

# UCMS Football: already gearing up for 2013

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The Union County High School Panthers have been hitting the field bright and early, but not as early as the Middle School.

Before the big guys take the field, the up-and-coming middle school squad is out in force for a series of passing drills and conditioning.

According to Union County Middle School Head Coach Casey Jones, the focus of the summer is very offense-fundamentals oriented.

"Right now we just want to work on fundamentals," Coach Jones said. "Throwing, catching, and route running is what I'm looking at (during the summer)."

The Panthers had a disappointing ending in 2012, after suffering two close losses to close out the season. However, the Middle School Panthers appear anxious to atone for their missteps last October.

So far, the turnout has been solid and Jones expects the enthusiasm to remain high as they prep for the 2013 season.

"We expect to have a good turnout all summer long, probably 40 kids" Jones said. "We have some new guys that haven't played before and some young guys that will be stepping up so we will focus on getting them up to speed. I'm excited about the team We are big up front and skilled at receiver. We



Union County Middle School held passing drills last week as Coaches Cullen Robertson and Derek Dillinger were on hand to instruct the quarterbacks and receivers. Photos by Todd Forrest

have good work ethic."

The Middle School will continue to work throughout the summer months with workouts on Monday and Thursday mornings. The team will also do some throwing on Tuesday evenings.

Next month Coach Jones and his charges will travel to Flowery Branch for a 7-on-7 camp on July 27th.

Official practice begins on July 29th and the first game kicks off on August 15th and Jones believes that these sum-

mer workouts will pay dividends in the fall.

"We worked (in the weight room) all year long and we will continue that this summer," Coach Jones said. "We'll work out for an hour each meeting and throw for an hour."

## YHC Bass Fishing team claims top spot in Rankings

**YOUNG HARRIS** - The Young Harris College bass fishing team was recently ranked No. 1 out of 117 colleges and universities on Bass Rankings' College Ranking list. Bass Rankings is a comprehensive and accurate multi-year ranking system for tournament bass anglers of all levels of experience.

The College Ranking reflects the performance of the entire institution. To qualify, a college or university must have competed in at least five events in the past year with at least three different teams contributing to those events. Each tournament score reflects the average of the teams from the institution competing in that event.

YHC moved to the top of the rankings after Grayson Payne, a sophomore biology major from Blairsville, Ga., and Joe Thompson, a junior biology major from Clayton, Ga., recently finished fifth at the 2013 FLW Southeast Regional Championship, securing a spot at the 2014 FLW College Fishing National Championship.

The College's bass fishing team was founded in 2009 by Brad Rutherford, a senior business and public policy major from Lavonia, Ga. The team has continued to rack up accolades through the years while regularly competing in fishing events



Young Harris College bass fishing team members Grayson Payne, a sophomore biology major from Blairsville, Ga., and Joe Thompson, a junior biology major from Clayton, Ga., finished fifth at the 2013 FLW Southeast Regional Championship held on Wheeler Lake in Alabama.

"It is quite a feat for the team to be at the top of this list, and I am so proud that our anglers continue to grow and thrive as they compete on a national level," YHC President Cathy Cox said. "We are thrilled that bass fishing teams from all over the country will visit our campus later this summer when

we host an exciting national collegiate tournament."

YHC will host the 2013 Carhartt Bassmaster College Series National Championship on Lake Chatuge, Thursday-Saturday, Aug. 1-3. This marks the first time in the tournament's history that it will place outside of Arkansas, where it has been held since its inception.

According to College Series Manager Hank Weldon, the tournament "promises to be the biggest in the history of the series." Competitors will weigh in their catches each day on the YHC Campus Plaza, and the tournament will receive national television coverage from ESPN.

"I think this tournament is going to be huge for the College and for the local community," said Rutherford, who led YHC's team to a 10th-place finish in the national championship last year. "Having the tournament on Lake Chatuge will allow us to show off this great lake we have and hopefully host more big tournaments in the future. I'm proud to be a part of this monumental moment for YHC."

Four team members will participate in the final qualifying event for the Carhartt Bassmaster College Series National Championship on Pickwick Lake in Alabama, June 14-15. The national championship title will be awarded to one college or university and determine which individual anglers will advance to the Bassmaster Classic bracket, Sept. 26-29, 2013, with a chance to represent collegiate anglers in the Super Bowl of bass fishing on Lake Guntersville in Alabama on Feb. 21-23, 2014.

Joe Collins

**Tips from the Range**

I could literally talk about the mental aspect of the game for hours on end, and have actually done just that on cold winter days when the single malt was flowing and the course was closed. If you were to pick one topic that we would talk about that affects your score the most, in respect to the mental side of the game, it would be "Game Management". In layman's terms: You got to have a plan. No pro will attack any round without at least a simple strategy.

Look at it this way. Every pro on the P.G.A. tour can hit the ball, some better than others. Why is it then, that you only have one winner and the rest of the field is spread out over 30 to 40 shots? Why doesn't the best ball striker win the tournaments every time he/she plays? What made Tiger Woods so dominant in the late nineties and early two thousands and still makes him a great player today? Why is it that you hit the ball better than a lot of people you play against but just don't score as well? The answer to all of these questions is in how you prepare yourself for the round and in how well you know your own limitations. The better you play, the more enjoyment you will receive from your efforts, so you have to play your own game.

Golf swings and golf games are as different from golfer to golfer as night and day. You will never see identical golf swings, ever. You may find some that are similar but never the same. Just like our physiques are different, our swings have to be different. Therefore, everyone plays a different game with the same motives in mind.

Many people play for sport or exercise but most play because it is a challenging, competitive sport. Not necessarily between you and your playing partner, but between you and the golf course. Your goal is to beat the course, and sometimes your playing partner; so first and foremost, you have to play your own game. Don't get caught up in trying to hit shots that are not in within your ability.

When designing a game plan for a particular course, pay attention to the limitations of your golf game. Don't try and hit it to places on the course that are risky. Play to the "fats" or to the widest landing areas. These areas are not always the closest to the green but are found on every hole to offer the golfer a good sporting chance of making par. Play away from trouble and stay clear of the dreaded two-stroke or stroke and distance penalties like Out of Bounds.

If you are hitting your driver poorly on a given day and you step up to a long hole that requires a good accurate and long drive, put

the 3-wood in your hands and focus on accuracy. Your back is already against the wall because you're not hitting the long club well, so give up twenty yards and put the ball in the fairway. Now you're hitting a longer shot into the green but it is your second shot not you're third or fourth. The driver would have most likely been in the woods anyway because of the negative attitude about you're tee-shots.

Another interesting thing that will help you score well in relation to the mental game is the aspect of playing to your strengths. If you are an accurate player use your accuracy to attack the course and wait on the easier holes to try and make low scores. Be patient on the long holes and try not to make any score higher than a bogey.

If distance is your strong suit, then aim to places where you have comfortable shots into the greens. Many pros would prefer to hit a full shot into a green instead of the dreaded half-shot so you might need to focus a little more from the green back to the tee when planning your game.

"I used to walk the course from the green to the tee to get Watson's approach shots calculated perfectly," said Tom Watson's longtime caddie the late Bruce Edwards. Many caddies learned that from Ben Hogan who was the ultimate example in how to prepare mentally for a tournament.

It is the enjoyment of your time on the course that is our ultimate goal and if your mind is not focused on the game at hand then you will waste shots and not enjoy your day out.

Try and prepare for your next round of golf with an emphasis on the strong points of your game. Learn to judge how you play certain clubs in your bag and try and develop an arsenal of shots to choose from. Play away from your weaknesses and always focus on your own game and the way you feel it should be played.

Nobody knows your ability the way you do so trust your own judgment and concentrate on how it feels to swing the club in relation to your position on the course. If you get in trouble, recover as quickly as possible by getting the ball back on the short grass and then go back to your overall game plan for the day. This will give you vision and will allow you to forget about the negative thoughts of a bad shot.

I hope that it is now obvious how important the mental game is. The Great Ben Hogan used to say, "If I can't see shot in my mind, then I can't hit it." He never used a yardage book or distance markers, which is a testament to how your mind can control the outcome of your round. Work on your mental game the next time you tee it up and save those precious few strokes that separate a good round from a not so good round. Good luck and I will see you on the course!

## Rec Department Info

**Football (tackle):** registration is May 1 - June 15, ages 7 - 12; fee \$90 (after June 15 \$100); teams assigned by age.

**Football (flag):** registration is May 1 - June 15, ages 5-6; fee \$35 (after June 15 \$45).

**Cheerleading:** registration is May 1 - June 15, ages 5 - 12; fee \$95. At registration child must be present to be fitted for uniform.

**Summer Day Camp:** location is Union County Kidz Korner, 683 Ledford Road; registration is now; ages 4 - 13; fee \$80 per week (includes breakfast, lunch and most activities); May 20th thru Aug. 2nd.

**Swimming Pool:** The Meeks Park Public Swimming Pool is now open 12 p.m. - 6 p.m. daily. Questions about water aerobics, swimming lessons, or pool parties should be directed to Brittany Swartz, manager at 706-439-6101.

**Batting Cages Closed:** As of June 3rd the Union County Automated Batting Cages are closed for the 2013 season.

## Tucker Basketball Camp

Union County High School will be hosting a basketball skills camp from June 24th-27th for boys and girls grades K-12th. The camp will begin daily at 8:30 a.m. and end at 11:30 a.m. Every camper will receive a camp t-shirt. There will be an awards ceremony on Thursday the 27th at 11 a.m. The cost for each camper will be \$60. You may bring this form and money on June 24th or mail this form and money to David Tucker at: 106 Sherwood Ave. Box 26, Calhoun, TN 37309. You may also contact Coach Tucker at (423) 336-3045

Assisting Coach Tucker at the camps will be: Tina Dockery - Union County Lady Panthers Assistant Coach, Mandy Hunter - Union County Middle School Girls Coach, Junior Tucker - Walker Valley High School, Mindy Cox - Niota Elementary School, and Jon Tucker - Tennessee Wesleyan College Assistant Coach.

Activities will include: ball handling drills, dribbling drills, shooting drills, offense and defense instruction, contests, 5-on-5 play, 3-on-3 play, and 1-on-1 play.

**Camper's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Do you have health insurance on this child? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_**

**Emergency Contact:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency Contact Phone #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

# Blairsville PTO, INC.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Annual S.O.S. Glow Golf Tournament

(Support Our Schools) 4 Person Scramble

### Friday, July 26

#### Butternut Creek Golf Course Blairsville, GA

**Awards for:**  
Top Gross Foursome • Top Net Foursome  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place Net Foursome • 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Foursome

### Incredible Raffle Prizes & Putting Contest

Registration: \$75 per player • \$300 per foursome  
Registration starts at 4 p.m.  
Tee Off @ 5:30 p.m. • Dinner/Raffle @ 8 p.m.  
Glow Golf Begins @ 8:45 p.m.  
Awards at Conclusion of Play!

Player 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Handicap: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Player 2: \_\_\_\_\_ Handicap: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Player 3: \_\_\_\_\_ Handicap: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Player 4: \_\_\_\_\_ Handicap: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail form & payment (check/money order) to  
Blairsville PTO  
P.O. Box 1059  
Blairsville, GA 30514  
or email registration info to  
blairsville\_pto@ucschools.org

For more information on the tournament  
call 706.835.5322 or email blairsville\_pto@ucschools.org.

## Summer Softball

**June 11** - Summer League Games vs. Towns 5:30/7:00 p.m. (@Union).

**June 17** - Practice 10 a.m. - noon.

**June 18** - Summer League Games vs. TBA - doubleheader.

**June 20** - Summer League Games vs. TBA - doubleheader.

**June 24** - Summer League Games vs. Towns 5:30/7 p.m. (@Union).

**June 25** - Summer League Games vs. Lumpkin at 5 p.m. vs. Dawson at 6:30 p.m. (@Lumpkin)

**July 1 -5** - Dead Week. Panther Pride Team Camp (TBA)

**July 9** - Summer League Games vs. Fannin. Towns vs Fannin Union vs. Towns (@ Union).

**July 15-16** - Summer League Games vs. Towns, Gilmer and Fannin (@ Union).

**July 18** - Practice 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

**July 22-23** - North Georgia Summer Classic - TBA (@ North Georgia College)

**July 29** - hitting at 4 p.m. and conditioning at 5 p.m. July 30- Fielding at 4 p.m. and conditioning at 5 p.m.

**July 31** - Hitting/fielding at 4 p.m. and conditioning at 5 p.m. (timed mile and hills).

**Aug. 1** - practice 4-6 p.m.

**Aug. 2** - workout 3:30-4:30 p.m.

**Aug. 3** - 100 Inning Game at 10 a.m. followed by team cookout at 5 p.m.

Game schedule will be released soon. You must have a physical to participate in the summer workouts

Please call Coach Stewart (706-897-7372) or Coach Cagle (706-492-3039) if you have any questions.