

Rivalry Week... continued from 1C

27 seconds left to give Fannin the lead.

Out of timeouts, Union was unable to regroup but quickly advanced the ball across half court and set up their offense with just over 20 seconds to play.

The ball ended up at the top of the key, in the hands of Allison, who fearlessly dribbled down the center of the lane and into the paint, where he went up strong and drew a hard foul from the Rebels' last line of defense.

"I hated using the timeouts but (Fannin) was doing a good job denying us the ball," Jones said. "We got right into our offense and Pierson (Allison) got (the ball), found a gap and was able to get to the rim."

With 11 seconds showing on the clock, Allison stepped to the line and the lefty sank both free throws, despite a timeout by Fannin County after the first make, forcing the freshman to dwell on the shot a little longer.

Allison hit nothing but met on the second attempt - giving Union County a 47-46 lead.

"He made the first, then they called timeout to try and freeze him and he goes back out there and sinks the second," Coach Jones said. "That's a big time. Pierson and Sawyer (Drake) might be classified as freshman because that's the year of school they're in, but they're not playing like freshmen."

The Rebels tried pushing the ball up the floor but Riley Barrett broke up a lengthy pass resulting in a loose ball that Crawford Colwell appeared to come up with. Fannin tried to immediately foul but didn't get the call, they did manage to jar the ball loose, however, but were unable to regain possession and the ball landed out-of-bounds, last touched by the home team.

During the free-for-all, the clock stopped after the no-call on Crawford Colwell when everyone in the gymnasium expected Fannin to foul, and when they grabbed Colwell, everyone witnessed the contact, except the official standing on top of the play.

At the end of the mayhem, one-half second was remaining on the clock and Wright was in-bounding the ball for Union from the sideline on Fannin's end of the court.

Wright was unable to find an open teammate so the Panthers' QB1 went deep for Crawford Colwell who was able to chase down the go-route on the other end of the court and get a hand on the ball to start the clock and secure the win.

"We told him to just throw it to the other end and don't throw it out-of-bounds," Jones said. "We knew Crawford would be able to get through the

traffic. In hindsight, we should have put everyone down there and just thrown it up to them, but it worked out for us."

Junior RJ Banton finished with 8 points, freshman Sawyer Drake scored 7 points with 5 assists, 5 steals, 3 rebounds and 2 blocked shots, while Wright added 6 points off the bench.

For the Rebels, Holt was held to just four second half points after scoring 23 in the first two periods - forcing Coach Jones to make an adjustment at halftime.

"We went (man-to-man) in the second half," Jones said. "We talked about it at halftime and I knew if we could control him in the second half that I would feel pretty good about our chances."

"He's a good player and we knew that keeping him in check during the second half would only play to our benefit."

The first three quarters of the game were back-and-forth with neither team gaining more than a four point advantage at any point.

Fannin jumped ahead 4-1 after a free throw from Drake put Union on the board. The Panthers responded with a 7-0 run, sparked by a 3-ball from Candler Colwell. Banton gave Union its first lead with a lay-in, then he extended the lead to four when he banked in a 15-foot.

Drake went inside for two after the Rebels knocked down a trey. Another Fannin basket pulled them within one but Drake found Wright under the basket for two for a 12-9 Panther lead. The Rebels used a 4-0 mini-run over the final 92 seconds of the first to push ahead 13-12 after one.

Union opened up four-point leads on two different occasions in the second period but Fannin closed on a 7-2 spurt for a 28-26 advantage at the break.

Drake got the second period off on the right track for the Panthers with a steal and a dish to Candler Colwell for the lay-up and 1. Banton made it a 17-13 game off another feed from Drake.

A Rebel trey was answered by a Drake lay-up - capping off a stretch where Drake scored or assisted five straight Union baskets.

With the Panthers on top 19-18, Banton swiped a Fannin pass and found Crawford Colwell for the hoop and the harm.

The old-fashioned 3-point play put Union ahead 22-18 with 4:04 to play before halftime.

A 3-point play on the other end sliced the Panther lead to one before a Wright lay-up made it a three-point game, 24-21.

Consecutive baskets pushed Fannin ahead until a

put-back by Banton with 22 seconds to go allowed Union to regain the lead.

In the final seconds, the Panthers forced another turnover but were careless with the ball, allowing Fannin to sink a 24-foot trey at the buzzer for a 28-26 Rebel lead at the half.

Crawford Colwell tied things up early in the third, then gave Union the lead with a 1-for-2 trip to the line.

Fannin regained the lead with a put-back until Drake answered with a driving lay-up for a 31-30 Union lead. A Crawford Colwell 3-point play moved the Panthers ahead by four until back-to-back Rebel treys swung momentum, and the lead, back to Fannin with 2:17 to play in the quarter.

The Rebels continued to crash the offensive glass - resulting in a bucket at the 1:22 mark of the third. Candler Colwell delivered a clutch three on the other end and Wright gave Union the lead with a lay-in on its final possession of the third.

When it comes to clutch free throw shooting, the acorn didn't fall far from the tree in the Allison family.

Pierson, the son of Union County Head Football Coach Brian Allison, has taken after his father by excelling on both the gridiron and the hardwood.

When Brian Allison played basketball for UCHS in the early 80s, he became famous throughout North Georgia for sinking some game-winning free throws of his own.

During the sub-region tournament, senior Brian Allison and Union squared off with Gilmer County and its star player John Davis at Rabun County High School.

As the game went down to the wire, neither team was able to gain a clear advantage until the Panthers caught a break when Davis fouled Brian Allison for his fifth personal.

Disagreeing with the call, Davis had a few words for the official - resulting in a technical.

The Gilmer bench also erupted in frustration, along with the Bobcat faithful that made the trip from Ellijay.

When the dust settled, multiple technical fouls were issued to Gilmer, on top of the personal foul, and Union received 10 free throws.

That's when Brian Allison stepped to the foul line, all alone, in front of a raucous Bobcat crowd and sank all 10 free throws to put Union up for good, allowing the Panthers to survive and advance.

Panthers 59, Dawson County 56 - On Wednesday, the Panthers and Dawson rekindled a rivalry that was born in the late 1990s when the two schools were members of Sub-Region 8-A North.

Winter weather delayed

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Age Groups

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5-6 CoEd - T-Ball

7-8 Boys - Machine Pitch

7-8 Girls - Machine Pitch

9-10 Boys - Baseball

9-10 Girls - Softball

11-12 Boys - Baseball

11-12 Girls - Softball

13-14 Boys - Baseball

13-14 Girls - Softball

the game by one day after canceling last weekend's games, but Union County shook off the rust and overcame an off-night shooting-wise with three different players pouring in at least a dozen points in the 59-56 victory.

Crawford Colwell finished with a game-high 19 points while getting plenty of help from his supporting cast.

Banton scored 14 and Wright added 12 to fend off the Tigers despite an abysmal performance at the foul line.

The Panthers missed 18 free throws while only connecting on 28 percent (7-for-25).

To make matters worse, Union shot just 27 percent at the line in the fourth quarter (4-for-15), and 24 percent (4-for-17) in the second half but still managed to hold on after to a four-point lead after three.

When asked how his team held on after missing 11 fourth quarter free throws, Jones answered, "that's a good question. I have no idea how we won that game."

"All I can say is, we were very, very fortunate. We've addressed (the free throw shooting) in practice and spent more time working on it so hopefully we will get better."

Dawson County hit 7-of-10 (70 percent) at the line during the final frame after struggles of their own in the early going.

The Tigers missed 7 of their first 11 free throws before correcting the situation over the final 8 minutes.

The 3-point line was just

as unkind to the Panthers, who hit just two treys on the night, while Dawson connected on five shots from long distance.

The first quarter was dead-even at 15-15 with five different Union players scoring in the opening period.

Wright and Banton each delivered a pair of buckets, Cole Davis stroked a three, and Allison scored a basket.

Crawford Colwell got off to a slow start with just 2 points over the first 8 minutes.

But he was able to get to the line during the second quarter. A 3-point play and a perfect 2-for-2 trip to the line - momentarily bucking the disappointing trend at the charity stripe - sent the junior forward into the break with 7 points.

Banton provided Union with 6 second quarter points, while Drake and Wright added one basket each - allowing the Panthers to open up some breathing room on the Tigers.

Dawson stayed within striking distance, however, as Union entered the locker room up 30-24.

The Tigers pulled within four after three thanks to the Panthers' lowest scoring quarter of the night.

Crawford Colwell was the only Panther to score more than one field goal in the third when he lead the team with 4 points.

He would double that total with 8 points in the fourth to provide half of Union's 16 points. And after missing 2-of-3 at the line, he hit his last two free throws to help seal

Bowling scores

Monday Night Ladies: Linda Nichols 213, Susan Ganitch 214, Series 556.

Monday Night Men: Ken Clark 200, 203, Stanley Tyler 214, Brandon Hartness 212, Jay Burrell 213, Randy Jones 201, Derick Rice 268, 246, 204, Series 718, Dewey Allen 218, 225, 242, Series 685, Walter Carpenter 230, Bonnell Thomas 222, Mel White 207, 257, Richard Tanner 203, Bart Rodgers 200, 205, Doug Tanner 206, Taz Matetzsch 265, 248, Series 718, Jeremiah Plott 268, 224, 218, Series 710, Tom Griffiths 216, Ron Wingate 201, Walt Whitlock 211, Justin Miller 205, Greg Wittenberg 256, Ray Everett 224.

Young @ Heart: Walter Carpenter 213, Ron Gaucher 230, 226, Mel White 278, Dewey Allen 222, Mo Rodgers 201, Bob Landis 225, 213.

the win. Wright, Banton, Candler Colwell, and Allison shared the other eight Panther points in the final period.

Monday night, Union County traveled to Andrews, NC looking for revenge from an earlier loss while seeking to even its record for the first time since they were 1-1 in late November.

The Panthers will host GAC on Friday night with the girls tipping off at 7 p.m.

Hayesville, NC will come to town on Saturday for an early tip-off of 4 p.m. for the girls.



Junior guard Candler Colwell at Fannin County. Photo/Todd Forrest



Junior post RJ Banton at Fannin County. Photo/Todd Forrest



Junior guard Bailey Daniel at Fannin County. Photo/Todd Forrest

Heartbreak... continued from 1C

Daniel split a pair at the line to get her team within two before Hill sank a trey to put the Lady Panthers on top 29-28 with just 1:07 to play in the third.

The lead was short-lived as a jumper by the Lady Rebels gave the home team a 30-29 advantage as the third frame came to a close.

The fourth began with McCarter snagging an offensive board and going back up for two. Fannin County answered with two free throws but McCarter went back to work on the other end as the two rivals traded baskets and the lead.

The Lady Panthers were unable to take advantage of a steal that led to two Union free throws with 6:41 to play but a pair of misses kept the visitors clinging to a 33-32 lead as the clock ticked under six minutes.

The Lady Rebels were able to even the score after a Union turnover resulted in a 1-for-2 trip to the line for Fannin

at the 5:30 mark. On the missed second free throw, the Lady Rebels came down with the offensive board while drawing a foul in the process. Another split at the charity stripe put Fannin back on top at 34-33.

With 5:18 remaining, Brooke Dockrey knotted the score by going 1-for-2 from the line. Seventeen seconds later, Union dodged a bullet of their own when Fannin missed a pair of free throws.

With 3:58 to go, the Lady Rebels went ahead by two by sinking a pair at the line. Then, 11 seconds later, Daniel was called for an extremely questionable charge (take a guess which referee called the foul), denying Union the opportunity to even the score.

Daniel did manage to draw a foul and go to the line (different referee, different call) where she sank two and tied the score at 36-36 with 3:05 to play.

Both teams would miss a go-ahead basket before Tucker received the technical with 2:11 remaining and Fannin opened up a four-point advantage as a result.

McCarter led Union with 8 points, Daniel scored seven, while Brooke Dockrey added 6 points. Hill and Adeline Dockrey finished with five each, Fair had four, and Wischmeyer scored three.

Rebounding leaders were McCarter with 10 and Fair with six. Fair also led the team with 3 assists while Daniel had two assists to go with a team-high 3 steals.

Adeline Dockrey and Fair each finished with 2 steals, while Fair led the team with 2 blocks.

Daniel and McCarter also blocked one shot a-piece.

Lady Panthers 38, Dawson County 61 - An 18-7 first quarter allowed the Lady Tigers to jump out to an early, double-digit advantage that they would

never relinquish.

Union was able to stop the bleeding in the second and third but Dawson pulled away for good with a 15-6 fourth quarter.

Daniel poured in a team-high 15 points on two treys and McCarter continued her steady post play with 10 points.

Coach Tucker got 7 points from Adeline Dockrey, three from Fair, and two from sophomore Jordan Rogers.

Brooke Dockrey also reached the scoring column with a second quarter free throw.

Union County will hopefully use Andrews, NC to get back on track Monday night before hosting region favorite and state title contender, Greater Atlanta Christian on Friday at 7 p.m.

Saturday, the Lady Panthers will host Hayesville, NC in a makeup game from last week. An early, 4 p.m. tip-off is scheduled for the Hayesville game.



Coach Tucker huddles his team during a timeout. Photo/Todd Forrest