

Sports

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Decade of softball dominance continues

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The Union County Lady Panther 12-and-Under Softball Team left no doubt as to why they are the best the state has to offer.

Union County overpowered the competition in last week's Dizzy Dean State Tournament as they traveled to northwest Georgia and laid waste to some of the top teams in the state, in their own backyard.

The Lady Panthers have now won back-to-back state titles with the 10-and-Under girls bringing home the top prize in 2011.

In the opening game on Saturday morning, the Lady Panthers turned in a 13-2 shellacking of Gordon County.

Madeline Tanner went the distance in Union's run-rule shortened, four inning victory. Tanner struck out nine, walking two and allowing two hits in the win.

The Lady Panthers' bats stayed hot throughout the game with Madeline Tanner helping her own cause with an inside-the-park home run. Logan Seabolt tripled, Allie Horinek added a double and a single. Also singling in the game were Horinek, Seabolt, Maci Everett, Karlee Payne, and Reagan Davis. Aladriel Arnold, Skylar Ludlum, Braden Poteete, and Channa Carroll would all reach base for Union County.

The Lady Panthers would meet the Catoosa County Nightmares in Game Two, reducing the Nightmares into a mere afterthought in a 12-1 drubbing on Sunday morning.

From the circle, Tanner pitched the first two innings, fanning four batters and walking only one and giving up one

hit. Seabolt entered the game in the third and overpowered the Catoosa County lineup. Seabolt struck out six batters in two innings, while walking two, and allowing three hits.

Everett, Arnold, and Poteete each reached doubles. Horinek, Tanner, Seabolt, Jaylyn Milam, and Davis all singled and Ludlum, Payne, and Carroll each walked.

Following their triumphant Game Two, the Lady Panthers were forced to wait until 8:30 p.m. to play their final game and the coaching staff was a bit worried about the extended lay over.

"We went to the movies," Head Coach Jeff Tanner said. "We went to eat and then we took them to the Chickamauga Battlefield Museum. Just trying to find some way to keep them cool."

"You could see they were starting to get a little frazzled there at the end," added Assistant Coach Joe Horinek. "It didn't really affect their bats but the defense was a little bit. That's a long time to wait between games."

The undefeated Lady Panthers would finally meet the Chickamauga Thunder in the Championship Game on Sunday night. Despite not starting until 8:30 p.m. the temperature during the first pitch was 101 degrees.

But the only thing smoking was Union's bats.

The Lady Panther lineup was determined to put the Thunder away early as they jumped out to a 5-0 lead, en route to a 13-6 victory.

"Well, 13-6 doesn't sound exciting," Coach Horinek said. "Even when we had the big lead, I felt like it isn't over yet because that team (Chickamauga) was definitely capable of scoring runs."

Although, the host team refused to cooperate and posted five runs of their own in the bottom of the first. Union responded with a run each in the second and third innings before posting five runs in the fourth and ultimately clinching the State Championship.

Tanner pitched the first inning until Seabolt entered in the second and allowed only one unearned run with seven strikeouts. Tanner returned to the circle in the fifth with Union leading 12-6 and kept the Thunder bats quiet for the remainder of the game.

"They both pitched and did a fine job," said Assistant Coach Dean Everett. "The reality is, they would have still won state if a monkey had been coaching them. They are a great group of girls and we were lucky to coach them."

Union County capped off an impressive State Tournament by outscoring it's opponents 38-9 in three games. Even more impressive was that Union County hitters only struck out four times in 77 plate appearances. Union County pounded out 39 hits and drew eight walks.

"You're going to win a lot of games with an on base percentage like that," Coach Horinek added. "The only thing maybe more impressive than that was only striking out four times. In district we had 20 strikeouts so we really improved," he said.

After narrowly escaping Jackson County with the District Title, Coach Tanner said that his team really turned the corner at the State Tournament.

"It's not that the district tournament was tougher, we just played better ball at state," Tanner said. "We just hit better."

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12&U Softball Team following their victory in the State Championship. Photo/Courtesy Shawn Seabolt



Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris, Larry Garrett, and UCRD Athletic Director, Ed Webster prepare to send the 12 U State Champions off on their victory parade. Photo/Todd Forrest



The 12U Championship softball team was welcomed home with a parade through downtown Blairsville last week. Photos by Todd Forrest



Panther 10U Baseball finishes fifth in State



The Union County 10&U Baseball Team after winning the District Tournament last month. The Panthers won two games in the State Tournament in Valdosta last weekend.

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The Union County 10-and-Under Baseball Team finished fifth in State after wrapping up the Dizzy Dean State Tournament in Valdosta with a 2-2 record.

The Panthers opened with a pair of victories on Thursday over Boynton-Ringold and Rossville before falling to Sandy Springs on Friday and Valdosta-Lowndes on Saturday.

In Game One on Thursday, the Panthers overcame three errors and defeated Boynton-Ringold, 6-4 thanks to three runs in the third and fourth innings.

Austin Garrison drove

in two runs with two hits, a double and a triple. Kyle Morlock would also double twice in the game. Meanwhile, Will Harkins and Matthew Kelley threw three innings each, with Kelley striking out three in the win and Harkins with two strikeouts and the save.

Boynton struck first with a run in the top of the third but Union County responded with three runs in the bottom half of the inning.

The Panthers added three more in the bottom of the fourth to take a 6-1 lead with six outs remaining. The Boynton rally would come up just short as they scored one in the fifth and two in the sixth.

Thursday night, Union would face the Rossville Reds and following a 3-0 early lead,

the Panthers would blow the game open with a five-run fifth inning in their 9-1 victory.

Garrison led the Panther offense with three hits, John Mancuso added two doubles, and two steals, and two RBIs, and Alec Youngblood finished with two hits. Hunter Young also contributed two RBIs to the Panther cause.

Morlock, Bryson Larissey, and Drake Groves also drove in runs for the Panthers.

Garrison would take the mound and throw three innings and striking out seven in the process. Youngblood entered in the fourth and threw three shutout innings to nail down the win.

On Friday, Union suffered it's first set back of the

tournament in a 6-4 loss to Sandy Springs. In Game Three the roles were reversed from Game One as the Panthers found themselves in a 6-1 hole after two innings.

Union would battle back thanks to two RBIs from Morlock and two hits a piece from Mancuso and Garrison but it wasn't enough to overcome four fielding errors as Youngblood, Harkins, and Kelley each saw work on the mound.

After trailing 4-1 after one and 6-1 after two, Union answered with two in the third and one in the fourth. Unfortunately Union was unable to push any runs across in the final two innings.

In the final game on

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Future Panther Football Camp

July 24 through 26
Tuesday-Thursday



Receiving
Blocking

Kicking
Passing



Ages: 7-13

Early Registration \$50
Day of Registration \$60

CONTACT: Coach Allison (770) 639-7331 | Coach McCombs (706) 781-9893
TIME: 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Union County High School Stadium
INFO: -Water and Gatorade will be provided. Please bring Water bottle with name.
-Wear shorts, t-shirts, and cleats.
-Each child will receive a Football camp T-shirt

Please Return With Payment

Name: _____ Age: _____ T-Shirt Size: _____

Parent: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Emergency Contact: _____ Phone: _____

*Please make checks payable to Future Panther Camps. 153 Panther Circle, Blairsville, GA 30512

This is an offensive position oriented camp.

Please Circle Campers Offensive Position: Quarterback Line Receiver/Running Back

UCHS Basketball Camp Info

David Tucker
106 Sherwood Ave.
Calhoun, TN 37309
(423)-336-3045

UCHS Shooting Camp

K-12
July 12-14, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
\$40 per camper
Bring in this form and the \$40 on July 12, or you may mail this form, along with a check, to David Tucker at the address above. Activities will include: Shooting drills and instruction for individuals and group, passing drills, dribbling drills, and contests

Campers Name: _____

Grade _____

Shoe Size _____

Do you have health insurance on this child? _____

Emergency Contact: _____

Phone Number (_____) _____

Parent's Signature: _____

Date _____