

Softball: Lady Panthers survive late Rabun County rally on Senior Night

Union County edges Gilmer at home, blanked by Madison County at UNG

By Todd Forrest
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Three RBIs from sophomore Lexi Sisum was enough offense for senior starter Megan Bright as the Lady Panthers held on for a 3-2 Senior Night victory over Rabun County.

Following a 1-2-3 first inning from Bright and a leadoff single by senior Mary Wischmeyer, Sisum quickly gave Union a 2-0 advantage with her first career homerun, a line drive over the right field fence.

The Lady Panthers extended its lead in the bottom of the third when a one-out triple from Wischmeyer set the table for Sisum, who made it a 3-0 game with an RBI single.

Bright was perfect through four innings but a leadoff single and two errors allowed Rabun to get on the board at 3-1 in the fifth.

The Lady Panthers stranded a one-out walk in the bottom half of the frame as Rabun continued chipping away at the deficit.

After retiring the first two batters in the sixth, an error and a base hit put the tying run on board - bringing Trinity Queen to the circle in relief.

An RBI single pulled the Lady Cats within one before a base-running miscue allowed Union County to escape the inning without further damage.

In the seventh, Queen induced a tapper back to the circle and a strikeout before a hit-by-pitch and an error put the go-ahead run on base.

Queen would nail down the



Lexi Sisum sends the first HR of her career into the parking lot during the win over Rabun. Photo/Todd Forrest

save as she froze the final out on a called strike three. Bright picked up the win on Senior Night, allowing just two hits and no earned runs with three strikeouts and no walks in 5 2/3 innings.

Wischmeyer and Sisum had two hits apiece, accounting for all four Lady Panther hits. However, Sisum's RBI single in the third inning turned out to be her team's final hit of the game.

Later in the week, Union County edged out Gilmer, 4-3.

On Monday, Sept. 16, the Lady Panthers fell 6-0 to Madison County at the University of North Georgia. Additional info on those games plus Monday's contest with East Hall will be available in next week's *North Georgia News*.



Seniors release balloons at the conclusion of the Senior Night ceremony



Senior softball players with coaches



Senior Krysten Hodges with family.



Senior Mary Wischmeyer with family. Senior Night Photos by Todd Forrest



Senior Megan Bright with family.



Senior Miranda Lockaby with family.

Volleyball: UC defeats Tellico Plains, Athens Christian; Area play opens Tuesday

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At the conclusion of this week, Panther volleyball fans will have a pretty good idea of how their team stacks up against the rest of the Area.

At 5 p.m. Tuesday, Union County begins its quest for back-to-back state playoff appearances when they host Oglethorpe County and Washington Wilkes. Last season, Union County defeated both in straight sets to finish third in the regular season Area standings. Unfortunately, Oglethorpe knocked off the Panthers in the Area Tournament Consolation Game, dropping Union to the No. 4 seed during the Class AA/AA State playoffs.

On Thursday, the Panthers will travel to Rabun County to face last year's Area Champion, along with Putnam County, in another Area tri-match.

Last year, Rabun County defeated Union in straight sets but the Panthers scored a 2-0 victory over Putnam -- the program's first varsity win.

After a visit to Hayes-



Union County Volleyball returns home this week to open Area play, beginning with a tri-match on Tuesday. Photo/Todd Forrest

ville, North Carolina next Monday, Union County concludes Area play with last year's No. 2 seed, Lake Oconee Academy, on Tuesday, Oct. 1.

The LOA game will also serve as the Panthers' Senior Night contest with action scheduled to get underway at 6 p.m.

Last week, Union Coun-

ty traveled to Hiwassee Dam, North Carolina and dropped a 3-2 thriller to the Eagles on Monday, Sept. 16.

After falling 2-0 to Dawson on Tuesday, the Panthers responded with wins over Athens Christian and Tellico Plains, Tennessee. The Union JV squad also recorded a win in the trip to Tellico Plains.

Youth football teams split with Gilmer at home

It was great day for football this past Saturday, Sept. 21 as both Union County teams took on Gilmer at Mike Colwell Memorial Stadium.

9U Panthers - The Panther scored 20-unanswered points in the first half to take a 20-0 lead into the break.

In the second half, No.88 Micha Wallace came up with an interception and the Panthers capitalized when No.31 Kevin Kilpatrick broke a big run of 61 yards. Later in the drive, Kilpatrick finished things off with a touchdown as the Panthers beat the Bobcats 32-0 to improve to 3-0 on the season.

10U Panthers - In the first quarter, a Gilmer fumble was recovered by the Panthers' No. 23 Grant Smith.

Later in the game, No. 3 Milan Milam would score a touchdown as he would have a big game in this one. The extra point by No.8 Chetley Cox was good. Later on, Cox would con-



nect with Milam for a 23 yard touchdown.

In the fourth, No.25 Kasch Smith would add a rush-

ing touchdown but the Panthers would fall short in this one, 35-14. Union County is now 1-2 on the season.

Union County Cross Country finishes strong on back-to-back days

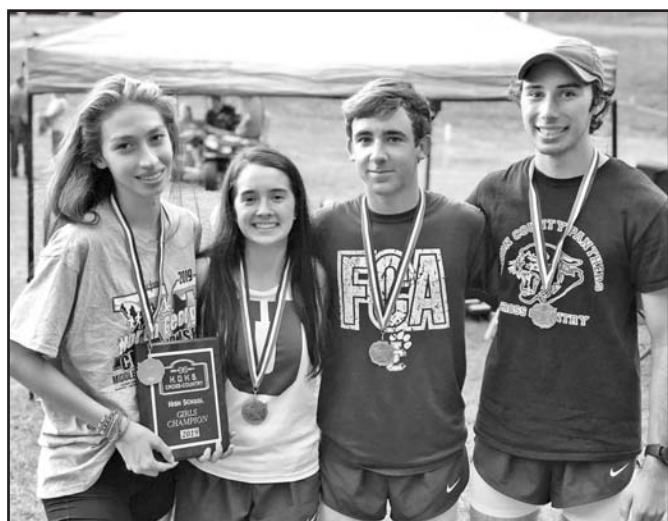
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It's not often that Cross Country competes on consecutive days, but that was the case last week as Union County ran at Gilmer on Tuesday, Sept. 17, then followed that up with a race at Fields of the Wood in Hiwassee Dam, North Carolina, the following day.

At Gilmer, Union County's Zoe Sanchez and Luke Gambrell each finished first. The Union County boys would dominate the team standings behind Gambrell and five runners among the top-seven.

Hunter Hartzog placed second, Thomas Mellendorf was third, Malachi Patrick came in sixth and Trevor Guild was seventh.

A day later, Sanchez followed up her performance with another first place finish at Fields of the Wood, leading the girls to first place in the team standings.



Union County's top runners at Fields of the Wood. Photo/UCHS

Meanwhile, the boys placed second behind its top-two of Hartzog and Mellendorf.

On Thursday, Union will visit Hayesville, North Carolina, but next Thursday, Oct. 3, is one meet that Panther runners always have circled. That's the day Union County participates in the Unicoi State Park meet in Helen, one of the final tune-ups

before Region.

Hosted by White County, the Unicoi meet features most of North Georgia's top squads and provides Union County with one final measuring stick heading into the postseason.

After Unicoi, there is only one meet remaining (at Riverside, Oct. 8) before the Region Championships at Oglethorpe County on Oct. 22.

Local Racing Results: Tri-County Racetrack, Blue Ridge Motorsports Park

Brasstown, NC - Tri-County Racetrack hosted a race this past Friday night with a full racing program. Here are the top five finishers from each class.

Street Stock - Coming in first place and leading flag-to-flag was No. 1NS Evan Wrinkle Jr. Coming in second place was No. 99 Jim Twiggs. Finishing in third place was No. 5 Carson Shields. Coming in fourth was No. 21 Troy Turner. Coming in fifth place was No. 01 Jacob Lynch.

Hobby 602 - Finishing in first place was No. 7 Jamie Oliver. Coming in second was No. 37 Michael Barnett. Coming in third place was No. 25 Jacob Hamby. Finishing in fourth was No. 44 Bobby Elkins. Coming in fifth place was No. 88 Ricky Smith.

Beginner 602 - Coming in first place place was No. 32 Halley Adams. Finishing in second was No. 87 Dante Curtis. Finishing in third place was No. 15 Joey Payne. Coming in fourth was No. E7 Dustin Petty. Coming in fifth place was No. 56 Colton Berrong.

Pony - Finishing in first place was No. 28 Kevin Mulkey as he passed No. 10 Barry Cross with three to go. Cross would end up in second. Coming in third place was No. X Adam Brooks. Finishing in fourth was No. 00 Chris

McCullah. Finishing in fifth place was No. 22 Tucker Anderson.

FWD - Coming in first place was No. 32 Justin Queen. Finishing in second was No. K3 Sandi Klaucke. Coming in third place was No. 2 Jim Exum. Finishing in fourth was No. J3 Josh Deese. Finishing in fifth place was No. 75 Glenn Coker.

Crate - Coming in first place was No. 96 Bobby Panter. Finishing in second was No. 7 Jason Deal. Coming in third place was No. 55 Kip Cochran. Finishing in fourth was No. 17 Brett Shook. Coming in fifth place was No. 19B Kevin Bradshaw.

Next Event: October 11th - The Tarheel 50 featuring a \$10,000 Super Late Model and \$800 to win FWD.

BRMSP Results
Blue Ridge - Blue Ridge Motorsports Park hosted a race this past weekend here are the top five from each class.

Street Stock - Coming in first place was No. 99 Jim Twiggs. Coming in second was No. 1NS Evan Winkler Jr. Third place place went to No. 169 Jim Weller. Finishing in fourth was No. 01 Jacob Lynch. Finishing in fifth place was No. 35 Chris Thomas.

Pony - Coming in first place was No. 01 Zach Sanders. Coming in second was No. 32Jr Franklin Burk Jr.

Coming in third place was No. 7 Marlon Burtz. Finishing in fourth was No. 28 Kayle Payne. Coming in fifth place was No. 2 Colby McCulloch.

Crate - Coming in first place was No. 7 Jason Deal. Coming in second was No. 55 Kip Cochran. Third place place went to No. 1 Junior Whitener. Fourth place went to No. 40 Andy Morris. Coming in fifth place was No. 4 Danny Ledford.

FWD - Coming in first place was No. 2 Logan Exum. Coming in second was No. K3 James Klaucke. Coming in third place was No. J3 Josh Deese. Finishing in fourth was No. 32 Jim Exum. Coming in fifth place was No. 29R Sean Rice.

Hobby 602 - Coming in first place place was No. 37 Michael Barnett. Coming in second was No. 311 Brad Thomas. Coming in third place was No. 25 Jacob Hamby. Finishing in fourth was No. 4 Jacob Parris. Finishing in fifth place was No. 35 Dylan Daves.

Beginner 602 - Coming in first place was No. 87 Dante Curtis. Coming in second was No. 32 Halley Adams. Coming in third place was No. 22 Matt Sandford. Coming in fourth was No. 8 Colby Parris. Coming in fifth place was No. 56 Colton Berrong.