

Wes Aulet to play baseball at Montreat College

By Todd Forrest & Joe Collins
North Georgia News
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Union County High School's Wes Aulet has joined Zach Odom as the second member of the Class of 2013 to sign a letter of intent to play baseball at the next level.

Aulet, the son of Robert and JoAnn Aulet has played first base for Union County while providing the Panther lineup with plenty of power during his career.

The senior's high school career actually began in 8th grade where he played up on the high school's J.V. team.

"Because of my age I've always had to play with older boys but I've wanted to play baseball at the college level since T-ball," Wes Aulet said. "I'm happy with my choice but I will always be a Panther."

Aulet will be following in the footsteps of Union County Head Coach Brandon Bradburn, who also played at Montreat under Head Coach Michael Bender.

"Montreat is a school with a Christian intent with our student-athletes leading a Christ-like life," Coach Bender said. "Our priorities are God, family, education, and baseball. Wes is a perfect fit to our program which is something that we take seriously. We want to make certain these young men fit into our Christ-centered



Wes Aulet signed his name on the dotted line to play baseball at Montreat College. Photo/Joe Collins

school." The Montreat Cavaliers will be losing their senior first baseman and Aulet could see action right away according to Coach Bender.

"We can see Wes splitting time early at first base," Bender said. "He has good power, size, stature, and physique. He is very defense oriented and gives us plenty to build on."

Aulet is very thankful to Coach Bradburn and Montreat College for giving him the opportunity to compete at the next level.

"I look forward to attend-

ing Montreat next fall and playing baseball," Wes Aulet said. "I chose them over a school in Alabama because Montreat is a private school with a great campus and a minimal student-to-professor ratio. They also offered my major of Digital Media Production. I want to thank Coach Bender for offering me a scholarship to play baseball at Montreat College."

During Aulet's junior season at Union County, the first baseman hit .393 with 2 home runs, and 23 RBI's. He didn't commit an error while posting a .488 on base percent-

age, a .557 slugging percentage, and drawing 11 walks.

With numbers like that and the core of last year's team returning, Aulet has high hopes for his final season at Union County High.

"My senior season at Union should be a special one," Wes Aulet said. "We should have a successful season with seven seniors returning from last year. Our main goal as a team is to compete for a state championship. Accomplishing that would be the icing on the cake and a great finish to my high school career."

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sixth win of the season.

"We played well tonight and I am proud of the girls," Union County Head Coach David Tucker said. "We shot the ball well and we're continuing to get better, but don't even get me started on the officiating. I'd rather not go into that," he said.

Zollinger's 20 points were complimented by a team-high 3 assists and a season-high 4 blocked shots.

Maddox finished with 11 points, Brown had 6 points,

Hughes added 5 points, and Arnold chipped in 4 points and 5 boards.

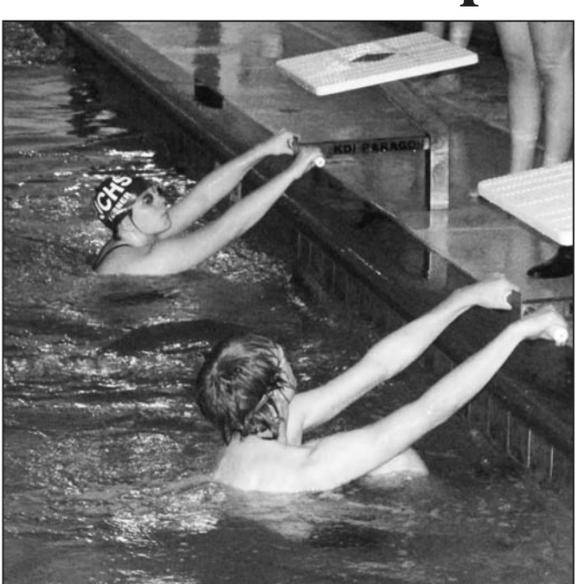
Maurer put together a career-night on the defensive end, rejecting nine Lady Indian shots while hauling in 8 boards. Carly Adams added 4 steals to the Lady Panthers' defensive efforts.

Union County's Lady Panther JV squad demolished Lumpkin by a 46-17 score. Camryn Carter went for 17 points while Kaitlyn Day finished with 10.



Carly Adams scraps for a loose ball vs Lumpkin. Photo/Todd Forrest

Swim team competes at Flowery Branch



Union's swim team was in action last weekend with the Lady Panthers taking first place in the 200-yard Free Relay. The quartet of junior Anna Knight, junior Lindsey McCann, freshman Ansley Garrison, and sophomore Nicole Gautieri finished with a time of 1:55.18. Knight also placed second in the 100-yard Free and third in the 50-yard Free. Senior Tanner Gay brought home third in the Boys 100-yard Free in 53:80. Gay would place second in the 100-yard Breast at 1:05.51. The Panthers placed fourth in the 200-yard Free Relay with Gay, junior Austin Norton, sophomore Brennen Wilkes, and freshman Joseph Mancuso clocking in at 1:41.64. McCann placed eighth in the 50-yard Free, Wilkes came in 8th in the Boys 50-yard Free, Wilkes 9th, and Norton 10th in the 100-yard Free. Union will be back in action Tuesday in Murphy, NC at 6 p.m. Photos by Todd Forrest.

Flowery Branch High School Meet - 12/14/2012 Team Rankings - Through Event 40

Girls - Team Scores

Place	School	Points
1	North Hall High School	128.50
2	Tallulah Falls School	116
3	Social Circle High School	109.50
4	Forsyth Central High School	102
5	Hebron Lions	95
6	Apalachee High School	70
7	Union County High School Swim	65
8	Lumpkin County High School	56
9	George Walton Academy	52
10	Flowery Branch High School	46
11	Jefferson High School	36
12	West Hall Swim Team	14
13	Winder-Barrow High School	6
		Total 896.00

Boys - Team Scores

Place	School	Points
1	George Walton Academy	121
2	Social Circle High School	93
3	North Hall High School	91
4	Winder-Barrow High School	90
5	Forsyth Central High School	73
6	Apalachee High School	61
7	Hebron Lions	54
8	Flowery Branch High School	54
9	Union County High School Swim	32
10	Tallulah Falls School	31
11	West Hall Swim Team	24
12	Jefferson High School	18
13	Lumpkin County High School	18
14	Lakeview Academy	13
		Total 773.00

Combined Team Scores

Place	School	Points
1	North Hall High School	219.50
2	Social Circle High School	202.50
3	Forsyth Central High School	175
4	George Walton Academy	173
5	Hebron Lions	149
6	Tallulah Falls School	147
7	Apalachee High School	131
8	Flowery Branch High School	100
9	Union County High School Swim	97
10	Winder-Barrow High School	96
11	Lumpkin County High School	74

Joe Collins

Tips from the Range

Last week we looked at how important it is to use proper footwork to help leave the top of your back swing with a smooth motion that is quiet in the hands and trailing the arms. Acceleration should occur through impact and beyond instead of at the top of your arc. The week before we looked at how important it is focus on the exact second that you start your down swing. This week we are going to look at the key that starts this car and makes everything happen in its own time. If there is one thing that affects your balance more often and can throw your swing into a tailspin quicker than you might expect, it's your weight transfer. The key to a proper weight transfer is the move to the front side or front foot. Nothing happens when it is supposed too without a little thing that is seldom discussed is called, "The Bump".

The Bump should be a part of everyone's swing and can be found in the tightest swing on any tour. I am talking about the very first thing that should happen in any swing and the one thing that rarely happens correctly at the amateur level. You must settle your initial weight movement the front side first so the rest of the swing can follow. It is also the power source that starts the arms out of the top, because when the bump happens, it allows the arms the time they need to drop naturally and not require accented force from the hands and wrist. Simply put, the Bump is the move to the front side of the weight transfer before anything happens at the top. It is vital that you transfer your weight to the front side foot to maintain proper balance throughout the swing or the club path will be wrong.

Good luck and I will see you on the course!

You have to be really careful when working on the weight transfer. If it is performed in any manner that is outside your center of gravity then your impact will be out of square. Moving weight to the front side of your swing will make you want to change your spine position and thus put your head in front of the ball before you hit it. Moving ahead of impact with the head, and in direct relation the top portion of the spine, is wrong and should be avoided at all cost. Your lower body can move just keep the upper part of the upper body still like it was at address with the lower part of the spine over the heels. This will help you move through the lower body better when transferring the weight.

You can work on this at almost any time. You can assume a balanced address position without a club and turn the core of your body to start the weight transfer to the back foot. (You will see good players lay their arms across their chest in an X fashion and turn to feel the center of their chest when working on their first move down.) Now focus on the exact moment when you feel the weight start its path to the front foot. Feel yourself push weight off the back foot and settle it on the front foot before anything happens in the swing including too much hip turn. If the lower part of the spine needs to move as the weight transfers then let it happen. Just remember to keep the top part of the spine behind impact. Allow the arms to fall naturally and guide them with the top of the shoulder line.

I know this all sounds hard to do but it really isn't. Stay focused on your balance and a lot of this will take care of itself. Give your swing time to work in the proper order and the club path will be correct most of the time and that is pretty much all we can hope for.

UCMS boys sweep Towns

By Joe Collins & Todd Forrest
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HIWASSEE - The Towns County Middle School boys basketball teams hosted Union County last Thursday and faced a Panther team that was out for revenge after suffering a season opening home loss to the Indians on Nov. 5.

The Indians were outplayed in both games with the Union's Seventh Grade winning 49-27, while the eighth grade picked up a 42-30 victory.

The first game of the afternoon saw the Seventh Grade team leading from the start of the game and the Indians could never catch up.

Union County was playing some solid basketball, giving the Indians fits with their half court press that the Panthers were very aggressive with, forcing Towns out of sync running their plays, whenever they were able to get the ball down the court.

The second game saw the Union County Eighth Grade take advantage of some solid free-throw shooting in a 42-30 Panther revenge victory.



The Union County Middle School boys basketball teams traveled to Hiwassee last week and took home a pair of wins. The 7th Grade Panthers complete the season sweep, while the 8th graders got some revenge for a loss to the Indians on opening day. Photos by Lowell Nicholson.