

# Five Union wrestlers go undefeated at Pickens County

By Todd Forrest  
North Georgia News  
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Union County traveled to Pickens County last week where they faced off against the Dragons and Cherokee. Over the weekend they went to Oglethorpe to take on the Patriots and Rabun County.

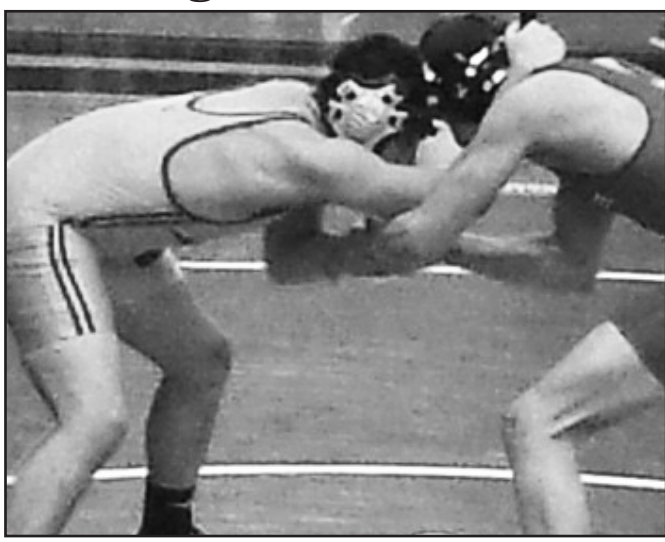
At Pickens, the Panthers lost both duals due to forfeiting 30 points to each opponent due to not being able to fill enough weight classes.

Against the host Pickens, Union fell 42-36 despite winning six of their eight matches.

Bryan Nelson, Zach Payton, Tyler Camp, Brendan Mason, Brandon Mickens, and Adrian Shaw all won their matches. James Rosser picked up a forfeit as well.

The Panthers suffered a similar fate against Cherokee, falling 48-36. Once again, the Panthers won the majority of their matches, going 6-for-9.

Grizzly Breedlove, Nelson, Payton, Mickens, Shaw, and



Union freshman Grizzly Breedlove (left) in action at Pickens County. Rosser all won their respective matches.

Payton, along with freshmen Nelson, Rosser, Shaw, and Mickens all went undefeated on the evening.

This weekend the Panthers travel to Social Circle for the Area Tournament where Union County Wrestling Coach Michael Smith-Foot has high expectations for his

County last weekend and won 5-of-9 matches against Rabun County. Mickens (120 pounds) and Shaw (126) each won by pin. Sophomores Noah Bierce (145) won 9 points and Payton (182) scored a pin. Breedlove (152), another freshman, scored a pin with sophomore Zach Payton.

Union took 7-of-9 from Oglethorpe. Freshman Brendan Mason (106) and Mickens (120) picked up wins. Shaw (126) and Rosser (132) recorded pins.

Payton (182) closed the evening with a win after Union picked up W's at 152 and 160 pounds.

"Our young men are maintaining their weights very well and winning most of their one-on-one matches," Coach Smith-Foot said. "They practice very hard, and I believe the key to their success is their endurance that is challenged every day by Coach Justin Byers. I have never been apart of a program that does this level of training. Coach Byers brings something to this program that most schools do not have and I am very thankful for it."

**WHEN:** February 7, 2015 6PM-9PM

**WHERE:** North Georgia Technical College

**COST:** \$50.00 per couple - \$10 for each additional Daughter

Dinner is included and Limo rides are available on a first come first serve basis.

Tickets are available at the Union County Recreation Office at 310 Wellborn St. For any questions call (706) 781-0990

# Crunch time... continued from page 8A

for 7 points a piece in the third. Colwell knocked down two 3-pointers, and Maddox scored 4 points to give the Lady Panthers a 58-15 advantage entering the fourth.

With Nalaschi recording a double-double (14 points, 10 boards) and the rest of the starters calling it a night after the third period, the Union reserves came in and continued to extend the lead by outscoring Greene 6-1, and putting an exclamation point on a 48-point victory.

Baylee Young, Coyne, and Logan Colwell scored 2 points a piece in the final frame.

Leading the charge for the Lady Panthers was Maddox who led the team in scoring with 17. The balanced Union County offensive attack proved once again that any player on the court is capable putting carrying the load.

Over the course of 20 games this season, four different Lady Panthers have led the team in scoring, in a minimum of three games each. Meanwhile, six different players have scored in double-digits for Coach Tucker's squad.

"All the success belongs to the girls," Coach Tucker said. "They enjoy practicing, they practice hard, and it's fun for them, and that's what it's all about. We go over what we're going to do and they believe in it and there is no selfishness. Everyone knows their role and we just go with it."

Maddox's 17 at Greene marked the eighth time this season that she's led the team in scoring. Day has topped the scoring column on five separate occasions, Nalaschi and Logan Colwell have each led the way three times.

Stroman scored a career-high 14 points vs Towns County and Coyne peaked with 11 vs Hokes Bluff Ala.

Rabun, who's expected to take care of business on Tuesday vs Social Circle, is on deck for Union with the teams scheduled to tip at 7 p.m. on Friday. The Lady Panthers are looking to end a four-game skid to the Lady Wildcats, however, playing at home could be a plus for Union since their last win over Rabun came in Blairsville in January 2013.

"Up (at Hayesville) they have a real home court advantage and that's what we're trying to build here," Coach Tucker said.

Another road trip is in store on Saturday when the Lady Panthers pay a visit to Washington Wilkes - tip off is set for 3 p.m.

Union was victorious, 65-37 when Wilkes came calling earlier this month. Nalaschi put up 23 points and Stroman scored 11 as the Lady Tigers fell into a 2-7 hole after one quarter and a 46-12 crater at the half. They would outscore Union 17-5 in the fourth quarter to make the outcome a little more respectable after trailing 60-20 at the end of the third.

The Lady Tigers are currently in third place in 8-AA and regardless of Friday night's outcome, the Lady Panthers can clinch one of the top two seeds in next month's Region Tournament with a win on Saturday.

**- SCORING:** Maddox 17, Nalaschi 14, Stroman 10, La Colwell 9, Day 6, Lariscy 2, Coyne 2, Lo Colwell 2, Young 2  
**REBOUNDS:** Nalaschi 10, La Colwell 8, Day 3, Lo Colwell 3, Maddox 2, Stroman 2, Fair 2, Lawn 2, Danek 1, Young 1  
**ASSISTS:** Maddox 8, Stroman 5, La Colwell 2, Day 1, Lariscy 1, Daniel 1  
**STEALS:** Maddox 3, Day 3, Nalaschi 2, Coyne 2, Lariscy 1, La Colwell 1, Stroman 1, Lo Colwell 1, Fair 1, Daniel 1  
**BLOCKS:** Nalaschi 3, Busse 1



Coach David Tucker and his starting five during a timeout. Union's starters were able to give way to the bench during the second half of their 64-16 win at Greene. Photo/Todd Forrest

## No Greater LOVE

**5K RACE & 1 Mile Walk**  
February 14, 2015

**Start this Valentine's Day giving the gift of love. Join "TEAM TRICIA"**

Tricia Spear has been giving back to this community, day after day for over a dozen years. Now she is fighting a serious illness and she needs all of us to help with her recovery.

Join us and participate in the 5k Race or the 1 Mile Walk  
Place : Meeks Park, Blairsville 9am/Registration 10am/Race-Walk

**Registration Fees RUN \$25 WALK \$20**  
All registrants will get a free Race T-Shirt, while supply lasts. Pre-register by January 27th to be guaranteed a Race T-shirt  
Registration Forms available online at Active.com or pick one up at Blairsville Chamber of Commerce, Seasons Inn, Mountain Shelter Thrift Store (Blairsville) or the Union General Wellness Center

Interested in being a sponsor and having your business listed on the T-Shirts? Call the Thrift Store at 706-745-0033 by Jan. 27th

The monies raised at this event will go to the Tricia Spear Recovery Fund.

Visit our event Page. No Greater Love 5k

# NASCAR 2015

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

## Five new inductees in NASCAR Hall of Fame

The five-driver group of the 2015 class of the NASCAR Hall of Fame, consisting of Bill Elliott, Fred Lorenzen, Wendell Scott, Joe Weatherly and Rex White, will be inducted on Friday, Jan. 30th, at the NASCAR HOF in Charlotte.

Fred Lorenzen was one of NASCAR's first true superstars even though he was a "part-time" driver never running more than 29 of the season's 50-plus races.

Lorenzen got his start in NASCAR as a mechanic with the famed Holman-Moody Team in 1960, but was elevated to lead driver by the end of the year. Lorenzen won three races in only 15 starts the following season.

His best overall season came in 1963 as he finished with six wins, 21 top fives and 23 top 10s in 29 starts. Despite missing 26 races that season, he finished third in the standings.

In 1964, he entered 16 of the scheduled 62 races but won eight, including five consecutive starts. During that stretch, Lorenzen led 1,679 of the possible 1,953 laps, one of the most dominant runs in NASCAR history. In 1965, he won two of NASCAR's major events - the Daytona 500 and the World 600.

Lorenzen retired in 1967 but made a brief comeback from 1970-72. He was an extremely popular driver with fans, to the point that he had several nicknames - "Golden Boy" and "Fearless Freddie."

He has lived in a Chicago assisted living facility for the past several years.

Joe Weatherly competed from 1952-64, had 229 starts, 25 wins, 18 Poles, and two championships (1962-63).

But that's only part of his story, which is long on versatility.

A decade earlier in 1952-53, he won 101 races in the NASCAR Modified division.

capturing that championship in 1953. He even tried his hand in NASCAR's short lived Convertible Division from 1956-59 winning 12

times.

When he won his first NASCAR premier series championship in 1962, he drove for legendary owner Bud Moore. When he repeated as champion a year later, he drove for nine different teams. Those were the only two years Weatherly competed in the premier series full-time.

"Awesome" Bill Elliott from Dawsonville, Georgia, was born on Oct. 8, 1955.

His lone championship came in 1988, but he competed from 1975-2012, with 828 starts, 44 wins, and 55 Poles.

His most prestigious accomplishment came in 1988 when he won the NASCAR premier series championship with six wins, 15 top fives and 22 top-10s in 29 races.

All that, combined with a likeable demeanor, endeared him to fans who adored him, and that adoration led to a record 16 Most Popular Driver Awards.

Consistency was the hallmark of Rex White's NASCAR career. He finished among the top five in nearly a half of his 233 races and outside the top-10 only 30 percent of the time, even though he only raced from 1955-1964.

White was a short track specialist in an era in which those tracks dominated the schedule. Of his 28 career wins in the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series, only two came on tracks longer than a mile in length. White's victory total ranks 24th among all-time premier series winners.

He won six times during his 1960 championship season posting 35 top-10s in 40 starts. He was the fourth driver to win a premier series championship in his own equipment.

White hails from Spartanburg, S.C., once the hub of stock car racing and a community that produced NASCAR Hall of Famers David Pearson, Cale Yarborough, Cotton Owens and Bud Moore. White was named one of NASCAR's 50 Greatest Drivers in



Fred Lorenzen in 1963

1998.

Wendell Scott wasn't the first African-American to compete in NASCAR's premier division. But the Danville, Va. native, whose career on wheels began as a taxi driver, was the first of his race to become a full-time competitor in the series.

Scott served three years in the U.S. Army during World War II where he honed his mechanical skills in the motor pool. Scott started racing in 1947 and experienced immediate success behind the wheel. He won over 100 races in the next decade at local area tracks.

He made his first start in NASCAR's premier series March 4, 1961 at Piedmont Interstate Fairgrounds in Spartanburg, S.C. He made 23 starts that season, posting five top-five finishes.

On Dec. 1, 1963 at Speedway Park in Jacksonville, Fla., Scott became the first African-American to win a NASCAR premier series event. Scott won the 100-mile feature race after starting 15th. The trophy was originally given to another driver, who was white. After the crowd left NASCAR told Scott they were mistaken, and he was the winner. He was handed the trophy, with no fanfare and credited with the win. There was speculation that it wouldn't be good publicity for NASCAR if a white trophy-girl was seen hugging or kissing a black man on the front page of the nation's newspapers.

Over the next 13 years, Scott would make 495 starts, which ranks 35th on the all-time list. In his distinguished career, Scott accumulated 20 top-five finishes including eight of them in the same season he won his first career race,

1964. He also posted 147 top-10 finishes, more than 25 percent of the races he entered.

Note: The HOF Induction Ceremonies will be televised on NBC Sports Network, beginning at 7 pm ET.

Meanwhile, next season will be the last for Jeff Gordon as a full-time driver.

The 43-year-old Gordon, who ranks third all-time with 92 career Cup victories, enters his 23rd season at Hendrick Motorsports. He has four Sprint Cup championships and if he is to get a fifth it must be in 2015.

"As a racecar driver, much of what I've done throughout my life has been based on following my instincts and trying to make good decisions," Gordon said. "I thought long and hard about my future this past year and during the offseason, and I've decided 2015 will be the last time I compete for a championship.

"I won't use the 'R-word' because I plan to stay extremely busy in the years ahead, and there's always the possibility I'll compete in selected events, although I currently have no plans to do that. I don't foresee a day when I'll ever step away from racing. I'm a fan of all forms of motorsports, but particularly NASCAR."

Gordon won his first championship at age 24 in his third full-time season in 1995 and followed that with championships 1997, 1998 and 2001. He seriously challenged for a fifth title in 2014, winning four races and scoring the most points of any driver throughout the year. But he missed the final cut for the championship round.

**Racing Trivia Question:** Where did Jeff Gordopn win his first Cup race?

**Last Week's Question:** The 2015 racing season is just around the corner. When and where will the first NASCAR Sprint Cup race be held? The Daytona 500 is the first points race of the season. This year it will be on Sunday, Feb. 22.

You may contact the Racing Reporter at: www.hodges@race500.com. NT(Jan28,C)ac

# DNR proposes changes to fishing regulations

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Division is proposing changes to fishing regulations. The proposed changes would remove the 'mountain' trout season and open all trout water to year-round angling.

"Previously, the 'mountain' trout season was kept from late March through the end of October each year, making streams designated as seasonal unavailable during that period of time," says John Biagi, chief of the Fisheries Management Section. "This change would allow that 'seasonal' regulation to be removed, opening up these streams to trout angling all year."

The Department has scheduled two public hearings to provide an opportunity to offer input on these proposed changes. Those interested are encouraged to bring these meetings to the attention of others that also may be interesting in participating. All hearings will begin at 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 10: Fair Street Neighborhood Center, 715 Fair Street, Gainesville, GA; www.gainesville.org/fair-street-neighborhood-center.

Thursday, Feb. 12: Red Top Mountain State Park, Conference Center/Park Office, 50 Lodge Road, SE, Acworth, GA; www.gastateparks.org/RedTopMountain.

These meetings sites are accessible to people with physical disabilities. To request sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids, contact Thomas Litts at (770) 918-6406 no later than February 5, 2015. For more information about the meeting locations, call the Gainesville fisheries management office at 770-535-5498.

Anyone attending the meeting is welcome to provide statements or comments, either orally or in writing. Statements should be concise to permit everyone an opportunity to speak. Participants should register upon arrival and notify the registering of-

ficial of their intent to give a statement.

Those unable to attend a meeting may submit input electronically or in writing by February 28, 2015. Written statements should be mailed to: GA DNR, Wildlife Resources Division, Fisheries Management Section; Attn: Thomas Litts; 2065 U.S. Highway 278, S.E.; Social Circle, GA 30025.

To submit comments electronically or view the proposed changes and additional information, visit www.gofish-georgia.com/fishing/proposed-regulations or contact the Fisheries Management Section at (770) 918-6406. NT(Jan28,F2)SH

**2015** **2015**

## Baseball and Softball

### Sign up

**Ages 5 thru 14**  
**Jan 19th until Feb 27th**

You can sign up and pay online at  
[www.unioncountygga.gov](http://www.unioncountygga.gov)

or you can stop by the Recreation Office at:  
310 Wellborn Street  
Blairsville GA, 30512

For any questions or further information you can look on-line at  
[www.unioncountygga.gov](http://www.unioncountygga.gov)  
or call 706-439-6074

**FFA 'Coon Hunt**

**WHEN:** January 31<sup>st</sup>

**LOCATION:** Union County Agriculture Barn  
Blairsville, GA

**CHECK-IN:** 4:30pm-6:30pm  
**WEIGH-IN:** Midnight

**COST:** \$15 per dog/ meal ticket provided per dog

**FOOD WILL BE PROVIDED AT CHECK IN!!**

**500.00 cash grand prize!!**  
Other prizes that will be awarded:

- Electric smoker!
- Dog box!
- And many more!!

For more information call:  
Austin Dyer (706) 994-1445  
Jake McClure (706) 994-7982  
John Clark Pettit: (706) 273-8457