

Softball: Union half-game out of second following three straight wins

First round of region tourney begins Saturday with the higher seeded team hosting best-of-three series

By Todd Forrest North Georgia News sports@nganews.com

A week ago, Union County softball was an afterthought in Region 7-AAA.

Clinging to sixth place in a seven-team region, the Lady Panthers were 2-5 in 7-AAA after starting 2-2. During the weekend of Sept. 15-16, Union County traveled to Morgan County to take part in a two-day tournament that saw them lose three-of-five games.

Then the Lady Panthers hosted Greater Atlanta Christian on Monday and dropped nine runs on the visitors from Gwinnett County in a 9-4 victory.

A day later, they took the defending region champs, East Hall to the woodshed 11-1 - the Lady Vikings' first region loss of the season.

The red-hot play continued on Wednesday with a 6-1 victory over the 2016 regular season region champs, North Hall.

The win created a standings log jam involving five teams: Union County, North Hall, GAC, and Dawson County are all tied for third with a 5-5 record. Lumpkin County (6-5) is in second by a half-game in the win column while East Hall (10-1) has clinched first place and seventh place Fannin County isn't going anywhere at 0-10.

The Tuesday region schedule should provide the Lady Panthers an excellent opportunity take control of third place. Union County visits last place Fannin County, North Hall goes to first place East Hall, and Dawson hosts GAC in a battle of 5-5 teams.

Region play concludes on Thursday when the Lady Panthers travel to GAC, Lumpkin visits Dawson, and Fannin hosts North Hall.

Currently, Union owns the tiebreaker over North Hall and Dawson County but Lumpkin County has the tiebreaker over the Lady Panthers.

The 7-AAA Region Tournament gets underway this weekend with the No. 5 seed at No. 4 and No. 6 at the No. 3 seed. Each matchup will be a best-of-three series with the third game on Monday - if needed. The seventh place team (Fannin County) doesn't qualify





Senior Braden Poteete drives in two vs North Hall. Photo/Todd Forrest



Katelynn Hodges leads the team in average and runs. Photo/Todd Forrest but Union answered with an run, bases loaded single. Aladriel Arnold solo homer in the sixth and three runs in the advantage of a Union error to seventh

tossed a complete game, sixsophomore catcher Mary Wischmeyer doubled and knocked in two runs during a 3-for-5 game. Senior Katelynn Hodges also turned in a 3-for-5 performance while reaching on an error and stealing a base.

Aubree Pack finished 2-for-4 with a double, a run, and an RBI. Freshman Hannah Patton also went 2-for-4 with an RBI and one run.

Maddie Sutton scored twice and walked during a 1-for-4 game; Lawn was 1-for-4 witn an RBI; Arnold scored three times and drove in two Kristen Poteete had an RBI after homering and reaching on an error three times.

The Lady Trojans took get a run in the fourth but that's Senior Jillian Lawn as close as Lawn would allow them to get.

hitter while walking three and On Monday, the Lady fanning five. Her battery-mate, Panthers pulled away from GAC with four runs in the fourth and one in the sixth during a 9-4 victory

Lawn, who allowed four unearned runs, got the win with the first of three six hitters on the week. At the plate she was 3-for-3 with a double and 2 RBIs

Pack finished 3-for-4 with 2 runs and 2 RBIs; Arnold went 2-for-3 with one run and one RBI, Patton drove in two on two hits and Hodges scored twice during a two-hit outing.

Ludlum scored twice, single, and Wischmeyer reached on a fielder's choice.

| Jillian Lawn Bright Aubree Pack Trinity Queen Skyler Ludium | IP 101.1 20.1 14.0 9.2 0.0 145.1 | GP 18 7 5 4 1 23 | GS 16 1 1 1 4 2 2 0 0 23 3 23 2 3 2 3 2 3 2 3 2 3 2 3 | w 8 1 0 0 0 0 0 | L 7 1 4 2 0 | 0 0 0 0 0 0 |) | svo 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 | BS 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 | .000 .000 .000 .000 .000 |) 81) 19) 19) 10) 0 | 5 5 9 1 9 3 0 7 0 7 | 57 17 30 | ER 13 8 7 7 0 34 | BB 20 13 10 3 0 46 | к 69 16 12 4 0 | 3 3 6 2 0 | | ERA .898 2.754 3.500 5.069 .000 1.638 | WHIP 1.046 1.574 2.071 1.345 .000 1.239 |
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| | IP | GP | GS | w | L | s | sv | svo | BS | SV9 | 6 Н | F | 1 | ER | BB | к | ŀ | IBP | ERA | WHIP |
| Roster | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | |
| 5 | 23 | 701 | 641 | 191 | 144 | 43 | 1 | 3 | 103 | 116 | 14 | 49 | 34 | 1 | 24 | 95 | .298 | .335 | .382 | .717 |
| Trinity Queen | 2 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .000 | .000 | .000 | .000 |
| Megan Lockaby | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .000 | .000 | .000 | .000 |
| Spivey | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 | 1.000 | 2.000 | 3.000 |
| Miranda Lockaby | 7 | 14 | 13 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 5 | .077 | .143 | .077 | .220 |
| Megan Bright | 7 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | .143 | .250 | .143 | .393 |
| Braden | 13 | 30 | 26 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 3 | .038 | .107 | .038 | .146 |
| Madeline Tanner | 13 | 25 | 23 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 4 | .087 | .160 | .130 | .290 |
| Kristen Poteete | 16 | 12 | 11 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 5 | .182 | .250 | .182 | .432 |
| Skyler Ludium | 18 | 25 | 23 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 11 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 9 | .217 | .280 | .261 | .541 |
| Ellie Garrison | 6 | 15 | 15 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | .333 | .333 | .600 | .933 |
| Bailey | 10 | 34 | 29 | 11 | 9 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 2 | .379 | .471 | .448 | .919 |
| Hannah Patton | 17 | 56 | 50 | 15 | 14 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 5 | 9 | .300 | .375 | .320 | .695 |
| Wischmeyer Aubree Pack | 23 | 70 | 59 | 19 | 18 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 13 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 5 | .322 | .403 | .339 | .742 |
| Sutton | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | .668 |
| Arnold Maddie | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | .717 |
| Aladriel | 22 | 74 | 68 | 24 | 18 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 15 | 17 | 1 | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 353 | 352 | 471 | .823 |
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Meanwhile, the top two seeds receive bye and an automatic berth in the state playoffs. The region finals will take place on Wednesday, Oct. 4 at topseeded East Hall.

Last Tuesday, Union County paid a visit to the then unbeaten -- Lady Vikings and did a number on the reigning 7-AAA Pitcher of the Year Macy Banks.

The Lady Panthers jumped out front 4-0 in the first before extending the lead to 7-0 in the third. East Hall got a run in the bottom half of the third

Skyler Ludlum and Trinity Queen each scored a run; senior centerfielder Braden Poteete recorded a sacrifice.

Arnold continued to rake on Wednesday with a 3-hit performance during the win over North Hall.

Once again Lawn picked up the win from the circle, scattering six hits and allowing one unearned run.

Leading 1-0 in the third, Lawn helped herself with a tworun double that scored Hodges and Sutton. Arnold followed suit with an RBI double and Poteete made it 6-0 with a two-out, two-

During the three game winning streak, Hodges and Arnold were a combined 13for-23 (.565) with 10 runs and 5 RBIs.

As a team, Union hit .368 during the streak with a .484 slugging percentage.

However, the most important stat may have been the .932 fielding percentage. Prior to the winning streak, they were at .862 in the field on the season. During the three-game skid prior to the Morgan County tournament, Union's fielding percentage was just .804.

Over the same span,

Lawn was tough as nails with a 0.33 ERA and a 1.048 WHIP over 21 innings.

The Lady Panthers wrapped up the week with a 2-0 loss at Chestatee.

Bright and Queen combined to limit the Lady War Eagles to just three hits and two unearned runs.

Bright worked four innings, striking out six, allowing three hits and yielding two unearned.

Queen pitched the final two innings and didn't surrender a hit and only walked one.

Hodges, Sutton, Lawn, Wischmeyer, Pack, and Patton all recorded one base hit each.

Bright drew a walk and Arnold reached on an error.

For more on Union Counsoftball's final week, you can follow on Twitter at: @ hotrodtodd25 and/or visit our online blog at: www.ngnsports. wordpress.com

Cross Country: Union County boys; Zoe Sanchez blister the field at Gilmer

By Todd Forrest North Georgia News sports@nganews.com

Ellijay - On Tuesday Zoe Sanchez's first place finish led the girls cross country team to second place overall. Meanwhile, Lance Underwood placed second individually to propel the boys to a convincing victory.

Union County girls times: Sanchez 22:32; Lexie Ochoa 25:27; Emmi Schakat 26:19; Sadie Underwood 26:37; Jessie Holbrook 27:50; Destiny Orellana 27:58; Allison Vincent 28:52; Erika Clouse 32:52; Evelyn McBride 33:12; Demi Thorn 36:18; Sarah Steele 36:32 and Hannah Ledford 37:12.

The Union County boys times were: Underwood 18:15; Luke Gambrel 19:19; Tim Murphy 19:49; Colby Ives 20:01; Guage Shumaker 20:27; Milo Bauman 21:17; Gehrig Patterson 21:33; Thomas Mellendorf 21:49; Will Harkins 22:12; Cole Payne 22:09; Brian Williams 22:17; James Rosser 22:27; Hayes Glover 22:28; Sam Cockerham 22:29; Nolan Bachman 22:32; Malachi Patrick 22:41; Nathan Cobb 22:52; Elliot 23:10; Cesar Velador 23:21; Steven Williams 23:22; Hunter Payne and Zach Jackson 23:27 (TIE); Bryson 23:32; Matt Patrick 23:55; Alex Mendoza 24:10; Daniel Griggs 24:34



Union County Cross Country at Gilmer's Clear Creek Middle School. Photos/Todd Forrest