

# Softball: Union County back in State Tournament for ninth time in 10 years

By Todd Forrest  
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The Lady Panthers survived a scare from Elbert County in the first round of the 8-AA Region Tournament to advance to the region semifinals and punch their ticket to State.

In the best-of-three series with 5th seeded Elbert County, the 4-seed Union County needed three games to eliminate the Lady Blue Devils after dropping game one 4-3.

The Lady Panthers bounced back with a 9-6 victory to force a winner-take-all game three on Thursday.

An Aladriel Arnold homer allowed Union to take an early 1-0 lead in game three. Later, a Mary Wischmeyer two-run double made it 3-0 before a two-hour rain delay halted the momentum.

With play resuming in the sixth, Elbert pulled within a run at 3-2 but the Lady Panthers tacked on an insurance run in the bottom of the sixth.

Trailing 4-2, the Lady Blue Devils brought the tying run to the plate but junior pitcher Megan Bright induced a pop-up to end the game and the series.

Bright got the start in the circle but gave way to Trinity Queen following the delay. Union County Head Softball Coach Stephen Mitchell allowed Bright to finish what she started, going back to the junior



Junior pitcher Megan Bright (left) saw action in all three games -- recording both wins -- vs Elbert County; senior Skyler Ludlum remains one of Union County's most consistent hitters as the Lady Panther seniors have been afforded one more State Tournament after missing out as juniors in Class AAA. Photos/Todd Forrest

in the seventh. "Queen has been the workhorse for us all year long but at the Morgan County tournament, Megan (Bright) kind of reemerged and she was very effective," Mitchell said. "You've got to have two quality pitchers and (Bright) has done a lot of work."

"After sitting there for two hours in the delay, we didn't know what to do, so I went with my gut and went back to Trinity (Queen). She threw the ball well but we felt in that situation we needed to

bring back Megan (Bright) and she got the job done."

In game one, Union County fell into an early 1-0 hole before a Miranda Lockaby RBI single tied things up in the fourth.

Elbert would open up a 4-1 advantage thanks to a 3-run sixth inning and that proved to be just enough as they held on 4-3.

Down 4-3, the Lady Panthers had two runners in scoring position with two down in the seventh but were unable to deliver the game-winning hit.

"We out-hit them 14-7 but just couldn't get hits with runners in scoring position," Mitchell said. "Sometimes we just put too much pressure on ourselves."

The second game of the Wednesday twin bill saw Union County secure early leads of 3-0 and 4-2 before blowing things open at 9-2 with a five-run third.

Elbert would get a run in the sixth before adding three more in the seventh for a 9-6 final.

"I thought we played a



Senior Skyler Ludlum remains one of Union County's most consistent hitters as the Lady Panther seniors have been afforded one more State Tournament after missing out as juniors in Class AAA. Photos/Todd Forrest

very complete series, defensively," Mitchell said. "I didn't have us with any errors (in the series) and if we're going to make any kind of noise in the next few rounds, we're going to have to play that kind of defense. But I was really proud of our kids and their great defense."

The Lady Panthers will visit top-seeded Monticello on Tuesday with the region title game and consolation games to be played Thursday, also at Monticello.

Union County will face

the winner/loser of Banks County and Social Circle on Thursday. Next week, State Tournament play will begin as Region 8-AA is matched up with Region 5-AA in the first round.

"We'll be keeping an eye on 5-AA, which is kind of my old stomping grounds," Mitchell said. "I may try to go down there and check them out on Saturday. That region will be Bremen, Heard (County), Lamar (County), and Callaway but I'm not sure in what order yet."

## Volleyball: Union places fourth following 2-1 loss to Oglethorpe



Union County volleyball knocked off Washington-Wilkes last week to clinch a spot in the upcoming Class AA State Tournament. They would later fall to Lake Oconee Academy to set up a consolation game match with Oglethorpe County at Rabun County High School. Oglethorpe would jump out front 15-4 before eventually taking game one 25-19. Union answered with a 25-22 win in game two then led 17-13 in game three before the Lady Patriots rallied for a 25-19 victory to take third in Region 8-AA. The Lady Panthers finish fourth. Photos/Todd Forrest

## XC: Union County sweeps at Hayesville; girls win at Gilmer



Steven Seiler placed fourth at Hayesville, NC last week with a time of 18:10 while Luke Gambrell was second at 17:30. The duo led Union to a first place team finish. Meanwhile, Zoe Sanchez's time of 20:14 was first overall as the short-handed Lady Panthers also finished atop the team rankings. Latty Ryals was fourth, Sadie Underwood placed fifth, Jessie Holbrook came in 16th and Rachel Reed was 18th. In the guys race, Hunter Hartzog was sixth, Nolan Bachman placed 10th, and Thomas Mellendorf came in 12th. In the previous week's race, the Union girls took home first at Gilmer while the guys placed second. Photo/Todd Forrest

## Youth football forces another split



Union prays following a game earlier this year. Photo/Blake Lynch

By Blake Lynch  
Staff Writer  
North Georgia News

**9U Panthers** - Union took on the West Hall Spartans and it was a blow out.

On the first drive of the game, No.31 Kevin Kilpatrick scored a touchdown but the extra point was no good. Then, later in the game, No.1 Brandon Lynch scored the first of two touchdowns to go along with two fumble recoveries.

No.30 Kingston Jones also scored a touchdown for Union. The final was 30-6 to

improve to 4-1 on the season. The team dedicated their game to Lassister Windsor, a teammate that was recently injured in a car accident.

**10U Panthers** - It was another close one, coming down to the fourth quarter when West Hall scored a touchdown with the PAT.

Union's game winning drive was stopped on fourth down at the West Hall 20-yard line, allowing the Spartans to escape with the 7-0 win.

The Panthers are still looking for their first win this season.

### Union County Recreation Department

**2018 Morning and Evening Step-Aerobics Late Fall Session**  
Ages: 50 and over

Time to move indoors for Fall exercise? We have the program just for you! Union County Recreation Department sign-ups for our very popular Step-Aerobics fitness classes begin now! If you are looking for an indoor exercise program to fit your work schedule and other needs, then come on down and join us for Step-Aerobics.



The Program Director of Union County Parks and Recreation will be leading Step-Aerobics sessions two times a week for late October through late December for 50 minutes each class. This is a great time to socialize and exercise with a fun group for a very low cost of \$10 for 16 classes!

Step-Aerobics Registration begins on September 24, 2018 and ends October 19, 2018 (or until classes fill up) at the Recreation Office (310 Wellborn Street).

Registration must be done in person due to class size limits. If you have any questions, please call our office at (706) 439-6074.

### Local Racing Report: Tri-County

By Blake Lynch  
Staff Writer  
North Georgia News

Tri-County Racetrack hosted the 15th Annual Tarheel 50. This was Tri-County's first \$10,000 top prize and it brought a packed house. Here's the top five from each class.

The 602 event was a fast dash sponsored by Bob and Lori Farver in memory of their son TJ.

**Street Stock** - Coming in first place was No. 14 Charles Devine Jr. Coming in second place was No. 69 Jim Weller. Finishing in third place was No. 7d Dylan Truhan. Coming in fourth place was No. 26 Trevor Parker. Coming in fifth place was No. 01 Jacob Lynch.

**FWD** - Coming in first place was No. k3 James Klauckle. Coming in second place was No. 32 Jim Exum. Coming in third place was No. 14 Charles Devine Jr. Coming in fourth place was No. A93 Nathan Adams. Coming in fifth place was No. 74 DJ Worley.

**Tarheel 50** - Coming in first place was No. 101 Casey Roberts.

Coming in second place was No. 87 Ross Bailey. Coming in third place was No. 79 Michael Brown. Coming in fourth place was No. 1c Kenny Collins. Coming in fifth place was No. 0 Scott Bloomquist.

**Pony** - Coming in first place was No. 32 Franklin Burk. Coming in second place was No. 43 Tain Ross. Coming in third place was No. 11 Ricky Dyer. Coming in fourth place was No. 15 Ryan Crawford. Coming in fifth place was No. 7 Shannon Elliot.

**Beginner 602** - Coming in first place was No. E7 Evan Winkler Jr. Coming in second place was No. 25 Jacob Hamby. Coming in third place was No. 34 Jim Madden. Coming in fourth place was No. 45 Dillon Daves.

**602 Thunder Series** - Coming in first place was No. 11 Dustin Morris. Coming in second place was No. fast5 Kenny Taylor. Coming in third place was No. 4 Billy Rushton. Coming in fourth place No. 81 John Howard. Coming fourth place was No. 27 Mike Davidson.

### Union County Recreation Department Basketball Registration

Open for 9-12 year old boys and girls

Registration ends October 26th



Registration fee is \$50. Registration can be completed online at unioncountygga.gov or at the Recreation Office located at 310 Wellborn Street.

If you need any additional information, please call 706-439-6074.

Effective this season by GRPA, age control date has changed.

Age you are August 31st is the age group you play in.