

Football: Allison discusses progress following first week in pads

Union County football to host its annual Meet the Team event at 6 p.m. Friday

By Todd Forrest
North Georgia News
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Union County football was back in full pads last week for the first time since the spring scrimmage at Chestatee.

The Panthers didn't see much live action right away, but that changed Monday as the scrimmage game is less than two weeks away.

The last week in July saw the players take part in a mandatory one week conditioning period before putting on the pads in August.

Prior to the first day of school, practice was held in the mornings but with class back in session, the Panthers will be on the field every day at 3:30.

This Friday will offer a bit of a reprieve, however, as the annual Meet the Team event will be held at Mike Colwell Memorial Stadium at 6 p.m.

The Meet the Team is an opportunity for the community to visit with this year's football team and cheerleading squad. Each of the players and coaches will be on hand for pictures, autographs, or to just say hello and wish them luck on the upcoming season.

A week from Thursday, on Aug. 17, Union County will host Rabun Gap for a scrimmage at 7 p.m. The regular season will get underway on Friday, Aug. 25 at Gilmer County.

With the season less than three weeks away, Panthers Head Coach Brian Allison provided the *North Georgia News* with an update on the first week of practice.

NGN: What was the focus of the first week in full pads. What were you looking to accomplish?

BA: We're just working on the fundamentals, like blocking and tackling before we get heavy into the live situations (this week).

NGN: Entering the spring, two areas of concern were the offensive line and the secondary. Have you been able to get a better look at those positions?



Union County Head Coach Brian Allison conducts practice last Friday after school. Photo/Todd Forrest



QB Cole Wright (8) and running back Chad Buzzard (24) perfecting the read option. Photo/Todd Forrest

BA: We've gotten a pretty good look at some of those areas but I'm not solid on all of those positions as of yet. I'm pretty comfortable with most of the positions but there's still a few that are up for grabs.

NGN: Will anything change, practice-wise, now

that school is underway and you're practicing in the afternoons?

BA: Putting on pads adds a little bit of time onto when we can get started but I feel pretty good with where we're at. Last year at this point, we were breaking in a new quarterback so that cre-

ated a little bit of a panic but I feel pretty comfortable with where we are at this point, especially compared to last year.

NGN: Has everyone stayed healthy after returning to pads and full contact? Are we dealing with any injuries after week one?



The pads were back on football practice last week. Photo/Todd Forrest



Coach Robby Roxbury instructs the defensive backs. Photo/Todd Forrest

BA: We don't have any major injuries but we've got three (defensive backs) who were out last week. Two are out with hamstring pulls and (Sean Dobbins) is dealing with a shoulder issue. He's had a good summer but we just need to get him healthy so he can get back in and start

getting some reps. By missing preseason practice, they are all missing out on some valuable work, but I'd rather play it safe and hold them out so they can return for the scrimmage or the first game. At this point we're not expecting anyone to miss any significant (regular season) time.

The Racing Roundup: Tri County and Blue Ridge results

By Blake Lynch
North Georgia News
Sports Special

The cars came, the fans came but so did the rain as Tri-County race track hosted its Fan Appreciation Night on Friday, Aug. 4.

Due the rain out, the race has been rescheduled for Friday, Aug. 18 so please save your arm bands for free admission at the track on the 18th.

Blue Ridge Motorsport Park was rain free on Saturday night and fans were treated to exciting night of racing.

The following drivers collected the checkered flag at Blue Ridge.

Street Stock - No. 14 Charles Devine, Jr; **Modified Street** - No. 17 Brad Thomas; **Limited Late Models** - No. 105 Shawn Chastain; **Crate Late Models** - No. 1 Junior Whitener; **Pony** - No. 11 Colt Thomason; **Front Wheel Drive** - No. 56 Jason Berrong; **Beginner 602** - No. 4 Jacob Parris.



2017 VARSITY FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

August 17	H	Rabun Gap (Scrimmage)	7:00
August 25	A	Gilmer County	7:30
September 1	A	Hayesville, NC	7:30
September 8	H	Andrews, NC	7:30
September 15	H	Banks County	7:30
September 22	H	Greater Atlanta Christian	7:30
September 29	A	East Hall	7:30
October 6	H	Dawson County	7:30
October 13	A	North Hall	7:30
October 20		OPEN	
October 27	H	Fannin County	7:30
November 3	A	Lumpkin County	7:30

Union County couple treks the 2,189 miles of the Appalachian Trail

A Union County married couple, Victor Alyn Davis and Kate Dorough, will soon complete the 2,189 miles of the Appalachian Trail with their 9 year old dog, Karlee. Presently they are in southern Maine ready and willing to complete their journey on Mt. Katahdin, ME.

Many thru-hikers heading north begin their trek at Springer Mountain, GA. Only one in 4 of the hikers beginning in GA will complete the 2,000+ mile journey through 14 states.

Alyn and Kate have hiked many times prior to their Appalachian Trail adventure. The hiking and the mountains

were an important reason for their move to Union County. They report being very happy to live in Blairsville with the beautiful mountains and outdoor activities at their front door.

Kate and Alyn said the trails are maintained by many volunteers. The Appalachian Trail is very well maintained by volunteers in Georgia and North Carolina.

They also participated in a health and wellness study for thru hikers conducted by a small liberal arts college in New Hampshire.

Submitted by Friends and Family of the AT Hikers Dorough and Davis N(Aug9,21)CA

Players and sponsors needed for Memorial Golf Tournament

Good Shepherd Episcopal Church Hayesville hosts the first Duane Miller Memorial Golf Tournament, Saturday, September 30, 2017, Ridges Country Club Hayesville. Proceeds to Bethel-Guidry college scholarship fund.

Players and sponsorships are needed. Contact kanuterey@gmail.com or 502-525-7272 or drjor@frontier.com. 248-425-0307.



Trout stocking sites week of August 1-4, 2017

Fannin: Rock Creek and Toccoa River Tailwaters Below Lake Blue Ridge Dam
Union: Cooper Creek

Note: Information is subject to change. Please call the hatchery at 706-838-4723 for questions. Stay up-to-date with stocking and events through Facebook www.facebook.com/chattahoocheeforestnfh. The hatchery also provides trout for the state. Please contact Georgia DNR for information on sites stocked by the state. N(Aug9,29)CA