

# Sports

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## Union rolls to 2-0 with record-setting victory over Hayesville

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Union County took advantage of four Yellow Jacket turnovers and four quarters of excellent field position to cruise to a record-setting 61-7 victory against an overwhelmed Hayesville squad on Friday night at Mike Colwell Memorial Stadium.

The 61-point output is the most in the history of the program, surpassing the 2014 mark of 57 points at Towns County. It took the Panthers exactly 60 years to top 60 points as this year marks the 60th season of Union County football.

Although it didn't appear that Union would finish with a record-performance as they only led 7-0 after one quarter.

With the exception of two, first quarter turnovers inside the Hayesville 25-yard line, it was smooth sailing against the winless Yellow Jackets. Running back Bo Lynch scored three touchdowns and the Panthers improved to 2-0 for the fourth time in five seasons.

Quarterback Cole Wright completed 11-of-14 through the air for 124 yards and two scores, while rushing twice for a game-high 56 yards. One of his favorite targets and the team's top returning pass catcher and kicker, Slade Thompson, was sidelined for the game with a knee injury.

Wright would call it a night early in the third quarter after connecting with Logan Dyer on an 11-yard scoring strike – making it a 41-0 game, with a running clock during the second half.

Wright's only miscue of the evening came on Union's first series of the contest when he rolled to his right and tried to thread a needle through double-coverage to Austin Pattee. The pass was intercepted by a diving Yellow Jacket defensive back at the 23-yard line.

The Panthers' second giveaway came minutes later when Cole Dockrey coughed up the football inside the redzone.

From that moment on, it was all Union County.

"Maybe we came out a little flat," Union County Head Coach Brian Allison said. "But if we don't put the ball on the ground and throw an interception, I'd say



Bo Lynch (5) follows Tyler McConnell (59) into the endzone for the first of three rushing touchdowns on the night. Photo/Todd Forrest



Micah Gilbert (80) celebrates after recovering a blocked punt in the endzone for a touchdown. Photo/Todd Forrest



Running back Cole Dockrey breaks a tackle. Photo/Todd Forrest

that maybe we were overlooking them, but I thought we came out ready to play."

A shanked punt allowed the Panthers to set up shop from the Jackets' 27-yard line. For the game, Union's average starting field position was the Hayesville 38-yard line.

"The field position played a big role in the outcome," Coach Allison said. "(Hayesville) fell

behind and had to go for it a few times which gave us better field position.

"I didn't like our two turnovers, and we put the ball on the ground two more times, so we've got to do a better job of taking care of the football. That's four turnovers in two games and we've got to fix that. A better team would have beat us."

### Union County Top 10 scoring performances

Note: Brian Allison was the head coach in five of these games.

POINTS	OPPONENT	DATE
61	Hayesville, NC	09-02-16
57	Towns County	08-29-14
55	Pickens County	11-02-79
55*	Bowdon	11-13-15
54	Towns County	11-09-84
54	Towns County	11-08-85
54	Towns County	10-28-88
52	Social Circle	09-26-14
51	Lumpkin County	09-04-15
50	Towns County	10-01-76

\* Overtime game (Lost 56-55)

A first down reception by Sean Dobbins and a 15-yard run from Wright put Union at the 2-yard line.

Two plays later, Lynch took a handoff and followed guard Tyler McConnell into the endzone for an easy six. The Brian Smith point after made it 7-0.

The Panthers' special teams struck early in the second quarter when Zach Stone blocked a Hayesville punt and Micah Gilbert fell on the loose football in the back of the endzone for a 14-0 Union County lead.

Another Jackets' interception led to Lynch's second touchdown of the game with 9:14 to play

before halftime.

Lynch moved the chains on a 3rd-and-6 with a pick up of 15, then Wright found Dyer on an out-route and the junior receiver was pushed out at the two. Lynch capped off the drive by dragging a Hayesville linebacker across the goal line on a run up-the-gut.

Later, a 16-yard punt return by Kanon Hemphill put the Panthers in business at the Jackets' 30-yard line, where Dyer nabbed a 26-yard pass from Wright for a 1st-and-goal at the five.

Lynch's final carry of the game went for 5-yards, around the right end, untouched into the endzone for his third score of

the night. His three touchdowns match a career-high that came vs Bowdon in last November's State Tournament.

The Panthers made it a 35-0 game with 2:19 left in the half when Wright and Pattee hooked up for a 16-yard scoring strike.

Pattee also caught a pass for 9 yards to begin the drive. Dockrey picked up 13 yards on the ground, and Wright found Dyer for 14 yards to move Union into the redzone.

The Panthers' first team defense, which sat the entire second half, stonewalled the Jackets during the first two quarters, limiting the visitors to less than 40 yards on the ground while picking off three passes.

The Jackets finished the game with just 147 total yards of offense with 69 yards coming on 27 carries. Through the air, they were 12-of-24 for 78 yards and 3 interceptions.

"The defense played pretty well, but obviously Hayesville is struggling a little bit right now," Coach Allison said. "But our kids played hard and did what they were supposed to do."

On the game's opening series, Chandler Day dropped Hayesville for a 3-yard loss and McConnell stuffed the Jackets for

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## Chambers fires no-hitter at Lumpkin as Union climbs into third

### Lady Panthers blank Greater Atlanta Christian, 3-0 behind Chambers' one-hit shutout

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Union County moved into third place in 7-AAA with a pair of shutout victories over region foes Greater Atlanta Christian and Lumpkin County.

After dropping three-of-four region contests to open the season and six-of-seven overall, the Lady Panthers are currently 4-3 in 7-AAA – just one game back of second place East Hall.

Laken Chambers tossed a pair of gems last week to move Union into the top-3, with a shot to reach second before the Region Tournament begins later this month.

Chambers fired a 1-hit shutout over GAC on Tuesday before going on the road and recording a no-hitter at Lumpkin County. The no-no gives the senior a streak of 12-straight innings without allowing a hit – dating back to the second inning of GAC.

The win over Lumpkin avenges a season-opening loss where Chambers was unable to pitch and Union lost 4-3 in nine innings.

During the 3-0 win over GAC, Chambers struck out nine Lady Spartans and didn't allow a hit after the first inning. The bottom of the Lady Panthers' lineup struck for a pair of runs in the second inning when Kendra Tanner led off with a base hit.

Freshman Mary Wischmeyer advanced Tanner to second, allowing Aladriel Arnold to lace an RBI triple to left-center.

Ellie Garrison singled to left to bring home Arnold and spot Union a 2-0 lead.

That would be more than enough for Chambers, who didn't allow another base runner.

The Lady Panthers left two aboard in the third when Chambers singled and Jillian Lawn drew a walk. Arnold led off the fourth with a base



Laken Chambers has a streak of 12 consecutive innings without allowing a hit. Photo/Todd Forrest

hit but was stranded at third. A Chambers single in the fifth was wasted but Union finally pushed across an insurance run in the bottom of the sixth.

Wischmeyer opened with a base hit to left and Arnold was hit by a pitch. With Kristen Poteete running for Wischmeyer, Garrison advanced two into scoring position with a bunt. That allowed Maddie Sutton to score Poteete with a sacrifice fly to deep right field.

On Thursday, the Lady Panthers routed Lumpkin County, 8-0 behind a no-hitter from Chambers. As of this writing, no further stats were available.

Union lost to Lumpkin County in extra innings after loading the bases with one out in the bottom of the seventh

inning during the first game of the season.

Lawn pitched well enough to win but the Lady Panthers were unable to deliver a clutch hit with runners in scoring position.

Up next is a contest with former region-rival Rabun County on Tuesday in Tiger at 5 p.m. On Thursday, Union hosts Region 7-AAA front runner North Hall. While the Lady Panthers might not be able to catch the Lady Trojans, who are unbeaten in region play, Union can make a statement with a home victory while keeping pace with second place East Hall. First pitch is scheduled for 6 p.m.

Next week, Union will visit Dawson on Tuesday and host East Hall on Thursday as region play begins the home stretch.



Sophomore Aladriel Arnold with her second hit of the game vs Greater Atlanta Christian. Photo/Todd Forrest



Maddie Sutton drives in Union's third run of the game vs GAC in the sixth inning. Photo/Todd Forrest