

Panthers improve to 9-0, will host Rabun Co. for Region title

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Social Circle - For the second-straight year, the stage is set for another Union County-Rabun County showdown to determine the Region 8-AA title.

Both squads enter Friday night's title game at 9-0, marking the first time the two teams have met sporting perfect records this late in the season. The two have met as unbeaten five previous times (1978, 1984, 1985, 1988 and 2009) but all came in August or September.

This Friday marks the 53rd meeting in the series and not one of the previous 52 has had more riding on it than this Friday's showdown.

"We would love to have as many people as possible at the stadium on Friday night wearing purple and gold," Union County head coach Brian Allison said. "It's not only a huge game for our school and our program, but it's a huge game for our community."

The 7th ranked Panthers kept their perfect record intact last Friday night with a 41-6 victory at Social Circle. In the win, Jonah Daniel rushed nine times for 126 yards and three touchdowns - all coming in the first half.

Union County built a 27-0 lead after one quarter, then extended the margin to 41-0 just beyond the midway point of the second. The Redskins would add a score right before the break for the final points of the evening as a running clock was instituted in the second half and Union handed the keys to its reserves.

There would be no sign of the Panthers looking ahead to Rabun County as they exploded for 41 points in less than 17 minutes.

"I thought we got off to a great start," Coach Allison said. "We did what we needed to do. They made some mistakes and we took advantage of those mistakes. I felt good about what



Daniel slips a tackle en route to an early touchdown. Photo/Todd Forrest

we did on defense and thought we looked good."

The scoring began when Daniel took advantage of a Social Circle fumble on the first play of the game and the junior tore off a 19-yard touchdown run, less than one minute into the contest.

Following a Redskins' punt, Pierson Allison went up top to Cayden Rich for a 72-yard scoring strike to spot Union County a 14-0 advantage at the 8:14 mark.

Another punt gave the ball back to the Panthers at their own 32-yard line and eight plays later, Daniel was back in the end zone via a 13-yard rushing score.

Leading 20-0, Union County pounced on a fumbled kick return and the offense set up shop from the 37. Two plays later, Pierson Allison hit Mason McCombs over the middle on a 25-yard hookup to blow things open at 27-0.

In the final seconds of the opening period, Sawyer Drake came down with a jump ball near midfield, stiff-armed a defender and made another one miss before getting dragged down at the Redskins' 13-yard

line to cap off a 70-yard reception. Following a 10-yard gain by Daniel, Sloan Sutton blasted his way up-the-middle from three yards out for a 34-0 lead on the first play of the second quarter.

Another punt gave the ball back to Union at its own 33 with 8:27 remaining before halftime. Faced with a 3rd-and-9, Drake moved the sticks with an 18-yard catch. On the very next play, Daniel broke free for a 49-yard touchdown and the hat trick.

The Redskins took over with 7:24 left in the half and drove 80 yards on 17 plays to get on the board at 41-6 with 14 seconds left on the clock.

"The only disappointing thing during the first half was the 17-play scoring drive that we allowed," Coach Allison said.

The Union starters would play one series in the third quarter, but following an interception, the backups entered and went the rest of the way.

Pierson Allison finished 9-for-13 with 251 yards, two touchdowns and a pick. Sophomore Logan Helcher went 3-for-6 with 55 yards and one



Mason McCombs with a diving catch in the end zone. Photo/Todd Forrest

interception.

Sutton carried three times for 35 yards and a score, Stein Harkins rushed twice for six yards and Pierson Allison carried once for five.

Drake caught three passes for 103 yards; Rich had two grabs for 93 yards and a score; McCombs finished with three receptions for 72 yards and one touchdown; Josh Orr had a team-high four grabs for 38 yards.

Up next - Union will host Rabun County on Friday for Senior Night.

Both teams enter undefeated with Rabun County under the direction of first-year head coach Jaybo Shaw.

The Wildcats are still led by the top-ranked quarterback in the Class of 2022, Gunnar Stockton.

"I feel like we have a chance to win, but their quarterback is every bit as good as advertised," Coach Allison said. "He makes throws that I haven't seen anyone, besides maybe Joe (Mancuso), make at the high school level."

"He runs the ball well. He's a very physical runner so we have to worry about both

he believes will be the key to victory for both squads.

"If Rabun County makes mistakes, we'll have an excellent chance to win the ball game," he said. "If we make mistakes, they have a great chance at winning the game. We just have to eliminate mistakes in the form of missed tackles, turnovers and big plays."

"It would be nice for these seniors to go out with 10 wins, which would give them 33 overall and make them the winningest class in school history and the first team to win 10 games. But the cool thing is, win or lose on Friday night, we still get to host a playoff game the following week."

Kickoff is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on Friday night with the Senior Night festivities to be held beforehand.

Notes - Coach Allison reported the availability of injured wide receiver Kyle Morlock (ankle) will be a game-time decision on Friday. Since his 6-foot, 6-inch target went down on the first play vs Elbert, Pierson Allison is averaging 269 passing yards per game. Prior to Morlock's injury, he was putting up 311 yards a game through the air.

Around the region - The three and four spots in Region 8-AA were decided last week when Elbert County thrashed Putnam County 56-7.

With the win, Elbert clinched the No. 3 seed while Putnam locked up the fourth spot thanks to Monticello's 28-0 victory over Banks County - eliminating the Leopards from playoff contention.

State Tournament update - If the Panthers lose to 4th ranked Rabun on Friday, Union would host the No. 3 seed South Atlanta

If Union County beats Rabun and secures the No. 1 seed, things are more complex as Region 6-AA is looking at a likely three-way tie for the No. 4 seed between Therrell, B.E.S.T. Academy and Washington - all with 3-4 region records.

While evaluating his own squad, Coach Allison has no doubt his team will come out fired up on Senior Night. His biggest concern, however, is eliminating mistakes, which

UCHS Basketball Schedule

2019-2020 VARSITY SCHEDULE

date	time	opponent	location
11/12	5:00pm	Rabun Gap (scrimmage)	HOME
11/19	6:00pm	Towns	@Towns
11/22	7:00pm	Fannin	@Fannin
11/25	3:00pm	West Hall	@North Hall
11/26	6:00pm	White	@White
12/3	6:00pm	Tallulah Falls	HOME
12/6	7:00pm	Towns	HOME
12/13	6:00pm	Elbert* [Teacher Appreciation Night]	HOME
12/14	2:00pm	Monticello*	@Monticello
12/17	5:00pm	Social Circle*	@Social Circle
12/21	6:00pm	Gilmer	HOME
12/26	TBD	TBD	@Towns
12/27	TBD	TBD	@Towns
12/28	TBD	TBD	@Towns
1/3	7:00pm	Rabun*	HOME
1/4	3:00pm	Putnam*	@Putnam
1/7	6:00pm	Banks*	@Banks
1/10	6:00pm	Oglethorpe*	HOME
1/11	6:00pm	Fannin	HOME
1/14	5:00pm	Elbert*	@Elbert
1/17	6:00pm	Monticello*	HOME
1/21	5:00pm	Social Circle*	HOME
1/24	6:30pm	Rabun*	@Rabun
1/25	3:00pm	Putnam* [Senior Night]	HOME
1/28	6:00pm	Banks*	HOME
1/31	6:00pm	Oglethorpe*	@Oglethorpe

Youth Football: 9&U Panthers are Super Bowl bound on Saturday

9&U Panthers - The Panthers had a successful first drive as Kevin Kilpatrick scored on a 84 yard touchdown - the first of two rushing touchdowns in the first half.

In the beginning of the second half, Kamden Kendrick threw a 46-yard touchdown pass to Kilpatrick.

Then, late in the game, Jackson Nichols threw a 34-yard touchdown pass to Mikey Davis as the Panthers would go on to win 30-0.

With the victory, they are heading to Saturday's Super Bowl, where they will take on the White County Warriors in Cleveland.

Kickoff is scheduled for 3 p.m.

10&U Panthers - It was a very rough and physical game to start for the Panthers

as the opening kickoff was returned by Gilmer to the Union 46-yard line to start the game with great field position.

As a result, the Bobcats would score on the opening drive to take an early lead that wouldn't let go of.

As for the Panthers, they got off to a difficult start but finally got some points on the board when Jaxon Totherow hauled in a pass from Chetley Cox for a touchdown to pull within 13-6 at the half.

Late in the third quarter, Cox would find Totherow again for a touchdown but the Panthers eventually came up short 28-12.

Sadly the season has come to an end for the 10U Panthers but they will try again next year.



Chetley Cox (8) in the pocket about to pass the ball in the 10U game

Swanson... continued from Page 2C

it to the Elite 8 of State in just our third year.

NGN: What will this off-season be like? What do you have planned?

MS: We'll be doing camps during the summer. Mitch Casteel will be coming back from Texas and we'll be training with him. As of right now, that's all we have, but once we have our tryouts, I hope to take them somewhere that they can experience a college-level camp.

NGN: Is there anyone you would like to thank?

MS: I want to thank the sponsors and all of the support from the community. We've had lots and lots of interest.

We watched our crowds and our support grow with each and every game and I'm just thankful for the opportunity to be here and for all of the support we've received as we try to grow this program.



Winter Fitness Family Programs Union County Recreation Department Winter 2019-20 Session Ages: 50 and over

Winter is quickly approaching! Union County Recreation Department will be offering many awesome fitness class options for the winter session. Here is a list of the following fitness classes we will offer:

- Regular Aerobics (T/Th) @ 8:30-9:30 AM
- Advanced Strength-Core class (M/W/F) @ 9:45-10:30 AM
- Indoor Walking (M/W/F) @ 9:00-9:45 AM
- AM Beginner Strength and Core class (T/Th) @ 10:45-11:30 AM
- AM Step-Aerobics class (M/W/F) @ 10:45-11:30 AM
- PM Beginner Strength-Core class (T/Th) @ 5:30-6:30 PM
- Chair Fitness-Aerobics class (T/Th) @ 1:15-2:00 PM
- **New Power Hooping class (T/Th) @ 9:45-10:30 AM
- Beginner Yoga (M/W/F) @ 11:45 AM-12:45 PM
- Zumba-Latin Combo Class (M/F) @ 7:50-8:50 AM (Age 18 and over)
- PM Dance Jams class (M/W) @ 6:30-7:30 PM (Age 18 and over)

*Winter Session 2019-20 Registration begins on November 4, 2019 and ends November 25, 2019 (or until classes fill to capacity) at the Recreation Office (310 Wellborn St.) Registration and class payments must be done in person. If you have any questions, you can call (706) 439-6074 and ask for Jennifer.