

# Union sweeps Wilkes on Senior Night, open 8-AA Tourney action next week after bye

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For the seventh consecutive season, Union County softball will take part in the Class AA State playoffs thanks to a convincing two-game sweep of Washington Wilkes (by scores of 4-0 and 12-0) on Senior Night last Tuesday evening.

After clinching a berth at State for the ninth time in 10 seasons under Head Coach Jessica Stewart, the Lady Panthers honored seniors Maddie Garrett and Karley Nix.

During the doubleheader, Garrett and Nix each made significant contributions to their team's victory with Garrett finishing the twin bill 3-for-6 with an RBI and Nix combining for a 4-for-7, 3-RBI performance.

Entering the day, second place Wilkes held a one-game lead over third place Union County, but following the sweep, the Lady Panthers moved into second to secure a first round bye in the region tournament and a trip to State.

Social Circle would split their doubleheader with Rabun County to force a tie for first between Union and Social Circle, however, the Lady Redskins owned the tiebreaker thanks to a sweep of the Lady Panthers earlier in the month.

One day later, Union traveled to Cleveland and pulled away from White County, 14-5 with 11 runs coming with two outs. The win moved Coach Stewart's squad to 19-6 overall and looking for the program's seventh 20-win season in the last 10 years.

The Junior Varsity also dominated the Lady Warriors with a 16-0 victory.

Sophomore Jillian Lawn recorded the win from the circle while going 2-for-5 at the plate with her second homer of the season.

Over the weekend the Lady Panthers were scheduled to wrap up the regular season with a doubleheader at Pickens County, where Union would meet Fannin County at noon and Pickens at 2 p.m. However, both games were rained out so the next contest will take place on Tuesday, Oct. 6th when the winner of a best-of-three series between Washington Wilkes and Greene County will travel to Blairsville for another best-of-three on Oct. 6th with a spot in the Region Championship



Senior Maddie Garrett (far left) with parents Johnny and Teresa and sister Michaela during emotional Senior Night festivities last week. Maddie is passing her bat down to Maddie Sutton. Photos/Todd Forrest

Game up for grabs. Win or lose, Union will play one more playoff game before advancing to State.

The Region Championship Game and consolation game will take place on Saturday, Sept. 10 at the higher seeded team. On the other side of the region bracket, Rabun County will host Oglethorpe County with the victors earning a shot at the top-seeded Social Circle Lady Redskins, who are on the warpath for their third consecutive Region 8-AA crown.

## Lady Panthers 4 Washington Wilkes 0

Union got a run in the first and two in the second as junior Laken Chambers baffled the Lady Tigers' lineup all game, allowing only 2 hits while striking out a season-high 12 batters.

The Lady Panthers tacked on an insurance run in the fourth inning allowing the home team to draw first blood during a vital Region 8-AA doubleheader.

Junior Kendra Tanner finished 2-for-3 at the plate with a double, a triple, a walk,

and a run. Nix was 1-or-3 with a double and 2 RBIs and sophomore Braden Poteete went 1-for-3 with an RBI. Freshman Ellie Garrison scored twice and doubled, Garrett doubled, walked, and scored, while junior Lydia Arrowood reached on an error and scored.

Union took an early 1-0 lead thanks to a Kendra Tanner triple to lead off the bottom half of the first and scored when courtesy runner Logan Seabolt drew a throw to second on a stolen base.

They tacked on two more in the second when Arrowood reached on a mishandled grounder, Garrison followed with a double to put two runners in scoring position. With two outs, Nix drove them home with a double to left for a 3-0 advantage.

Union's final run came in the fourth when Garrison singled and later scored on an RBI single by Poteete.

## Lady Panthers 12 Washington Wilkes 0

Despite losing the first



Senior Karley Nix with parents Raymond and Nikki Nix. Karley would like to pass her bat down to Braden Poteete. Photo/Todd Forrest

game, the Lady Tigers needed only one win in two tries to secure second place over Union County. However, the Lady Panthers crushed their hopes with an eight-run third inning to extend their lead to 10-0. They would tack on two more in the fifth to end the game by mercy rule after five.

Union pounded Wilkes to the tune of 14 hits while Chambers won her 13th game of the year, tossing an abbreviated, 5-inning no-hitter, while joining Nix and Arrowood with a three-hit performance at the plate. Garrett and freshman Aladriel Arnold recorded 2 hits each while Lawn drove in 3 runs.

The Lady Panthers got a run in the first when Tanner reached on an error, Nix singled, and Chambers brought home Tanner with an RBI single up-the-middle.

In the second inning, freshman Courtney Moose would end up scoring after she was hit by a pitch.

Union blew things open with eight in the third which opened with a single by Chambers, a double from Garrett, and a two-run single of the bat of Lawn that scored courtesy runners Maddie Sutton and Seabolt.

Arrowood followed with a base hit, Garrison was

plunked by a 3-2 pitch and Lawn scored on Arrowood's attempt to steal second, Moose reached via fielding error, and Tanner brought home Garrison and Moose with a single. Nix kept the inning alive with an infield single and Chambers lined a two-run, opposite field triple. Garrett made it a 10-0 game when she drove in Seabolt with her second double of the game and third on the day.

The fifth inning saw Nix reach on a leadoff bunt single and Chambers get hit by a pitch. Lawn made it 11-0 when she brought in Nix with an RBI fielder's choice. She later scored on an error and a single from Arrowood.

Moose, Seabolt, and Tanner each finished with 2 runs with Garrison and Sutton both scoring once.

## Lady Panthers 14 White County 5

Cleveland - Clinging to a 7-5 lead after six innings, Union County killed the Lady Warriors' comeback hopes with 7 runs in the seventh inning and recorded win No. 19 with a nine-run victory.

White County took an early 1-0 lead after an inning but the Lady Panthers scored four in the second, two in the

third, and one in the fourth for a 7-1 advantage.

But the Lady Warriors, who were hosting Senior Night, refused to get blown out and rallied with one in the bottom half of the fourth, another run in the fifth, then two in the sixth.

Leading 7-5 with two outs in the top of the seventh, Union's next eight hitters reached base, tacking on seven more runs in the process.

After a pair of fly outs, Arrowood ignited the onslaught with a base knock to center, Arnold was hit by a pitch, and Garrison brought them in with a single to left.

Poteete singled in a run and Tanner reached on an error before Nix delivered an RBI single. Chambers scored Tanner and Nix with a base hit, then Garrett smacked an RBI single to right.

The Lady Panthers scored all four of their second inning runs with two outs beginning with an Arnold fielder's choice, a Garrison walk, and an error that allowed Poteete to get aboard, loading the bases for Tanner, who scored Arnold with a base hit. Garrison scored on a Nix single and Chambers stretched the lead to 4-1 with a two-run single.

In the third inning, Garrett reached on a leadoff walk and Lawn lined a two-run shot over the left field fence for a 2-run homer - giving Union a 6-1 advantage.

Chambers made it a 7-1 game when she singled home Tanner, who was on thanks to a base-on-balls.

With two outs in the bottom of the sixth, Chambers relieved Lawn in the circle and got her squad out of a jam with a strikeout.

Lawn worked 5.2 innings, allowing eight hits and only one earned run in her fifth victory of the year.

Chambers was perfect in 1.1 innings with 2 strikeouts, picking up her third save of 2015. She also finished 3-for-4 at the plate with 5 RBIs. Nix went 3-for-5 with 2 RBIs, Garrison was 1-for-3 with 2 RBIs and 2 runs, Garrett was 1-for-3 with an RBI, and Poteete scored twice and knocked in one during a 1-for-4 day at the plate.

Tanner scored three times and drove in one while going 1-of-3 three, meanwhile, Arnold scored twice with Arrowood and Sutton each crossing home plate once.

## UC Saddle Club Special Invitational



Saddle Club members Amanda Harper and Sarah Howard were among dozens who assisted with the Special Invitational Show.

The Union County Saddle Club held its annual fall Special Invitational Show on Saturday, September 19, at the covered arena. Guests with special needs enjoyed horse-back riding, horse-drawn cart rides, lunch, and awards.

Thank you to all club members who came out to help with this event! Following the Invitational was a performance by Sass 'n Saddles Precision Drill Team and then the regular Open Show. Riders competed in speed events,

Western events, and racking events.

Several members of the Saddle Club will compete at the Georgia National Barrel Horse Association Show in Conyers, GA, October 2-4. Nearly 1000 riders will compete in youth and open divisions in this three-day event.

On Friday, October 2, come out to the arena for roping practice at 7 p.m. On Friday, October 9, three-person sorting will begin at 7 p.m.



Left to right: senior Maddie Garrett, Assistant Coach Kaitlyn Seabolt, Head Coach Jessica Stewart, and senior Karley Nix. Photo/Todd Forrest

## Union participants in Golf Tournament



L-R: Eddie Coffey, Madison Logan, Lydia Gray and David Farrell

The 2015 Hayesville Relay For Life Golf Tournament hosted by Chatuge Shores was a big success. Thanks to Manager Matt Liss, golf participants, golf course employees and volunteers, \$2814 was raised for American Cancer Society. First Place winners were Madison Logan, Lydia Gray, David Farrell and Eddie Coffey. Two of these participants are from Blairsville, GA. NT(Sep30,B3)CA



Seniors Maddie Garrett (left) and Karley Nix release balloons in centerfield at the conclusion of festivities. Photo/Todd Forrest

## UCHS announces the members of its 2015-16 Homecoming Court

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The 14 members of Union County High School's 2015-16 Homecoming Court

were named last Friday and a new queen will be crowned on Friday, Oct. 9th when the Panthers host Greene County in a Region 8-AA showdown.

The senior class representatives will consist of Layne Colwell, Kim Coyne, Sidney Davenport, Addie Murphy, and Janey Thomas.

The junior class representatives are Logan Colwell, Joanna Irvin, Meighann McCammon, and Kendra Tanner.

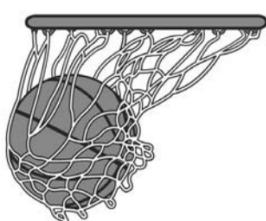
Representing the sophomores will be Bailey Daniel, Jessica Palomo, and Emily Rittenhouse.

Last but not least are freshman representatives Carson Chamber and Caroline Stone.

Last year, UCHS senior Emma Smith took home the crown of Homecoming Queen after receiving the crown from 2013 Queen Amy Theriot

The North Georgia News would like to congratulate each one of these young ladies for being selected to the 2015-16 Homecoming Court.

## Don't miss out on Basketball Registration!



Registration For 5-8 year olds ends October 2<sup>nd</sup> & ends October 30<sup>th</sup> for 9-12 year olds!

Register online at meekspark.com or in the recreation office!

## The Run Above The Clouds T-shirt story continues



When the Run Above The Clouds restarted in 2000 we selected a logo that showed runners on a mountain road and used this as the front of the T-shirt. It was well received and over the next few years variations on this logo showed up on the shirts as well, also well accepted.

Then in 2011 the bear thing happened. A bear was spotted, standing off in the woods watching the runners pass. This was too good an opportunity to pass up and in 2012 we took him out of the woods and showed him participating in the Run Above

The Clouds on the shirts. That went over really well. At this point he was rapidly replacing the human runners as our go-to logo and in 2013 he was shown winning the race. During the race that year a bear (same one?) was spotted on two separate occasions. Well that really did it; we're probably gonna work this for as long as it will last and to that end in 2014, there was the bear again on the winners stand, having narrowly beat out a turtle and a snail for first place.

Okay, he ran, he won, he was recognized; where does

he go from here? The tradition of the t-shirt design is that it is not known until the morning of the race. The answer may well be known on Saturday, October 3rd in Suches when the 16th running of the Run Above The Clouds 10k race and the inaugural edition of our 5k race will be run. You are invited to run (and get a t-shirt) or just watch and when the race is over and the secret is out, join the Indian Summer Festival across the road at the Woody Gap School for crafts, food and entertainment. We hope to see you there. NT(Sep30,S1)CA