

# Sports

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## Lady Panthers use Andrews, NC as a tune-up for 7-AAA stretch run

### Union battles to the end at No. 1 GAC; host North Hall and East Hall this week

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The Lady Panthers split a pair over the weekend after winter weather forced a cancellation at Pickens on Tuesday.

Union County managed to put it together late but was unable to overcome a shaky first quarter at top-ranked Greater Atlanta Christian on Friday. Trailing 18-7 after one, the Lady Panthers trailed by as many as 20 before trimming the deficit to 11 with 3:14 to play.

Senior guard Bailey Daniel netted 15 of her game-high 25 points in the second half as Union County had the opportunity to pull within single digits at the 2:39 mark but missed the front-end of a 1-and-1, allowing the Lady Spartans to put them away with two free throws on the other end. GAC would carry its 13-point lead to the finish line, taking a 66-53 victory to remain undefeated in Region 7-AAA.

“We’re over the whole moral victory thing, we’re here to win,” Union coach Corey Garrett said regarding the GAC loss. “I think the girls have bought into that and believe it. We’re heading in the right direction.”

The Lady Panthers returned home on Saturday where they suffered from another slow start before a second half explosion turned a 28-17 halftime advantage into a 69-35 runaway – a season-high in scoring for Union County.

The Lady Panthers host a pair of pivotal region games this week with North Hall on Tuesday and East Hall on Friday. Union County can move into second place in the region with two victories, while a winless week could drop them as low as fifth, just one game ahead of sixth place Lumpkin County – who hosts Union County next week.

Tip-off is scheduled for 6 p.m. Tuesday vs North Hall; Friday’s tip vs East Hall will be at 7 p.m. (Scheduling note: this Friday’s game with East Hall was originally scheduled for at East Hall but the locations were flip-flopped when Union’s gym was unsuitable for play on Jan. 2 due to frozen pipes.)

“We probably played our worst game of the year, offensively and defensively, at North Hall,” Garrett said when asked what his team must change from their 22-point loss at North Hall in December. “We didn’t shoot the ball very well and Bailey (Daniel), our leading scorer, only had 4 points.”

**Union 69, Andrews, NC 35** – Sophomore Adelin Hill scored 13 of her 15 points in the third as the Lady Panthers blew things open with a 19-6 quarter, taking a 47-23 advantage into the fourth.

Brooke Dockrey and Kait McCarter combined for 12 points in the fourth as Union County cruised to a 69-35 victory. McCarter scored a game-high 18 points – 13 coming in the first half – while Brooke Dockrey finished with 11 points.

The Lady Wildcats were a handout in the first quarter as Union found themselves clinging to a 16-11 lead after one. McCarter



Sophomore Adelin Hill goes inside for two of her 13 third quarter points vs Andrews, NC. Photo/Todd Forrest

ter put up 8 points on four field goals, Brooke Dockrey scored 4 in the first, and junior Adeline Dockrey had a bucket and two free throws for 4 points in the quarter.

“We wanted to start a little faster but we knew it was possible that we’d come out flat after playing at GAC,” Garrett said.

The Lady Panthers opened up a double-digit lead in the second as McCarter provided 5 of her team’s 12 points. Adeline Dockrey scored 3 while Adelin Hill and Jordan Rogers added 2 points each.

Hill came out firing in the second half, drilling an early three then going inside on the ensuing possession to open up a 15-point Union lead. A Bailey Daniel steal-and-score was followed by a deuce and a trey from Hill.

Mary Wischmeyer went coast-to-coast for a layup then Daniel nailed a pull-up 15-footer to give the Lady Panthers a 41-21 lead with 2:31 left in the third. Hill answered an Andrews basket with a 1-for-2 trip to the line before converting a turnover into a layup at the 1:10 mark. She would cap off the quarter with a corner-trey – giving Union a 47-23 lead after three.

McCarter scored the first basket of the fourth then split a pair of free throws for a 50-24 advantage. The next three points came from Brooke Dockrey off a deuce and a 1-for-2 trip to the line.

The Lady Panthers extended the lead to 30 at the 3:41 mark with baskets by McCarter and Wischmeyer and a free throw each from Brooke and Adeline Dockrey.

**Game Notes (Individual):** McCarter notched her third double-double in five games and sixth of the year with 18 points and 10 boards.

In the month of January, McCarter is averaging a team-high 15 points and 9 rebounds per game.

Hill finished with nine rebounds while shooting 2-of-5 from 3-point distance.

Brooke Dockrey finished the game 4-of-6 from the field and 3-for-5 at the line. Dockrey has now scored in double-digits in

back-to-back games - something she has done twice this season (Murphy-Towns and Gilmer-Pickens) - however, she has yet to score 10-plus in three straight contests.

Adeline Dockrey tallied a season-high 8 points with seven rebounds, two assists, and a steal.

Despite only scoring 4 points, Daniel pulled down five boards to go with four assists.

After battling a knee injury over the first two months of the season, junior Maddie Sutton has recently started to see more action. She finally got into the scoring column on Saturday, hitting 3-of-6 at the line for 3 points.

A pair of Union County freshmen recorded the first baskets of their varsity careers on Saturday when Kyla Locklear scored on a put-back and Courtney Rollins sank a pull-up jumper from 12-feet.

Andrews was led by Paige Lindley and Brooke Newton with 9 each

**Game Notes (Team):** Union County outrebounded Andrews 51-24 and 23-3 on the offensive glass.

The Lady Panthers improved to 6-2 at home with their only losses coming to Class AAA No. 1 GAC and Class AA No. 2 Rabun County. Union shot 26-for-64 (41%) from the field and went 15-of-28 (54%) at the charity stripe. The Lady Panthers struggled from long range, hitting just 2-of-11 - both makes were by Hill, who hit 2-of-5.

The Lady Wildcats shot 31-percent (11-of-36) from the floor and 40-percent (8-of-20) at the line. They were, however, a very good 5-of-11 from beyond the arc.

Union County converted 18 Andrews turnovers into 16 points while the Lady Panthers turned it over themselves 10 times.

**GAC 66, Union County 53; NORCROSS** - The Lady Panthers received a season-best 25 points from Daniel but it wasn’t enough to overcome an 18-7 quarter that was capped off by a 7-0 Lady Spartan run over the final 3:35 of the

period.

“What got us both times against GAC was the first quarter,” Garrett said. “We started out slow. I think a lot of that comes from us not being able to practice against that kind of speed. We can’t create that in practice so it takes us a quarter, maybe two, to settle down against that athleticism.”

A Daniel jumper pulled Union within nine early in the second but GAC answered with six-unanswered before buckets by Hill and Brooke Dockrey made it a 24-13 game. Down 17 later in the period, McCarter scored in the paint and Daniel hit 1-of-2 at the line.

A basket by Daniel pulled the Lady Panthers within 14 then a Brooke Dockrey free throw sent her squad into halftime trailing 34-21.

The Lady Spartans stretched the lead to 19 until a McCarter bucket and 4 points from Daniel sandwiched around a GAC trey kept Union within 16. Down 53-33, late in the third, Brooke Dockrey and Daniel got the margin under 20 entering the fourth at 55-37.

Five-straight from Daniel – a trey and a drive – pulled the Lady Panthers within 11 at 60-49 at the 3:14 mark. Following a GAC miss, Union County had a chance to pull within nine but missed the front-end of a 1-and-1. The Lady Spartans came up empty on the other end but the Lady Panthers were unable to cut the deficit to single digits.

GAC finally ended the scoring drought with two free throws that sparked a 6-0 Lady Spartan spurt. Trailing 66-49 with under 30 seconds left, a Daniel dribble-drive and a steal-and-score by Adeline Dockrey brought the final score to 66-53.

**Game Notes (Individual):** Daniel shot 10-for-16 from the floor, 2-for-4 from long distance, and 3-for-4 at the line. She also pulled down a season-high 7 rebounds.

Brooke Dockrey led the team with 6 assists to go with 11 points.

McCarter was one rebound shy of another double-double with 10 points and 9



Sophomore Kait McCarter had 18 vs Andrews, NC. Photo/Todd Forrest



Bailey Daniel went off at GAC - scoring 15 of her game-high 25 in the second half but it wasn’t enough to rally from 20 down. Photo/Todd Forrest

boards. She also had three steals and blocked five shots - a season-high - topping her four blocks vs Rabun.

In four games vs No. 1 GAC and No.2 Rabun County, McCarter has stepped up her play. The sophomore is averaging 12 rebounds and 3 blocks a game while averaging 9 boards and 1.5 blocked shots on the year.

Hill finished with 5 points and six boards; Wischmeyer had 2 points, three assists, and two steals.

Adeline Dockrey had 2 points, three rebounds, two steals, and two blocks.

GAC was led by 21 points from Taylor Sutton and 15 from Mary Martha Turner.

**Game Notes (Team):** Union County shot just 21-percent (3-for-14) in the first quarter but 48-percent (19-for-39) the rest of the way.

For the game, they finished at 42-percent (22-for-53).

The Lady Panthers’ best quarter was the third when they connected at a 55-percent clip.

Union County had issues at the foul line, shooting 44-percent (7-for-16). The Lady Spartans weren’t much better, hitting only 5-of-11 (45-percent) at the line.

The Lady Panthers’ 53 points are the most GAC has allowed at home this season. Meanwhile, the Lady Spartans’ 61 points matched their season-low at home.

GAC owned the offensive boards by a 28-11 margin; they also out-rebounded UCHS 54-34 while shooting 38-percent (29-76) from the field.

The Lady Spartans feasted on Union County turnovers, converting 21 takeaways into 30 points.



Junior Maddie Sutton with her first points of the year. Photo/Todd Forrest



Freshman Kyla Locklear scores her first varsity basket. Photo/Todd Forrest



Freshman Courtney Rollins with her first varsity basket. Photo/Todd Forrest