible for three of his team's eight hits but it wasn't enough. Union County left 21 runners on base while going 0-for-9 with runners in scoring position following Banton's double that gave the Panthers a 1-0 lead in the first.

The Panthers struck early when Dyer singled and Candler Colwell walked to set the table for Banton, who doubled home Dyer with two down in the top half of the first.

Spotted an early run, Davis got the nod for Union and the junior southpaw struck out the side in the first despite a dropped third strike on his second K.

After the Panthers went down in order during the second, Davis fanned two more hitters in the bottom half of the inning to preserve the 1-0 lead.

Union wasted a scoring opportunity in the third when a pick-off at first negated a leadoff walk and prevented the Panthers from capitalizing on a pair of base hits that followed.

The Indians responded with three runs in their half of the inning thanks to another dropped third strike that allowed a run to score from third -- tying the game at 1-1 with one out.

Another Davis strikeout nearly had Union out of the inning but a costly two-out error,

followed by an RBI single, put Lumpkin on top 3-1 after three.

Davis drew a base-on-balls with one down in the fourth and with Ean Harkins entering as a runner, Baggett put runners on the corners with an opposite field single, however both runners would remain stranded on a fly out to end the inning.

Crawford Colwell replaced Davis in the fourth and immediately gave up a double and an RBI single before settling down and recording six straight outs during his two innings of work.

During Union's half of the fifth, Groves singled and Banton doubled to put runners at second and third with one down, but a strikeout and fly out ended the inning without a run.

Harkins took the mound in the sixth and struck out the side after the Panthers were sat down 1-2-3 in the top half of the inning.

In the seventh, Dyer led off by getting hit by a 1-1 pitch and Candler Colwell lined a base hit to right -- bringing the tying run to the plate.

Unfortunately, two strikeouts and a groundout would follow; giving the Indians the 4-1 victory.

Davis took the loss despite fanning seven in three innings. He allowed three hits and one earned run while walking one.

Banton finished 3-for-4 at the plate with two doubles and an RBI. Dyer was 1-for-2 with a run while Baggett and Groves each turned in a 1-for-4 performance.

Lumpkin's Matthew Grizzle struck out seven over six innings before giving way to Stephens in the seventh.

Dalton Caldwell was responsible for the Indians' only extra-base hit -- a fourth inning double that led to a Lumpkin County run.

UC 3, Lumpkin 4
In the opening game of the series, the Indians edged Union 4-3 thanks to a 3-run fifth after the Panthers jumped out to a 2-1 lead after three.

Candler and Crawford Colwell accounted for all five Union hits and all three runs while combining to go 5-for-8

with 3 RBIs, a double, and a stolen base.

Four different Panther pitchers allowed six hits and three earned runs while striking out six and walking two.

Harkins went four innings -- giving up three hits, one earned, fanning two and walking two.

Nachtrieb tossed one inning, yielding three runs, two earned and three hits.

Meanwhile, Allison and Rich both struck out two during one scoreless inning each.

After Lumpkin struck first, the Panthers answered with a run in the second and the third for a 2-1 advantage.

Banton walked and stole second to lead off the inning, allowing Crawford Colwell to even the score at 1-1 with an RBI single.

With two down in the third, Dyer drew a four-pitch walk and Candler Colwell doubled to deep centerfield to make it a 2-1 game.

Three singles, an error, and an RBI groundout granted the Indians a 4-2 advantage in the fifth.

Still down 4-2 in the seventh, Candler Colwell's RBI single made it a 4-3 game after Davis walked, Baggett hit into a fielders choice, and Dyer was hit by a pitch.

With runners at the corners and two down in a one-run game, Lumpkin sealed the W with a strikeout to end the game.

This week, the Panthers will square off with Dawson County in another 7-AAA three-game series.

On Monday, Union hosted the Tigers before traveling to Dawsonville for a 5:55 p.m. first pitch on Wednesday. The third meeting will be Friday in Blairsville at 5:55 p.m.

The Tigers are currently 8-6 overall and 3-3 in region play after taking two-of-three from Fannin earlier this month and dropping two-of-three from GAC last week.

The box scores for the first two games of the series (the UC win on top) are to the right. The game three box score is on the following page.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E
LMPK	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	8	3
UCHS	0	1	4	2	1	1	X	9	12	2

Lineup	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	K
Patrick Baggett	4	0	3	3	1	0
Logan Dyer	3	0	0	2	2	2
Candler Colwell	5	0	0	0	0	3
RJ Banton	3	1	1	1	1	0
Pierson Allison	0	1	0	0	0	0
Dawson Groves	4	0	1	0	0	3
Alec Scott	0	0	0	0	0	0
Crawford Colwell	3	2	2	0	1	0
Josh Nachtrieb	3	2	1	0	0	1
Coleson Daniel	2	2	1	1	0	0
Del Ruff	0	1	0	0	0	0
Cole Davis	4	0	3	2	0	0
Slade Thompson	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cayden Rich	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hunter Kelley	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	31	9	12	9	5	9

Pitching
HR: RJ Banton
TB: Crawford Colwell 2, Coleson Daniel, Dawson Groves, Josh Nachtrieb, Patrick Baggett 3, RJ Banton 4, Cole Davis 3
RBI: Coleson Daniel, Patrick Baggett 3, RJ Banton, Logan Dyer 2, Cole Davis 2
SAC: Coleson Daniel
ROE: Coleson Daniel, RJ Banton, Cole Davis
FC: Josh Nachtrieb, RJ Banton
HBP: Josh Nachtrieb, Del Ruff
SB: Crawford Colwell 2, Patrick Baggett
PK: Crawford Colwell

Pitching	IP	#P	S%	H	R	ER	K	BB	HR
RJ Banton	5.0	76	.632	6	1	0	3	1	0
Pierson Allison	1.0	13	.692	0	0	0	1	0	0
Cayden Rich	1.0	21	.619	2	2	1	2	1	0
Totals	7.0	110	.636	8	3	1	6	2	0

Pitching
HBP: RJ Banton
Pitches-Strikes: RJ Banton 76-48, Pierson Allison 13-9, Cayden Rich 21-13
Groundouts-Flyouts: RJ Banton 7-5, Pierson Allison 1-0, Cayden Rich 1-0

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E
LMPK	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	4	6	2
UCHS	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	3	5	1

Lineup	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	K
Patrick Baggett	4	1	0	0	0	1
Logan Dyer	1	1	0	0	2	1
Candler Colwell	4	0	2	2	0	0
RJ Banton	3	1	0	0	1	1
Dawson Groves	3	0	0	0	0	1
Crawford Colwell	3	0	3	1	0	0
Ean Harkins	1	0	0	0	0	1
Josh Nachtrieb	1	0	0	0	0	0
Pierson Allison	1	0	0	0	0	1
Hunter Kelley	1	0	0	0	0	0
Jonathon Everett	0	0	0	0	0	0
Del Ruff	1	0	0	0	0	0
Cole Davis	2	0	0	0	1	0
Slade Thompson	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cayden Rich	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carter Wright	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	25	3	5	3	4	6

Pitching
2B: Candler Colwell
TB: Crawford Colwell 3, Candler Colwell 3
RBI: Crawford Colwell, Candler Colwell 2
ROE: Cole Davis
FC: Patrick Baggett
HBP: Logan Dyer, Hunter Kelley
GIDP: Patrick Baggett
SB: Crawford Colwell, RJ Banton

Pitching	IP	#P	S%	H	R	ER	K	BB	HR
Josh Nachtrieb	1.0	24	.708	3	3	2	0	0	0
Ean Harkins	4.0	47	.638	3	1	1	2	2	0
Pierson Allison	1.0	8	.875	0	0	0	2	0	0
Cayden Rich	1.0	9	.778	0	0	0	2	0	0
Totals	7.0	88	.693	6	4	3	6	2	0