

Softball: Union wins three-of-four, enters final week of summer ball

By Todd Forrest
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Union County softball continues to look solid following its second week of the preseason.

Week two got underway with a visit to Flowery Branch on Tuesday, July 16, where the Lady Panthers took care of the host Falcons, 4-3 before thumping Hart County, 10-4.

On Thursday, July 18, Union County fell 3-1 to the Lady Dragons at Jefferson. In the second game, they bounced back to dismantle Gainesville, 12-0.

During the win over the Red Elephants, Union County scored two in the first and two in the second before adding four runs in the third and fourth innings.

Every player in the Lady Panthers lineup reached and scored with Chloe Potts and Ansley Collins (who was the courtesy runner for catcher Lexi Sisum) recording two runs. Kaylee Helton scored in the first; Tori Tracy and Jaycee Seabolt scored in the second; Kaelyn Jones, Adaley Burnette and Caroline Karnes came around in the third.

Leadoff hitter Jessica Lara and Rebekah Chambers scored in the fourth. Meanwhile, Burnette and Tracy split the pitching duties for Union



Coach Mitchell's squad has one more round of summer action before the season begins. Photo/Todd Forrest

In the loss to Jefferson, Collins led off the fifth inning with a double and later scored on an Aubrie Banton RBI. Megan Bright got the nod for the Lady Panthers but didn't get much support as her offense left two runners in scoring position in the first inning and the bases loaded in the fourth.

During the 10-4 win over Hart County, Union exploded for all 10 of its runs in the third inning.

Chambers singled and scored to lead off the frame, Banton, Potts and Lara each scored after reaching on an error, Helton was hit by a pitch

and scored while Jones drew a bases loaded walk before coming around to score herself.

Burnette reached on an error and scored, Tracy smacked a two-run single before scoring, Karnes singled and scored, Seabolt walked and scored followed by RBI groundouts by Emma Roxbury and Banton.

In other action, the Lady Panthers scored three runs in the third and one in the fourth to hang on 4-3 over Flowery Branch.

Rebekah Kelley, Miranda Lockaby and Sisum each singled and scored during Union's three-run third. In the fourth,

Hannah Patton drew a two-out walk and the courtesy runner, Helton scored following a Kelley single.

The Lady Panthers visited Carrollton earlier this week before returning to Lumpkin County to finish off the summer league on Wednesday morning.



2019 Union County Softball Schedule

Date	Time	Opponent	Location
8/2	7:00	Pickens	Home
8/10	11:00	Habersham	Home
8/10	3:00	Commerce	Home
8/12	5:55	Lumpkin	Lumpkin
8/14	3:45	North Forsyth	North Gwinnett
8/14	5:40	Jackson	North Gwinnett
8/19	5:55	Gilmer	Gilmer
8/21	5:30	Pickens	Pickens
8/22	5:30	Monticello*	Home
8/24	11:00	East Hall	East Hall
8/24	1:00	Stephens	East Hall
8/27	5:30	Elbert*	Elbert*
8/29	5:30	Putnam*	Home
9/4	5:55	Lumpkin	Home
9/5	5:00	Social Circle*	Social Circle*
9/10	5:30	Banks*	Home
9/12	5:30	Oglethorpe*	Oglethorpe*
9/14	11:00	Heard	UWG
9/14	1:00	Newman	UWG
9/16	6:00	Madison	UNG
9/17	5:30	Rabun*	Home
9/18	5:55	Gilmer	Home
9/23	5:55	East Hall	Home
9/25	TBA	Region Playoff	TBA
9/26	TBA	Region Playoff	TBA



Lady Panther shortstop Miranda Lockaby fires across the diamond to first base. Photo/Todd Forrest

Union 14U All-Stars wins World Series tourney



Union County's 14U baseball team shows off its World Series rings. The Panthers came home as champions following last weekend's World Series All-Star Baseball Tournament in Douglasville. After opening pool play with a 2-1 loss to Union City, the Panthers defeated Hapeville, 7-4 to earn a No. 3 seed. In the rematch with Union City, the Panthers took care of business 13-2. In the championship, Union County needed nine innings to knock off Hapeville, 5-4 to claim their World Series rings. A full recap of the Panthers' championship performance will be available in the July 31 edition of the *North Georgia News*. Team members (L-R): Coach Gene Vinez, Jace Vinez, Tyler Richards, Chris Fletcher, Coach Eric Laney, Cole Laney, John Ledford, Isaac Cole, Coach Derek Richards, Moses Stevens, Nate Lands, Ty Laney, Stein Harkins, Hunter Fleming, James McPherson and Will Duncan.

UCHS Cross Country releases 2019 schedule

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Union County Cross County will officially begin its State title defenses on Thursday, Aug. 22 when they open the season with the annual Meeks Park meet.

A week later, Union will travel to Chestatee for a Thursday, Aug. 29 meet, then visit an old region foe at North Hall on Thursday, Sept. 5.

The Panthers continue their tour of Hall County when they visit West Hall on Sept. 10. On Sept. 17, Union County will participate in the Gilmer meet, but the following day they will head to Fields of the Wood in



Union's Zoe Sanchez swept last year's Region 8-AA and State meets. Photo/TF

Hiwassee Dam, North Carolina for the second meet in a rare cross country back-to-back.

The Panthers remain in the Tarheel State for a Sept. 26 meet at Hayesville. On Oct. 3, Union County will visit Unicoi State Park in Helen for one of the most competitive races of the season.

Although nothing is on the schedule at this time, Union County is expected to add another race during the week of Oct. 7, according to head coach Paige Dyer.

The team will take off for Fall Break before returning for Region at Oglethorpe County on Oct. 24. Finally, State will take place on Nov. 2 in Carrollton.

North Georgia Rapids concludes Summer season



Despite being one of the smaller teams in the league, the North Georgia Rapids are consistently in the mix as one of its top teams. The *North Georgia News* would like to congratulate these young men and women on their success.

Old Union G.C. Skins Challenge winners



The group of Hack Roberson, Tommy Smith, Frankie Roberson and Bobby Roberson took home \$1,300 on Thursday, July 11. Old Union Golf Course hosts a 9-hole Skins Challenge each Thursday at 5 p.m. Everyone is welcome to participate.

MUSA's Colorful Run 5K benefit race Aug. 31

Go online and register for Blairsville's first EVER colorful run 5k. This is open to kids, adults, grandparents, runners, walkers, joggers - anyone who would like some exercise while getting showered in color!

You can register online now at <https://endurancecui.active.com/event-reg/select-race?e=63477154>.

Make sure to register by August 5th to assure you get a shirt and the size you would like as after that date it will be while supplies last! If you would like to sponsor and be on the shirt message us and we will get you on there!

All monies will go to help kids with their individual registration costs.



Local Racing Report: Tri-County

Brasstown, NC - Tri-County Racetrack hosted racing on July 12th with the Street Stock Summer Shootout, the Blue Ridge Outlaw Late Models and a big fireworks show for Independence Day. Here are the top five from each class.

Street Stock - Coming in first was No. 99 Jim Twiggs as he led flag-to-flag. Coming in second was No. 21 Troy Turner, finishing in third was No. 01 Jacob Lynch and coming in fourth was No. 5 Carson Shields. Finishing in fifth was No. 95 Alex Vance

Hobby 602 - Coming in first was No. 6 Mark Willbanks. Coming second was No. 7 Jamie Oliver. Finishing in third was

No. 818 Jeffrey Wood. Finishing in fourth was No. 34 Greg Sudderth. Finishing in fifth was No. 88 Ricky Smith.

Crate - Coming in first was No. 7 (The Real Deal) Jason Deal. Coming in second was No. 14 Sylvan Schute. Coming in third was No. 200 Jacob Anderson. Finishing in fourth was No. 3 Floyd Self. Finishing in fifth was No. 12 Drew Deaver.

Blue Ridge Outlaw Late Models - Coming in first was No. 8 (The Coach) David Payne. Coming in second was No. X15 Shawn Chastain. Coming third was No. 4H Levi Hicks. Coming in fourth was No. 85 Hot Rod LaMance. Finishing in fifth was No. 55 Kip Cochran.

Beginner 602 - Coming in first was No. C5 Cade Cagle. Coming in second was No. 56 Colton Berrong. Coming in third was No. 149 Seth Speed. Coming in fourth was No. 13 Josh Lewis. Finishing in fifth was No. 44 Jay Lynch

FWD - Coming in first was No. 2 Logan Exum. Coming in second was No. 32 Justin Queen. Coming in third was No. 29R Sean Rice. Finishing in fourth was No. J3 Josh Deese. Finishing in fifth was No. 21 Stephen Godfrey.

The next Event will be Tuesday, July 23 at 7 p.m. with the regular program and the Shaeffer's Oil Late Model Series.

Football: Meet the Team set for Aug. 23



Panther football's annual Meet the Team event is scheduled for Friday, Aug. 23 at 7 p.m. Photo/Todd Forrest