

Sanchez does it again; Union records five top fives at State

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ROME - Zoe Sanchez added a second State Championship to an already impressive resume thanks to a late pass in the 3200-meter race at last week's Class AA State Track and Field meet.

Sanchez trailed for most of the eight-lap event, falling behind by more than a second before making her move on the seventh lap and pulling away in convincing fashion with a school record time of 11:52 - eight seconds better than fellow-junior and defending state champion Austin Perez.

"I've been training (to be the strongest during) the last three laps, the last 1200-meters, basically," Sanchez said when asked if making a late move was her plan. "I've been wanting to pick it up each lap and I guess it worked. I've never broken 12:10 before so today was just an odd day. But I knew if I could stay with (Perez), I could beat her and I guess I was right."

After running in Class AAA as a freshman and sophomore, Sanchez and Perez didn't become acquainted until November when Perez and her Bleckley County teammate Emily Youngblood came in third and second, respectively, to Sanchez at the Cross Country State Championships.

Perez was finally able to get the better of Sanchez in the



L-R: Zoe Sanchez and Luke Gambrell on the medal stand after placing first and third, respectively, in the 3200m state race. Photos/Todd Forrest

1600m event the following day when they finished 1-2 in the race with Perez taking first by six seconds.

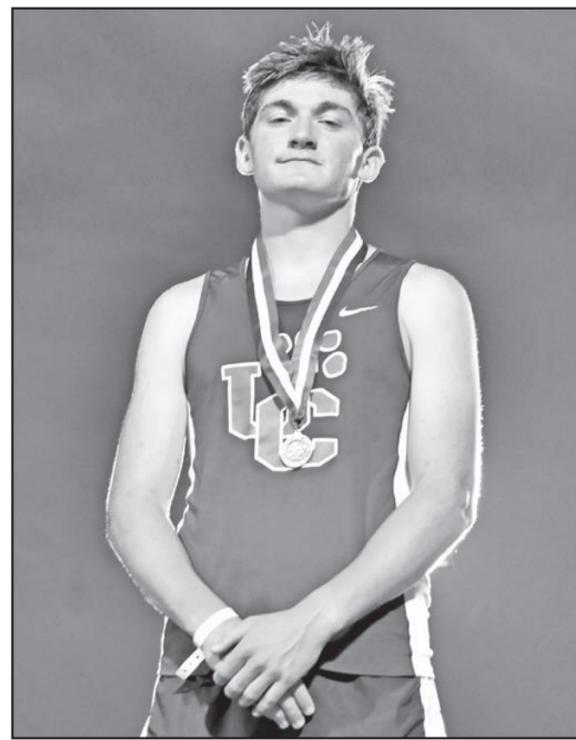
Despite not taking home her third state championship of the year, her 1600 time of 5:32 was a personal best and a silver lining to her second-place finish.

Sanchez was aware ahead of time that the 3200 was her best shot at a state title. When

asked prior to the 1600m race about her chances of bringing home another state championship, she was hesitant to get ahead of herself.

"The (1600) isn't really my best event and (Perez) trains exclusively for it," she said. "If I can draft off of her I might be okay but we'll just have to see."

In the men's 3200 race, sophomore Luke Gambrell finished



just back of the lead duo, taking home third place with a time of 10:21.

"I got caught back in the pack a little bit at the beginning so I could have probably gone out a little harder during the first few laps," Gambrell said. "It was probably close to (the halfway point) before I started to break away from the pack."

Winner Garrett Rogers of Bleckley County finished

with a state-record time of 9:51. Banks County's Griffin Stephens picked up the silver - crossing the line two seconds behind Rogers.

Coming in, Gambrell had a top-two finish on his mind but won't lose any sleep over receiving the bronze.

"I wanted to get to second but one of the guys ahead of me came out of nowhere and surprised everybody," he said.

"But I just want to thank God, my coaches and everyone who helped me to run a good race today."

Union's second competitor in the 3200, Guage Shumaker, recorded a top-10 finish with an 11:01 - six seconds better than 11th.

Hunter Hartzog came in fourth in the 800m race with a time of 2:02.81 and fifth in the 1600 with a time of 4:38 - both personal records.

Brendan Bowman qualified for the 400m race and placed 11th in the prelims at 51.49.

Evelyn McBride cleared 5-feet in the high jump, good enough for a seventh-place finish.

For Sanchez, her M.O. has been: Jump out to a large early lead and force the competition to prematurely pick up their pace in an attempt to keep her in sight. As a result, Sanchez tends to wear down opponents before the home stretch, which leads to substantial margins at the finish line.

This time around, however, Sanchez credits her father for the change in strategy.

"He told me not to go out too fast but actually I did," Sanchez said, laughing when she realized she didn't follow his gameplan to the letter. "But I didn't start out as fast as I usually do so that's good."

"But I really have to thank my parents, my coaches and everyone for all they've done to help me get here."



Union County's Guage Shumaker during last week's state 3200 race at Berry College in Rome. Photo/Todd Forrest



Sophomore Luke Gambrell starts to break away from the traffic to secure a third place finish in the 3200. Photo/Todd Forrest



Zoe Sanchez is overcome with emotion before collapsing at the finish line during her 3200 state championship run. Photo/Todd Forrest



Hunter Hartzog at Sectionals in Bremen. Photo submitted by Jody McLane

Union County Recreation Department 2019 Summer AM and PM Dance Jams Program

Do you need more spring in your step? Do you like to dance in a fun environment? If so, then Dance Jams may be for you! Union County Recreation Department is happy to bring you the dance jams workout program for adults 18 years of age and over. This new program is led by our Dance Jams instructor, Rachel! Dance Jams will be offered for the summer session three mornings a week, on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10:30-11:30 AM.

We will also offer this class in a PM session on Monday and Thursday evenings from 6:30-7:30 PM.

Dance Jams Registration begins on May 1, 2019 and ends May 30, 2019 (or until the class is full) at the Recreation Office (310 Wellborn Street.)

Registration must be done in person due to class size limits. If you have any questions, please call our office at (706) 439-6074.

Summer Fitness Programs Union County Recreation Department

Spring 2019 Session / Ages: 50 and over

Summer is quickly approaching! Union County Recreation Department will be offering several different fitness class options for the summer session. Here is a list of the following fitness classes we will offer:

- Regular Aerobics (T/Th) @ 8:30-9:30 AM**
- Advanced Strength and Core class (M/W/F) @ 9:45-10:30 AM**
- Outdoor Exercise (M/W/F) @ 8:30-9:30 AM**
- Beginner Strength and Core class (T/Th) @ 9:45-10:30 AM**
- AM Step-Aerobics class (T/Th) @ 11:00-12:00**
- PM Step-Aerobics class (Tues/Fri evening) @ 5:30-6:30 PM**
- Chair Aerobics class (T/Th) @ 1:15-2:00 PM**

Summer Session 2019 Registration begins on May 1, 2019 and ends May 30, 2019 (or until classes fill to capacity) at the Recreation Office (310 Wellborn Street.)

Registration and class payments must be done in person. If you have any questions, you can call (706) 439-6074 and ask for Jennifer.

Union Pirates 2019 Wii Bowling Conference Champions



(L-R): Joel Daniel, Dennis Selburg, Donna Taylor, Robin Dove, Dana Dove

The Union Pirates won the 2019 NSL Wii Bowling Spring Championship. The Pirates were in the Elite 2 division playing against seniors from all over the nation. The National Senior League Wii Bowling competition is held annually. We had two teams this year, each in a different division. The Lucky Strikes made it into the play-offs also, but fell short of the championship by a few points. We are proud of all our bowlers and thank them for their dedication to the senior center. N(May15Z15)CA



3-D Outdoor Archery Benefit Shoot

The Cross Outdoor Ministry is hosting a 3-D Archery Shoot with realistic targets on wooded trails, crossbows welcome on Saturday, May 18, 2019 at The Cook Farm, 302 Sweetgum Road, Blairsville. Registration begins at 8 AM; Shotgun Start at 9 AM; Entry Fee: Donations. All proceeds go to Heidi and Terry Sosebee. Breakfast and lunch will be available, recognition for Top 3 in each category, including crossbow.

For information contact Matthew Cook at 706-897-2408 or Jeff Deaver at 706-897-5074. N(May15Z15)CA

MUSA Soccer registration



The Mountain United Soccer Association Soccer Club is holding tryouts on June 1-2 from 1-2:30 p.m. at the Elan Fields and June 8-9 from 3-4:30 p.m. at the Elan Fields.

MUSA will also feature an adult soccer league with games being held on Saturday evenings from May 18-July 27. Available leagues are men and women 5-on-5 recreation leagues. Registration is \$150 per team. They will also host a 7-on-7 competitive mens league with a \$200 registration fee per team. For additional information, visit www.musasoccer.org.

Local Racing Results: Tri County

The rain cleared Friday, May 3 and Tri-County was about to get their first points race in. The track also featured a bicycle race for children under 14.

The open wheel modified was at the track and put on a great show. Clayton Miller No. 15 took the checkered flag. Coming in second No. 50 Amos Bunch. No. 11 Jesse Rupe came in third. No. 4 Wayne James took home fourth followed by No. J4 Tyler James.

Beginner 602: No. 56 Colton Berrong took home the win. No. X Shawn Haire came in second. Third was No. 13 Shannon Elliott. Fourth was No. 32 Logan Exum. No. 77 Les Elliott came in fifth.

FWD: No. 32 Justin Queen took home the win. No. K3 Sandi Klaucke came in second. No. 29R Sean Rice was third. No. 1 Matt Murphy came in fourth. No. 401 Brent Lynch finished fifth.

Limited/Crate: No. 7 Jason Deal took home the win. Next

No. 1 Kenny Collins. Third was No. 9 Brian Kinnersley. No. 12w Daniel Wilson was fourth. Finishing fifth was 56 Joey Standridge.

Pony: No.8 Johnny McClure took home the win. No. 32jr Franklin Burk finished second. No. 76k Korah Bumgarren finished third. Fourth was No. 15 Ryan Crawford. No. 22 Tucker Anderson finished fifth.

Street Stock: No. 7 Johnny Barrett took home the win. Next was No.7R Dylan Truman. Third was No. 5 Carson Shields. Fourth was K3 James Klaucke. No. J69 Jim Weller finished fifth.

Modified Street: No. 27 Mike Davidson took home the win. No. 37 Michael Barrett finished second. No. 81 John Howard took home third. No. 34 Greg Sudderth finished fourth. No. 88 Ricky Smith was fifth.

The May 10 race was rained out and is rescheduled for Thursday, May 16.