

Sports

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Preseason: Lady Panthers finish week 2-1-1

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The Union County Lady Panthers had a busy week with two games on Monday and two more on Tuesday.

Monday, Union fell to Fannin County 4-2 before defeating Towns County 4-2. On Tuesday, the Lady Panthers tied Heritage-Conyers at 7-7 and knocked off Gilmer County 3-2.

Against Fannin and Towns, Coach Jessica Stewart gave the ball to freshman Laken Chambers in both games. She would go the distance in both contests.

In Union's loss to Fannin, the Lady Panthers' lone loss on the Summer League season, the Lady Rebels jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the third. Union got a run back in the fifth but Fannin responded with a run in the sixth, and another in the seventh - taking a 4-1 lead entering Union's final at bat.

The Lady Panthers put two on, bringing the tying run to the plate with one out, but only managed one run as consecutive strikeouts derailed the Union rally.

Three hits were all the Lady Panthers could muster offensively, as the 1-through-4 hitters in the lineup were a combined 0-11.

Sophomore Maddie Garrett was the only hot bat in the lineup, as the centerfielder went 2-for-2 with a double, a run, and a walk.

Junior infielder Halle King finished 1-for-3, including a single in the bottom of the seventh.

Chambers got out of trouble in the first inning, leaving two Fannin runners stranded by inducing three ground balls to keep a goose egg on Fannin's side of the scoreboard.

Union went three-up-three down in the bottom half of the first, and Fannin did the same in the second. Chambers struck out the first two hitters of the inning before the third out came via a tapper back to the pitcher.

The Lady Panthers missed a scoring opportunity in the second, leaving Garrett stranded at third.

Junior Courtney Busbee's slow roller to short put one out on the board but Garrett lined an opposite field double to the gap in right center.

With one out and Garrett in scoring position, King's deep fly to right was corralled by the Fannin outfielder, allowing Garrett to tag-up and advance to third. Unfortunately, Kelsey Nix's grounder to second resulted in the third out.

The Lady Rebels struck in the third when a lead-off error put a runner on with nobody out. Then a bunt single put two aboard, before sacrifice bunt both runners into scoring position.

A double to deep center brought in two Fannin runners for the first runs of the contest. However, Chambers would settle down and record a grounder back to the circle and striking out the final batter, swinging.

Allie Stroman reached



Laken Chambers delivers against Fannin County. Photo/Todd Forrest



Maddie Garrett singles against Fannin County. Photo/Todd Forrest



Courtney Busbee fields a Lady Rebel bunt. Photo/Todd Forrest

on an errant throw from the Fannin pitcher. A strikeout followed then junior Crystal Busbee bounced out to short setting up the third out, when an aggressive Stroman was thrown out trying to reach third on the throw to first.

The top of the fourth saw Chambers work around a lead-off single and stolen base. The freshman righty got two grounders then sat down the third out looking.

The Lady Panthers did take advantage of a two-out walk in the bottom of the fourth.

After Madison Rich and Chambers were retired, Courtney Busbee reached on a free pass, Garrett singled, allowing Courtney Busbee to score when the right fielder let Garrett's single roll under her glove. That

was all the damage Union could deliver as King's hard grounder to short was snagged for the third out.

Fannin went down in order in the fifth, but a leadoff walk from Union went to waste due to a missed sign, resulting in failed steal attempt.

Fannin benefited from a leadoff double, a passed ball, and a two walks to get a run in during the sixth, making it a 3-1 game.

A 1-2-3 inning was the story in Union's half of the sixth, and Fannin was able to add an insurance run in the seventh.

A single to open the inning was followed by a sacrifice bunt. With two outs, the Lady Rebels delivered a single to take a 3-run advantage into the bottom of the seventh.



Junior Crystal Busbee makes contact. Photos by Todd Forrest



Madison Rich



Kendra Tanner



Lydia Arrowood

Courtney Busbee flew out but Garrett reached on a walk. King singled, bringing freshman Kendra Tanner into the game as a pinch runner. With the tying run at the plate, Union went down swinging for the second out, and we're caught looking for the third final out.

In the second contest, Union faced the Towns County Lady Indians and jumped out to a quick 4-0 lead after one inning.

Towns picked up two in the fourth but the Lady Panthers held on 4-2.

Coach Jessica Stewart went with her bench for the entire game, starting all freshmen and sophomores, giving eight of her nine starters a break.

Chambers struck out 10 in the five-inning affair, allowed three singles, and four walks.

Freshman Madison Horinek went 1-for-1 with two walks and a run. Another freshman, Lydia Arrowood finished 1-for-3 with a walk and a run.

Chambers helped her

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Johnna Langston

Joe Collins



Tips from the Range

This simple game of golf that we play is a determination of accuracy. If you are accurate, then your scores will be lower.

We work really hard and practice ways to hit, pitch and putt the ball better and in turn we learn how to move the club properly. This is, and should be, a major priority when pursuing the game.

If your swing is solid then theoretically you should play better, but if your aim is bad, then it doesn't really matter how well you strike the ball.

As the old Scotsman's caddie was quoted as saying after his boss hit a shot into the sand, "Aye man, ya hit that a good one but you're towards was off." What the caddie was actually saying in today's translation would be, "Your alignment was wrong boss."

It doesn't matter if you hit it well if you don't line up your shots correctly. Alignment is very important.

Watch the pros very carefully next time you view a tournament or happen to be there in person. They really pay a lot of attention to correct alignment.

The "Big Easy" checks his alignment almost every time by simply looking at his feet in comparison to his mid-section and then finally the shoulders.

He wants all three to be aimed at the same point and not the feet in one direction and the shoulders pointing somewhere else. This will cause you to cast the club and change the path of the club head.

It is hard to aim at a point far away so pick out an "intermediate" target that is only a couple of feet in front of your ball position.

To do this you need to stand behind the ball and find a small target to represent your main target point. A blade of grass or spot on the ground that is directly in line with your aiming point but in front of your ball.

By standing behind the ball you can see the target line that the ball should start on. Always align your body parallel to the target line. As you address the ball keep that spot and your target line in your peripheral vision until you have finished your alignment sequence and are ready to hit the ball.

Now do a visual to see if you are aimed correctly by checking to make sure that you are square and pointed in the right direction. It is correct to be a little open to your target at address because the club path is inside on the downswing if you are swinging correctly.

Pay attention to your alignment and watch the ball striking get better. Our goal is to control the swing with our sub-conscious so that it is reactionary.

Build your swing on good fundamentals but always remember that if you line up wrong the swing will be compromised and it will react to the false alignment.

Poor alignment can sneak into your game at any time and cause all sorts of problems to your fundamentals and mechanics.

Always take a little more time and make sure your "towards" is correct. Good luck and I will see you on the course!

Local Youth selected for 2013 Rotary Youth Leadership Award



Amelia Turner and Will Stone were selected to the 2013 RYLA program this summer.

Two students from Union County High School were selected to attend the 2013 Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) program this summer.

Amelia Turner and Will Stone participated along with seventy-two young adults from across north Georgia. The four day event held at Tallulah Falls School in Rabun County was packed full with outside activities and guest speakers. Events included white water rafting on the Chattooga River, YMCA Camp leadership training with a ropes course and zip line, and tour of the Tallulah Gorge.

The evenings were spent with magician and hypnotist Kyle Jarrard, leadership trainer Rob Langston, and "The Sensational Guy" Duane Cummings who gave a great message about personal success and living an enriched life.

The intent of the various activities was to challenge the participants to expand their personal comfort zones.

They did this through

the interactions with other participants as well as the physical challenges. One of the highlights included meeting 16 year old singer Drew Ryniewicz, who finished top 5 on Simon Cowell's TV show, The X Factor.

The Union County Rotary Club is proud to have Amelia and Will represent their club and Union County at this event.

Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) is Rotary's leadership training program for young people. RYLA participants can be ages 14-30, but most clubs and districts choose to focus on a narrower age range, such as 14-18.

RYLA emphasizes leadership, citizenship, and personal growth, and aims to demonstrate Rotary's respect and concern for youth, provide an effective training experience for selected youth and potential leaders, encourage leadership of youth by youth, and recognize publicly young people who are rendering service to their communities.

MUSA registration currently underway

Mountain United Soccer Association is ready for Fall Soccer.

Registrations are currently being accepted. Forms have been mailed to players who have participated in previous seasons.

Forms are also available by visiting the league's website: www.mountainsoccer.org.

In Blairsville, Cott Beverage is our community host for the soccer fields. In Hia-

wassee, 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.

MUSA is a volunteer run organization and is also a 501C3 nonprofit. 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 players in our community through sponsorship and/or donation, please contact the association.

For additional information contact the league at 706-994-4351, musa.soccer@gmail.com or visit us on the web at www.mountainsoccer.org.



Photo courtesy of MUSA