

Cross Country: Both Union teams take second at North Georgia Championships

By Todd Forrest
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Ellijay - Freshman Zoe Sanchez recorded another first place individual performance to lead the Lady Panthers to a second place overall finish at the North Georgia Championship meet at Clear Creek Middle School in Gilmer County.

With three runners out due to illness or injury, the Lady Panthers still managed three Top 10 times. Sanchez clocked in at 23:41, a little more than two minutes better than teammate Lexi Ochoa, who placed fourth at 25:51. Freshman Allison Vincent picked up a top 10 finish with a time of 27:47.

Lance Underwood (18:23) brought home second place in the guys race which was also good enough for a second place overall finish.

Adam Bachman came in 10th place with a time of 20:27.

Will Harkins, Tim Murphy, and Cole Payne rounded out Union's top five runners. Meanwhile, Jessie Holbrook



Lexi Ochoa and Allison Vincent both finished in the top 10. Photo/submitted

and Kaitlyn Gallagher rounded out the girls' top five runners.

The other teams attending the North Georgia Championship meet were Gilmer County, Lumpkin County,

Fannin County, and Murray County.

On Wednesday, Union County will take part in the Carney Classic at Hayesville, NC.

Growing Pains... continued from 2B

think the score could have been a lot closer."

Game notes: Wright's 21 completions is the most allowed by GAC this season, his 162 passing yards is the second most GAC has allowed in a game this season. Union's 12 points is the second most allowed to a Georgia school in regulation by GAC (13 to Westminster before going to overtime).

The Panthers played GAC closer than Lovett and St. Pius and became the first team in 2016 to play turnover-free football vs the Spartans.

Injury report: Senior linebacker Chris Thompson made his season debut at GAC, and as of press time Monday morning, Coach Allison had no injuries to report.

Looking ahead: The Panthers will host East Hall for Homecoming on Friday night. After three straight road games, Union finally returns home to Mike Colwell Memorial Stadium where they will face a Vikings team (2-3, 0-1) who is also coming off a loss last week.

East Hall fell 30-27 at Lumpkin County where the Indians gashed the Vikings run-defense with 415 rushing yards - including 258 and 3 scores from former-quarterback, converted-fullback Zach Matthews.

Prior to the GAC game, Union County was averaging 255 yards-per-game on the ground

so Coach Allison feels that his team could exploit East Hall's run defense.

"I don't want to give too much away, but I think we'll be able to do some things running the football," Coach Allison said.

The Vikings offense, on the other hand, could create potential nightmares for Coach Allison's defense.

"Stopping them is going to be our biggest challenge," Coach Allison said. "They are very athletic on the offensive side of the ball."

East Hall is led by standout running back Deon Ellison, who is also a receiving threat out of the backfield.

Quarterback Austin Parker returns to lead a spread-attack that averaged 30 points-per-game last season and reached the State Tournament for the second straight season. His favorite target returns in Markese Jackson and with four starters back on the line, the Vikings have had little trouble putting points on the board, despite a losing record thus far in 2016.

Another shootout could be in store for Panther fans on Friday as neither team wants to fall to 0-2 in region-play since both are looking to extend their recent streaks of trips to the postseason.

Team stats: Union County: 266 yards of total offense. RUSHING: 26 carries, 104 yards. PASSING: 21-of-35, 162 yards. GAC: 398 yards of total

offense. RUSHING: 31 carries, 134 yards. PASSING: 18-for-26, 264 yards.

Individual stats: (OFFENSE) Wright: 21-of-35, 162 yards, 1 TD, 6 carries, 41 yards. Lynch: 16 carries, 51 yards, 1 reception, 1 yard. Dockrey: 4 carries, 12 yards.

Hemphill: 4 receptions, 63 yards. Dyer: 6 receptions, 59 yards, 1 TD. Dobbins: 5 receptions, 27 yards. Slade Thompson: 3 receptions, 9 yards. Banton: 1 reception, 2 yards. Austin Pattee: 1 reception, 1 yard.

(DEFENSE) No defensive stats were available at deadline.

(KICKING) Smith 2-of-2 FG, Long 38 yds, 0-for-1 PAT, 2 touchdowns.

Scoring summary:
1ST QUARTER
GAC - 5 plays, 30 yards in 2:03. 1-yard TD run.
UC - 11 plays, 59 yards in 4:30. Smith 38-yard field goal.

GAC - 3 plays, 80 yards in 58 seconds. 68-yard TD pass.

2ND QUARTER
GAC - 9 plays, 52 yards in 2:56. 4-yard TD pass.

UC - 3 plays, 5 yards in 1:18. Smith 29-yard field goal.

GAC - 7 plays, 64 yards in 1:44. 3-yard TD pass.

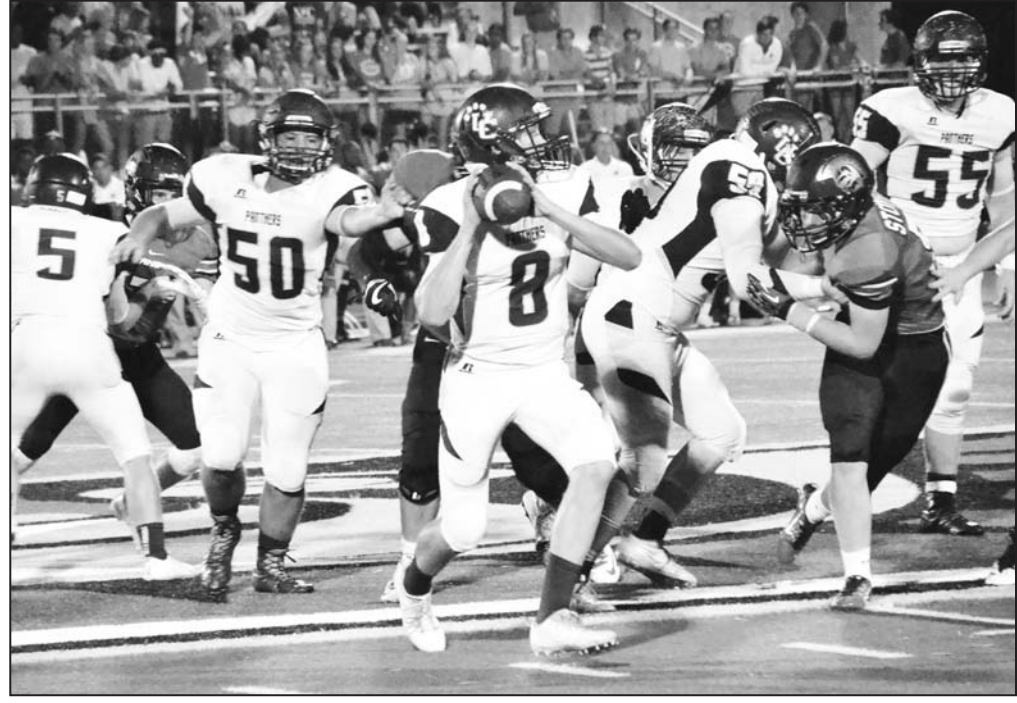
4TH QUARTER
GAC - 12 plays, 80 yards in 3:49. 9-yard TD pass.

UC - 17 plays, 75 yards in 5:38. Dyer 7-yard TD pass from Wright.

Hot Shots bring home State Championship



Blairsville's Hot Shots - 10&U Fast Pitch Softball Travel Team - won the 2016 TSFA September Slam Championship on Sept. 24 in Ringgold. The team battled through six games, going undefeated in bracket play. The team will travel to Chattanooga, TN on October 15 and 16th to play in the 2016 ISA World Series. Players (left to right): Jaycee Seabolt, Kyla Mullanack, Layla Akins, Elyssa Whicker, Harmony Lindsey, Sierra Burnette, Addison Kennedy, Jewell Massey, Jordane Mullanack, Georgia Patton, Chloe Potts. Coaches: Shane Mullanack, Jason Seabolt, Gary Blasingame, Robert Burnette, Allen Massey, Keith Potts.



Junior Cole Wright completed a career-high 21 passes at GAC on Friday night. Photo/Todd Forrest

Your 2016-17 Union County High School Homecoming Court



Senior class representatives (left to right): Joanna Irvin, Reagan Davis, Braedyn Robbins, Brittany Hemphill, and Bebe Walts. Photo/Todd Forrest



Junior class representatives (left to right): Katie Dixon, Talor Evans, Emily Rittenhouse, and Jessica Palomo. Photo/Todd Forrest

Blairsville Pickleball Club Members compete in Hiawassee tournament



(L-R): Jim Arnold, Blairsville; Karen Staffins, Morganton; Don Klingensmith, Blairsville; Kathi Patrick, Hiawassee; David Block, Blairsville

Nine members of the Blairsville Pickleball Club participated in a large tournament held Sept. 16-18 at the Towns County Pickleball Complex. The event attracted players and visitors from several states. Dozens of matches, including many at the 5.0 level, were enjoyed by hundreds of Pickleball enthusiasts.

BPC member Karen Staffins won gold medals in Ladies' Doubles and also Mixed Doubles. Cathy Berggreen, her doubles partner, was awarded a gold medal in Ladies' Doubles. Kathi Patrick claimed the gold medal in Ladies' Doubles 50 and

under, with Don Klingensmith and Jim Arnold taking gold medals in Men's Doubles. Jared Sandler earned the Bronze Medal in Men's Doubles 50 and under.

Other BPC members who participated include David Block, Gene Kotler, and Blake Harper. According to Jared Sandler, "it was an honor and a pleasure to look up and see an awesome group (from the BPC) cheering for my partner and I. I am so glad to be a part of this club!"

The public is invited to the Meeks Park tennis courts on Tuesday and Thursday mornings to see Pickleball in action.

Blairsville Kiwanis Club's 26th Annual Golf Tournament

Blairsville Kiwanis Club's 26th Annual Golf Tournament presented by Union General Hospital has been rescheduled for Friday, September 30th at the Old Union Golf Course, located off Hwy. 129 North in the Owen Glen Golf Community.

The Blairsville Kiwanis Club still has opening for anyone interested in playing. Please con-

tact John Cone at 706-781-1700 or Mary Colwell at 706-745-4502 if you would like to play and register.

This is the Kiwanis Club's major fund raiser of the year to support the many projects we fund for the youth of Union County. So please come join us for a fun day of golf and support these great kids!



Sophomore Class Representatives (left to right): Aladriel Arnold, Madeline Tanner, and Carolyne Stone. Photo/Todd Forrest



Freshman Class Representatives (left to right): Cydney Rich and Grace Weldon. Photo/Todd Forrest

Tri-State ACAA Wood Bat 9&U State Champions



Bottom (left to right): Robert Turner, AJ Rice, Gunnar Akins, Zac Hogsed, Matthew Davis Jr, Jacob Van Beers. Back row: Silas Woodward, Jaxon Thoterow, Maddox Patton, Trenton Beavers. Coaches: Wes Beavers, Head Coach Matt Davis, Tim Hogsed, Rob Turner, Anthony Rice.