

Softball: Union County throttles Dawson 14-0 following two tough losses

By Todd Forrest
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Things haven't gone Union County's way over the first two weeks of 2017 but hopefully the most recent outing at Dawson County is a sign that all is well with the Lady Panthers.

Entering the top half of the third, the two teams were locked in a scoreless tie but Union County was about to blow things wide open.

Mary Wischmeyer came to the plate with one out and the bags full and singled to center for a 1-0 lead. Aubree Pack made it 2-0 with an opposite field single, then with two down, Braden Poteete reached on an error to give her team a 3-0 advantage. Finally, Katelynn Hodges cleared the bases with a base hit to center that spotted the Lady Panthers a six-run advantage.

After Jillian Lawn worked around a two-out error in the bottom half of the third, she led off the fourth with a double. Bailey Rayfield followed with another two-bagger - scoring courtesy runner Skyler Ludlum.

The Lady Panthers continued to pepper the outfield fence as Aladriel Arnold made it an 8-0 game with a double to center. An error off the bat of Pack tacked on another run and Ellie Garrison gave Union a 10-run lead with a run scoring fielder's choice.

An RBI groundout by Poteete and an error off the bat of Hodges made it a 12-0 game. Sutton scored Hodges when the Dawson shortstop mishandled a grounder. Finally, Lawn brought home Sutton with her second double of the inning.

At the plate, Lawn finished 2-for-4 while picking up the win from the circle with four strikeouts during a four inning two-hitter.

Rayfield went 3-for-4 and drove in two, while Hodges was 1-for-4 with 4 RBIs. Arnold, Wischmeyer, and Pack each finished with a two-hit game. Garrison scored twice and knocked in one while Poteete scored once with one RBI.

Sutton ended up 1-for-4 with a run and an RBI.

After the season opener with region foe North Hall was rained out, Union County began 7-AAA action on the road at Lumpkin County last Tuesday.

And it didn't end well for the Lady Panthers, who were the victims of a no-hitter by Lumpkin's Natalie Robinson.

As for Union, Lawn took a no-hitter into the fifth inning and didn't lose her shutout until the seventh.

With one down and runners on the corners in a 0-0 game, the Lady Indians finally pushed across the winning run with a sacrifice fly.

Meanwhile, Robinson didn't allow a hit or a walk but three Lady Panthers managed to reach base on Lumpkin fielding errors.

Lawn reached on an error in the first inning when the Lady Indians first baseman couldn't handle a throw. Lumpkin's first base runner of the day reached on an error in the second inning.

Robinson reached base in the third and Rayfield got on in the fourth but neither were able to reach scoring position.

The Lady Indians wasted a bases loaded, nobody out opportunity when Lawn pitched her way out of trouble in the fifth. A leadoff double broke up the no-hitter, then consecutive bunt singles loaded the bases.

Lawn fanned Robinson for the first out then got a tapper back to the circle resulting in a force out at the plate. With two down, Lawn induced a routine grounder to first but the ball went between the legs of Rayfield. Luckily, an alert Hodges was backing up the play and was able to flip the ball to first with her glove after Rayfield hustled back to the bag.

Immediately following Hodges' heroics, the overcast skies gave way and a downpour forced a stoppage of play. After the short delay, play resumed and Lawn and Robinson picked up where they left off.

Both teams went down 1-2-3 in their respective halves of the sixth inning. In the seventh, however, the Lady Panthers made a little noise when Rayfield reached on an error for the second time with one down. But Robinson would strand her at first with a pop-up for the second out and a strikeout to end the inning.

In the bottom half of the seventh, Lawn retired the leadoff hitter but consecutive errors put runners at the corners when a fly ball to right field was able to score the game winner from third.



L-R: Jillian Lawn, Aubree Pack, Mary Wischmeyer, and Kristen Poteete. Photo/Todd Forrest

The 1-0 final score is the second straight meeting between Union and Lumpkin that has ended with a walk off run in the final at, to break a scoreless tie.

In last year's region consolation game, Union and Lawn defeated Lumpkin and Robinson, 1-0 when the Lady Panthers scored the game winner in the bottom of the 8th inning.

Bad luck struck again 24 hours after the no-hitter at Lumpkin as Union fell 8-6 to White County when rain ended the game during the sixth inning.

Leading 4-0 after two, the Lady Panthers appeared to be cruising until an 8-run fourth put the Lady Warriors in control. Union answered with two in the bottom half of the inning but rain stopped the game before the bottom half of the inning but rain stopped the game before the sixth and seventh innings.

Having played five innings, the game was ruled official and Union's record dropped to 0-4 on the year.

Hodges finished 2-for-3 with 2 runs and an RBI. Sutton drove in three runs during a 1-for-2 day at the plate.

Madeline Tanner doubled and scored to leadoff the bottom of the fourth while Garrison doubled in a run and scored.

Pack and Kristen Poteete



Madeline Tanner with an opposite field 2B vs White. Photo/Todd Forrest

each scored one run apiece.

As for Pack, she got the start from the circle and cruised through the first three innings before running into trouble in the fourth. She only allowed two hits and all six of her runs were unearned, but she hit three batters.

Megan Bright replaced Pack and struck out three over two innings. She gave up one hit and one earned run before giving way to Lawn in the sixth.

Lawn pitched to two batters before the players were sent to their dugouts due to

lightning.

This week Union hosts the defending region champ East Hall at 6 p.m. Tuesday. On Wednesday they'll get a rematch at White County before visiting a former region rival in Rabun County on Thursday.

For more stories, stats, and updates on Union County softball, visit the all new NGN Sports blog at www.ngnsports.wordpress.com and follow Todd Forrest on Twitter (@hotrod-todd25) for sports updates and notifications on the latest blog posts.

Player	GP	PA	AB	H	1B	2B	3B	HR	RBI	R	HBP	ROE	FC	CI	BB	K	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS
Katelynn Hodges	5	17	16	6	4	2	0	0	5	5	0	2	2	0	1	1	.375	.412	.500	.912
Bailey Rayfield	5	15	14	5	3	2	0	0	2	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	.357	.400	.500	.900
Maddie Sutton	5	16	14	5	3	2	0	0	6	2	0	3	0	0	2	2	.357	.357	.500	.857
Aladriel Arnold	4	12	10	3	2	1	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	3	3	.300	.364	.400	.764
Madeline Tanner	3	5	4	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	.250	.400	.500	.900
Jillian Lawn	5	15	14	3	1	2	0	0	2	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	.214	.200	.357	.557
Aubree Pack	5	13	11	2	2	0	0	0	2	4	1	2	0	0	1	3	.182	.308	.182	.490
Mary Wischmeyer	5	14	14	2	2	0	0	0	1	2	0	1	1	0	0	1	.143	.143	.143	.286
Ellie Garrison	4	9	9	1	0	1	0	0	2	3	0	1	3	0	2	2	.111	.111	.222	.333
Braden Poteete	3	6	5	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	.000	.000	.000	.000
Kristen Poteete	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	.000	.500	.000	.500
Megan Bright	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	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
Skyler Ludlum	4	6	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	4	4	.000	.000	.000	.000
Total	5	133	121	28	17	11	0	0	23	24	3	15	8	0	4	17	.231	.271	.322	.594

Lady Panthers season batting statistics though all five games this season. Stats via GameChanger

Blairsville Pickleball Club reports on progress

Submitted by:
Nancy Oliver Smith

The Union County courthouse was packed, with standing room only, for the Commissioner's meeting on August 17. Sixty-eight members of the Blairsville Pickleball Club were in attendance to show their support for suggestions on how to meet the space needs of the club. Marian Schneider, BPC spokesperson and liaison to local agencies, presented a report on the progress the Club has made since starting in 2015.

The sport was a new concept to combine good exercise and social interaction for all ages, being especially attractive to senior citizens. Beginning with 20 members, the BPC now has 184.

The OASIS (Outstanding Adults Sharing in Service) program of the Blairsville First United Methodist Church has provided instruction in the



(L-R): Club Government Liaison, Marian Schneider; Marty Evans, Dave Evans, 1st Vice President

sport through classes, with 136 older citizens graduating.

Ms. Schneider thanked the school system, the recreation department scholarship fund, the Methodist Church, and community organizations such as the SAFE House.

Ms. Schneider emphasized the need for permanent facilities for pickleball and offered assistance of the club to make it possible. NAUG23,210/CA

club tournaments have resulted in large donations to the school athletic department scholarship fund, the Methodist Church, and community organizations such as the SAFE House.

Ms. Schneider emphasized the need for permanent facilities for pickleball and offered assistance of the club to make it possible. NAUG23,210/CA



Some of the members attending the meeting



Ellie Garrison during the White County game. Photo/Todd Forrest

Webster to perform anthem at Sunday's Rockies @ Braves game

Local 10-year old singing sensation Nealy Webster has been invited to perform the national anthem prior to this Sunday's Colorado Rockies vs Atlanta Braves game at SunTrust Park.

Sunday's first pitch is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. More than 300 family and friends will be on hand to support Nealy.

She is the granddaughter of Larry and Diane Wood of Suches.



Nealy Webster

Golden Club Bowling League completes summer schedule

The Golden Club Bowling League completed their summer schedule and the following winners were declared: 1st Place Tie: Heavenly Bake Shop, Capt. Bonna Graham; The Wild Bunch, Capt Ed Gerhard.

3rd Place: Something Special, Capt. Ray DaSilva.

4th Place: Blue Ridge Trophies, Capt. Rose Terry.

5th Place: Team #1, Capt. Lynne Hurst.

6th Place: Kevin Panter Ins., Capt. Ted Nesius.

7th Place: Holy Rollers, Capt. Ed Salettel.

8th Place: McRoberts Counseling, Capt Mac.

High Avg: Jackie Keene, and Dan Boes.

High Game: Pete Thomas, 259; Bonna Graham 214.

High Series: Dan Boes, 650; Jackie Keene 546.

High Hdcp. Game: Ed Salettel, 305; Sandra Bailey 282.



Ed Gerhard

High Hdcp Series, Everett Hall, 759; Ruby Boes 761.

Golden Club Bowling League will begin their Fall Schedule on Wednesday, September 6th. Please call Rose at 706-745-4268 if you would like to bowl.

Ed Gerhard was honored at the Golden Club Awards Banquet. It was his 90th Birthday. He has been bowling on the Golden Club League since 2006. Happy Birthday Ed.



1st Place Tie: Heavenly Bake Shop - Bonna Graham, Jackie Keene, Cindy Prater (not pictured George Miskoritz)



1st Place Tie: The Wild Bunch - Carol Shields, Ed Gerhard, Rich Hartman and Bob Rodde

N(AUG23,26/CA)

Tri-County Racing Report

By Blake Lynch
North Georgia News
Sports Special

55 Jamie Cross, followed by #15 Ryan Crawford, #36 Michael Yunker, #00 Adam Brooks and #10 Barney Cross.

Blue Ridge MotorSport Park the week off from car racing. There will be a full racing program including Super Late Models on Aug.26, 2017.

Tri-County Racetrack had their fan appreciation night on Aug 18th. There was something for everyone this week. Fans were greeted to \$ 7 grandstand tickets and a moon pie to celebrate the eclipse. They had a full racing program plus kids bicycle race and vintage cars.

Street Stock was fought the finish between #14 Charles Devine, Jr. and #1 Michael Barnett. Devin to home the win. Marlin Gunter # 91 was third followed by # 7 Dylan Truhan and #01 Jacob Lynch to rolled out the top 5.

Modified Street had a surprise as # 34 Greg Sudderth from 3rd to a 1st place win. Then #48 Colton Stroud for 2nd followed by # 44 Bobby Elkins, # 88 Rickey Smith, and # 93 Cardell Turner.

Pony had an upset by Franklin Burke not being able to make is 3 in a row as he was caught up in a crash early in the race. The win was taken by #

Super Late Models David Payne # 8 lost the battle to # 38 Jamie Oliver for the win. #6 Blake Spencer for 3rd, # 00 Johnny Chastain and # 4 Danny Ledford.

Beginner 602 The beginner class got off to a ruff start with multiple crashes. Avery Breedlove #101 took home the win with an awesome battle at the beginning of the race with Allison Southarab in the #108. Jason Black finished 3rd in the #8 car. Les Elliot finished 4th in the #77 car and Jordan Talent finished out the the top five in the #T12 car.

Crate Late Models Jason Deal #7 won the race and lead the race from the start to the finish. Adam Smith #14 came in 2nd. Brett Shook in the #17 car finished 3rd. Kenny Barrett in the #9 came in 4th. Lynn Burchfield finished 5th in the #43car.

Limited Late Models Justin Gravelly in the #41 took home the win. David Conley came in 2nd. Levi Hicks in the #4 came in 3rd. Wesley English in the #16w car came in 4th. Michael Barnett in the #37 car came in 5th