

Sports

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Panthers drop third straight, 52-21 to Dawson County

With the bye week approaching, Union looks for first region win Friday at North Hall

By Todd Forrest
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Dawson County (4-2, 2-0) outscored the Panthers 24-0 in the second quarter before reeling off 28 unanswered in the third to open up a 52-7 lead heading into the fourth.

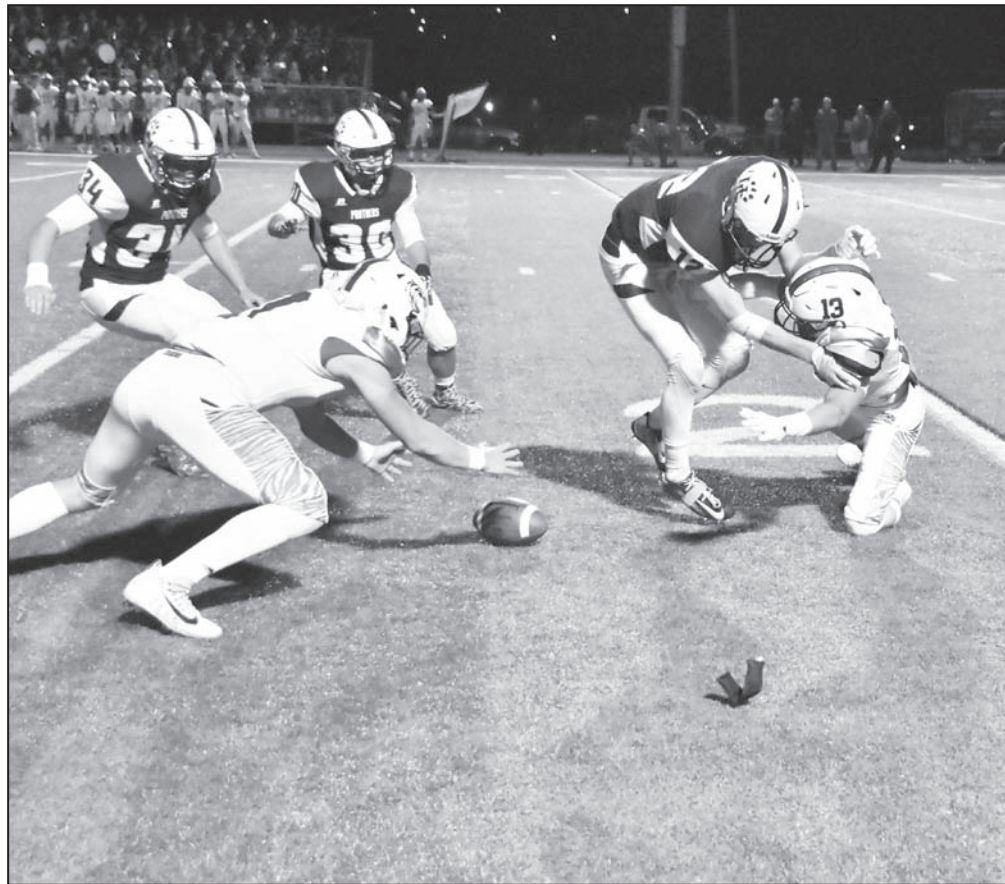
The loss is Union's third straight overall and second straight at home after opening the season 4-0. The Panthers must win each of the final three games to extend its state tournament streak to five years.

"We've played three really good teams in-a-row and have been dealing with adversity," Head Coach Brian Allison said. "The injuries have been continuous and it's just been one of those years that you hate to see come along, but it happens every now and again."

On Friday night, both offenses were unable to find any traction in the early going as the first three offensive possessions ended with punts. With 4:07 left in the first and still no score, the Tigers took over at their own 22 following Union's second punt of the quarter. A first down penalty brought up a 1st-and-15 where senior Cole Dockrey picked off a Coey Watson pass at the 25-yard line and returned it to the 12.

On 2nd-and-9 from the 11, Wright picked up nine with his legs to set up first-and-goal at the two. A first down give to Chad Buzzard was good for a yard, then Wright hit Sawyer Drake in the front corner of the end zone for six.

On the ensuing Dawson possession, the Panthers were called for defensive holding on 3rd-and-4, and later, the Tigers gained 26 on 3rd-and-1. As the first quarter came to a close, Dawson was looking at first-and-goal from the four. After rushing for three on first down, the defense was able to drop the Tigers for a 5-yard loss. On third down from the six, Watson misfired into the end zone, bringing



Sean Dobbins (12) leads the kick coverage downfield while the Dawson returner muffs the punt. The Tigers managed to fall on the loose ball before Bryan Nelson (34) and Hunter Kelley (30) could. Photo/Todd Forrest

the field goal unit on.

With 10:55 to play in the half, Union was clinging to a 7-3 advantage.

The Panthers responded by driving into Dawson territory with a 43-yard completion to Chayton Schafer. On first down from the 39, Buzzard was stopped behind the line for a loss of five. An incompletion on second down and an offsides penalty on third moved Union back to its original line of scrimmage, but another incomplete pass brought junior Brian Smith onto the field to attempt a school record 56-yard field goal.

The kick had plenty of distance, clearing the top of the uprights, but it barely missed wide left. Distance-wise, the kick would've been good from 65 yards but Smith pulled it slightly to the left.

"For nearly two quarters I thought we played really well

against a good, physical football team," Allison said. "Right now, size-wise, we've ran into three physical football teams and that's really hurt us."

The Tigers would regain possession and used a 20-yard completion and a Union pass interference penalty to move inside the 30-yard line. Five plays later, Dawson took the lead with a 17-yard touchdown run with 6:07 left in the second.

The next six touchdowns would also belong to the Tigers.

A Union three-and-out gave the ball back to Dawson with 5:17 on the clock and they needed nine plays to move 60 yards and extend their lead to 17-7.

On the ensuing Panther possession, a delay of game penalty on third down led to another three-and-out. This time, the Tigers took over at midfield

following the punt with 2:28 before halftime.

On the sixth play of the drive, a 25-yard touchdown pass opened up a 24-7 lead at the break.

The Union defense began the second half by forcing a punt but two sacks derailed the offense's hopes of slicing into the 17-point deficit.

Taking over at their own 38, the Tigers needed eight plays to move 62 yards and pull ahead 31-7.

After another Union punt, a 53-yard touchdown run at the 5:40 mark made it 38-7, then with 5:12 left in the third, Dawson blocked a punt and returned it for a score.

The Tigers tacked on one more score with 55 seconds left in the third to cap off a 52-0 stretch over the second and third quarters.

With a running clock in



Sophomore WR Sawyer Drake ended up with touchdown receptions of 1-yard and 50 yards vs Dawson County. Photo/Todd Forrest

the fourth, Wright and Kanon Hemphill connected for a 7-yard score with 7:03 to play. Later, Pierson Allison took over and led one final scoring drive, culminating with a 50-yard touchdown pass to Drake.

Offensively, the Panthers were held under 300 total yards at home for the first time since 2013 when they hosted Jefferson, the defending state champs.

This week Union County travels to the Brickyard to face an improving North Hall Trojans squad that's won two-of-three after starting 0-4.

With North Hall already owning wins over Fannin (13-0) and Lumpkin (55-14), a win over the Panthers would all but clinch a playoff spot for the Trojans, while eliminating Union County from postseason contention.

"I think we match up

better with (North Hall) size-wise, but they're a well-coached football team," Allison said. "Offensively they are a running team that can still hurt you throwing the ball. On the other side, they're a solid 4-2 defense and their kids play very hard. I expect it to be like last year and go down to the wire. Hopefully we can move the ball and come out of there with a win."

Last year Union won 35-32 thanks to touchdown receptions of 73 and 64 yards from Sean Dobbins, who later picked off a Trojan pass attempt at the Panthers 28-yard line with 18 seconds left to secure the victory.

Union County has won all four of the previous meetings with North Hall.

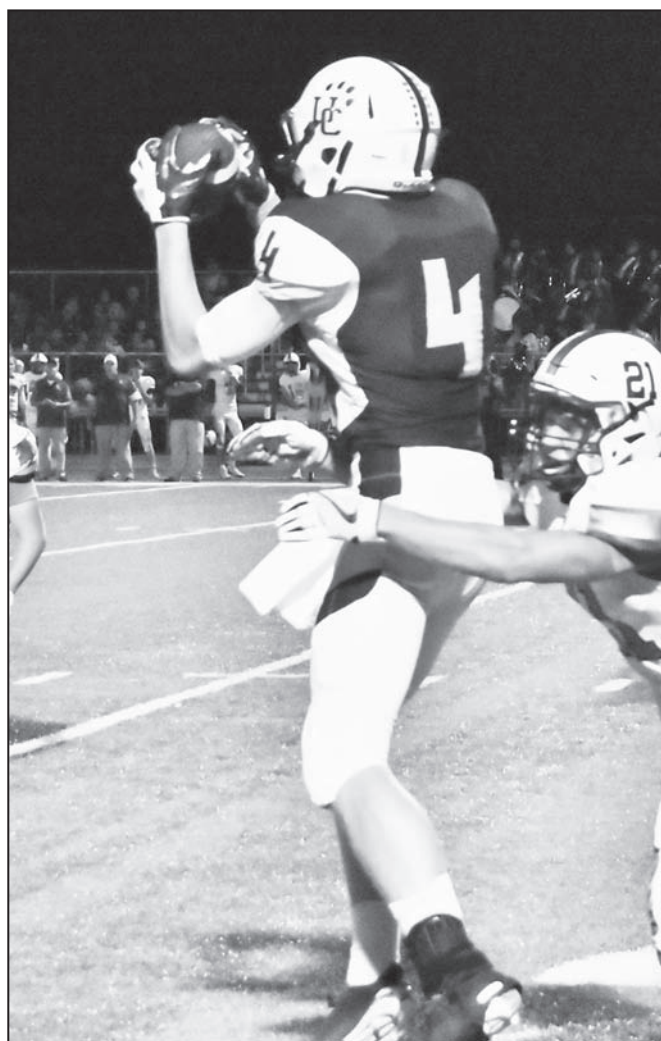
For more on Friday's game visit www.ngnsports.wordpress.com or follow on [Twitter \(@hotrodtodd25\)](https://twitter.com/hotrodtodd25).



Union County Team Captains RJ Banton (11) and Buddy Viera (52) were two of the captains for the Dawson game. Photo/Todd Forrest



Senior linebacker Cole Dockrey (15) gets airborne to make a tackle vs Dawson County. Photo/Todd Forrest



Sophomore WR Kanon Hemphill with a third quarter reception. He added a 7-yard touchdown grab in the fourth. Photo/Todd Forrest

Scoring Summary

Quarter	Team	Play	Yds	TD	2PT	
First Quarter	UCHS	TD 1 Yd Pass (Kick)	7	0		
	DCHS	FG Peyton Allen 23 Yd	7	3		
		TD Robbie Rarick 17 Yd Run (Peyton Allen Kick)	7	10		
Second Quarter	DCHS	TD Sevaughn Clark 8 Yd Run (Peyton Allen Kick)	7	17		
		TD Ethan Cameron 27 Yd Pass From Coey Watson (Peyton Allen Kick)	7	24		
		Third Quarter	TD Shawn Thomas 8 Yd Pass From Coey Watson (Peyton Allen Kick)	7	31	
			TD Sevaughn Clark 52 Yd Run (Peyton Allen Kick)	7	38	
Fourth Quarter	UCHS	TD 97 Yd Blocked Kick Return (Peyton Allen Kick)	7	45		
		TD Robbie Rarick 1 Yd Run (Peyton Allen Kick)	7	52		
		DCHS	TD 7 Yd Pass (Kick)	14	52	
TD 48 Yd Pass (Kick)	21		52			



Cole Wright finished with two passing touchdowns to give him 30 career TDs through the air and 30 TDs on the ground. Photo/Todd Forrest

Team Totals

Total Plays	63	87
Total Yards	258	485
Passing Yards	184	186
Rushing Yards	74	299
First Downs	12	28
Third Down Efficiency	3-13 (23%)	9-16 (56%)
Fourth Down Efficiency	1-1 (100%)	2-3 (67%)
Turnovers	-	1
Fumbles Lost	-	-
Interceptions Thrown	-	1
Penalties	6	8
Yards	32	52

Stat totals: Union is on the left; Dawson on the right

Basketball Registration at the Union County Recreation Department

Do Not Miss Out!

Age Group: 9/10 yrs old, 11/12 yrs old
Registration Ends: October 27th



**Registration fee is \$50.00 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.

Offense

Player	Comp/Att	Yds	TD	Int	Long	2PT
#8 C. Wright	13/29	134	2	-	43	-
#17 P. Allison	1/1	50	1	-	50	-
Rushing						
Player	Att	Yds	TD	Long	Fum	2PT
#8 C. Wright	10	69	-	14	-	-
#24 C. Buzzard	13	13	-	7	-	-
#2 C. Schafer	1	7	-	7	-	-
Rest of team	3	-15	-	-	-	-
Receiving						
Player	Rec	Yds	TD	Long	Fum	2PT
#21 S. Drake	6	91	2	50	-	-
#2 C. Schafer	1	43	-	43	-	-
#4 K. Hemphill	3	23	1	8	-	-
#22 A. Pattee	2	22	-	12	-	-
#18 L. Dyer	1	5	-	5	-	-
#24 C. Buzzard	1	-	-	-	-	-