

# Sports

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## Goble hopes to make Union Co. proud at Andrew College

By Todd Forrest  
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During Union County football's March 7 banquet, longtime-UCHS wide receivers coach Paul McBride revealed his "statistical Mt. Rushmore" of Panthers receivers: Blake Gowder, Jacob Rogers, Sawyer Drake and Jensen Goble.

And while a solid case could be made for the inclusion of a few other prolific pass catchers, it's tough to argue with McBride's list, particularly his final selection.

Had injuries not denied Goble five games as a sophomore, plus another 1.5 as a senior, there's a real possibility he would have rewritten the UCHS record books.

Goble, who recently signed with Andrew College (Cuthbert), still leaves with Union County's single-season reception record of 87 catches in 2022. In 2023, he came up two short with 85, despite missing most of the Banks County game and all of Union's trip to Providence Christian.

During last month's signing day ceremony at UCHS, Goble discussed what led him to sign with the first year, southwest-Georgia program.

"They were one of my first offers," he said. "It's a new program and I hope to get in there and help build it. [Andrew] has some guys that know what they're doing, and hopefully, I can get down there



Joseph Goble (L) and Missy Goble (R) look on as Union County wide receiver Jensen Goble inks a scholarship with Andrew College. Goble's 2022 and 2023 seasons were one of the best two-year stretches by a receiver in program history. Photo/Todd Forrest

and start the process of just betting on myself."

According to Goble, who will major in business, Andrew is bringing in 122 players to begin their program, which means nothing is guaranteed.

"What that's going to be like, I have no idea, but I guarantee most of them will be freshmen and sophomores."

he said. "But at the same time, with that many people on the team, you're going to have to work for your spot. So I just hope to go in there and do the best I possibly can."

Goble briefly held the school's single-game reception record, hauling in 13 passes at West Hall on Sept. 15, 2023. His 191 career catches left him second at UCHS to Gowder

(225). Goble also became the first receiver since Gowder (2008-09) to record consecutive 1,000-yard seasons, while departing as the only player to amass 80-plus receptions in two separate seasons.

Goble's 181 yards vs Armuchee in September 2023 marked a career-high, despite needing only 6 catches and sitting out the second half of a

50-3 rout. Later in the year, he logged 152 yards on 13 grabs in the de facto region title game at Fellowship Christian, then proceeded to torch ELCA for 11 grabs, 111 yards and a score during the postseason.

Goble was also one of the few bright spots in Union's Sweet 16 loss at Rockmart, finishing with 7 receptions for 128 yards -- giving him six

games with 100+ receiving yards as a senior.

His senior season was capped off with a first-team All-8-AA nod from the region's coaches.

During his junior campaign of 2022 (his only injury-free season), Goble caught 10 passes for 146 yards and 2 scores in a 21-17 win over East Jackson. One week prior, he went for 8-130-1 during a 56-49 victory vs. Providence Christian. He also hauled in 10 receptions and a score in Union's playoff victory at Model - the program's first road playoff win.

As a sophomore in 2021, his first year with the program, Goble had 4 catches at Chesham and a season-high six vs. Murphy, NC. However, he suffered a season-ending knee injury in early October, costing him the final five games.

Goble is the son of UCHS graduates Joseph and Missy Smith Goble, and Laura Cash of Clarkesville.

"I want to thank anybody and everybody that came here [to the signing day ceremony]," he said. "My brothers, my dad, my mom, and all my family, both up here and down in Habersham, my friends, teammates and coaches. I hope I can make them all proud."

With Union County's offense taking a more conservative approach in 2024, Goble's spot on his coach's Mt. Rushmore, along with his place in the UCHS record book, appear as if they will both remain carved in stone for the foreseeable future.

## Wrestling: State bronze-medalist David Heredia chooses Emmanuel

By Todd Forrest  
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Union County's wrestling's David Heredia, a two-time top-four State placer, signed with Franklin Springs' Emmanuel University during last month's signing day at UCHS.

According to Heredia, Emmanuel's assistant coach, Gunnar Gardner, contacted the UCHS grappler via social media, and the rest is history.

"He reached out to me on Instagram, and that's where it all started," he said. "[Gardner] said they were watching the state brackets and they reached out to a couple of people, but I was the first one to respond."

Heredia chose the private Christian school over Reinhardt because it reminded him of home.

"The size [of the school], the countryside, and the campus is more compacted," he said. "Plus their morals are more in line with mine."

Heredia, who wrestled at 190 lbs as a senior, hopes to remain in the 182-197-lb range at Emmanuel, where the program is losing seniors at 182 lbs and 197 lbs.

"They talked about sticking me in those [weight classes], but I told them, whenever they need me is where I'll go," he said.

Heredia departs Union County following a decorated career on the mat, including a third-place finish in Class AA in 2023. As a senior in 2024, Heredia placed fourth in Class AA, falling in the consolation finals to Model's Riley Davis.

Earlier in the winter, Heredia was a part of Union County's first Area Duals title, securing a pinfall victory



UCHS outgoing senior wrestler David Heredia (center) is flanked by his mom Linda (L) and UCHS wrestling coach Justin Byers (R) on signing day. Photo/Todd Forrest

over Banks County during the finals. He went on to pick up his second-straight individual Area crown in February, defeating Banks County's Christian Holcombe via a first-round pin.

Heredia punched his ticket to the state championships by winning four of five matches at Sectionals.

As a junior, Heredia's first Area title came on his

home floor as he scored an 11-5 decision over Fannin County's Colby Shaw in the 165-lb finals. A week later, he went unbeaten at sectionals, recording four straight wins, including a final-bout pinfall win vs. Shaw.

At State, Heredia cruised into the semifinals before dropping an 8-7 decision to Berrien County's Matthew Lopez. He rebounded to win two consolation

bouts to secure the bronze medal.

Heredia didn't compete during the 2022 postseason as a sophomore. At the time, Union County featured a pair of Area champions in similar weight classes: Seniors Brady Guild (160) and Sean Phillips (170). Additionally, Union had State sectional qualifiers, Huck Whisenhunt and Wilson Walker, at 182 and 195, respectively.

"I want to thank [Michael] Smith-Foot and [Justin] Byers - my coaches," he said. "They are the two that got me into wrestling. I definitely want to thank my parents and Asa [Smith-Foot]. The entire Smith-Foot family is like a second family."

Additionally, Heredia was a three-year starter on Union County football's de-

fensive line, appearing in two Sweet 16s and reaching the postseason all four years. He earned a second-team All-Region 8-AA nod as a senior.

Heredia is leaning toward a business major but says he wants to keep his options open.

He is the son of Chris and Linda Heredia and has three younger brothers: Anthony, Sam and Adrian.



# Mountain Gymnastics Center breaks records, claims 14 AAU State titles

North Georgia News  
Sports Special

In the meets ahead of State, where they collected a whopping 14 gold medals, Blairsville's Mountain Gymnastics Center (MGC) broke multiple records.

At the Tumble in the Jungle Meet in Carrollton, on March 16, Charlotte Smith (AAU Copper) scored the highest ever event score for MGC with a 9.9 on Floor Exercise.

The previous record was held by Shy'Ann Beasley with a 9.825 on beam in 2021. Charlotte scored a 9.9 on floor again at the AAU Georgia State Meet.

The next weekend, at the March Into Spring Meet in Woodstock, GA on March 24, Allie Kamber (AAU Bronze) scored MGC's highest All-Around score with a 38.25. In the very next session at the same meet, Scarlett Munn (AAU Silver) topped Allie's All-Around score with a 38.275.

The previous record was held by Emma Schuette with a 38.225 in 2023.

The season wrapped up with the girls competing at their respective state meets.

MGC's AAU athletes competed at the AAU Georgia State Meet in Roswell, GA on April 26-28. They finished their season on a high note.

MGC had nine girls win 14 State titles during the weekend. The AAU State Champions are: Maisie Henderson (AAU Copper) -- Vault State Champion with 9.6 and All Around State Champion with a 37.7.

Skylar Hintze (AAU



State champion and regional qualifier Emma Schuette.

Copper) -- Bars State Champion with a 9.75.

Callie Kirkpatrick (AAU Copper) -- Floor State Champion with a 9.8.

Charlotte Smith (AAU Copper) -- Vault State Champion with a 9.9, and All Around State Champion 38.15.

Liv Wynn (AAU Copper) -- Vault State Champion with a 9.4.

Charlotte Williams (AAU Bronze Novice) -- Bar State Champion with a 9.6 and Floor

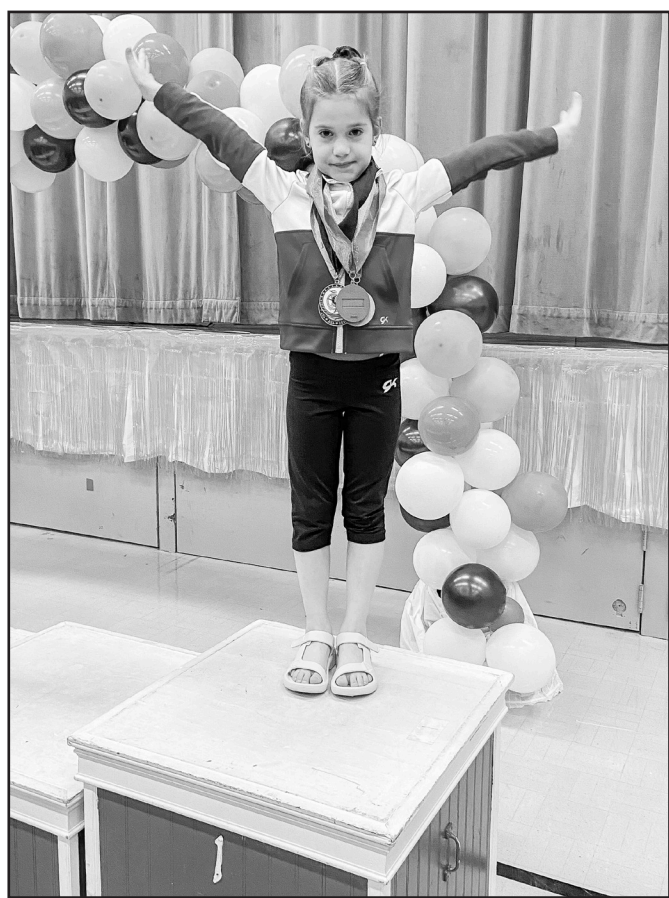
State Champion with a 9.45.

Julia Allen (AAU Silver Novice) -- Beam State Champion with a 9.725.

Lorelei Whitney (AAU Silver Novice) -- Beam State Champion with a 9.625 and All Around State Champion with a 37.775.

Kenzie Slate (AAU Silver Experienced) -- Bar State Champion with a 9.55.

MGC's USAG athletes competed at the GA Xcel State meet in Emerson on April 13-14, all performing very well.



Two-time State champion Charlotte Williams

Kylee Coggins (USAG Gold) tied for seventh on floor. Shaylyne Davis (USAG Platinum) placed sixth on beam. Addison Harkins (USAG Platinum) tied for fifth on floor. Emma Schuette (USAG Diamond) was third on vault and second all around.

Emma was the Floor State Champion with a 9.575. She also qualified to compete at Regionals at the beginning of May.

MGC's Silver Novice team (Mattie Kate Alexander,

Julia Allen, Aria Beaudoin, Sophia Beaver, Jaxi-Jule Taylor and Lorelei Whitney) finished as the third place team in the division.

MGC's AAU Copper team (Maisie Henderson, Autumn Hintze, Skylar Hintze, Callie Kirkpatrick, Charlotte Smith, and Liv Wynn) was also the third place team in the division.

On May 5, Emma Schuette (USAG Diamond) competed again in the top Xcel Diamond Athletes in our age



State champion Kenzie Slate



State champion Julia Allen

group from Georgia, Florida, Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Mississippi and Louisiana in Greenville, SC at the Region 8 Xcel Regionals.

At Regionals, Emma placed seventh on bars with a 9.15 and was tied for fifth in All Around with a 36.95. Emma took home the Bronze for the region on Beam with a 9.65.

Caroline Thomas contributed to this article.



Three-time State champion Charlotte Smith



Two-time State champion Maisie Henderson



Two-time State champion Lorelei Whitney

## The Old Union Women's Golf League

Hi, Ladies! The Old Union Women's Golf League started the week with a beautiful day of golf involving two different games. Welcome back to Cynthia Moorehead, Nancy Harvill, and Donna Stone! The ladies enjoyed pizzas and salads and camaraderie in the club house after golf. Kathleen Bowlin and Pat O'Brien contributed homemade brownies and homemade chocolate chip cookies, respectively.

The first game, Beat the Pro, had no ladies' net scores beating Coach Matt's gross score of 68. This game is played monthly and the ladies are determined to beat him next month.

The second game, Birdie Bash, had 23 ladies playing in 4 flights. The number of ladies in Flight A was 5, Flight B was 7, Flight C was 5, and Flight D was 6. The flights were determined by handicaps.



Coach Matt

Congratulations to the winners in the Birdie Bash flights: Flight A- 1st Place- Nancy Outlaw, 2nd Place- Kalyln Kight; Flight B- Tied for 1st Place- Mary Mott, Tied for 1st Place- Martha Zimmer; Flight C- Tied for 1st Place- Kay Kirkland, Tied for 1st Place- Nancy Harvill, Tied for 1st Place. Connie Dockery; Flight

D- 1st Place- Becky London, 2nd Place- Cynthia Panter.

Congrats to the following for making birdies! Kalyln Kight (4), Karen Mussoline (1) and Cynthia (1).

There were four ladies who had chip-ins! Congrats to Nancy Harvill (#6), Karen Mussooine (#9), Nancy Outlaw (#14), and Sheila Baggett (#16.)

Closest to the Pin went to Becky London! Great job, Becky! She will receive either a \$25 round of golf or a \$25 credit in the pro shop!

Welcome to the new members to our 2024 Season! Susan Furman, Lana Gebhardt, Gail Havron, Kalyln Kight, Connie Leips and Linda Miles.

Anyone interested in joining this great group of ladies, contact Karen Mussoline at 352-638-3649 or Cynthia Panter at 706-633-7587.



State champion Callie Kirkpatrick



State champion Liv Wynn



State champion Skylar Hintze



## SCHOLARSHIP SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

HONORING JACOB LYNCH

JULY 13, 2024 @ 8 AM  
COLWELL FIELD AT MEEKS PARK

SCHOLARSHIPS WILL BE GIVEN YEARLY TO UNION COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL AND UNION COUNTY MOUNTAIN EDUCATION NIGHT SCHOOL

\$200 per team

Co-Ed teams welcome

\$150 Business Donation will get your business name on a T-shirt!

100 T-shirts will be sold at the tournament.

CHRISTY LYNCH  
Contact Christy  
with any questions  
706-897-4165

Payment can be given via Cash, Check, Venmo or

## Mountain High Hikers Schedule

Mountain High Hikers offers three hikes in the local area each week: Tuesdays - a long hike from 8-14 miles and a shorter hike of 5-8 miles. Thursday we lead a leisure hike usually around 5 miles.

We also maintain over 100 miles of trails in North Georgia and Western NC area and run trail maintenance hikes on Thursdays each week.

For more information visit <http://www.mountain-highhikers.org>. NT(May29/22)CA

## Learn to play Pickleball

Free Beginner Classes every Tuesday at 6 PM (weather permitting). All equipment provided and no registration needed, just show up. Courts are located on Chase Drive behind Union County Health Dept.

GA Mountain and Cooper's Creek Sportsmen for Kids presents:

# NWTF Sanctioned Turkey Calling Contest



Saturday, June 1 at 9 am  
Pat Haralson Memorial Civic Center

165 Wellborn St., Blairsville, GA 30512

- Hotdog/hamburger plates available
- Shotgun raffle • 50/50 raffle
- Silent auction