

Sports

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Hughes, Dyer showcase talents in All-Star Softball Game

By Todd Forrest
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North Georgia softball continued its dominance over South Georgia last week at the GACA North-South High School All-Star Softball Games in Rome with a pair of convincing victories.

In Game One, the North used its pitching to shut-down South Georgia. In Game Two, the North thumped South Georgia to the tune of eight runs.

Both of Union County's First-Team All-State selections, Angie Hughes and Callie Dyer made tremendous contributions in the North's two-game sweep. Hughes threw two innings of no-hit ball in the North's 4-0 victory in Game One. Dyer picked up three hits and three RBIs in the two games.

Hughes entered during the sixth inning of the opening game and struck out the first three batters she faced. In the seventh, the Lee University signee worked around two walks to nail down the North's victory.

"I wanted the North to win and just wanted to pitch the best I could to help them win," Hughes said. "I was happy with how I pitched against the best players in



Angie Hughes, Callie Dyer and Union County Softball Head Coach, Jessica Stewart in Rome last week.

Georgia. I was nervous going in but I knew I had great fielders playing with me so that made it easier."

Dyer would get off to a slow start, going 0-for-2 in her first two plate appearances but would pick things up, going 3-for-4 with three RBIs the rest of the way. Although, she would admit that she was a bit intimidated at first.

"The first day of practice I looked at all the athletes and I knew I was no longer the best among my team," Dyer said. "All of the girls there were amazing athletes and I just

felt honored to have played with them."

The former Lady Panther soon realized that she belonged.

"I felt like I played a decent game, but I didn't hit how I wanted to," said Dyer. "I am used to hitting doubles, triples, and home runs, but hitting against the best pitchers in Georgia made me realize that this was a whole different game from high school ball. I did have a few good hits and overall I was happy with the two games."

As for Hughes, she had

a tough act to follow. The Union County ace entered Game One following five innings of shut-out ball from the National Softball Player of the Year, Geri Ann Glasco from Oconee County. So not only did Hughes strike out the first three batters she faced, she struck out three straight from a lineup that had previously faced the top player in the country for five innings.

"I was nervous going out to the mound because Geri Ann had pitched so good the first 5 innings, but once I got out there I was fine," Hughes

said. Hughes remained in her groove in Game Two, striking out four and allowing just one hit, in two innings.

As for Glasco, she became both the first softball player from Georgia and the first University of Georgia signee to be given National Player of the Year honors. She is now a finalist for the Gatorade Female High School Athlete of the Year award, to be presented at the ESPY Awards in July.

"Everyone was there when they did the big presentation for her at the field before we played," Hughes said. "I was glad that I able to be part of this huge honor for her."

The award was presented to a shocked Glasco by two-time Softball Olympic medalist, Jessica Mendoza during a fake question and answer segment before the game.

According to Hughes, meeting Mendoza and making new friends was the highlight of the trip.

"What I enjoyed most about the trip to Rome was meeting the players on my team and getting to know them," Hughes said. "Callie and I made some great friends on the trip. I also loved getting to see Jessica Mendoza in person before the game. It will be something I will never forget."

Playing alongside the

National Player of the Year also showed Hughes that she is in the same class as some of the best players in the nation.

"This game helped me realize that I can compete with the best players in Georgia and gave me confidence as I prepare to go into college ball," Hughes said.

Dyer agreed with Hughes.

"The three to four days in Rome were the best times I have ever had in softball," she said. "Meeting all of the girls and spending time with them and getting to know all of the girls was a great opportunity. The North team really bonded while we were down there and shared some great times. I really enjoyed getting to know all of the girls and being able to play with them."

With Hughes moving on to Lee University, Dyer is still undecided on where she will be attending college, however the decision should come this week.

"I am meeting Young Harris College this week to see if I can play there," Dyer said. "The softball program at Young Harris would be a program I believe I would enjoy and would really love to go play there. But if I wasn't able to play at Young Harris I would attend Gainesville State in the fall. After I meet with YHC, then everything will be decided."

Seabolt's future looks promising despite injury

By Todd Forrest
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Kaitlyn Seabolt is at the top or near the top of nearly every offensive category in the Union County High School Softball's record book. Her performance in the 2010 post season was legendary.

Just ask the folks from North Oconee.

She drew comparisons to Reggie Jackson, and was nicknamed "Mrs. October" by one North Oconee spectator.

Nicknamed, "Red," Seabolt had Union's opponents seeing red for four years while she compiled one of the most storied careers in Northeast Georgia history.

Playing second base and batting lead-off for the Lady Panthers, Seabolt was almost a sure bet to get on base. Her 177 career hits are first in team history. So are her 35 walks, many intentional, and many coming in the 2010 post season.

She finished her career with nine triples and a .386 batting average. Both team records. Her 35 career doubles ties Tori Dyer for second in the books and nine homers ties her for third in school history.

In 2010, Seabolt recorded 59 hits and was walked 16 times. Her .522 batting average combined with her walks and hit by pitches, means that she reached base nearly 60 percent of the time she came to the plate.

"In high school, we played in some key games where there was a lot riding on our performance such as the State Championship game my



Kaitlyn Seabolt

senior year," Seabolt said. "So in college, when I got put into important games, I was ready to compete at that level and I was ready for it."

Immediately following the laurels of her senior season, Seabolt signed with North Georgia College in November. Unfortunately a lingering right shoulder injury, that resulted in surgery, sidelined her during the spring and summer leagues but the freshman appeared conditioned to rock opposing pitching staffs in her initial season as a Saint.

"The kid can hit," said



Seabolt slides safely back into third base in a game from early 2012.

North Georgia College's Head Softball Coach Mike Davenport.

"Kaitlyn caught our attention early in the recruiting process. We had numerous opportunities to watch her play at the high school level, in the summers, and with her travel team. Her toughness at the plate was easy to appreciate and we felt if she continued that approach at the collegiate level that she would be a tremendous asset to our program."

Seabolt's benefits were seen immediately as she smacked a single to left field in her second career at bat.

In her fifth game, Seabolt homered to dead center to lead off the fourth inning during a 6-0 win over Mars Hill.

"Right when I connected with the pitch and the ball came off my bat, I knew it was gone," Seabolt said. I kept thinking of my dad who was not able to attend the game in person but was watching it online and I just kept thinking how proud of me he was going

to be."

Ironically, Pilar Harden also homered in that same game. Harden along with her sister Hannah Harden are North Oconee Lady Titans and battled yearly with Seabolt's Union County squads for supremacy in Region 8-AA.

Seabolt and Harden came from rival high schools but became close friends at North Georgia and seemed primed to dominate the college level, just as they did in Region 8-AA. Ten games into her career, Seabolt had six hits, two walks, while starting at third



Kaitlyn Seabolt at the plate

base or right field.

"Kaitlyn's versatility on the softball field makes it tough not to keep her on the field somewhere," said Coach Davenport. "She is very competitive in the batter's box on the offensive side and defensively she provides the team with a lot of options and is a very smart ballplayer at all of those positions."

Seabolt's season was progressing nicely, but that's when the injury bug struck again.

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Mountain United Soccer registration begins

The Mountain United Soccer Association is ready for Fall Soccer. Registrations are currently being accepted. Forms will be mailed to all players who have participated in a previous season. Forms are also available by visiting the league's website: www.mountainssoccer.org.

The spring 2012 season was a big success. Our younger teams played in Blairsville, Hiwassee, and Blue Ridge. The older age groups competed throughout Georgia. We had players registered from all the surrounding counties as well as some from North Carolina.

In Blairsville, Cott Beverage is our community host for the soccer fields. In Hiwassee, the fields at the Towns County Fairgrounds are utilized through the cooperation of the local recreation department. The league is

grateful for their commitment and support.

The fall season will begin in early September. Anyone who is interested in playing needs to register promptly. In some cases space is limited.

M.U.S.A. is a volunteer run organization and is also a 501C3 non profit. Any and all donations are directed to the youth player. Field Sponsors, Sign Sponsors, and Team Sponsors are always needed. If you are interested in supporting the youth soccer player in our community through sponsorship and/or a donation, please contact the Association. For additional information contact the league at 706-835-1077, musa.soccer@gmail.com, or visit www.mountainssoccer.org on the web.

Like "Mountain United Soccer Association" on Facebook and follow the league on Twitter @MUSoccerA.



UCHS Basketball Camp Info

David Tucker
106 Sherwood Ave.
Calhoun, TN 37309
(423)-336-3045

Tucker's Basketball Skills Camp K-12
June 25-28, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
\$60 per camper

Bring in this form and the \$60 on June 25th, or you may mail this form, along with a check, to David Tucker at the address above. Activities will include: Ball handling drills, dribbling drills, shooting instruction, offense and defense instruction, contests, 5 on 5 play, 3 on 3 play, and 1 on 1 play.

UCHS Shooting Camp K-12
July 12-14, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
\$40 per camper

Bring in this form and the \$40 on July 12, or you may mail this form, along with a check, to David Tucker at the address above. Activities will include: Shooting drills and instruction for individuals and group, passing drills, dribbling drills, and contest

Camper's Name: _____

Grade _____

Shoe Size _____

Do you have health insurance on this child? _____

Emergency Contact: _____

Phone Number (____) _____

Parent's Signature: _____

Date _____

*Please circle which camp your child will be attending if you plan to mail this and check.

Butternut Creek Golf Course hosts Sunbelt Senior Tour

By Todd Forrest
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The Cancun Sunbelt Senior Tour, Presented by Palace Resorts visited Butternut Creek Golf Course in Blairsville last week for the Tour's ninth event of 2012 and second event of the Early Summer Series.

Roger Rowland took home first place and a \$2,000 purse in the Senior Division, ages 47-54, with a 206, meanwhile Lawrenceville's Bob Flanagan earned \$1,700 for his victory in the Super Senior Division, ages 55 and over.

Rowland, a 45 year-old, Ocala, FL resident, edged out fellow Floridian, Mark Bucek by one stroke to pick up the victory. Bucek, a 50 year-old resident of Winter Springs, FL fired a final-round 67, the lowest score on the day, for a



Bob Flanagan. Photo/Todd Forrest

207 three-day total.

But it wasn't enough to catch Rowland.

Rowland was strong all week, shooting consecutive 69's before closing out the event with a 68 on day three.

The Super Senior Division saw the top-four all finish within five strokes of each other, but Flanagan's 71 on day three, that included an eagle on #13, turned out to be the

lowest round of the day.

"It's always a challenge coming up to the mountains and playing up and down," Flanagan said. "It's a lot of fun. It played a little differently this year because we didn't have the wind from the same direction. So I had to play it differently. They've got it in great shape and it's always fun to come back here every year."

The 36-hole leader, Jim Chancey let a two-shot lead disappear, thanks to a final round 75. Chancey's consecutive bogeys on 15 and 16 allowed Flanagan to take a three-stroke lead with two holes to play.

Flanagan opened the third day with two birdies on the front-nine, while Chancey finished the the first nine at plus-two.

Sid Corliss, who was

tied for second with Flanagan entering the final round, bogeyed nine and 12 but a bogey on the Par-5 13 hole, devastated the former Big Break contestant's and 2001 U.S. Senior Open participant's chances. The Cumming native birdied three of the final four holes but it wasn't enough to catch Flanagan.

Corliss wasn't the only competitor at Butternut Creek with PGA Tour experience.

Danny Edwards, who finished fourth in the Super Senior Division, is a five-time winner on the PGA Tour. The 60-year-old from Ketchikan, Alaska picked up his first PGA Tour victory in the 1977 Greater Greensboro Open, an event he would win again in 1982. His final Tour victory came in the 1985 Pensacola

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