

Softball: Lady Panthers break even vs AAAAAA and AAAA competition

By Todd Forrest
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The first week of Union County Softball is in the books and the Lady Panthers are sitting at 2-2 with a pair of bookend victories at Habersham Central and Pickens.

The season got underway Monday with a doubleheader at Class AAAAAA Habersham - resulting in a split.

Union County took game one, 8-2 behind a complete game from sophomore Trinity Queen and three runs by senior Maddie Sutton.

Trailing 2-0 in the first, the Lady Panthers responded with eight-unanswered runs, then sat through an hour-long lightning delay to record the win.

Union, who was the home team in game one, got on the board with a run in the second, then took the lead with two in the third.

Leading 3-2 in the fifth, the Lady Panthers broke things wide open with four runs in the bottom half of the inning. They tacked on an insurance run in the sixth.

In the second game, Union fell into a 3-0 hole but battled back with two in the fifth and one in the sixth.

Tied at 3-3, the Lady Raiders exploded for eight runs in the bottom of the sixth to take an 11-3 victory.

"We're still a work-in-progress and we're trying to put the right pieces together," Union County first-year coach Stephen Mitchell said. "We're still adjusting to the speed of the game and we hope to get better mentally. If we get better mentally, we'll be better physically."

On Tuesday, the Lady Panthers hosted Pickens in the home opener and came out on the wrong side of a 4-3 score.

A Hannah Patton run in



Senior outfielder Aladriel Arnold watches her grand slam sail over the fence at Pickens. She finished with 6 RBIs in the first inning. Photo/Todd Forrest

the first gave Union a 1-0 advantage that lasted until the fifth, when Pickens put four on the board.

In the bottom half of the fifth, Bailey Rayfield pulled the Lady Panthers within one with a two-run, two-out single.

Unfortunately, that's as close as Union would get as the Lady Dragons held off the home team's comeback bid.

On Thursday, the Lady Panthers traveled to Pickens to complete the home-and-home series with the Class AAAA Lady Dragons.

The game got a late start due to rain showers and lightning, but once things got underway, it was Union that brought the thunder.

The Lady Panthers sent 19 batters to the plate during a 15-run, top-half of the first in-

ning, en route to a 22-2, three inning victory.

"We challenged them at practice on Wednesday and I'm proud of the way they responded," Mitchell said. "We put a challenge in front of them and they definitely answered the bell."

In her first plate appearance, Aladriel Arnold sent a towering grand slam over the left-centerfield fence.

Later in the inning, she returned to the plate with the bases loaded, once again. This time, the senior lined a shot off the left field fence, just missing her second grand slam of the inning by a few feet.

Her two-run double gave her 6 RBIs - a career high all in one inning.

Following a walk in her first at-bat, Rayfield crushed a

3-run shot to centerfield to spot Union a 15-run advantage.

The Lady Panthers added four in the second and three in the third as junior Megan Bright limited the Lady Dragons to just a pair of runs - ending the game after three innings, via the mercy rule.

"(Queen) and (Bright) have done a good job but we still have some work to do," Mitchell said. "Overall, they've done pretty well. Walks are pretty low and pitch counts are getting closer to where we want them. But they're working hard and giving us a chance in every game, and that's all you can ask of your pitchers."

After hosting Dawson on Monday, Union visits Towns at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, then Lumpkin at 5:55 p.m. Thursday.



Bailey Rayfield crushes a 3-run homer at Pickens. Photo/Todd Forrest



Trinity Queen recorded a win at Habersham. Photo/Todd Forrest

UCHS Volleyball opens this week

UCHS VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULE 2018

| Date | Opponent | JV Time | V Time | Location |
|------|-------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------|
| 8/13 | Hiwassee Dam | 5:00 | 6:00 | Away |
| 8/14 | Fannin/White | 5:00/6:00/7:00 | | Home |
| 8/16 | Pickens | 5:00 | 5:00 | Home |
| 8/20 | Andrews | 6:00 | 5:00 | Away |
| 8/21 | Gilmer | 6:00 | 5:00 | Home |
| 8/23 | Gordan Central | 5:00 | 4:00 | Away |
| 8/27 | Hiwassee Dam | 6:00 | 5:00 | Home |
| 8/28 | @Fannin w/Rabun | 5:00/6:00/7:00 | | Away |
| 9/4 | @Lake Oconee/Putnam* | 5:00 | | Away |
| 9/6 | Gilmer | 5:00 | | Away |
| 9/10 | Andrews | 5:00 | 6:00 | Home |
| 9/11 | Rabun w/Lumpkin* | Varsity Only | 5:00 | Home |
| 9/13 | @White | 6:00 | 5:00 | Away |
| 9/18 | Putnam* | 5:00 | | Away |
| 9/20 | @East Hall w/Lanier Christian | 5:00 | 5:00 | Away |
| 9/25 | Region Tournament | 9/27 | Region Tournament | |

Meet the Players - Friday



This Friday, Aug. 17, Union County High School will host its annual Meet the Team event at Mike Colwell Memorial Stadium from 5:30 p.m. until 7 p.m. Players will be available for autographs and photos.

Union County Recreation Department Basketball Registration Begins Monday, August 20th

Effective this season by GRPA, age control date has changed: Age you are August 31st is the age group you play in.

Age Group
5/6 yr olds co-ed
7/8 yr olds
9/10 yr olds
11-12 yr olds

Registration Ends
September 28th
September 28th
October 26th
October 26th

Registration fee is \$50 and open to both boys and girls. Registration can be completed online at unioncountyga.gov or at the Recreation Office located at 310 Wellborn Street. If you need any additional information, please call 706-439-6074.

Trout stocking sites week of August 6-10, 2018

Fannin: Big Creek, Rock Creek, Toccoa River and Toccoa River Tailwaters (below Lake Blue Ridge Dam)
Lumpkin: Etowah River and Nimbellewill Creek
Union: Cooper Creek and Toccoa River.

Note: Information is subject to change. Please call the hatchery at 706-838-4723 for questions. Stay up-to-date with stocking and events through Facebook www.facebook.com/chattahoocheeforestnfh. The hatchery also provides trout for the state. Please contact Georgia DNR for information on sites stocked by the state. 8/15/2018

FULL-OF-LIFE Outdoor Exercise and Walking Program Union County Recreation Department Fall 2018 Session

Ages: 50 and over



It is quickly approaching the end of summer! Are you interested in exercising outdoors in the cooler weather? Do you feel you need to be outdoors and moving? The Program Director of Union County Parks and Recreation will be developing groups for a free walking session two times a week, and instructing two days a week of free outdoor exercise using our park equipment. Both walking and outdoor exercise run for 6 weeks in the upcoming fall session! We have two levels of walking to choose from. Meeting times run for approximately 60 minutes.

Fall Session 2018 Registration begins on August 13, 2018 and ends August 31, 2018 at the Recreation Office (310 Wellborn St.)

Registration must be done in person. If you have any questions, you can call (706) 439-6074 and ask for Jennifer.

Butternut Creek Ladies Golf Association



Butternut Creek Ladies Golf Association

Every spring since 1985, a group of ladies have dusted off their golf clubs and have begun another fun season of the Butternut Creek Ladies Golf League. The BCLGA began as a small group of local ladies who loved golf and created the league to foster interest, enjoyment, and competition in the sport. This group has grown tremendously and is currently an organized league with 51 registered members. Many members are full time residents of Blairsville and the surrounding area, but more than half live here only during the summer and early fall months, golfing and enjoying the beauty of the North Georgia and North Carolina mountains.

Beginning in April, the BCLGA plays every Thursday morning at 9 a.m., at the Butternut Creek Golf Course. League play continues through the first week of October. On league days, the ladies compete in a variety of formats and games, including stroke play, scramble, best ball, etc. Each golfer must maintain a handicap, and weekly winners are determined by flights which enables golfers of all levels to participate. Local golfers continue to play throughout the fall and winter months, weather permitting, in a more informal format.

The BCLGA is involved in many activities throughout the season. Each year the league sponsors a Ladies Invitational

Tournament in which 75 to 80 golfers from all over the region participate. In addition, the annual Sadie Hawkins Tournament is held to support local charity, and several Nine and Dine tournaments are planned to include women and men in fun, social events.

All ladies who are interested in golf are encouraged to join the BCLGA. Butternut Creek is a beautiful mountain course and we appreciate the support of the course administration and county leadership. For more information about our league, you are invited to visit our website <http://www.butternutcreeklga.com> or contact our president, Karen Mussoline, at mussoline2@gmail.com. 8/15/2018

Local Racing results: Blue Ridge

By Blake Lynch
Racing Reporter
North Georgia News

Blue Ridge Motorsports hosted a race on August 10 with an \$800-to-win, street stock shootout.

Here are the top five from each class:

Pony - Coming in first place was No. 32 Franklin Burk. Finishing in second place was No. 20R Russell Teal. Coming in third place was No. 43 Tain Ross.

Crate - Coming in first place was No. 22 Jamison Earley. Coming in second place was No. 7 Jason Deal. Coming in third place was No. 12 Rodney Weeks. Finishing in fourth place was No. 1 Junior Whitener. Finishing in fifth was No. 49 Bo Stanley.

Limited - Coming to the checkered flag was No. 4 Danny Ledford. Coming in second place was No. 30 Daren Dilbeck. Coming in third place was No. 4 Trigg Parris. Coming in fourth place was No. 16w Wesley English. Finishing in fifth place was No. 56 Kip Cochran.

Vinson Sims Hot-Shots - Coming in first place was No. 22 Tucker Anderson. Finishing in second place was No. 43 Franklin Burk Jr. Chase Norton in the



The Lynch brothers side-by-side

No. 55 car came in third. No. 8 Ricky Queen came in fourth. No. 01 Brent Lynch came in fifth place.

FWD - Coming in first place was No. 05 Hunter Hughes. Coming in second place was No. 20 Mike Robertson. Finishing third place was No. 33 Josh Deese. No. 02 Jim Exum came in fourth place. No. 30 Maddox Hughes came in fifth.

Modified Hobby - No. 88 Ricky Smith came in first place. Coming in second was No. 17 Brad Thomas. No. 44 Lynn Burchfield came in third. Coming in fourth place was No. 28 Dannie Patterson. Finishing in fifth place was No. 4 Jacob

Parris. **Beginner 602** - Coming in first place was No. 31 Jason Walston. Coming in second place was No. 2 Randy Roberts. Finishing in third place was No. 35 Dillon Daves. Coming in fourth place was No. 41 Jeff Holloway. Coming in fifth place was No. 25 Jacob Hamby.

Street Stock - Coming in first place was No. 14 Charles Devine Jr. Finishing in second place was No. 69 Jim Weller. Finishing third was No. 31 Logan Exum. Coming in fourth place was No. 1 Chad Sellers. Coming in fifth place was No. 192 Jay Lynch.