

Softball: Lady Panthers split with Habersham Central, Commerce

By Todd Forrest
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Senior pitcher Megan Bright opened 2019 with a masterful performance in the circle, shutting out Habersham Central, 7-0 at Union County's Diamond Day on Saturday, Aug. 10.

Bright, who took a no-hitter into the fourth inning, allowed only three hits and saw just two runners reach scoring position as she recorded the first complete game shutout of her career.

"It all started with Megan [Bright]," Union head coach Stephen Mitchell said. "She was very efficient, she pitched to contact and we played good defense behind her."

At the dish, senior Mary Wischmeyer gave the Lady Panthers an early lead with a two-out, RBI single in the bottom half of the first. The four-year starter would finish 2-for-4 with two runs, an RBI and a stolen base.

Sophomore Lexi Sisum opened the third with her first single during a 3-for-4 day at the plate. A Miranda Lockaby walk and an error off the bat of Wischmeyer would load the bases for junior Trinity Queen, who singled in a run.

Sophomores Caley Davis and Ansley Collins added one RBI each on a hit by pitch and a sacrifice fly, respectively.

On top 4-0, the Lady Panthers put things away with three more in the fourth to open up a 7-0 advantage. A two-out single and a steal by Sisum allowed Lockaby to bring her around with a base hit.

Wischmeyer and Queen each singled and Davis drew a walk before the Raiders finally



Mary Wischmeyer drives in the first run of the season in the first inning of Saturday's win over Habersham. It proved to be the game-winner as Megan Bright recorded a complete game shutout. Photo/Todd Forrest

escaped the inning. Sophomore leadoff hitter Rebekah Kelley finished 1-for-4, Lockaby went 3-for-3 with three runs and a hit by pitch.

Queen went 3-for-4, Davis reached base twice during an 0-for-1 day at the plate and Collins was 0-for-2 with an RBI.

In the second game, junior Trinity Queen got the nod but received no help from her defense as Union County looked like a completely different team than the one fresh off a 7-0 victory.

Commerce took advantage of four Lady Panther errors in the first inning as they jumped out front 2-0. The Lady Tigers would never trail as they pulled away for an 8-3 victory.

"In the first game, we looked about as good as you can look, and then in the second

game, we looked about as bad as a team can possibly look," coach Mitchell said.

Two runs, two errors and two innings later, Union County found themselves trailing 4-0 in the third when they momentarily roared back to life.

Sophomore Emma Roxbury opened the frame with a base hit, followed by a Hannah Patton walk. With one out and two runners in scoring position, Sisum just missed a homer when she cut the Commerce lead in half with a two-run double that bounced back into play after it caromed off the top of the right-centerfield fence.

With two-down and Union trailing 4-2, Wischmeyer scored Sisum with a base hit to left-center, pulling the Lady Panthers within a run at 4-3.

Unfortunately, Commerce

responded with three runs in the fourth after they were aided by two Union County errors. Another error would allow the Tigers to pull away with two more in the seventh.

"That's the mark of a really good team," Mitchell said. "We were able to get back in it but Commerce responded. They are well coached and have a great team this year."

The Lady Panthers visited Lumpkin County on Monday before taking part in a one-day tournament at North Gwinnett on Wednesday. Union won't be back at home until Thursday, Aug. 22 when they open region play with Monticello.

"We'll be playing 6A and 7A schools this week [at North Gwinnett] to help prepare us for a very good region," Mitchell added.

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	Newnan	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



Sophomore Lexi Sisum went 3-for-4 vs Habersham. Later, she blasted a two-run double vs Commerce. Photo/Todd Forrest

Volleyball: Union County drops opener; look to bounce back this week

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The Union County volleyball season got underway with consecutive losses to a pair of quality teams from Class AAA and AAAA.

The Panthers began 2019 with 2-0 losses to Dawson County (25-10, 25-15) and Gilmer (25-21, 25-23) at home on Thursday, Aug. 8.

In the loss to Dawson, the Tigers led wire-to-wire in both sets as Union County worked out the first-game jitters against an opponent that reached the second round of the Class AAA State Tournament in 2018.

"We showed a heck-of-a-lot better effort in the second game than we did in the first," Union County coach Megan Swanson said after the match. "Dawson County was obviously the much better team but I think nerves were the biggest issue in the first match. That and Dawson being a very difficult challenge. They would be tough either way."

In the second set, the Panthers put up a fight but the experienced Tigers proved too much in the 10-point win.

In the first set vs Gilmer, Union County found themselves playing catch-up, eventually falling just short. The second set, however, was all Union in the early going.

Jumping out to an 11-2 lead, the Bobcats battled back to take a 14-13 advantage as the teams swapped leads for the remainder of the set. Unfortunately, the Panthers were the victims of a pair of questionable calls that could have been the difference in a 25-23 contest.

"After we got the nerves out of the way, we are able



The Union County varsity (and JV) played in front of a packed house in the opener. Photos by Todd Forrest

to put some things together against Gilmer but wound up blowing a nine-point lead. One of the things I'm hoping our girls will learn how to do is put teams away. Especially when we're up by nine points."

This week, Union County will visit Fannin County on Tuesday for a tri-match with the Rebels and Murray County, beginning at 5 p.m..

The Panthers return home on Thursday to debut the high school gym's first-ever volleyball match when Andrews, North Carolina comes to town for a 5 p.m. start.

"I'd love to see everyone come out and support us on our new home court," Coach Swanson said. "We had a great crowd tonight here at the middle school and

I'm thankful for the support. Hopefully, we can fill up the high school gym [on Thursday] and everyone comes out to show these girls just how special they are."

Union County will also be at home on Monday, Aug. 19 when they host Hiwassee Dam, NC at the high school gymnasium.



The Union County JV was also in action at last week's season opener vs Dawson County and Gilmer. Photo/Todd Forrest

Date	Opponent	Time	Location
8/8	Dawson Co. / Gilmer Co.	JV/V - 5:00 & 7:00	Home
8/13	Fannin Co. / Murray Co.	5:00 & 6:00	Away - Fannin
8/15	Andrews, NC	V 5:00	Home
8/19	Hiwassee Dam, NC	JV 5:00 / V 6:00	Home
8/20	Gilmer Co. / Fannin Co.	5:00 / 6:00	Away - Gilmer
8/22	Fannin Co. / Stephens Co.	JV/V - 5:00 & 7:00	Home
8/27	Pickens Co.	JV 6:00 / V 7:00	Home
8/29	East Hall/ Johnson/ Eastside	V - 5:00, 6:00 & 7:00	Away - East Hall
9/3	Lumpkin / Prince Avenue Academy	5:00 & 6:00	Away - Lumpkin
9/9	Hayesville, NC	JV/V 5:00 & 6:00	Home
9/10	Lumpkin Co. /	JV/V - 5:00 & 7:00	Home
9/12	White Co. / East Hall	JV/V 5:00 & 7:00	Away - White Co
9/16	Hiwassee Dam, NC	JV 5:00 / Varsity 6:00	Away - HD
9/17	Dawson Co. / Alcovy / Athens Christian	V - 5:00, 6:00 & 7:00	Away - Dawson Co
9/24	Oglethorpe/Washington Wilkes*	V - 5:00 & 7:00	Home
9/26	Rabun/Putnam* - Tri-match	V - 6:00 & 7:00	Away - Rabun
9/30	Hayesville, NC	JV 5:00 / Varsity 6:00	Away - Hayesville
10/1	Lake Oconee Academy*	V - 5:00 & 7:00	Home
10/8	Region Tournament**		
10/10	Region Tournament**		TBA

Updated UC volleyball schedule

Football: Meet the Team Aug. 23



Union County football's annual Meet the Team event is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Friday Aug. 23 at Mike Colwell Memorial Stadium.

MUSA 'Colorful Run' 5K benefit race scheduled for 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://enduranceui.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 a full program Friday night, plus Super Late Models, Tuff Trucks and a Demo Derby. Here are the top five from each class.

Hobby 602 - Coming in first was No. 37 Michael Barnett. Finishing in second was No. 34 Greg Sudderth. Coming in third was No. 88 Ricky Smith. Coming in fourth was No. 81 John Howard and coming in fifth was No. 44 Bobby Elkins.

Street Stock - Coming in first was No. 99 Jim Twigg. Coming in second was No. 51 Mack English. Coming in third was No. 5 Carson Shields. Coming in fourth was No. J69 Jim Weller. Coming in fifth was No. 21 Troy Turner.

Pony - Coming in first was No. 10 Barry Cross. Coming in second was No. 32J Franklin Burk Jr. Coming in third was No. 28 Kevin Mulkey. Coming in fourth was No. X Adam Brooks. Finishing in fifth was No. 22 Tucker Anderson.

ing in first was No. 8 David Payne. Coming in second was No. 38 Jamie Oliver. Coming in third was No. X15 Shawn Chastain. Finishing in fourth was No. 17 Kurt English. Coming in fifth was No. 00 Johnny Chastain.

Crate - Coming in first was No. 7 Jason Deal. Coming in second was No. 4 Danny Ledford. Finishing in third was No. 200 Jacob Anderson. Finishing in fourth was No. 14 Sylvan Schutte. Coming in fifth was No. 12 Drew Deaver.

FWD - Coming in first was No. 2 Logan Exum. Coming in second was No. J3 Josh Deese. Coming in third was No. K3 Sandi Klauke. Coming in fourth was No. 32 Justin Queen. Coming in fifth was No. 29R Sean Rice.

Beginner 602 - Coming in first was No. 56 Colton Berrong. Coming in second was No. 32 Franklin Burk. Coming in third was No. 87 Dante Curtis. Coming in fourth was No. 18 Lucas Beaver. Coming in fifth was No. 44 Jay Lynch

Cheer: Young Harris College earns silver bid for nationals



Myrtle Beach, SC - The Young Harris College competitive cheerleaders earned a bid to nationals as the Mountain Lions took part in the National Cheerleaders Association Cheerleading Camp last weekend (Aug. 9-11) at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center.

The large coed team, despite having to compete in the hardest division, earned a silver bid to the 2020 NCA Collegiate Cheer and Dance Championship April 8-12 in Daytona Beach, Florida.

The Mountain Lions were

the only NCAA Division II institution in their three-team division and competed against NCAA Division I institutions University of South Carolina and Clemson University. Young Harris bested Clemson in the rally competition.

It will be the eighth consecutive year that Young Harris has made the trip to nationals and the sixth time the Mountain Lions have earned a silver bid. The large coed team finished second at the 2019 championship.