

Sports

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Soccer: Lady Panthers mercy rule Pickens County, 10-0 Lumpkin County scores five late goals to pull away from Union, 6-0

By Todd Forrest
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Junior Madison Yost scored six goals while seniors Brenna Innis and Layne Baenninger added five assists each in Union County's convincing 10-0 victory at Class AAAA Pickens County.

On Thursday, the Lady Panthers (6-3, 1-3) returned to Region 7-AAA action and suffered a 6-0 loss to fourth-ranked Lumpkin County (8-2, 2-1) thanks to five Lady Indian goals over the final 21-plus minutes.

This week Union County will host North Hall (3-5-1, 1-2) on Tuesday before welcoming third-ranked Greater Atlanta Christian (4-2-2, 2-0) on Friday.

Both contests will get underway at 5:30 p.m.

JASPER - Lady Panthers 10, Pickens 0: Four goals from Yost and two from fellow-junior Maddie Sutton were all Union County needed to put away the Lady Dragons with a 6-0 lead at the half.

Innis, who along with Baenninger contributed five assists apiece, got in on the scoring with a goal early in the second half.

Following a drought of more than 32 minutes without a score, the Lady Panthers ex-



Left: Layne Baenninger had 5 assists at Pickens County. Right: Keeper Emmi Schakat with a goal kick at Lumpkin County. Photos/Todd Forrest

ploded for three goals in just over four minutes to end the game early at 10-0.

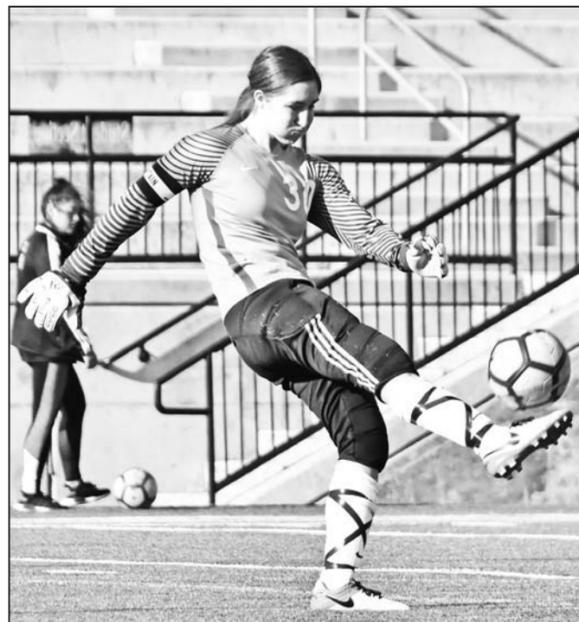
Yost recorded her fifth goal with 6:19 to play, then tacked on another at the 3:34 mark. Junior Ellie Garrison brought the contest to a close when she blasted a shot past the keeper with 2:16 remaining.

DAHLONEGA - Lady Panthers 0, Lumpkin 6: Union was unable to take advantage of

two early scoring opportunities while keeper Emmi Schakat kept the Lady Panthers in contention limiting Lumpkin to one goal -- coming in the 19th minute -- before the Lady Indians' depth took over in the final 21-plus minutes.

Fourteen minutes in, Yost was denied from up close when the Lumpkin keeper deflected the shot with a diving save.

On the ensuing Union



shot attempt sailed high and the No. 4 team in Class AAA had dodged the bullet.

Less than four minutes later, it was Schakat's turn to deny Lumpkin County when she secured a Lady Indian shot attempt in the 18th minute. However, 50 seconds later, Lumpkin got on the board with a goal in the 19th minute.

Approximately 45 seconds

later, the Lady Indians nearly made it a 2-0 game but Schakat turned them away -- preserving the 1-0 score.

The Lady Panthers had two opportunities to even the score but Lumpkin came up with a save on a corner kick in the 32nd minute. Then, moments later, Innis' free kick sailed wide left.

Schakat remained busy for the remainder of the half, denying Lumpkin in the 34th, 37th, and

39th minute to take a 1-0 deficit into the break.

Seventeen minutes into the second half, Lumpkin's shot attempt at an open goal missed high but the Lady Indians were on the verge of blowing things open.

With 21:07 to play, Lumpkin stretched its lead to 2-1. Its third goal came with 14:11 remaining on a free kick.

A rebound made it 4-0 at the 12:41 mark before a penalty kick extended the Lady Indians' advantage to 5-0 at 11:51. Lumpkin County's sixth and final goal came with 1:03 to play.

Looking ahead - The loss at Lumpkin has the Lady Panthers one loss away from playoff elimination with two region games remaining.

On Tuesday, North Hall visits for a Region 7-AAA contest at 5:30 p.m. Despite the 3-5-1 record the Lady Trojans were competitive in losses to Dawson County (3-0) and Lumpkin County (3-2). North Hall also owns a 2-0 victory over Fanning County.

Friday, the third-ranked GAC Lady Spartans come to town looking to secure the Region 7-AAA title at 5:30 p.m. GAC already owns wins over Lumpkin and Dawson, and if Fanning County falls to Lumpkin on Tuesday, the Lady Spartans can clinch the region's top spot Friday in Blairsville.

Baseball: Panthers suffer three-game sweep to Lumpkin County

By Todd Forrest
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The first week of region-play proved unkind to Union County as they were swept by Lumpkin County - allowing 29 runs during the three-game series.

The series showed signs of promise early on when the Panthers jumped out front 3-0 in game one. The Indians would battle back, however, with two in the second and third innings, and three in the fifth and sixth innings in a 10-7 Lumpkin County victory.

The series moved to Blairsville on Wednesday, and once again, Union County grabbed an early lead only to watch the Indians storm back with five in the third and three in the fourth, en route to a 12-1 victory in six innings.

The Panthers returned to Dahlonega on Friday looking to avoid the sweep but were unsuccessful in a 7-6 loss. Despite falling behind 4-0, Union County rallied for two in the third, one in the fourth, and three in the fifth to snatch the lead away at 6-5.

Unfortunately, the Panthers were unable to hang on as Lumpkin picked up two in the sixth then kept Union off the board in the seventh to preserve the sweep.

The Panthers return to region play this week but it doesn't get any easier as Dawson County and Union County get together for a three-game series beginning Tuesday in Blairsville at 5:55 p.m. The series moves to Dawsonville on Friday for a doubleheader beginning at 5 p.m.

DAHLONEGA - Panthers 7, Lumpkin 10 (Game One): Thirteen walks issued by Union pitching was the difference as the Indians overcame a 3-0 deficit to take game one.

The Panthers pounded out 12 hits at the plate with senior Candler Colwell going 3-for-4 with 2 runs and 2 RBIs.

Following a two-out, RBI double by Coleson Daniel in the first inning, Colwell led off second with a base hit to left. He and Logan Dyer would later score on a two-out single by Patrick Baggett - spotting Union County a 3-0 advantage.

The Panthers ran into trouble in the third when a throw-off walk, a single, and a costly throwing error led to two Lumpkin runs.

Union County would get a run back in the third when a Colwell double scored Hunter Kelley, who singled to right.

Three singles and two walks in the bottom half of the inning allowed the Indians to even the score at 4-4, in what would be the final inning for starting pitcher Ean Harkins.

Cayden Rich took the mound in the fourth and fanned the first two batters before a pair of walks sandwiched around a single loaded the bases. Rich was able to get out of trouble with a tapper back to the mound.

The Panthers regained the lead in the fifth when Daniel was plunked to lead off the inning and



Jonathan Everett with a two-run, opposite-field single to give Union County the lead in game three on Friday. Photos/Todd Forrest

Candler Colwell traded places with him at first on a fielder's choice. With two down, Jonathan Everett doubled to center, bringing Colwell around from first for a 5-4 lead.

Lumpkin answered with a 3-spot in the bottom half of the fifth for a 7-5 advantage. A base hit, a throwing error, and an RBI single quickly tied the game at 5-5.

A sacrifice bunt, two walks, a catcher's interference, and a single gave the Indians two more runs before back-to-back strikeouts from Rich closed the door on the fifth inning.

Union was retired in order during the sixth and Lumpkin opened the bottom half of the inning with three walks and two sacrifices to tack on an insurance run. With two down and two aboard, the Indians broke things open with a bases-clearing double for a 10-5 score.

The Panthers refused to go away quietly in the seventh with consecutive singles to jump-start the rally. Following a fielder's choice, Colwell scored RJ Banton with a base hit to left. Everett followed suit with an RBI single to center - bringing home Kelley.

That would be all the offense Union County could muster as a 6-4-3 double play sealed the deal for Lumpkin County at 10-7.

Baggett and Everett each turned in a two-hit performance to go with a pair of RBIs.

Banton finished 2-for-3 with 2 runs, Daniel went 2-for-3 with an RBI, and Kelley was 1-for-4 with 2 runs.

On the mound, Harkins and Rich each went three innings, allowing six hits apiece.

Harkins gave up four earned runs with six walks and one strikeout while Rich surrendered five earned to go with seven walks and five strikeouts.

Panthers 1, Lumpkin 12 (Game Two) - Daniel finished 2-for-2 with a first-inning RBI groundout that scored Baggett for the only Union County run of the day.

The Indians finished off the Panthers with 12-unanswered

runs, resulting in a 12-1 victory in six innings.

Union County senior starter Cole Davis looked sharp early - working two innings of no-hit baseball while fanning four and walking one.

The third inning was a different story as two walks and two passed balls put runners at second and third with two outs.

Another passed ball tied the game then a throwing error gave Lumpkin a 2-1 advantage. With the bases empty and two down, the Indians found themselves back in business with a base hit, a walk, and a dropped third strike that set the stage for a bases-loaded triple.

Leading 5-1, Lumpkin added three more in the fourth with a leadoff walk that brought Jackson Colwell to the mound.

Another walk, a double, and a pair of RBI groundouts opened up an 8-1 advantage.

The top of the fifth saw the Indians tack on two more with a double and two singles.

Replacing sophomore Pierson Allison with Jackson Colwell in the sixth, Lumpkin added two more with three singles and an outfield error.

Baggett would finish 1-for-3 at the plate while scoring Union's only run. Alec Scott went 1-for-2 and Harkins reached on a walk.

Davis went three innings, walking five and striking out five while yielding two hits, two earned, and four unearned runs.

Jackson Colwell worked two innings, fanning one while allowing four hits, three earned, and one unearned run.

Allison struck out one and surrendered three hits and two unearned runs in one inning.

DAHLONEGA - Panthers 6, Lumpkin 7 (Game Three): After rallying from a 4-0 deficit, Union County was unable to hang on to a 6-5 lead entering the bottom of the sixth.



Candler Colwell slides into home to give Union County its only lead of game three on Friday in Lumpkin County. Photo/Todd Forrest

games, Everett gave Union a late-lead with a go-ahead RBI -- this time a two-run single that scored Harkins and Candler Colwell -- to spot the Panthers a 6-5 lead midway through five.

Unfortunately, a one-run cushion wasn't enough as Lumpkin got two in the sixth off Everett.

A leadoff single was followed by consecutive bunts - the first resulting in a throwing error, the second an infield single - to tie the game at 6-6 before an RBI

groundout put the Indians ahead. Following another Lumpkin single, Everett caught an Indian runner napping and picked him off at third base for the second out.

Another base hit brought Daniel to the mound and without throwing a single pitch, he ended the inning by picking off a runner trying to steal second.

With one down in the seventh, Del Ruff reached on an error - bringing Jackson Colwell in as a pinch runner. However, he was eventually stranded at second

following back-to-back Union groundouts.

Banton got the start for Union and gave up two in the first and second innings. He would finish with five hits, four walks, and three earned runs allowed in three innings as the Panthers trailed 5-2 entering the fourth.

Union's two runs came in the third following singles by Chayton Schafer and Baggett to open the inning. Dyer would score Schafer's courtesy runner, Jackson Colwell with a sacrifice fly to deep center and Banton knocked in Baggett with a base hit up the middle.

The Panthers chipped away at the deficit with one in the fourth when Kelley singled and scored on a Davis groundout.

Union County took the lead with three in the fifth after Dyer drew a leadoff walk and Banton was hit by a pitch. Kelley drew a one-out walk and Candler Colwell scored Dyer on a grounder to second by beating the throw to first on the double-play try.

With two down, Everett gave his team the lead with an opposite-field single - scoring the pinch runner Harkins and Colwell, who beat the throw from right field and slid past the tag-attempt from the Lumpkin catcher.

Looking ahead - Monday's Dawson game was canceled, resulting in a Friday doubleheader in Dawsonville at 5 p.m. Wednesday's home game has been moved up to Tuesday at 5:55 p.m.

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Dawson is 5-9 overall and 1-5 in region play after getting swept by GAC and losing two-of-three to Fanning County.

Union County vs Lumpkin County series statistics

#	Roster	GP	PA	AB	H	1B	2B	3B	HR	RBI	R	HBP	ROE	FC	CI	BB	SO	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS
12	Coleson Daniel	3	10	7	4	3	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	.571	.625	.714	1.339
26	RJ Banton	3	11	8	4	3	1	0	0	1	2	2	0	0	0	1	0	.500	.636	.625	1.261
44	Jonathan Everett	3	8	8	3	2	1	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	.375	.375	.500	.875
7	Patrick Baggett	3	11	11	4	4	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	.364	.364	.364	.727
4	Candler Colwell	3	10	9	3	2	1	0	0	3	3	0	0	2	0	1	0	.333	.400	.444	.844
10	Logan Dyer	3	9	3	1	1	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	3	0	.333	.625	.333	.958
18	Hunter Kelley	2	8	7	2	2	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	1	1	.286	.375	.286	.661
20	Chayton Schafer	3	6	4	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	.250	.500	.250	.750
6	Alec Scott	3	5	5	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.200	.200	.400	.600
8	Cole Davis	2	5	5	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	.200	.200	.200	.400
11	Cayden Rich	2	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000	.000	.000
3	Del Ruff	3	5	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	.000	.000	.000	.000
24	Ean Harkins	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	.000	.500	.000	.500
5	Jackson Colwell	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000	.000	.000
Totals		3	94	76	24	19	5	0	0	14	14	5	2	3	0	8	5	.316	.411	.382	.793

#	Roster	IP	GP	GS	W	L	SV	SVO	BS	SV%	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HBP	ERA	WHIP
11	Cayden Rich	3.0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	6	6	5	7	5	0	11.667	4.333
8	Cole Davis	3.0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	.000	2	6	2	5	5	0	4.667	2.333
24	Ean Harkins	3.0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	.000	6	4	4	6	1	0	9.333	4.000
26	RJ Banton	3.0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	.000	5	5	3	4	0	0	7.000	3.000
44	Jonathan Everett	2.2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	4	2	1	1	2	0	2.625	1.875
5	Jackson Colwell	2.0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	4	4	3	1	1	0	10.500	2.500
17	Pierson Allison	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	3	2	0	0	1	0	.000	3.000
12	Coleson Daniel	0.1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000
Totals		18.0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	.000	30	29	18	24	15	0	7.000	3.000