

Sports

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Union County 10&U baseball State bound

By Todd Forrest
North Georgia News
sports@nganews.com

Winder - The Union County 10&U All-Stars are headed to Dalton this weekend to join the 16-team Dizzy Dean State Tournament.

The Panthers defeated the Jefferson Dragons 14-4 in four innings to take home the District 6 Championship last Tuesday evening.

Union picked up wins over Jackson County, Barrow County, North Hall, and two over Jefferson, while suffering one loss to the Dragons.

The Panthers are coached by Joe Colwell, Jeff Daniel, and Shane Mullanack.

The team wishes to acknowledge the generous contributions of the following: Akins & Davenport Law Firm; Appalachian Transportation; Hal Beacham; Bi-Lo; Blue Ridge Mountain EMC; Chatuge Family Practice; Cary Cox; Cobb-Vantress Inc.; COTT Bottling



Photo, left to right: Front Row: Braylen Gray, Blake Davis, Chandler Mullis, Damien Chitwood, Kole Jenkins, Jonah Daniel. Middle Row: Joseph Rockenbaugh, Isaak Mullanack, Colton Day, Cooper Colwell, Kaston Hemphill, Zeke Swartz. Back Row: Coaches Shane Mullanack, Jeff Daniel, Joe Colwell

Company; Diane Dage; Paula Parker Directional Boring; Chatuge Family Practice; Tom Davenport; Davenport Transportation; North Georgia News; River's Edge RV Park; Staff of United Community Bank

Joe Collins 

Tips from the Range

Avid golfers know the thrill of anticipation. It is exciting to know that a round of golf is scheduled for Wednesday or that the gang is getting together on Saturday morning for a skins game. We know that our skills will be challenged in one of the most demanding arenas in sports, and we want to score well and not embarrass ourselves in front of our playing partners. The challenge of trying to control both desires can be overwhelming but the desire to play golf is stronger, so we get our backs up and get ready to go for it. Now what?

There is a phenomenon in golf, in that, we can control how high our score will be, but you can't always control how low it will be. Food for thought!

Preparation will guarantee you a good day on the course if you do it correctly. Keep in mind it is much easier to prepare a round in your mind if you know the course, but you can still be ready when it is time to tee it up, even if it is the first time you are playing a course. You simply take the round that you are going to play and break it up into segments.

Know your strengths and weaknesses before you start your attack plans. Use those on the parts of the course you will play, to your advantage. Most courses have the holes drawn out somewhere so pay attention to the layout and how it fits your game, especially if it's your first time there.

When getting ready for that first tee adventure, think about the things you do well and not the things you are scared of. If you hit the 3-wood better than the driver, use that ability to your advantage at the right place on the course. If you play a 9-iron better than a wedge, then find the approach shots that you can play a 9-iron from. Play a club off the tee that will leave you with a 9-iron distance to the hole.

Distance is not always the key to scoring lower but proper distance can be. Only plan on hitting shots off the tee that leave you a comfortable yardage on the next shot. Many times I saw players hitting different clubs off the same tee when I

played in competition. It was not uncommon to see one player with a driver and another with an iron on certain par fours. It all depended on how they were hitting the other clubs in their bags. You could rest assured they felt that was their best play and they weren't afraid to play what was better for them, on that hole, on that course, for that day.

A full round of 18-holes can be exhausting both mentally and physically so look at the round as a series of six 3-hole courses. It really helps you to play better if you lower the span of concentration to a shorter goal.

Plan on being no more than one over after the first three holes and the same on all the rest of the "three hole" courses. This takes the pressure of expectation off your shoulders and allows you a little break every three holes to re-evaluate your strengths and weaknesses. It is acceptable to change the game plan as long as it is the way you're feeling about how you are swinging the club. You will need to really be in tune with your game to make a change in your attack plan so be careful.

Golf is played one shot at a time and each shot affects the next. A course has many twists and turns and can be played from several different angles so plan your round so that you play from the areas that fit your strengths.

If you're scared of a shot on a certain hole, plan a shot that you can be comfortable with and that will help you with the rest of the holes. If you start playing badly, shoot for the highest percentage areas and don't keep battling the same bad shot all day, plan your "bale-out" areas for just such an emergency. Take your time and think things through when planning your round. A round of golf should take around four hours and a half, so don't get in a hurry. Plan your shots to play your best and the round will be enjoyable even if the score is not your lowest.

Good luck and I will see you on the course!

Correction

In the May, 22nd edition of the *North Georgia News*, Kaitlyn Daves' name was left out of the article regarding the Mountain Gymnastics' State Meet. We would like to apologize for the oversight.

14&U baseball season comes to an end at State

By Todd Forrest
North Georgia News
sports@nganews.com

Calhoun - After a 15-1 beat down of the Dawson County Tigers in Saturday's first round of the Dizzy Dean State Tournament, Union County dropped two in a row.

On Sunday, Union dropped one to the eventual State Champion and hosts Gordon County, 8-2.

Their season came to an end on Sunday evening when the Panthers lost a heartbreaker in the bottom of the seventh, 10-9 to the Kennesaw Generals.

Union County's season comes to a close after a successful run this postseason. The Panthers dominated the District 6 Tournament picking up wins over Towns County, Hall County, and two over Jefferson - including the Championship Game.

The Panthers were coached by Dustin Rogers, Charlie Davis, and Don Anderson.



Coaches and team prepare for their State Tournament contest last week in Gordon County. Photo courtesy of Dustin Rogers.

Mountain Gymnastics hosts Day Camp



Last month, Mountain Gymnastics Center hosted a week-long Day Camp. There were more than 20 attendees to the camp, not including the 2013-14 Competition Squad that is gearing up for its season in the fall. The camp was for boys and girls ages 5 and over. It lasted three hours over five days. There will be another Day Camp this month. Photos by Todd Forrest

AHT Atlanta Hawks Basketball Camp

July 18-20, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Union County Recreation Center

Advanced Hoops Training in Gainesville, Georgia, a proud partner and supporter of the Atlanta Hawks of the NBA, will be conducting an advanced skills basketball camp for boys and girls basketball players, ages 10-14. This camp will be 3 days in length, and be 4 hours each day of instruction and drills on advanced basketball skill development in the following areas: ball handling, shooting, speed, rebounding, passing, defensive skills, for other family members. The cost for this camp is \$125 per camper, and the registration deadline for this camp is on July 12. Don't miss out on this opportunity to attend this skills camp and be a part of the Atlanta Hawks' Skills Combine. You can check AHT out on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ahthoops. To register for camp, contact AJ Gwyn at 678-300-0453 or email ahthoops@aol.com.

Blairsville PTO, INC.

1st 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
2nd Place Net Foursome • 3rd 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: _____

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Player 3: _____ Handicap: _____ Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

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