Union County pulled away late thanks to a 17-2 run that allowed the Lady Panthers (2-0) to secure a 43-31 victory in what was otherwise another tightly contested rivalry game

with Towns County (1-1). After putting up 16 points in the opener, Union County freshman Ava Hunter poured in a game-high 24 points on 10-of-14 shooting, 9 rebounds and 3 steals.

With the Lady Panthers trailing 27-26 to open the fourth, Towns County knocked down a jumper to stretch its lead to 29-26 just 22 seconds into the final frame.

It was all Union County the rest of the way.

Through three quarters, seven of the Lady Indians' nine field goals came from 3-point range while connecting on 39percent of their attempts.

But as the (slightly modified) saying goes, "you live by the three, you'll die by the A locker room appeal

from Union County Head Coach Corey Garrett probably had something to do with shortening the Lady Indians' lifespan, as well. "At halftime I challenged the girls, for just one person to

bring it," Coach Garrett said. "I knew if one person would bring it, the next person would pick it up, then the next person and so on. In the fourth quarter, that's what we did, and when Adeline Dockrey jumped on a loose ball, I felt that's what

"We were dead in the first three quarters and even the crowd was dead. I told them at halftime, 'the crowd is dead so we're going to have to supply our own energy,' and in the fourth quarter we finally did."

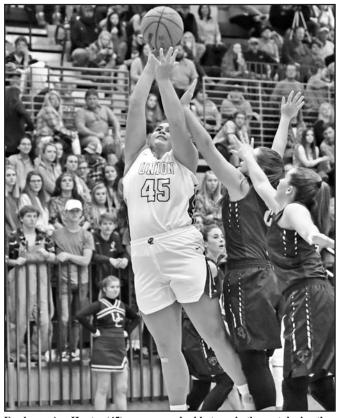
Towns County would miss all seven of its tries from downtown during the fourth quarter while plodding through a critical eight-possession stretch where they turned it over five times after the Lady Panthers regained the lead at 31-29. In fact, 10 of the Lady Indians' final 16 possessions ended with a missed shot, while five of the remaining six possessions ended in a turnover.

Union's 17-2 fourth quarter onslaught began with an Andelin Hill floater in the lane that sliced the Towns County lead to 29-28. Hill wasn't finished as the junior snagged the rebound off a missed trey on one end, then knocked down a triple on the other.

County turnovers left the door open for the Lady Indians but both times they would misfire from behind the arc. Still trailing by a point, Towns County began to unravel as the next eight possessions saw the visitors cough up the ball five times

-- three were Adeline Dockrey

"We made a change on defense to a 1-3-1 (zone) and I think that played a role but it was mostly bringing the energy," Garrett said. "One thing I always talk about with the girls before every game and every



Freshman Ava Hunter (45) scores on a double-team in the post during the second half of Union's 15th straight win over Towns. Photo/Todd Forrest

at 3-3, Hunter went to work,

scoring the next five Union

points to give her squad an 8-4

period off on the right foot with

a bucket in the post -- extending

the Lady Panther advantage to

10-4. But Towns County would

storm back with an 8-0 run for

its first lead of the night at the

midway point of the quarter. A

runner in the paint sparked the

Lady Indian spurt before a pair

of threes at the 5:30 and 4:04-

were turning it over too much

and that kind of saps your

energy on the defensive end,"

Garrett said. "Once we started

taking care of the ball a little

bit better, the energy picked up

tied things at 12-12 with a pair

of free throws, then, following

a Towns free throw, Hunter put

Union back on top, 14-13 with

Senior Brianna Hemphill

Early in the game, we

mark put them ahead 12-10.

Hunter got the second

advantage after one quarter.

especially on the defensive end. Against Rabun Gap we brought it. But (against Towns) in the first, second and third quarter, it wasn't there.'

A turnover resulted in a Lady Panther 3-on-2 fast break where Hunter put back a miss to give her team a 31-28 advantage. Adeline Dockrey's second steal of the quarter led to another Hunter basket where the freshman took the feed in the post and spun away from the double team for two.

Moments later, Brooke Dockrey would deliver the dagger that put the Lady Indians away for good. With her team on top 35-29, the junior guard made Towns County pay for a missed lay-up by nailing a corner-trey, opening up a 38-29 advantage with under 2 minutes

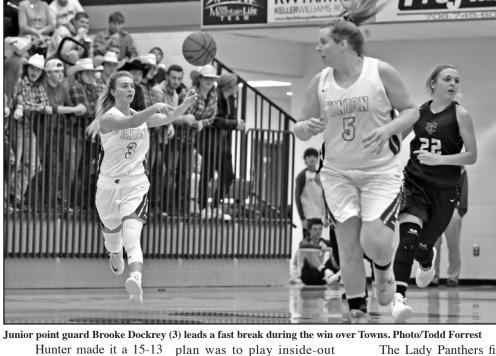
Adeline Dockrey extended the Union lead to 39-29 with a 1-for-2 trip to the charity stripe and the Lady Indians finally connected after missing nine-straight from the floor,

An offensive foul gave the ball back to Towns, trailing 39-31 but once again, they couldn't connect from 3-point land and Adeline Dockrey put the game away with a pair of free throws. Leading 41-31, Hunter put the finishing touches on her 24-point, 9-rebound performance with a two from

Following an ice cold fourth, the Lady Indians finished 11-for-50 (22-percent) from the field and 7-for-25 (28percent) from 3-point territory. Despite 39 misses, offensive boards were in short supply as Union County owned the glass. Consecutive Union Towns County ended up with just two offensive rebounds both coming in the second and third quarter -- and was unable to convert either into secondchance points. Meanwhile, the Lady Panthers won the rebound battle 44-27 overall and 8-2 on the offensive boards.

Although, as the first three quarters unfolded, this game had all the makings of another thriller between two

long-time rivals. Senior Adeline Dockrey got the scoring underway with a 3-ball from the wing but it was answered by a Lady Indian



Hunter made it a 15-13 game by splitting a pair from the line but Towns connected on another three as the clock approached the 1:30 mark of the first half.

Hunter goes for 24 as Lady Panthers race past Towns County, 43-31

The Lady Panthers went back to Hunter after the freshman came up with a steal on the defensive end then got open under the basket and scored off a Brooke Dockrey assist.

Up by a point with time running out, Adeline Dockrey beat the full-court pressure then fed Hunter in the post for a lastsecond deuce -- opening up a 19-16 halftime advantage.

Back-to-back Lady Indian treys quickly turned a 19-16 deficit into a 22-19 Towns County lead. Brooke Dockrey would eventually tie things up with a 1-for-2 trip to the line followed by a driving lay-up at the 5:06 mark of the third.

Tied at 24-24 after a bucket from Hunter, the Lady Indians nailed their third triple of the quarter for a 27-24 advantage. Union continued to feed the hot hand and Hunter trimmed the Towns County lead to 27-26 with 25 seconds remaining in the period.

"Coming in, the game-

but (Towns County's) pressure just prevented it," Garrett said. 'We knew coming in it was going to be an issue but we're going to have to get better at handling pressure so we can play inside-out.'

Rounding out the Lady Panther scoring behind Hunter's 24 was Adeline and Brooke Dockrey with 6 points each. Hill added five and Hemphill scored two.

Adeline Dockrey and Hill hauled in 8 rebounds apiece, Brooke Dockrey had 7 boards, a team-high 4 assists and 2 steals. Freshman Riley Allison grabbed 4 rebounds to go with a steal and a blocked shot. Adeline Dockrey also led the way with 4 steals while Hill blocked a team-high two shots.

Junior Kait McCarter was plagued with foul trouble most of the night and was held scoreless for the first time since her freshman season. Despite not reaching the scoring column, she was able to contribute 3 rebounds and a steal.

Sophomore Kyla Locklear grabbed 2 rebounds while recording one assist, one steal and one block.

The Lady Panthers finished 15-for-42 (36-percent) from the floor and 3-of-13 (23percent) from long distance. At the line, Union County hit 10-of-17 for 59-percent.

Towns County's fullcourt pressure defense was able to force Coach Garrett's squad into 26 turnovers but the Lady Indians were only able to generate 6 points off turnovers. Meanwhile, the Lady Panther defense forced 21 turnovers. resulting in 15 points off take-

day's Robbinsville, NC game has been postponed to a later date due to the Black Knight football team remaining in the Union returns to action

Looking ahead - Tues-

Friday when they visit Fannin County to face the rival Lady Rebels in what is now a nonregion contest.

Fannin County is currently 1-2 with its only win a 54-37 victory over Hiwassee Dam, NC -- who also lost a one-sided contest at Towns

The two losses were narrow defeats to Pickens (50-47) and Gilmer (52-45).



Junior Andelin Hill and the Union defense held the Lady Indians to 0-for-7 from 3-point range during the fourth quarter. Photo/Todd Forrest

3-pointer on the other end. Tied practice is 'bringing the juice,'

Adeline Dockrey's defense sparked UC's late run. Photo/Todd Forrest

Wrestling: Union to participate in Towns County's KOM this weekend

YOUNG HARRIS - Union different high schools will hit the County Wrestling will once again take part in Towns County's King of the Mountain wrestling tournament, this weekend at the Towns County Recreation and Confer-

ence Center at Foster Park. This year's tournament marks the 13th edition of what

has become the premier high

school wrestling event in North-

east Georgia. Grapplers from 32

mat beginning Friday at 5 p.m. The action will resume Saturday at 9 a.m.

Last year, Issac Tritt was Union County's highest placing finisher - taking fourth at 145

pounds with a 3-2 record. Tickets to this weekend's tournament will be \$10 for a one-day pass or \$15 for a two-

200 Yard Medley Relay 1st Place HS: Steven Williams, Brian Williams, Alden Wilkes, Brendan Bowman (State Time)

7th Place HS: Riley Howse, Hunter White, Michael Leird, Grayson Blocker

4th Place HS: Grace Weldon, Rachel Reid, Kaiya

Wilkes, Olivia Blocker 5th Place MS: Grace Cook, Lily Helton, Courtney

Foster, Olivia Loyd

Center in Clarksville.

In high school swim-

ming, there are state time stan-

dards for each swim event.

When you qualify for State,

that means you swam a time

at or below the State time and

are eligible to swim at the State

Meet held in February at Geor-

gia Tech where Class A through 5A school swimmers compete

from Day 1 at State qualify to

The top 30 swimmers

against each other.

100 Yard Individual Medley Eli Gwynn

10th Place MS 50 Yard Freestyle 2nd Place HS Brendan Bowman (State Time)

6th Place HS Grayson Blocker 3rd Place HS Kaiya Wilkes 5th Place MS Grace Cook

100 Yard Butterfly 1st Place HS Brian Williams (State Time) 5th Place HS Alden Wilkes

Six Union County swimmers qualify for State

100 Yard Freestyle

3rd Place

2nd Place

5th Place

7th Place

6thPlace

4th Place

8th Place

2nd Place

4th Place

compete on Day 2 -- the State 50 Yard Butterfly CLARKSVILLE -Union County High School Championship Finals. On Saturday, UCHS and Middle School attended a swim meet on Saturday, Nov. qualified for State in six events. Brendan Bowman qualified 17 at Ruby Fulbright Aquatic in the 50 yard and 100 yard

> Freestyle. Brian Williams qualified for State in the 100-yard Butterfly event and the 100-yard Backstroke.

> The boys' Freestyle and Medley relay teams qualified. Additionally Union County had

> several top 10 finishes. High and Middle School's top 10 finishers from the event with

state times listed.

Here are Union County's

Tyler Harkins 5th Place HS

500 Yard Freestyle

200 Yard Freestyle Relay

HS

HS

HS

HS

MS

MS

MS

MS

1st Place

HS: Brian Williams, Steven Williams, Grayson Blocker, Brendan Bowman (State Time) 10th Place HS: Alden Wilkes, Michael Leird, Hunter

Lily Helton

Ean Harkins

Hunter White

Kaiya Wilkes

Liam Smith

Lily Helton

Grayden Cobb

Courtney Foster

Brendan Bowman (State Time)

White, Riley Howse HS: Kaiya Wilkes, Rachel Reid, Olivia 3rd Place

Blocker, Grace Weldon

MS: Lily Helton, Olivia Loyd, Grace Cook, 6th Place

100 Yard Backstroke

Courtney Foster

Courtney Foster

Brian Williams (State Time) 2nd Place HS

8th Place HS Grayson Blocker HS Grace Weldon 5th Place Kindle Kolb

9th Place HS

1st Place

50 Yard Backstroke 5th Place MS Grayden Cobb

MS 5th Place MS Grace Cook 100 Yard Breaststroke

Hunter White 4th Place HS

50 Yard Breaststroke 6th Place MS Liam Smith