

Sports

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Union thumps Jackets 60-7; improve to 2-0 for fourth straight year

Panthers to host Andrews, NC on Friday in 2017 home opener

By Todd Forrest
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Hayesville, NC - The Panthers showed no mercy on Friday night in Hayesville, NC.

On the heels of a 56-14 victory, it would be difficult to top the 42-point beatdown they laid on Gilmer County, but they did.

Just as they did in Ellijay one week prior, Union County jumped out to a 28-0 lead after a quarter. Unlike the Gilmer game, they were able to put the game out of reach during the second, allowing the starters to rest for an entire half.

Senior quarterback Cole Wright finished with a career low in passing yards due to getting half the night off and the defense constantly setting him up with a short field. Wright connected on 7-of-15 pass attempts for 72 yards and two scores. On the ground he only carried six times for 97 yards and a pair of touchdowns.

"I thought (Wright) played pretty well and his composition was better," Coach Allison said. "It was just a situation where we didn't need to throw the ball a whole lot."

On the game's opening drive, the Panthers went 66 yards in less than two minutes – the second longest scoring drive of the night for the first team offense.

Wright found Kyle Morlock for 10 yards and Chad Buzzard carried for nine more to move Union across the midfield in two plays.

A first down scramble by Wright was followed by runs of five and 20 yards from Buzzard. With a first down at the 18, Kanon Hemphill took advantage of single coverage and raced down the sideline, directly under a perfectly-placed ball from Wright in the end zone.

Facing a 3rd-and-23, Hayesville put the ball on the turf and the Panthers took over at the 10-yard line. A first down incompleton then an 8-yard carry by Buzzard brought up a 3rd-and-goal at the two. Six-foot from pay-dirt, Union kept it simple and handed to Buzzard, who bulldozed his way across the goal line for a 14-0 lead, less than four minutes in.

Buzzard racked up 76 yards and a score on 11 carries before calling it a night at halftime.

On the ensuing Jackets' drive, senior lineman Matthew Beise and junior linebacker Jackson Colwell blew up an inside handoff on 3rd-and-2 to force a punt. The Panthers would take over at their own 44 as the rain showers began to intensify.

"The defensive line played much better I thought," Coach Allison said. "We're still a little too high (out of their stance) but we're getting much better and we're moving much better."

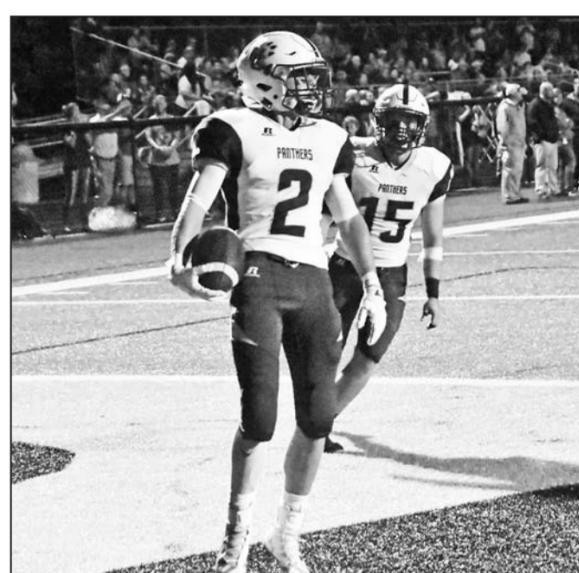
A second down screen to Sawyer Drake picked up nine then a 21-yard keeper by Wright had Union in business. Another scamper from Wright set up 1st-and-goal at the five but a Buzzard no-gain and an incompleton brought up third down. This time, Wright kept it himself and outran the Hayesville defense around the left edge for six.

Brian Smith's third extra point made it 21-0 at the 5:07 mark of the opening quarter.

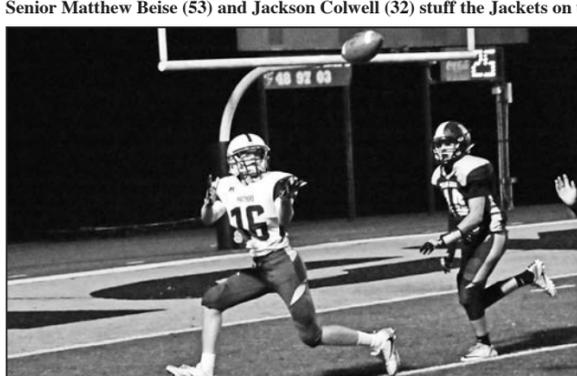
The Jackets' first play re-



Senior Matthew Beise (53) and Jackson Colwell (32) stuff the Jackets on third-and-short. Photo/Todd Forrest



Chayton Schafer (2) with a scoop-and-score touchdown. Photo/Todd Forrest



Noah Underwood's first high school touchdown. Photo/Todd Forrest



Kanon Hemphill puts Union on the board with a TD. Photo/Todd Forrest

sulted in RJ Banton's second fumble recovery of the half and the Panthers took over at the 25. Two gives to Cole Dockrey had Union back inside the 10 where Wright and Logan Dyer hooked up on a 7-yard scoring strike.

Hayesville found a little bit of success with the quarterback scramble and put themselves in scoring position during the early stages of the second quarter. With a 4th-and-2 at the 22, the Panthers defense tightened up and dropped the Jackets for a loss.

"We had some assignment issues on defense with the quarterback scrambling around because we were out of position," Coach Allison said. "Twice we were in the wrong gap and it opened up a running lane for the quarterback. I don't think they had a whole lot of yards."

Carries by Wright and Buzzard combined with a Hemphill reception had the Panthers back across midfield. Following a 12-yard gain from Buzzard, a penalty forced Union into a 3rd-and-15, but Wright hit Austin Pattee over the middle for 18. Another flag wiped off a Pattee touchdown but Wright kept it himself on 3rd-and-8 and took it to the house from 17-yards out.

Trailing by 35, the Hayesville offense converted its first third down with an 8-yard completion on 3rd-and-7 at the 23. But the Panthers weren't about to give up a score going into the locker room. A tackle-for-loss and a holding penalty put the Jackets in third-and-forever. As the clock approached three minutes left in the half, Hemphill fielded a Hayesville punt at midfield and was one defender away from going the distance. He was eventually tripped up at the 10 and the Panthers were forced to settle for a field goal following a short

run by Dockrey and consecutive incompletons.

With 2:16 before the half, Smith split the uprights from 27 yards away to extend the lead to 38-0.

The Jackets used a 7-yard completion and an 18-yard run to advance the ball near midfield with less than a minute left. With enough time for Hayesville to get on the board, Union junior safety Chayton Schafer picked up another Jackets fumble and took it the other way for 48 yards. With 41 seconds left, Schafer's scoop-and-score opened up a 46-0 lead after holder Pierson Allison hit Pattee in the endzone for a 2-point conversion on a fake extra-point.

"If nobody is over the top of me then we automatically run that play," Pattee said. "That's a play that's always there and if nobody is covering me when we lineup, we decide on our own to throw it for two (points)."

"That's something we work on every week in practice," Coach Allison added. "At that point, with the score what it was, we probably should have told them not to do it, but it wasn't their fault. They were just doing what they've been coached to do."

With a 46-0 advantage at the break, the third quarter opened with a running clock and the Panthers didn't take possession until the 3:20 mark of the period when the Jackets turned it over on downs at the 29-yard line.

Pierson Allison took over behind center and led a 71-yard

scoring drive in seven plays. Dockrey carried twice for seven yards, Cayden Rich hauled in two passes for 35 yards and Pierson Allison rushed once for 11 yards.

Morlock had two nine yard grabs on the drive with the second resulting in a score on the first play of the fourth quarter.

Trailing 53-0 Hayesville answered with a 10-play, 65-yard scoring drive to get on the board with 5:07 remaining.

A 30-yard kick return by Zion Ross moved the ball out to the 35 where freshman Kaston Hemphill took over at quarterback. Two quick handoffs to Dylan Roberts and one to Sloan Sutton moved the chains. After a first down incompleton, Kaston Hemphill took off for 24 yards. On the very next play from the 28, he hit Noah Underwood on a corner route inside the five and the freshman receiver battled his way across the goal line for the first touchdown of his high school career.

Mason McCombs hit his second extra point of the day to give Union a 60-7 lead with 1:13 on the clock.

The 60-point scoring output is third most in school history and the third 60-point performance in the last 12 games. The first was a 61-7 victory over Hayesville in week two of last season. Later in the year, the

dous strides in year two.

"We've got a lot of experience coming back on offense and that will certainly give us more options than I had in my first year, when I was trying to implement a (new) system and philosophy," Phillips said.

For further details on the series history between Andrews, NC and the Panthers, as well as players to watch on both sides of the ball, visit the *North Georgia News Sports Blog* at www.ngnsports.wordpress.com, later this week. You can also read the interviews with Pattee and Coach Allison in there entirety on the NGN Sports Blog.

Injury report: According to Coach Allison: DB/WR Riley Barrett is **OUT** with a shoulder injury. DT Matthew Beise is **QUESTIONABLE** with a concussion. LB Hunter Kelley is **QUESTIONABLE** with a concussion.

Team totals: PLAYS - UC 52, Hayesville 60; TOTAL YARDS - UC 401, Hayesville 182; PASSING - UC 155, Hayesville 58; RUSHING - UC 246, Hayesville 124; FIRST DOWNS - UC 19, Hayesville 10; THIRD DOWN EFFICIENCY - UC 10-11 (91%), Hayesville 4-10 (40%); FOURTH DOWN - Hayesville 1-2 (50%); TURNSOVERS - UC 0, Hayesville 6; PENALTIES - UC 4, Hayesville 5

The Wildcats enter with a 1-2 record but are fresh off a 42-0 win over the Carolina Gladiators of Asheville, NC.

The Panthers have won seven straight over Andrews by an average score of 41-11. In Blairsville, that margin increases to 44-11.

This year, however, the Wildcats return 15 starters (8 on offense, 7 on defense) along with their punter and placekicker.

Second-year coach James Phillips recently told the *Asheville Citizen-Times* that he believes his option attack will make tremen-

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Scoring Summary:			
Qtr	Player	Type	Yds
1st	Kanon Hemphill	18 Yd Pass From Cole Wright (Brian Smith Kick)	7
1st	Chad Buzzard	2 Yd Run (Brian Smith Kick)	14
1st	Cole Wright	3 Yd Run (Brian Smith Kick)	21
1st	Logan Dyer	7 Yd Pass From Cole Wright (Brian Smith Kick)	28
2nd	Cole Wright	12 Yd Run (Brian Smith Kick)	38
2nd	FG	Brian Smith 27 Yd	28
2nd	TD	Fumble Return (Two-Point Conversion)	46
3rd	Cole Wright	12 Yd Run (Brian Smith Kick)	50
3rd	TD	1 Yd Run (Kick)	53
3rd	TD	1 Yd Run (Kick)	53
3rd	TD	Noah Underwood 28 Yd Pass From Kaston Hemphill (Mason McCombs Kick)	60

Offense							
Player	Comp/Att	Yds	TD	Int	Long	2PT	
#8 C. Wright	7/15	72	2	-	20	-	
#17 P. Allison	4/4	54	1	-	28	1	
#3 K. Hemphill	1/2	29	1	-	29	-	
Rushing		All	Yds	TD	Long	Fum	2PT
#8 C. Wright		6	97	2	23	-	-
#24 C. Buzzard		11	76	1	20	-	-
#15 C. Dockrey		5	27	-	10	-	-
#3 K. Hemphill		1	23	-	23	-	-
#17 P. Allison		1	10	-	10	-	-
#6 S. Sutton		3	9	-	6	-	-
#25		2	4	-	4	-	-
Rest of team		-	-	-	-	-	1
Receiving		Rec	Yds	TD	Long	Fum	2PT
#20 C. Rich		2	35	-	28	-	-
#84 K. Morlock		3	29	1	10	-	-
#16 N. Underwood		1	29	1	29	-	-
#4 K. Hemphill		3	26	1	18	-	-
#22 A. Pattee		1	20	-	20	-	1
#21 S. Drake		1	9	-	9	-	-
#18 L. Dyer		1	7	1	7	-	-

Defense									
Player	Tk	Ass	Sck	TFL	Sfty	Int	Fum	Bks	TD
#17 P. Allison	7	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
#7 A. Scott	6	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
#2 C. Schafer	6	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
#11 R. Banton	6	3	-	1	-	-	-	2	-
#34 B. Nelson	4	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
#15 C. Dockrey	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
#12 S. Dobbins	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
#9 J. Mancuso	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
#74 N. Ledford	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
#32 J. Colwell	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
#40 K. Williams	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
#30 H. Kelley	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
#6 S. Sutton	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
#20 C. Rich	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
#16 N. Underwood	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
#22 A. Pattee	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
#53 M. Beise	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
#52 B. Viera	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
#50 C. Daniel	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Basketball Registration
at the Union County Recreation Department
Begins August 21st

Age Group	Registration Ends
5/6 yrs old	September 29th
7/8 yrs old	September 29th
9/10 yrs old	October 27th
11/12 yrs old	October 27th

**Registration fee is \$50.00 and open to both boys and girls. **
Registration can be completed online at unioncounty.gov.com or at the Recreation Office located at 310 Wellborn Street. If you need any additional information, please call 706-439-6074.

Union County Recreation Art-Tastic Program 2017 Youth Art-Tastic Holiday Camp Ages: 4-7

Does your young child enjoy painting and designing art? This program is designed for children, ages 4-7 to explore their artistic side. Children will meet for camp 4 days in October, 4 days in November, and 4 days in December for this special Art-Tastic Holiday Camp! Participants will participate in arts and crafts designed for each holiday in the designated month. We will meet in the recreation room at the Recreation Office. All sessions will be led by the Program and Start Smart Director.



**Session Registration begins on September 5, 2017 and ends October 5, 2017 at the Recreation Office (310 Wellborn St.). Cost is only \$35 for 12 art and craft sessions!
Registration must be done in person due to cap on participants per session! (You did not have to attend previous sessions.) If you have any questions, please call Jennifer at (706) 439-6074.