

# Senior-less Panthers silence the doubters; reach State Tourney

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Coming into this season, Coach Tim Hunter knew that he had a rebuilding job ahead of him. Little did he know that his team would be in contention for home field advantage in the first round of State with one game left to play.

That was the case last week as the Panthers, who start eight freshman and sophomores combined, went to Oglethorpe County with a shot at snagging the No. 2 spot in Region 8-AA.

Of course the Panthers needed Rabun County to knock off Riverside Military Academy, but none the less, finishing in a tie for second was very much a reality.

Unfortunately, Union was unable to pick up the win at Oglethorpe, losing a heartbreaker 3-2.

"Overall the boys played very hard against a tough team," Panther Head Coach Tim Hunter said. "Jesus Mancillas showed just how dominant he could be only as a sophomore."

The Patriots drew first blood but Mancillas had an answer. Brett Dietz was fouled in the penalty area, allowing Mancillas to put Union on the board.

"Dietz played extremely well and was drawing double and triple teams most of the game which freed up our other players," Coach Hunter said.

Mancillas went to work and got the Panthers their second goal. Unassisted, Mancillas found the net from 25 yards out and Union had the lead at 2-1.

The Patriots were able to put up two more goals, including



Freshman Parker McCombs is one of the youngsters that have contributed significantly in 2014. Photo/Todd Forrest

the game winner. Luckily, the Panthers got some help and were still able to slip into the No. 4 spot in the Region.

"We had a couple of defensive miscues and allowed Oglethorpe to score those last two goals which were enough to beat us," Coach Hunter said. "Sam Seiler played a very good game for us, as did John Spaulding and Brett Dobbins. Our guys took the loss really hard and I can't tell you how relieved they were when Oglethorpe beat Greene to lock us into the State Tournament."

Wednesday rolled around and allowed the Panthers to take out some of their frustrations on rival Fannin County with a 5-0 victory.

Back in February, Union lost 3-1 to the Rebels in Blue Ridge. Although, the Panthers were playing shorthanded.

"Fannin beat us 3-1 in the first game of the season and we didn't have our basketball kids back yet," Coach Hunter said. "So we were able to avenge that game."

Just 23 seconds in, Dietz



Alex Mancillas scored 23 seconds into the Fannin County game. He is another underclassmen that has stepped up and helped get his team into the State Tournament. Photo/Todd Forrest

found Alex Mancillas for a score.

"Fannin never touched the ball as we dropped it back and connected seven passes before Alex found the back of the net," Coach Hunter said. "There is honestly no way to start that game better."

Kyle Hamby put Union ahead 2-0 on a penalty kick before freshman Lawson Baenninger hooked up with Jesus Mancillas for the third goal.

"Jesus hit a big shot from outside on an assist from Lawson," Coach Hunter said. "That was a big moment as you could really see

the demeanor of their team change after that goal."

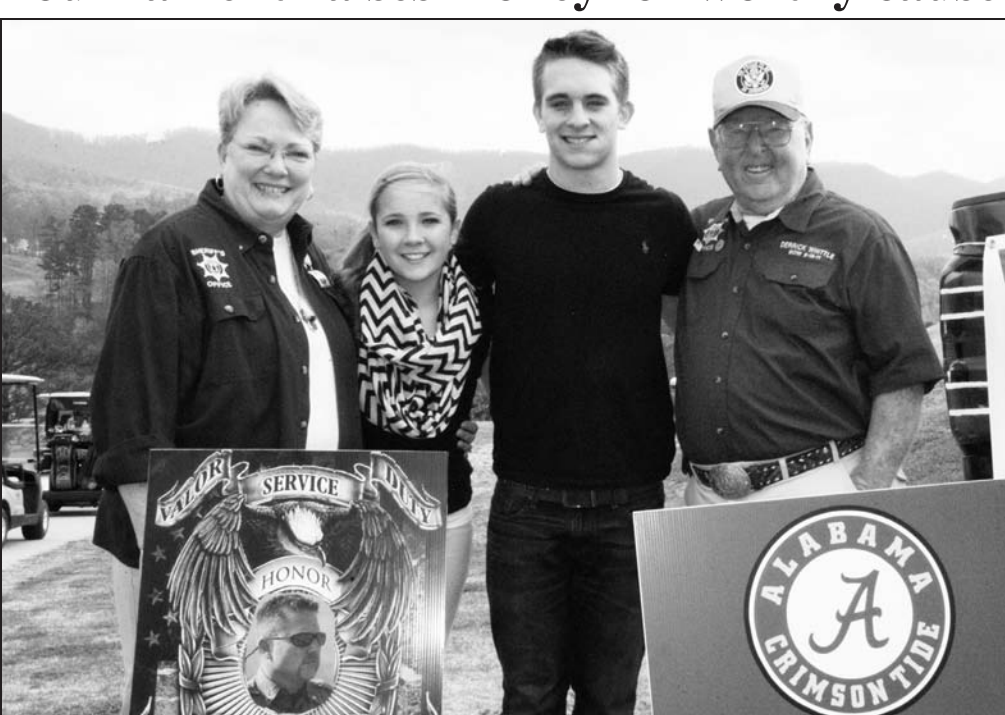
Frankie Vincent scored the next two goals, the first of his varsity career. He was assisted by Jeremiah Troche and Jake Walts.

"We dressed all of our players and Coach Gibbs from Fannin and I had agreed that we would play our younger kids the last 30 minutes," Coach Hunter said. "Our older players in the first half, and our younger guys who finished the game, all played exceptionally well. I was very proud of how our team ended our regular season.

"Aaron Stafford played his best game at the back as did Cristian Garcia," Coach Hunter said. "Matthew Van Pelt, Brett Dobbins, Jesus Palomo played well at stopper all game. We also got Jacob Rogers back who got to be in his first action since the Towns County game early this season."

The Panthers travel to G.A.C. on Thursday to face the top-ranked, 18-0 Spartan squad in the opening round of the Class AA State Tournament. Action gets underway at 5 p.m. in Norcross.

## First Annual Whittle Memorial Golf Tournament raises money for worthy cause



Sharon Whittle, Nick Whittle (16), Leigha Whittle (12), Jim Whittle. The tournament is a way to award scholarships in Derrick's name. In the past, the Whittle family has been able to raise money but only a small amount, so this tournament was a way to increase the amount. Photo/Todd Forrest

Last Friday, Butternut Creek Golf Course held the first annual Whittle Memorial Golf Tournament.

Approximately 56 golfers took part in the tournament that included 50 hole sponsors.

"Although times are hard people were still helping us out," Jim Whittle said. "There are some good people in Blairsville."

The First Flight Winners: Bryan Wright, Payton Wright, Dawson Fricks, and Angelia Williams - representing the Habersham County Sheriff's Office.

Second Flight Winners: Craig Arlotta and Greg Schaumburg.

Longest drive winner: Bryan Wright.

Closest Pin winner Derrick "Shorty" Hughes.

The Whittle Memorial

Tournament Committee consists of Jim and Sharon Whittle, Sam Hogsed, Doug Shea, Pam Worden, C.J. Worden, Kathy Mancuso, Mark Mancuso, Mary Fortenberry, Dan Walts, William Stone, Cindy Byers

"We want to thank the community so much for this," Sharon Whittle said. "Thank you for your support and your love of Derrick. We meet people all the time who were a friend of Derrick's and they will tell us stories about him. It has been an incredible blessing."

"We want to compliment Butternut Creek," Jim Whittle said. "They have been terrific in helping us lay all the groundwork. But the main purpose of this tournament is to remember Derrick and to raise money for deserving Union County seniors."

"That's what Derrick would have wanted," Sha-



Closest to the pin: Derek Hughes. ron Whittle added. "He loved Blairsville, Union County, and the community and that's what he gave his life for."

Next year's tournament is already in the works.

## Saddle Club May Day celebration

On Saturday, May 3, the Union County Saddle Club will host an NRHA (National Racking Horse Association) Show. The show is sanctioned by the NRHA and will draw from the finest Racking Horses and riders from three states (Georgia, Alabama, and Tennessee).

The Racking Horse possesses a special, super-smooth, four-beat gait that really shows beautifully and is a delight to watch. We call this show our "May Day Celebration" since it happens here in Blairsville on the first Saturday of May each year.

The show will feature 34 classes of racking horses from the various "Pleasure" classes to the ultra-high "Performance" classes. Both juveniles and adults will show with prize money guaranteed for regular and championship classes.

The show will start at 3 p.m. sharp and will continue until the last class is complete. There will be a small gate fee

of \$5 (with kids under 10 free). During the break, spectators can join the fun by participating in a ball toss and a stick horse event.

If you've never seen a Racking Horse show before, you're in for a treat!

## Annual kids fishing rodeo June 14

Kids Fishing Rodeo: Saturday, June 14, Vogel State Park - Blairsville, GA. Wolf Creek will be stocked with plenty of trout to be tempted by anglers 12 and younger. Prizes will be given to the

lucky ticket holders. Adults must accompany the children that will be fishing at the registration tent prior to fishing. A limited amount of fishing poles will be loaned out. \$5 parking. 706-745-2628. N(Apr30,A1)SH

## Spring has sprung at 21st Century



UCMS students in the afterschool program enjoy the outdoors and welcome "Spring." After working on lessons to prepare for the CRCT testing, students are ready to play and have fun in the sun! N(Apr30,Z15)CA

## Lady Panthers ...from Page 12A

last few games and has really hit her form."

On Wednesday, Union County was victorious by a 4-1 score over Fannin County.

Vester got things going in the 6th minute off an assist from Braedyn Robbins.

Later in the first half, Robbins scored the first goal of her career on an Adele Bauman assist, giving the Lady Panthers a 2-0 advantage at the intermission.

"We hit several shots off of the post and at the keeper or we honestly would have had a bigger lead going into the break," Coach Hunter said.

Joanna Irvin hooked up

with Morlock for Union's third goal and Vester scored the final goal thanks to a Van Pelt assist, who got a break from the keeper position.

"I allowed (Van Pelt) to play some in the field late in the game," Coach Hunter said. "We were having to prepare for our State Tournament game and had several players in new roles. We were also missing starting defender Emma Smith who was out from an injury suffered in the Oglethorpe game."

At the end of the day, the game served as a learning experience for everyone. Every player who dressed, including JV players, saw action.

"Overall the girls played well, and we got out of the game what we needed, which was a win and an evaluation of our players and where they need to play during our State Tournament game with Westminster," Coach Hunter said.

This Friday, the Lady Panthers will host Westminster (7-6-3) in the first round of State at 6 p.m. within the friendly confines of Mike Colwell Memorial Stadium.

Coach Hunter urges all Union County fans to come out to the stadium on Friday, and cheer the Lady Panthers into the Sweet 16 for the second consecutive year.

## Union County 4-H BB Team wrap-up season

Over the last few weeks, the Union County 4-H BB team has been busy competing in two shooting matches: the State BB Match at Rock Eagle and the Georgia Games in Walton County. Shooters have been practicing for three months, each shooter practicing the four positions: prone, standing, sitting and kneeling. To qualify for the State contest each team of seven had to shoot a score of 1550 or better. The top high five shooters on a team constituted the team score. In early April two teams qualified for the State Match.

The State Match this year was the largest in the history of the Georgia 4-H BB program, the largest shoulder to shoulder shoot in the nation. Eighty-five teams with 570 shooters competed at Rock Eagle. Two teams from Union County competed with Team 1 placing 21st and Team 2 placing 47th. Three Union County shooters finished in the top 100 at the contest. Shooters on Team 1 were: Caleb Bottinelli, Evan Bryan, Travis Kerr, Lauren Lloydlee, Skylar Miller, Jeremy Stover and Noah Un-



Jeremy Stover, Josh Ledford, Travis Kerr

derwood. Team 2 included: Zack Ford, Derek Harwood, Joshua Ledford, Caleb Priebe, Eli Smith-Foot, Austin Sterna, and Luke Gambrell.

The Georgia Games held last week are organized by age groups. Team 1 included: Caleb Bottinelli, Jeremy Stover, Joshua Ledford, Skylar Miller and Travis Kerr. Team 2 included: Evan Bryan, Derek Harwood and Zack Ford. Jeremy Stover medaled in all four positions and was recognized as the Overall Shooter in the 9-10 year old division. Josh Ledford and Travis Kerr both received medals in two positions.

## Fish for Food Fishing Tournament

Matthew 25 Food Ministries presents "Fish for Food Fishing Tournament". 50% of tournament money goes to feed needy families in our area. The remaining 50% will go to tournament prize money. Prize money will be awarded for 1st Place, 2nd Place and 3rd Place and biggest fish. Actual prize amount will depend on number of entries.

Entry fee is \$40 per boat, the tournaments began in March and will end in October, occurring on Saturdays and rotating between Lake Chatuge, Woods Grove Boat Ramp and Lake Nottely, Deaver Road Boat Ramp, from 7 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Tournament schedule: April 26 - Nottely; May 10 - Chatuge; June 14 - Nottely; July 12 - Chatuge; August 16 - Nottely; September 13 - Chatuge; and October 11 - Nottely.

## UGH yard sale



Union General Hospital, Inc. is sponsoring a yard sale to benefit Relay For Life on Saturday, May 10th at the Blairsville Civic Center beginning at 7 a.m. N(Apr30,Z19)CA

## Veterans appreciation fishing rodeo

Mark your calendars! Chattahoochee Forest National Fish Hatchery located in the beautiful North Georgia Mountains on Rock Creek Road off GA Hwy. 60 near Suches, will host a Veterans Appreciation Fishing Rodeo on Friday, May 9, 2014, from 9 a.m. to noon.

The free event will be open to all U.S. Military Veterans and Active Duty Service men and women. Participants must register for free upon arrival and bring their own fishing gear and bait. Enjoy fishing in Rock Creek for the beautiful rainbow and brook trout that will be stocked at the hatchery especially for this event.

All Georgia Sport Fishing Regulations will apply. Free lunch will be provided by Friends of the Hatchery and Blue Ridge Mountain Trout Unlimited Chap-



Terry Callihan

ter #696. All other non-eligible family members are welcome to fish after 12 noon for remaining stockers. For more information, please contact Chattahoochee Forest National Fish Hatchery at 706-838-4723.



## Trout stocking sites week of April 21-25, 2014

Fannin: Big Creek, Hemptown Creek, Rock Creek, Toccoa River, and Toccoa River Tailwaters of Lake Blue Ridge.

Lumpkin: Etowah River and Nimbellewill Creek.

Murray: Holly River.

Union: Cooper Creek, Toccoa River, Winfield Scott Lake.

Note: Information is subject to change. Please call the hatchery at 706-838-4723 for questions. The hatchery also provides trout for the state. Please contact Georgia DNR for information on sites stocked by the state. N(Apr30,Z15)CA