Softball: Union loses its centerfielder and three of four during tough week By Todd Forrest North Georgia News sports@nganews.com

To say the Lady Panthers had a difficult week would be the understatement of the year.

Despite picking up its second win of the season and halting a two-game skid, Union County lost its starting center fielder, Ellie Garrison, to a broken arm at Rabun County. A junior, second year starter, Garrison was diving for a ball during warmups and suffered a broken arm.

On Saturday, the Lady Panthers were still playing with heavy hearts and struggled to generate any offense in a 4-0 loss to Chestatee.

> UC 13, Rabun Co. 6 During their win at Rabun

on Thursday, Union County overcame five errors to pick up win No. 2 on the year. Junior Aubree Pack got the start for Union and went three innings but sophomore Megan Bright took over in the fourth and recorded the win. Fortunately, she got plenty of support at the plate as the Lady Panthers throttled Rabun County to the tune of 13 hits and 13 runs. Most of the damage came off the bat of sophomore catcher Mary Wischmeyer, who finished with a career day at the plate: 5 RBIs and three doubles.

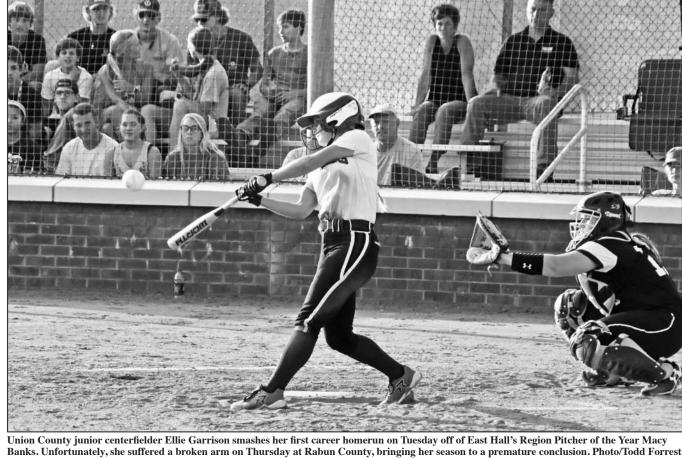
Union struck in the first when Katelynn Hodges doubled and Maddie Sutton reached on a bunt single – both eventually scored. They tacked on two more in the second by way of an Aladriel Arnold leadoff single and an RBI double from Mary Wischmeyer, who later scored on a Rayfield single.

The lead held until the second when the Lady Cats responded by sending nine hitters to the plate and scoring four runs. An inning later, two Union errors brought another run to the plate and Rabun grabbed a 5-4 lead after three.

Down one, the Lady Panthers exploded with four runs of their own in the top half of the fourth. Arnold reached on an error and Wischmeyer evened things up with her second RBI double of the day. Hodges made it 6-5 with a run-scoring ground out before Rabun recorded two

Rayfield kept the inning alive with a full count walk and Lawn made them pay with a 2-run homer to left-center.

Following a scoreless bottom half of the inning from the



away by stretching its lead to 10-5 in the fifth.

A one-out walk and an error put two aboard for Wischmeyer who cleared the bases with her third two-bagger of

Another defensive miscue by the Lady Panthers eventually led to a run as Rabun pulled within four at 10-6.

With one inning to play, Union chalked up three additional insurance runs when Wischmeyer knocked in her fifth run with a sacrifice fly. With two down and nobody on, Hodges doubled and scored when Sutton singled to left. Rayfield drove in Sutton but was thrown out trying to stretch her double into

Hodges and Sutton each went 2-for-5 with 2 runs and an RBI, Lawn turned in a 3-for-5, 3 RBI day at the plate, Arnold scored three times, Rayfield drove in two, and Poteete scored

UC 4, East Hall 9

Earlier in the week, the Lady Panthers hosted the defending region champs East Hall and returning 7-AAA Pitcher of the Year, sophomore Macy Banks. When the dust settled, Union County had roughed up Banks

Lady Cats, Union put things six Lady Panther fielding errors allowed East Hall to finish with nine runs on the same amount The trouble began early

as Union fell behind 3-0 in the second when the Lady Vikings used two singles and a hit batter to load the bases with nobody out. Lawn induced a bouncer back to the circle and she immediately fired home for the first out, but Wischmeyer's throw to first sailed into right field where it rolled through the legs of Sutton, allowing East Hall to clear the bases for a three run

The Lady Panthers would respond but they spent the rest of the game playing catch-up to the Lady Vikings. Pack and Garrison each recorded one-out singles in the bottom of the second and Hodges delivered a clutch tworun, two-out double down the left field line.

Within a run, Union was unable to hold East Hall in check and they eventually opened up a 5-2 advantage in the fourth when a leadoff double, a walk, a single, and an error resulted in two more runs. Still trailing by three in the fifth, Hodges led off the inning with a base hit but was left stranded at first.

The Lady Vikings blew

more runs to take a 9-2 lead. A reached base to open the inning. two-run error was followed by

surmountable deficit. Wischmeyer led off Union's half of the inning with a base hit and Garrison followed with a 2-run shot to center - the first homer of her career - to trim the East Hall lead to 9-4 but that's

a double and another two-run

error and the Lady Panthers

found themselves facing an in-

as close as they would get. Hodges, Rayfield, and Garrison each finished with a two-hit performance while Hodges and Garrison drove in a pair and Garrison added a pair of runs. Meanwhile, Sutton, Lawn, Wischmeyer and Pack accounted for the other four Lady Panther hits off Banks.

Lawn went the distance, striking out six, walking two, and allowing just three earned runs.

UC 7, White Co. 15

At White County a day later, Union County watched a 6-1 lead evaporate away as the Lady Warriors outscored the Lady Panthers 14-1 the rest of the way to take a 15-7 victory in five innings.

Union went down in order during the first and White jumped on top 1-0 in the bottom half of the inning. The Lady Panthers answered with for 10 hits and four runs but things open in the sixth with four six in the second after Lawn,

Wischmeyer, and Garrison all

An Arnold sacrifice fly tied the

score then a Pack base hit gave

Union a 2-1 lead. With two down, Hodges kept the inning alive with a tworun hit, Sutton laced an opposite field single and Lawn tacked on two more when her grounder to short resulted in an error and a

6-1 Lady Panthers advantage. Up five runs, getting runruled had to be the last thing on the mind of the Union County players, but White proved they weren't about to roll over and made the most of four Lady Panther errors to even the score at 6-6 after two.

One bright spot for Union County was the play of freshman Hannah Patton who recorded her first varsity hit with an RBI single to center – scoring Garrison.

However, the Lady Warriors capitalized on two more Lady Panther errors to regain the lead at 9-7 in the third. A leadoff single by Rayfield went to waste in the fourth after two ground outs and a strikeout ended the inning with Union still down two.

Patton delivered once again with a two-out base hit to left in the fifth but a fly out ended the inning. During White's

half of the inning, a one-out grand slam opened up a 13-7 lead. But the Lady Warriors weren't finished. Two walks. a single, and an error brought home two more runs to end the game at 15-7.

Garrison and Patton each finished 2-for-3 while Hodges ended up 1-of-3 with 2 RBIs and a walk. Sutton, Rayfield, Lawn, and Pack also singled for Union.

Lawn got the start and lasted an inning - surrendering two hits, one earned, and striking out one. Pack took over in the second and went 3 1/3 innings, striking out two, walking one, and allowing three earned runs. Bright pitched 1/3 of an inning, giving up two hits, two walks and three earned runs.

UC 0, Chestatee 4

On Saturday, Chestatee jumped out to an early 3-0 advantage as pitcher Beth Eddins tossed a 3-hit shutout to defeat Sutton, Pack and Arnold

provided the Lady Panthers only hits of the afternoon while Patton drew a walk. Lawn went the distance

for Union but was plagued by five errors in the field while tossing a complete game, fourhitter. She struck out three, walked two, and yielded four unearned runs. In the first inning, a two-

out error put the Lady War Eagles on the board, then a walk and a double spotted them a three run lead.

Patton reached on a oneout walk in the third and Sutton led off the fourth with a single but Union was unable to capitalize. Their best scoring opportunity came in the fifth when Pack and Arnold opened the inning with singles but a line drive back to the circle was snagged by Eddins, who threw to first for the inning-ending double play.

Chestatee tacked on one more in the sixth with a leadoff single, a sacrifice bunt, and a fielding error made it 4-0.

The Lady Panthers have two very winnable region home games this week that could allow Union to claw back into the top four. Fannin County visits on Tuesday and Greater Atlanta Christian comes to the mountains on Thursday.

Two wins would improve the Lady Panthers' region record to 3-2 and bring them within striking distance of one of the top two spots in 7-AAA.

# Union Cross Country just misses out on sweep at Meeks Park

By Todd Forrest North Georgia News sports@nganews.com

Both Union County cross country teams held off a competitive field to pick up first place honors at last week's season openıng meet.

In the girls race, Union County's Zoe Sanchez blew away the competition while Lance Underwood placed second for

"Both teams exceeded expectations," Union coach Paige Dyer said. "They did amazing. Phenomenal." With a revamped Meeks

Park course to increase difficulty and better prepare both Union teams for the competition that awaits in a brutal Region 7-AAA, Sanchez immediately iumped out front and the rest of the field was unable to keep pace.

"I knew it would be a tough course but we also had some tough competition here today too, coach Dyer said. "We were running against some AAAA schools, Gilmer and Murray, who both have some good runners."

After the first mile, the Union County sophomore had built a commanding 30-second lead. That lead stretched to over 40 seconds at the 2-mile point. When it was all said and done, Sanchez clocked in at 22:06 - more than a minute ahead of second place.

"The first two miles (of the course) are pretty flat but the last mile is what we call "the mountain" and it's just massive," Dyer said. "To come at the very end like that, it really tests a runner's endurance and perseverance."

Latty Ryals placed fourth with a time of 23:36, Emmi Schakat was 11th at 25:41.

Lexie Ochoa came in 14th with a time of 25:24 to round out Union's top five.

The other Lady Panther runners and their times were: Sadie Underwood (26:50), Jessie Holbrooks (28:10), Destiny Orellana-Irvin (28:54), Allison Vincent (29:01), Evelyn McBride (31:35), Erika Clouse (32:10), Demi Thorn (33:30), Brynn Metz (34:23) and Sarah Steele (34:55).

The team standings were: Union with 54 followed by Rabun (59), Lumpkin (92), Gilmer (105), Fannin (153), Hayesville (238) and Murray (245). Towns and Tri-County were unable to field a full team but had runners competing individually. On the boys side, Union

held edged Gilmer 44-56 with Lumpkin placing third with 87



and Murray fourth with 111

Hayesville, Rabun, Fannin and Towns rounded out the top eight. Tri-County didn't have enough runners to compete in the team competition.

Murray County's Jesse Martinez took home first with a time of 17:36 - nearly 30 seconds better than Underwood. Union's Luke Gambrell

checked in at 18:41 - good enough for fourth. Tim Murphy just missed a top 10 finish with an 11th place time of 20:15.

Will Harkins and Colby Ives placed 13th and 14th, respectively - clocking in at 20:27

Other Union runners were Guage Shumaker at 21:08, Milo Bauman (21:37), Cole Payne (21:38), Gehrig Patterson (21:39), Elliott Stepp (21:55), Nolan Bachman (21:57), Hayes Glover (22:01), Sam Cockerham (22:11), Thomas Mellendorf (22:40), Cesar Velador (22:55) and Hunter Payne. (23:03).

Union will be at Chestatee on Tuesday where they'll get their first look at some of the top teams in 7-AAA.



#### **Union County Recreation Dept. football** a fumble and an interception.

By Blake Lynch North Georgia News Sports Special

Saturday was opening day for Union County Recreation Department football who begins its

first season with a 7th grade team. The 7th graders took on the West Hall Sparks. Union County took home the win 12-6. Stein Harkins scored the first touchdown but the point after was no good. The second touchdown was made by Darin Patterson. The Panther defense did an awesome job - forcing

The 8U Panthers also took on West Hall and the Panthers also won that game, 14-6.

Kevin Kilpatrick scored first for the Panthers the point after was made by Bentley Rich. Late in the 3rd quarter Brandon Lynch scored and the point after was made by Kingston Jones

The 10U Panthers traveled to Dawson County and it was a close game in the first quarter as Conner Schcenick scored the only touchdown of the game for a 6-0

#### **National Hunting and Fishing Day September 23** important role that hunting and

Each year, the fourth Saturday of September brings National Hunting and Fishing Day. On this day, celebrated Sept. 23 this year, everyone can enjoy any of eight free scheduled celebratory events, according to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Division.

National "Attending a Hunting and Fishing Day event is a great way to spend the day with family and friends," said Rusty Garrison, Director of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Division. These events are family-oriented, with fun and educational hands-on activities that everyone will enjoy. It is a great way to introduce youth and newcomers to outdoor sports while teaching them about the

fishing have for Georgia's wildlife conservation programs." What is National Hunting

and Fishing Day? The U.S. Congress and President Richard Nixon established this day in 1973 to recognize generations of hunters and anglers for the time and money they donate to wildlife conservation programs.

Events offered in Georgia include kids' fishing events and Outdoor Adventure Days. Activities will differ at each event – but some highlights include archery and air rifle shooting, trout fishing, snake shows, wildlife programs, exhibits and more. These events are spread out across the whole state - meaning that one is probably near you!

In addition to these events, a free fishing day is offered to all Georgia residents on Saturday, Sept. 23, 2017. On this day, residents do not need a fishing license or a trout license to fish on any public waters in the state including lakes, streams, ponds and public fishing areas. Want to win a fantastic prize package? Pledge to take

someone hunting and/or fishing with you before Sept. 23 and enter to win either a VIP NASCAR package or an outdoor adventure package at Big Cedar Lodge. Enter at www.nhfday.org/. For more information on

NHF Day in Georgia, including a complete listing of all events in the state, visit georgiawildlife. com/get-involved/nhfday.



## **Trout stocking sites** week of August 21-25, 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.

### **Upward Basketball and Cheerleading 2017 registration**

glad to announce that it is once again time for our Upward Basketball and Cheerleading 2017 season. On-line registration is now open for boys and girls in grades Kindergarten through 8th Grade at www.hopb.org.

The registration is open through October 21st and the price to participate is \$60. Payment plans are available, if needed. Convenient weekly practices commence the week of October 2nd, while 5 games will be played on Saturdays between October 21st and November 18th.

Registrants should attend the evaluation that will be held on Tuesday, September 19th on a drop-in basis between the hours of 5:30 and 7 p.m. at the House of Prayer Family Life Center gym. found online at www.upward.org.

House of Prayer Church is For more information regarding registration, call the HOP church office at (706) 745-5925.

Established in 1995, Upward Sports is the world's largest Christian youth sports provider. It remains unique by providing a substitution system that ensures every young athlete plays, and requiring only one 1 hour practice a week with one game per week. Upward Sports develops total athletes mentally, athletically, spiritually, and socially - producing players who excel both on and off the field. Today, approximately 6.2 million players have participated at more than 2,000 churches in 47 states, in camps, clinics, and leagues through Upward Sports Recreation Division. Information regarding Upward Sports can be

### **Union County Recreation 2017 Senior Dancing Program**



Ages: 55 and over

Did you know dance could be fun? You do not need to have coordination to have a great experience dancing! After a successful first session, the Program Director of Union County Parks and Recreation will be leading the second session of beginning ballroom and line dance two times a week for 5 weeks in session 2! This is a great time to socialize and dance with a fun group. We will meet at Union County Recreation Room and dance our hearts out for 60 minutes twice a week! (You did not have to attend the first session in order to be a part of this session.) Session Two Registration begins on August 28, 2017

and ends September 27, 2017 at the Recreation Office (310 Wellborn St.). Registration must be done in person due to cap on

participants per session. If you have any questions, please call (706) 439-6074. Price discount the more lessons you sign up for.