

Sports

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Lady Panthers sweep at YHC; visit Oglethorpe on Saturday

Last week's 8-AA showdown at Rabun County postponed until Wednesday

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Young Harris - The Union County Lady Panthers improved to 6-2 with wins over Apalachee and Gilmer County at Young Harris College last weekend. So far, five of Union's six wins have come against larger schools - Class AAA or higher.

Some late-inning heroics allowed the Lady Panthers to surge past Apalachee 4-3, while it was all Union during their 8-0 victory over Gilmer.

On Thursday, Union was scheduled to take on the Rabun County Lady Wildcats in Tiger but three days of rain made the field unplayable. The contest has been moved back to this Wednesday, the 26th at 5 p.m.

The trip to Rabun is sandwiched between home games with White County on Tuesday and a doubleheader with Greene County on Thursday.

On Saturday, the Lady Panthers will take on another Region 8-AA 2014 playoff squad when they travel to Oglethorpe County for one more doubleheader.

Lady Panthers 4 Apalachee 3

After spotting the Lady Wildcats two runs in the first three innings, Union stormed back with three runs in the top half of the fourth.

Apalachee (4-3) tied things up in the bottom of the fourth but a go-ahead run in the fifth held up as the Lady Panthers took down a Class AAAAA opponent that won 22 games and reached the State playoffs last year.

Junior Laken Chambers fired a complete game, giving up one unearned run, six hits, and three walks, while striking out 7 batters in 7 innings.

She went 3-for-3 at the dish with a double in the fourth and singles in the first and fifth innings. Her courtesy runner, sophomore Logan Seabolt scored once.

Freshman Ellie Garrison



Left: freshman Ellie Garrison swings away during a recent Union County win. She drove in a pair of runs in the Lady Panthers' 4-3 victory over Apalachee. Right: junior Laken Chambers recorded her fourth and fifth wins over the weekend. Photos/Todd Forrest

went 1-for-3 at the plate with 2 RBIs. Junior Kendra Tanner added an RBI and another triple to her school record, freshman Aladriel Arnold finished 1-for-3 and sophomore Braden Poteete was 1-of-3, scoring the go-ahead run in the fifth on a Tanner groundout.

Sophomore Jillian Lawn drove in a run and scored, while junior Lydia Arrowood also scored.

For the game, the Lady Wildcats out-hit Union 7-to-6 with each team committing two errors. However, the Lady Panthers put the ball in play more often - striking out once to Apalachee's seven.

Lady Panthers 8 Gilmer County 0

Union County handed Gilmer from Region 7-AAAA its first loss of 2015 after the Lady Bobcats won their first seven games to open the season.

Despite coming out of the gates with just three wins in its first 10 games, Gilmer finished 2014 on a high note with a trip to the Class AAAA Sweet 16, then continued to

ride that wave into 2015, but the Lady Panthers brought their momentum to an abrupt stop on Saturday at high noon with 5 runs in the first frame.

Union was a terror on the base paths with seven stolen bases in seven attempts. And after posting 5 runs in the first, the Lady Panthers put up 3 runs in the third, eventually ending the contest after five innings, via the mercy rule.

Lawn went 2-for-3 with 3 RBIs, a run, and a double. Tanner was 1-for-3 with a run. Garrison drove in a run, as did Arnold, who also scored, and senior Karley Nix picked up an RBI. Poteete walked twice and tacked on another Union run.

Union's other senior, Maddie Garrett finished 1-for-1 with a run and a walk. Arrowood, Seabolt, and freshman Maddie Sutton each scored a run.

With an error-free defense backing her up, Chambers was almost perfect from the circle - going 5 innings without allowing a run or a walk. She struck out five with eight outs coming by way of groundout.

Arrowood, Lawn, and



Sutton stole two bases a piece, with Nix adding another count of grand larceny on the bases.

On tap for this week...

Last week's meeting with Rabun was canceled and will be played Wednesday at 5 p.m. in Rabun County.

Along with two-time defending Region Champion Social Circle, Union and Rabun are expected to round-out a three-way race for the 2015 8-AA crown.

The fourth and final playoff team from 8-AA last season was Oglethorpe County, and that's where Union will travel on Saturday for a twin bill at 1 and 3 p.m.

The Lady Patriots are currently 3-1 with their only loss coming to a much-improved Washington Wilkes squad that returns a pair of All-Region selections from last year.

Oglethorpe suffered heavy losses due to graduation, thanks to six seniors, three being pitchers, on last year's team.

Of those six, three were First Team All-Region selections and one was second team.

Jenna McElheney and

Michelle Edwards - both pitchers and First Team picks. Trenetta Smith was named to the First Team and Jessica Pullium was second team.

Last year, Union defeated the Lady Patriots 12-4 and 8-2 in Blairsville.

Oglethorpe will face off with Social Circle (5-3, 1-0) on Tuesday in another important region matchup.

As for Rabun: the Lady Wildcats return seven starters - three were First Team All-Region and one received a Second Team nod.

They graduated two seniors, one of which was named Second Team All-Region.

In 2014, the Lady Panthers defeated Rabun four times in five meetings.

Three of Union's four wins were shutouts while Rabun's win came by way of a shutout, coming in an elimination game (Game Two of a best-of-three series) during the Region semi-finals.

On Tuesday, Union's busy week kicks off with a home contest with Class AAAA's White County (2-4), where the Lady Panthers will be looking for win number four against

schools from Class AAAA or higher.

The Lady Warriors were also a State playoff team in 2014, losing to Gilmer in the first round.

Thursday, Union will play host to Greene County for a doubleheader at 4 and 6 p.m.

The Lady Tigers are 0-2 with both losses coming by a combined score of 37-8. Last year, Union romped Greene 20-0 and 16-0 with similar scores coming in 2012 and 2013.

"It's very important to get a jump on the region and do our best to get five (8-AA) wins this week," Union County Head Coach Jessica Stewart said. "We played some pretty good teams on Saturday that will help us prepare for the upcoming week. We will play six games (and five Region games) - it will definitely show were we stand in the region."

Season Stat Leaders

Batting Average: Kendra Tanner .423, Karley Nix .409, Aladriel Arnold & Laken Chambers .364, Braden Poteete .333

Runs: Braden Poteete 9, Kendra Tanner 7, Karley Nix & Lydia Arrowood 6, Maddie Sutton & Ellie Garrison 5

RBIs: Karley Nix 7, Kendra Tanner, Aladriel Arnold, & Maddie Garrett 6, Laken Chambers & Jillian Lawn 5

Doubles: Jillian Lawn & Aladriel Arnold 2

Triples: Kendra Tanner 4

Homers: Laken Chambers 2, Maddie Garrett 1

Walks: Laken Chambers 4, Aladriel Arnold & Maddie Garrett 3, Kendra Tanner, Karley Nix, Lydia Arrowood, Megan Lockaby, & Braden Poteete 2

Stolen Bases: Lydia Arrowood & Maddie Sutton 5, Karley Nix 4, Ellie Garrison 3

(Pitching) Wins: Laken Chambers 5, Jillian Lawn 1

(Pitching) Strikeouts: Laken Chambers 32, Jillian Lawn 3

ERA: Laken Chambers 1.71, Jillian Lawn 2.33

Innings: Laken Chambers 41.0, Jillian Lawn 3.0, Madeline Tanner 2.0

Panthers host Meet the Team; season opens Friday with Towns

By Todd Forrest
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Since 2010, a tradition continues to grow and build team each year, and now, Union County Football's annual Meet the Team has become quite the local phenomenon.

On the last Friday of the year, prior to football season, Panther fans of all ages come out to Mike Colwell Memorial Stadium for a meet-and-greet with Union County's football players and coaches.

The event also provides an opportunity for the community to give the Panthers a proper send-off on the last Friday of the off-season.

"I think this is great for our football program," Union County Head Football Coach Brian Allison said. "This is something that our guys can give back to the younger kids in the community."

"We've been doing it long enough where a bunch of our players were probably up here at one time getting autographs and seeing the guys. These guys are influences and hopefully they'll be a positive influence and keep our program running in the right direction."

Sophomore defensive end, punter, and tight end R.J. Banton remembered what it was like to attend Meet the Team as a youngster. Now that he's the one wearing a Panther jersey and signing autographs, this event is extra special to him.

"It's amazing. It's really amazing," said Banton when asked what this event means to the team, and the support for Panthers football that it generates. "It's really cool how everyone comes out here to support us."

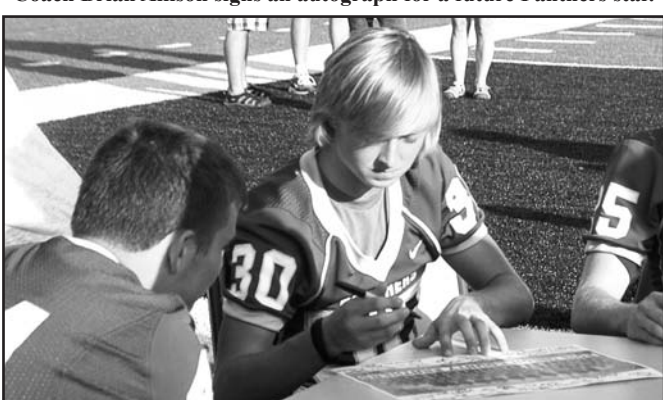
"I remember coming out here when I was younger and I always looked up to the guys, and now, being one of them, it's really cool."

The event featured the Union County cheerleaders, along with refreshments, pizza, and the Chicken Wing Eating Contest that has become a tradition at Meet the Team.

The Panthers will take



Coach Brian Allison signs an autograph for a future Panthers star.



Senior defensive back Eddie Kemp autographs a team picture.



Joseph Mancuso, Tyler McCoy, and other seniors sign for their fans. The field this Friday at 7:30 p.m. when they host arch rival Towns County.

After escaping Hiawassee with a 17-14 victory in 2012,

Union has blown out the Indians 41-14 and 57-14 in the last two meetings.

Come out and support the Panthers this Friday night!

Photos/Todd Forrest



Junior Dawson Groves (with glasses), the self-proclaimed 'most photogenic Panther,' and Jeffery Buzzard (70) pose for the camera.



The UCHS Cheerleaders entertain the crowd.

Towns County info



Location: Hiawassee

Nickname: Indians

Colors: Blue & White

Coach: Billy Barnhart (2nd yr)

Region: 8-A

2014 record: 2-8

Last Region title: None

Last State appearance: None

2014 result vs UC: L 57-14

Series record vs UC: 1-28

Last win vs UC: 1993 (27-17)

Players to watch: #24 K/DB

Shea Underwood Sr 5-11 160

(5-6 FG, Long 46, 32-34 PAT, 46 tackles, 2 INT in 2014), #14

QB Russell Cox Jr 6-0 170 (3

rushing TDs in 2014), #32 RB

Kobe Denton Jr 5-9 155 (593

rushing yds, 5 TDs in 2014), #12

RB/KR Cole Ledford So 5-6

145,(616 all purpose yds, 3 TDs,

7 rec in 2014), #62 LB Nick

Shook Jr 5-11 155 (74 tackles, 1

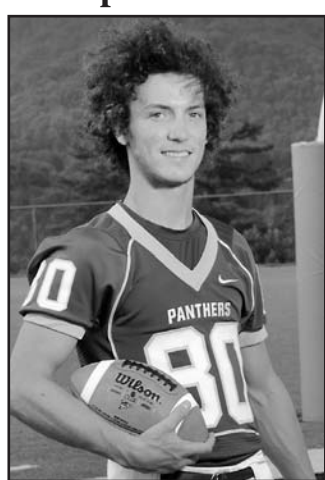
sack in 2014), #18 LB Daulton

Rogers Sr (80 career tackles),

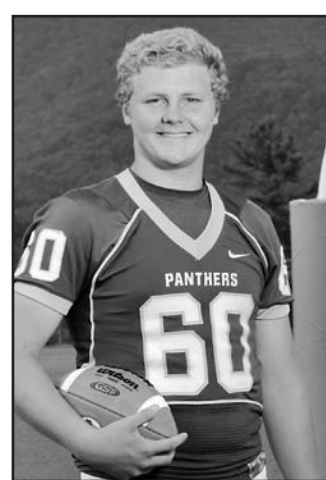
#50 Walker Ross Jr 6-0 200 (30

tackles, 1 sack in 2014)

Fall Sports Preview - Correction



Micah Gilbert #80



Micah Sisum #60

In the 2015 Fall Sports Preview, #60 Micah Sisum was listed as Micah 'Gilbert.' The North Georgia News would like to apologize for the mistake.

Aug. 21st Area Results:

Jefferson 19, Rabun Co. 7

Model 21, Lumpkin Co. 18

Andrews NC 20, Brevard NC 6

Hayesville 20, Towns 3 (scrimmage)

Murphy NC 34 Hendersonville NC 28

Swain NC 32 Hapeville Charter GA 28

Bufford 27 E. Christian, Maryland 20

Colquitt Co. 45, North Gwinnett 14

Hebron Acad. 21, E. Jackson 13

Johnson 17, Madison Co. 0

Lanier 17, Lambert 7

Robbinsville NC 22 Smokey Mtn 21

Aug. 20: White Co. 15 UCMS 14

Aug. 28th games

Rabun Co. @ Habersham Cent.

Gilmer Co. @ Fannin Co.

Strong Rock Christ. @ Social Circle

Lincoln Co. @ Washington Wilkes

Greene Co. @ Oglethorpe Co.

Coconee Co. @ Putnam Co.

Fellowship Christian @ Riverside

Tellico Plains TN @ Andrews NC

White Co. @ Pickens Co.