

# Basketball: Union County drops two at Pickens scrimmage

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**Jasper** - Both Union County Basketball squads suffered double-digit losses as they traveled to Class AAAA Pickens for a scrimmage contest on Thursday, Nov. 12.

The Lady Panthers fell 79-67 despite 28 points from junior Ava Hunter and 24 from sophomore Ellie Cook. Union County will not feature a senior on its roster this winter and used a starting lineup that included two juniors, two sophomores and a freshman.

Pickens jumped out to a 23-16 lead after one and stretched its margin to 43-29 at the break. Cook scored 12 of Union's 16 first-quarter points, connecting on three treys, a deuce and one free throw.

Hunter came to life in the second, scoring 8 points on three buckets and two from the stripe. Freshman Kyra McKechnie came off the bench and scored four in the first 16 minutes and sophomore starter Corinne Hill added a first-quarter field goal. Cook hit 3 of 4 at the line during the second frame.

In the third, Hunter picked up where she left off, and then some, scoring 17 points during a 23-point period for the Lady Panthers. Unfortunately, it wasn't nearly enough as Pickens poured in 25 to stretch its lead to 68-52.

Freshman starter Lara Turner connected on 3 of 4 from the charity stripe in the third and Cook went 1 for 2. Hill finished the frame with 2 points.

Cook knocked down two



Crystal Beach begins her second season as the Lady Panthers head coach after delivering a region title in year one. Photo/Todd Forrest

more 3s in the fourth to bring her evening total to five. She also added a 2-point field goal to lead Union with 8 points in the period.

Hunter had 3 points in the final frame, junior Ansley Collins and Turner rounded out the fourth-quarter scoring with 2 points apiece.

All 10 Union County players that dressed saw action in at least two quarters. Junior Rebekah Chambers joined Cook, Hill, Hunter and Turner in the starting lineup. Others

that received minutes were freshman Katie Byers, sophomore Kaylee Helton and junior Caley Davis.

Senior Kyla Locklear and junior Riley Allison are not playing this year.

In the guys' matchup, Pickens used a 24-9 second quarter to pull away during a 68-37 victory over a short-handed Union County squad missing five varsity players due to football and other reasons.

Following an 8-3 lead after one, Pickens used three



UCHS graduate Corey Garrett enters his second year at the helm of the Union County men's basketball program following two seasons as the Lady Panthers head coach. Photo/Todd Forrest

treys to blow things open in the second, taking a 32-12 lead into the break.

The Panthers would out-score Pickens 15-14 in the third behind 6 points from junior Lake Hughes and five from sophomore Eli Underwood. But the Dragons pulled away with a 22-point fourth as junior Caleb John (6 points) and Hughes accounted for all 10 Union points in the period.

Hughes led the Panthers with 12 points - 10 in the second half. John and Underwood

added seven apiece; junior Landon Kight had five.

Junior Hayden Payne and sophomore Trent Baker chipped in 3 point each.

Junior Austin Taylor completed the Union County starting five, along with Baker, Hughes, John and Underwood.

Like the girls, the Panthers didn't dress a senior and all 10 players saw action.

Rounding out the Union County rotation was Seth Rutton, Braylen Rader and Hunter

Fleming.

The Panthers dressed two juniors on varsity last season: Blake Davis and Kaston Hemphill. If both return to the hardwood after football, the Union men will feature a pair of seniors this winter.

Union County will open the regular season at home on Tuesday, Nov. 24, when they host rival Towns County.

Next week's North Georgia News will feature a complete UCHS basketball preview.

## Union swimmers find early season success



Through two meets, the Union County Swimming program is already in mid-season form, notching several personal bests, heat victories and a state qualifying time. The UCMS girls team also picked up an overall victory at the Hawaiian Luau Meet last weekend. Photo/submitted

**Clarksville** - On Saturday, Nov. 7, at the Ruby Fulbright Aquatic Center in Clarksville, the Union County High School and middle school Panthers were thrilled to be back in the pool and competing in their first meet of the 2020-21 season.

With 10 swimmers on the UCHS team and 16 swimmers on the UCMS squad competing in the Rockin' Raider Meet, the teams are already showing great promise.

"We are incredibly proud of the results from our meet,"

first-year Union head coach Kelly Helton said. "There were numerous dropped times, heat winners, and even a state qualifying time. Our veteran swimmers are returning with personal bests and our new swimmers are off to a great start and have set goals for the season."

The highlight of the day belonged to junior Hunter White, who crushed a personal best and qualified for the State Swim Meet in the 100-yard Breaststroke.

The Panthers' success continued this past weekend

at the Hawaiian Luau Meet in Clarksville.

"Overall, we had 21 personal best times, and this shows our hard work is paying off," Coach Helton said. "Each meet we are noticing improvements and accomplishments of individual and team goals. We are very proud of our athletes."

Another significant highlight from the Hawaiian Luau meet is the first place overall finish by the UCMS girls. In addition, Union had the following individual accomplishments (pictured below).

## Photos: McAfee coronates new Sports Center



Local fan-favorite Brad McAfee, known for his halftime shooting displays at Union County High School basketball games, helped launch the brand new Union County Sports Center in style. Following last Tuesday's ribbon cutting, McAfee sank the first-ever basket in the gymnasium, then autographed the ball (pictured right). Photos/Todd Forrest



## 50 and over family fitness programs at Rec Department

Winter is quickly approaching! We would love to have you take a cardio class in our new facility, or maybe a strength-balance class in our Fitness Room! Union County Recreation Department will be offering many fabulous fitness class options for the Winter session, and will be bringing back one of the favorites! Here is a list of the following fitness classes we will offer. We also offer some of our classes online for those that wish to work out at home!

Regular Aerobics (T/Th) at 8:30 - 9:30 AM.

Mini-Spinning cardio class (M/W/F) at 8:30 - 9:30 AM.

AM Beginner Strength and Core class (T/Th) at 11 - 11:45 AM.

AM Step - Aerobics Combo class (M/W/F) at 10:45 - 11:30 AM.

Chair Fitness - Aerobics class (T/W/Th) @ 1:15 - 2 PM.



\*\*Zumba-Latin w/Lisa (M/W) at 8:30 - 9:30 AM.

\*\*PM Step Aerobics Combo class (M/W) at 5 - 6 PM.

\*\*Zumba Fitness w/Beth at 5 - 6 PM (T/Th).

\*\*Online Fitness Class options (Call or come in for pricing)

\*Winter Session 2020 New Registration begins on November 4, 2020 and ends November 23, 2020 (or until classes fill to capacity) at the NEW Recreation Office, 519 Industrial Blvd., across from Union County High School and next to the Health Dept.

## On-line Registration now open for Upward Indoor Soccer



On-line registration is now open for Upward Indoor Soccer for boys and girls in grades Kindergarten through 8th Grade at www.hopb.org.

The registration price to participate is \$60 and payment plans are available, if needed. Convenient weekly practices begin the week of January 4th, 2021, while games will be held at House of Prayer Family Life Center every Saturday between January 23 and February 27, 2021.

All players should attend the evaluation that will be held on Tuesday, December 7th, 2020 on

a drop-in basis between the hours of 5:30 and 7 p.m. at the House of Prayer Family Life Center Gym located behind the sanctuary.

For more information regarding registration, contact (706) 745-5925. Information regarding Upward Sports can be found online at www.upward.org.

Established in 1995, Upward Sports is the world's largest Christian youth sports provider. Upward Sports develops total athletes mentally, athletically, spiritually, and socially - producing players who excel both on and off the field. Today, approximately half a million players at more than 2,000 churches in 47 states participate in camps, clinics, and leagues through Upward Sports' Recreation Division.

## UNION COUNTY MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL HAWAIIAN LUAU MEET HIGHLIGHTS

**50 FREESTYLE**  
1st Grace Cook (MS)  
3rd Hunter White (HS)  
6th Lily Brookshire (MS)  
10th Olivia Loyd (MS)

**100 FREESTYLE**  
3rd Hunter White (HS)  
9th Liam Smith (HS)  
9th Anniston Howse (MS)  
10th Reese Jones (MS)

**50 BUTTERFLY**  
1st Lily Helton (MS)

**100 BUTTERFLY**  
1st Hannah Sheffield (HS)

**50 BACKSTROKE**  
3rd Eli Gwynn (MS)  
5th Anniston Howse (MS)  
8th Lily Brookshire (MS)

**100 BACKSTROKE**  
2nd Hannah Sheffield (HS)  
7th Blake Caputi (HS)

**100 IM**  
2nd Lily Helton (MS)  
3rd Eli Gwynn (MS)

**50 BREASTSTROKE**  
6th Reese Jones (MS)  
8th Olivia Loyd (MS)  
9th Emerson Kight (MS)

**100 BREASTSTROKE**  
2nd Rachel Reid (HS)  
10th Brooklyn Brown (HS)

**OVERALL TEAM SCORES**  
1st Middle School Girls

**200 MEDLEY RELAY**  
1st Anniston Howse, Reese Jones, Lily Helton, Grace Cook (MS)  
7th Grayden Cobb, Hunter White, Liam Smith, Blake Caputi (HS)  
7th Lily Brookshire, Olivia Loyd, Emerson Kight, Isabel Hoover (MS)

**200 FREESTYLE RELAY**  
1st Lily Helton, Olivia Loyd, Anniston Howse, Grace Cook (MS)  
6th Lily Brookshire, Reese Jones, Bella Moss, Isabel Hoover (MS)  
7th Hunter White, Liam Smith, Grayden Cobb, Blake Caputi (HS)

