

Union County's Sullivan sets world record

By Todd Forrest
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Bristol Tenn - Union County's very own Gina Sullivan is the new owner of a powerlifting world record.

Last month Sullivan, participating in the 114-pound Masters Class, squatted 150 pounds, breaking the world record for her class. She also picked up a first place finish at the competition with a 210-pound deadlift.

What makes the feat so remarkable is the fact that not long ago, Sullivan had no weight training experience whatsoever. It was only two years ago when she began training with local powerlifter and Union County High School Principal John Hill.

But she immediately fell in love with the sport.

"She had never touched a weight in her life and had never competed in sports but she became very dedicated to her training regimen and very committed to her diet," Hill said. "Over the past two years she has continued to get stronger and make progress."

Hill and his training partners are no stranger to powerlifting competitions and Sullivan decided she would join Hill and company in Bristol during the first weekend of September.

Not only did she dominate the squat and deadlift categories, she placed third in the bench



Gina Sullivan with family following her world record performance

press. "I would like to thank my family for their support and encouragement," Sullivan said. "I also want to thank John Hill for all the time he has put into training me, both physically and mentally and everyone at the gym for accepting me as part of the team and encouragement they have given me."

After her amazing accomplishment, Sullivan is proof that with the proper work ethic and desire, anything is possible. Even with a record breaking performance, Sullivan has remained humble and isn't a fan of the spotlight, however, she offered some sound advice.

"It is never too late to find something that you are passionate about," Sullivan said. "Be



John Hill and Gina Sullivan open minded about what that passion may be, set attainable goals and work hard, never ever give up."

Injury bug bites JV Panthers hard in shootout loss to Pickens County



The Union County JV Panthers suffered a tough loss to Pickens County last week. Photos/Todd Forrest

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The Union County Panthers JV football team lost quarterback Cole Wright (pictured above, # 6) last Thursday evening to a broken ankle.

Despite losing an important piece of the offense, the Panthers rallied around their fallen teammate and gave Class AAAA's Pickens County all they could handle.

Trailing 20-14 late in the second quarter, Wright picked off a Dragons pass in the endzone and returned the interception down the far sideline. He was finally brought down near midfield but suffered a season ending injury during the tackle.

Without their quarterback, Union turned to running back Cole Dockery and the freshman ran roughshod over the Dragons defense. At the end of the third quarter, Union



led 28-27. Unfortunately, Pickens scored 22-unanswered points to take a 49-28 lead.

But the Panthers responded again with a touchdown to get within two scores at 49-35, but it wasn't enough and Pickens held on for the win.

On Thursday, Union County will travel to Dawson County for a 5:30 p.m. kickoff.

UCMS Softball completes the three-peat



The UCMS Lady Panthers softball team completed its second undefeated season in three years and captured its third league title in a row. The team consists of: Maddie Tanner pitcher, Jordan Rogers pitcher, Maddie Sutton first base, Courtney Moose catcher, Mary Wischmeyer center and catcher, Kallie Brown right field, Megan Bright right field, Kristen Poteete right field and first base, Sykler Ludlum second base, Ellie Garrison third base, Adriel Arnold shortstop, Miranda Lockaby right field. The team is coached by Michael Smith-Foot.

The 2014-15 UCHS Homecoming Court



Winning streak... continued from page 12A

four runs in the sixth and one in the seventh to mount a 7-0 lead. In their last at bat, White scraped together three runs to avoid the shutout and make the final score appear a bit more respectable at 7-3.

The victory at White was Chambers' 18 win of the season and Coach Stewart's ninth in 10 games vs the Lady Warriors.

The top of the Union lineup proved to be a tough out as Crystal Busbee drove in 2 runs, scored twice, and doubled twice during a 2-for-4 performance, while Karley Nix went 1-for-4 with a triple and 2 RBIs.

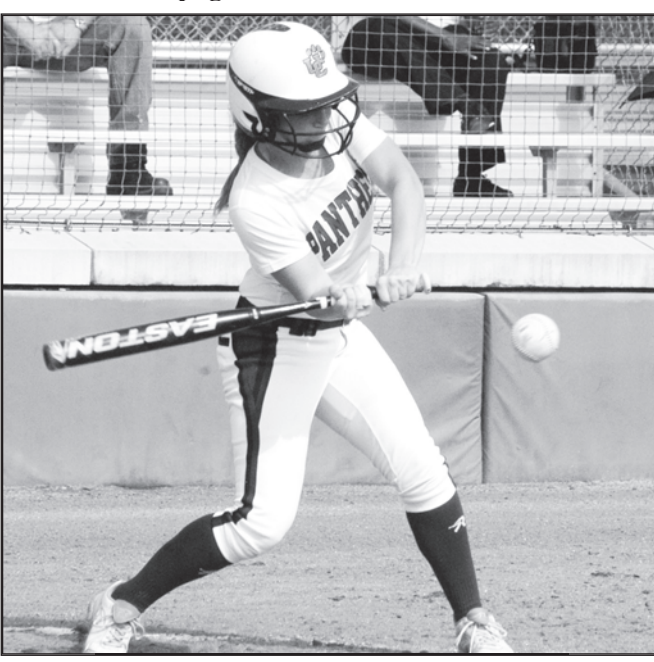
Chambers gave up 3 earned runs and 7 hits but fanned seven and walked one in 7 innings. She was 2-for-4 at the plate with a double and one RBI to give her 34 on the year.

King pounded the Lady Warriors' pitching with a 3-for-4 game that included two doubles and an RBI. Garrett was 1-for-4 with an RBI, Courtney Busbee went 1-for-2 with a pair of walks, and Tanner finished 1-for-3 with a run.

Poteete scored a run, Arrowood singled and scored, and Kelsey Nix walked and scored.

As the regular season draws to a close, other Lady Panthers are on the verge of setting new team records. Tanner currently has 4 triples for the year, which is the second highest total in team history. Kayla Gowder set the record with five three-baggers in 2007. Now Tanner joins Harper (2006), Kaitlyn Seabolt (2010), and Catie Tanner (2011) as players who have reached four triples in a season.

Pitching-wise Chambers



Sophomore Lydia Arrowood is currently batting .386. Photo/Todd Forrest

is approaching Harper's career wins total of 32. Currently Harper is second only to Angie Hughes in wins.

With a bye in the first round of the Region 8-AA Tournament, Union will host the winner of the Greene County at Rabun County series in a best-of-three series on Tuesday, Oct. 7th at 4 and 6 p.m. If needed, the third game will be played the following day.

"The girls earned a bye for finishing (second) during the regular season so it'll give us a whole week to get ready for Rabun," Coach Stewart said. "I hope it'll help getting those extra days of practicing rather than having to travel somewhere and play in the 1st round. We will take some live batting practice this week to make sure we do have a few live at bats."

As for Union's semifinals matchup, Greene County didn't win a game this year so

it's very likely the Lady Panthers will host Rabun. Union held on to beat the Lady Wildcats 1-0 at home then pounded them 7-1 at Rabun.

"I don't believe we will see anything different from Rabun than we already have," Coach Stewart said. "However, the first game against Rabun we only beat them 1-0. They think they can play with us and it's always tough to beat a team three or four teams in one season, but we are on a mission to get back at Social Circle in the Region Championship, so my girls will be ready for whatever Rabun has to offer."

The Region Championship and consolation games will be held on Saturday, Oct. 11 at the higher seeded team. The seeding for the tournament is as follows: 1) Social Circle, 2) Union County, 3) Rabun County, 4) Oglethorpe County, 5) Washington Wilkes, 6) Greene County.

2014 Basketball registration Union County Recreation Department

Age Group	Registration Begins	Season Starts	Season Ends
5/6 yrs old	September 29	October 13	November 21
7/8 yrs old	September 29	October 13	November 21
9/10 yrs old	September 29	December 1	January 17
11/12 yrs old	September 29	December 1	January 17

Registration fee is \$50.00 and is open to both boys and girls.

Registration can be completed online at Meekspark.com or in person at the Recreation Office at 310 Wellborn Street.

If you need any additional information, please call 706-439-6074

Suches readies for the Run Above The Clouds



While preparations for the Indian Sumer Festival are under way in Suches at the Woody Gap School and on the field behind, other folks are working hard to make ready for this year's edition of the Run Above The Clouds. The committee has been especially busy this year as new challenges are met and enhancements to the program are put in place.

The challenges are to help meet the scholarship needs of a 2015 graduating class that is about three times as large as usual and to be able to respond to requests for scholarship assistance not only from the graduating class but from previous graduates still in school for four years after graduation. This year the Run Above The Clouds gave more money than ever before and three of the four scholar-

ships awarded went to returning students. This makes the gathering of sponsorships even more important. The Run Above The Clouds committee thanks those sponsors who have continued to support the effort over the years and those who have come on board more recently. Your participation makes a difference in the lives of Woody Gap students.

The enhancements include establishing online registration possibilities for the runners and greatly expanded web page. The web page, when it is fully up and running will have information about the race, the course for the runners and the area as well as recognition of the sponsors including links to their web pages.

Then there are the t-shirts. From the beginning, the shirt design has not been known until the day of the race and this has generated some interest and guessing in the last few years. The design is now in, the shirts will be printed shortly and all will be known on the morning of October 4th.

Lastly, there is the bear thing. In 2011 a runner reported seeing a bear just off the course watching the runners pass. This probably doesn't happen in many other races and the committee was rather taken with the incident, so much so that the bear ended up on their shirt design the next year and last year as well. Then last year there were two separate sightings of bears along the race route and that pretty well set the stage for the run. The bear is now a part of our logo as well as on the t-shirts. We're waiting to see where it goes from here.

The race is believed to be the highest elevation one in the state. It certainly is one of the most picturesque courses. You are invited to come, participate (or just watch) the Run Above The Clouds at the Suches Community Center on the first Saturday of October and then join the festivities at the Indian Summer Festival across the road at the Woody Gap School. It's a good time to be had and the proceeds from the race and festival benefit the Woody Gap School and its students. (N001Z17/C)