

Sports

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Mancuso, Panthers get back on track with 12-4 win over Riverside Greene County forfeits doubleheader, Union credited with a pair of 7-0 victories

By Todd Forrest
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Union County baseball (9-3, 5-2) enters spring break riding a three-game win streak in Region 8-AA after a 12-4 win over Riverside Military Academy and two forfeit wins at Greene County.

In the Greene County wins, the Panthers were awarded two 7-0 shutout victories. With the Region's second tiebreaker based on fewest runs allowed in the Region, Union benefits a little bit extra from blanking the Tigers, since tiebreaker No. 2 could come into play due to the Panthers splitting with Oglethorpe County. Currently, Union and Oglethorpe are equal when it comes to the first tiebreaker - head-to-head scores, as each own a three-run victory over the other.

The Panthers will be looking to force a split with Rabun County next week, however, Union must defeat the Wildcats by five-or-more runs to swipe the tiebreaker away from Rabun.

In the Panthers' only live action last week, junior Joseph Mancuso cranked two homers and fanned six hitters in five innings during the 12-4 win over Riverside. The victory saw Union score in each of its six innings at the plate.

Senior Jackson Burks entered in the sixth and nailed down the W - working two perfect innings and striking out two.

Union got on the board in the bottom half of the first inning after junior Josh Daniel led off the game by lacing an opposite field single. Senior Hunter Hughes followed with a bunt single. Both runners would advance on a passed ball allowing senior Jake Sisum to score Daniel on a sacrifice fly to left field.

Mancuso sat down the Eagles in order for the second time and the Panthers put up five runs in their half of inning No. 2.

Junior Andrew Brown smacked a one-out single to center and freshman Candler Colwell reached on an error. With two outs, Daniel ripped a 2-run base hit to left. Hughes followed with another single to center, setting the table for Mancuso, who crushed a three-run homer to left center.



Junior Joseph Mancuso went deep twice with 4 RBIs vs Riverside. He threw five innings, allowing only three hits. Photo/Todd Forrest



Junior Josh Daniel gets turned around by an inside pitch. He went 2-for-3 with a walk, a run, and a stolen base. Photo/Todd Forrest

Leading 6-0, Mancuso worked around a two-out walk for a scoreless third and the Panthers responded with three runs in the inning.

This time, it was junior Lance Rich who got things going with a one-out walk. Brown reached on a bunt single and Colwell walked to load the bases. Daniel drew a two-out RBI walk

while Riverside self destructed with three passed balls, resulting in two more Union runs.

In the fourth, Mancuso got out of trouble following a leadoff double and the Panthers tacked on another run in the bottom of the fourth - making it a 10-0 game.

Sisum got aboard with a one-out, opposite field double.



Junior Andrew Brown recorded a 2-for-3 performance at the plate against Riverside with two runs scored. Photo/Todd Forrest



Union freshman Candler Colwell reached base and scored in both plate appearances vs Riverside. Photo/Todd Forrest

With freshman Crawford Colwell running for the Union first baseman, Rich came through with a two-out, RBI single.

Needing just three outs to end things, via the run-rule, Mancuso surrendered four runs - three earned - in the top of the fifth.

A leadoff walk, a pair of singles, and another free pass but the Eagles on the board with nobody out. The Panthers' Ace punched out the next two before allowing a 2-run single, that turned into three runs due to an error. Mancuso sat down the next batter, looking to end the inning.

Freshman Patrick Baggett hit in place of Candler Colwell to open the sixth inning and drew a base-on-balls.

Senior Robert Prunier doubled to put two runners in scoring position with nobody out. Baggett would score when a balk was called on Riverside.

Jackson Burks was lights out on the mound for the final two innings, and in Union's last at bat, Mancuso sent another blast over the left centerfield fence. After Burks worked a perfect top-half of the seventh inning, the Panthers came away with the 12-4 victory.

Mancuso homers were his second and third of the year, giving him 16 RBIs. Meanwhile the win moves him to 4-0 on the mound with 37 Ks and an ERA less than 1.00. Hughes' two hits up his team-leading batting average to .469.

Sisum's double is his fourth, which matches Hughes and Mancuso for the team lead. Daniel's third steal of the season puts him behind Hughes (6) and Brown (4) for tops on the team.

The Panthers will visit Murphy on Thursday at 4:30 p.m. for their only game of the week.

The Union County JV team will be taking part in the Mountain League on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

Riverside A...	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO	LOB	Union County	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO	LOB
Jones	3	0	0	0	0	1	4	J Daniel	3	1	2	2	1	0	2
Lovett	3	0	2	1	0	0	0	H Hughes	4	1	2	0	0	1	1
Garcia	3	0	0	0	0	2	2	J Mancuso	4	2	2	4	0	1	2
Ballard	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	J Sisum	3	0	1	1	0	0	1
Thomas	2	1	0	0	1	1	0	C Colwell	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Walker	3	1	1	0	0	1	0	J Burks	3	0	0	0	1	1	2
McGinnis	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	L Rich	3	1	1	1	1	0	1
Allison	2	1	0	1	1	0	0	A Brown	3	2	2	0	0	0	1
Spikes	2	0	0	0	1	2	3	C Colwell	1	2	0	0	1	0	1
Totals	24	4	4	2	3	8	9	P Baggett	0	0	0	0	1	0	0

Riverside Ac...	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR	Union County	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
Walker	6.0	11	12	5	5	5	2	J Mancuso	5.0	4	4	2	3	6	0
Totals	6.0	11	12	5	5	5	2	J Burks	2.0	0	0	0	0	2	0
P-S: Walker 115-69								Totals	7.0	4	4	2	3	8	0

WP: Mancuso P-S: Mancuso 84-54, Burks 27-14

1B: Lovett, Walker, McGinnis 2B: Lovett TB: Lovett 3, Walker, McGinnis CS: Lovett Team LOB: 2

PITCHING

Riverside Ac...	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR	Union County	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
Walker	6.0	11	12	5	5	5	2	J Mancuso	5.0	4	4	2	3	6	0
Totals	6.0	11	12	5	5	5	2	J Burks	2.0	0	0	0	0	2	0
P-S: Walker 115-69								Totals	7.0	4	4	2	3	8	0

WP: Mancuso P-S: Mancuso 84-54, Burks 27-14

Box scores courtesy of Kathryn Mancuso

Soccer: Union County men blank Gilmer 3-0; remain unbeaten

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In the only soccer action last week, Union's men improved to 7-0-1 with a 3-0 victory over Gilmer County.

Senior Brett Dietz scored two goals and sophomore Sam Seiler scored one.

Keepers Justin Eigel, Dylan Byers, and Blaine Brown each worked at goalie in the Panthers' shutout.

Both Union County soccer teams will take the week off for Spring Break before jumping right back into Region 8-AA action.

The Lady Panthers are one win away from clinching the Region title and home field advantage for the first two rounds of State.



Keaton Dyer's (9) Panthers are two wins away from an 8-AA crown. A win at home, over Oglethorpe on Apr. 17th is all Union needs. A loss could result in a three-way tie for first with Social Circle and Oglethorpe. On Apr. 14th both Union squads will visit Towns County.

Track and Field strong at Rabun, Lumpkin

By Todd Forrest
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Union County Track and Field faced all levels of competition over the last two weeks and will take advantage of some much-needed rest over Spring Break.

At Lumpkin County, Union picked up three first place finishes with Stephanie Busse placing first in the 3200M race, Emma Garrison was first in the 1600M and 800M races, and Will Stone took first in the triple jump.

At Region 8-AA foe, Rabun County, Union had eight individual first place finishes and two relay teams took first.

Jakob Brown was first in the 3200M and the 1600M. Garrison was first in the 1600M and 800M races. Busse took first in the 3200M race, and Cole Payne placed first in the 800M race.

Robert Prunier was first in the long jump with a personal best distance of 18-feet, 9 inches. Meanwhile, Stone had a personal best in the triple jump with a distance of 39.5.

Amy Cummings and Ralston Drake each took first in the 200M sprint and the 4x100 boys relay team of Zach Stone, Will Stone, Jacob Kelley, and Drake



Robert Prunier takes first place with a personal best in the Long Jump finished in first.

The 4x400 relay team - same runners as 4x100 - also took home first place from Rabun County.

Second place at Rabun were: Evan Browning (3200M), Luke Collins (1600M) and (800M), and Stephanie Busse (800M).

Jacob Kelley was second in the High Jump, as was Kim Coyne in the Triple Jump and 100M sprint. Amy Cummings was second in the 400M sprint. Emmeline Stuart and Will Stone were both second in the hurdles, and the girls 4x400 relay team of Garrison, Stuart, Busse, and Cummings.

Golf: Union continues its winning ways

By Todd Forrest
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The Union County Ladies remain undefeated at 10-0, and the guys are currently 10-3 after last week's matches.

The Union County men defeated Hayesville, NC and Gilmer County last week at Old Union, while the Ladies took care of Gilmer County and Rabun County, also at Old Union Golf Course.

As the golf teams enters Spring Break, Coach Greg Chambers and Union County's golfers are gearing up for the Region 8-AA Tournament, hosted by Social Circle, on Apr. 21 in Monroe at Bear Creek Golf Course with two matches between now and then.

On Apr. 13th, Union will face Towns County at Brasstown Valley Resort, and on Apr. 16th, they will host Fannin at Old Union.

In the match with Hayesville and Gilmer, Union shot a 184, Gilmer a 217, and Hayesville, NC a 223.

Jeremy Herum (44) picked up Low Medalist honors, while Brady Lawn also shot a 44, Charles Johnson a 48, and Lake Arnick a 48 for Union County.

The Ladies defeated Hayesville with Ally Horinek firing a 40 for Low Medalist honors. Grace Wischmeyer shot a 44.

In an 87-92 win over Rabun



Ally Horinek, Maddie Horinek, and Grace Wischmeyer at last month's GACA Georgia Peach Tournament. Photos/Pam Gray



Jeremy Herum



Brady Lawn

County at Old Union, Wischmeyer was low medalist with a 42. Maddie Horinek shot a 45, while Lydia Gray and Megan Rowe each finished 9 holes with a 48.

Both golf teams defeated Towns County and the guys fell, 187-193 to Rabun County in other action last week.