

Sports

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Union County High School's standout performers of 2020

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During last week's year-end recap, the *North Georgia News* reflected on the most memorable Union County High School sporting events of 2020.

In this edition, the *North Georgia News* will celebrate the finest individual performances of the past year, beginning in January and continuing in chronological order.

As with last week's best games article, we picked the brains of each Union County coach, but the final result belonged to the NGN.

It should be noted that golf isn't included in this article. According to golf coach Greg Chambers, Union County only got in one match last spring, and it was cut short by darkness.

Boys Basketball: Pierson Allison vs. Social Circle, Region 8-AA Tourney Semifinals - Feb. 7: Allison led the way with 23 points in two quarters while dealing with a first-half leg injury. Scored 14 straight points and accounted for 18 straight, trimming an 11-point, fourth-quarter deficit to two points before Social Circle sank a pair of game-clinching free throws in the waning seconds.

Wrestling: Brady Guild places fifth at State Sectionals - Feb. 8: Guild won three matches at Lamar County, securing his spot in Macon for the Class AA State Championships. The sophomore began his day with a win in the 152-pound division, scoring a pinfall in one minute, 58 seconds vs. Toombs County's Jeremy Brantley. In round two, Guild fell to Cory Young of Lamar County via decision. He would bounce back with a pinfall victory (3:57) in the consols over Fitzgerald's Lathan Curry. Following a 5-2 decision over Swainsboro's Kyle Phillips, Guild defeated Jeff Davis' Javarion Coleman in a 7-4 decision to place fifth.

Swimming: Brian Williams places second in State - Feb. 8: Williams took home second in the 200-Meter Individual Medley with a time of 1:58 at Georgia Tech while competing against Classes A through AAA.

Boys Soccer: Kobi Robbins vs. Riverside - Feb. 18: Robbins recorded his second straight hat trick as Union County recorded its first victory over the Gainesville military school.

Robbins scored Union's only goal of the opening half, then scored two goals in the first four minutes of the second to spot the Panthers a 3-1 advantage.

Girls Basketball: (Tie) Ava Hunter vs. Early County in Elite 8 - Feb 25 / Ava Hunter vs. Fannin County - Jan. 11: The sophomore put up 19 points, 13 rebounds and 2 blocks against Early County's four-star Florida State commit (Mikayla Timpson).

In a home win over Fannin County, Hunter went for 27 points, 14 rebounds, 4 steals, 2 blocks.

Honorable Mention: If there were an award for the clutch play(s) of 2020, it would belong to senior point guard Brooke Dockrey, who came up with two steals and two free throws during the final 20 seconds with her team clinging to a 34-33 lead during the Region 8-AA Championship



Pierson Allison scores two of his 23 points vs. Social Circle in the 2020 Region 8-AA Semifinals at Rabun County. Photo/Todd Forrest



Kobi Robbins watches one his three goals of the night sail past the Riverside Military Academy goalkeeper during Union County's 4-3 victory on Feb. 18. Photo/Todd Forrest



Union County's Brian Williams waves to his family from the medal stand after placing second at State in February.

Game vs. Banks County. As a result of Dockrey's heroics, Union County went on to win 37-33, claiming its first region basketball title in 11 years.

Baseball: Isaak Mullinack at Commerce - March 3: Mullinack went 4-for-4 with 3 runs and an RBI during the 7-3 win at No. 6 Commerce. He also pitched two scoreless innings with three strikeouts.

Honorable Mention: John Mancuso went 3-for-4 with 4 RBIs, 2 runs and a triple in a 10-0 win at Gilmer to help Union avoid an 0-3 start.

Track and Field - Boys: Kyle Morlock at Gilmer - March 5: Morlock set a school record with a discus throw of 110-feet, 2 inches, to lead the Union County men to a convincing win over Gilmer and Southeast Whitfield.

Track and Field - Girls: Zoe Sanchez at Gilmer - March 5: The defending 3200-Meter State Champion opened an abbreviated 2020 season at Gilmer with victories in the 3200M and 1600M races. Sanchez finished the 1600M event in 5:47 and the 3200M in 12:23.

Girls Soccer: Desaray Patterson and Mattison Ruff at Monticello - March 6: The se-

nior duo of Patterson and Ruff poured in four goals each in a 10-0 rout at Monticello. Patterson added two assists - one to Ruff and the other to freshman Italia Salazar.

Cross Country - Boys: Luke Gambrell at Meeks Park

- Sept. 3: The senior Gambrell opened the season by setting a course-record at Meeks Park, clocking in 18:01, narrowly edging 2018 graduate Lance Underwood (18:02). Gambrell's performance helped pace Union County to a first-place

tie with Class AAA Gilmer.

Football: Carson Walker vs. Chestatee - Sept. 18: The junior running back rushed for 175 yards and two touchdowns. He also returned the second half's opening kick 85 yards for another score and caught

one pass for 22 yards.

Softball: Trinity Queen at Banks County - Sept. 22: Queen clinched Union's regular-season Region 8-AA title with a two-hit shutout at defending State Champion Banks County.

Honorable Mention (x2): Hannah Patton went 3-for-5 in Union's 6-5 win over Banks County in the first meeting of 2020, scoring the game-winning run following a two-out triple to keep the inning alive.

Lexi Sisum drove in five runs at Elbert County, going 2-for-4 with a two-run homer.

Cross Country - Girls: Hana Gregory at Unicoi (Region 8-AA Championships) - Oct. 28: Dealing with damp conditions and a last-minute reschedule, Gregory placed second at the region meet with a time of 22:46, which was 18 seconds better than her State pace, and 92 seconds ahead of her first-race time of 24:18 at Meeks Park.

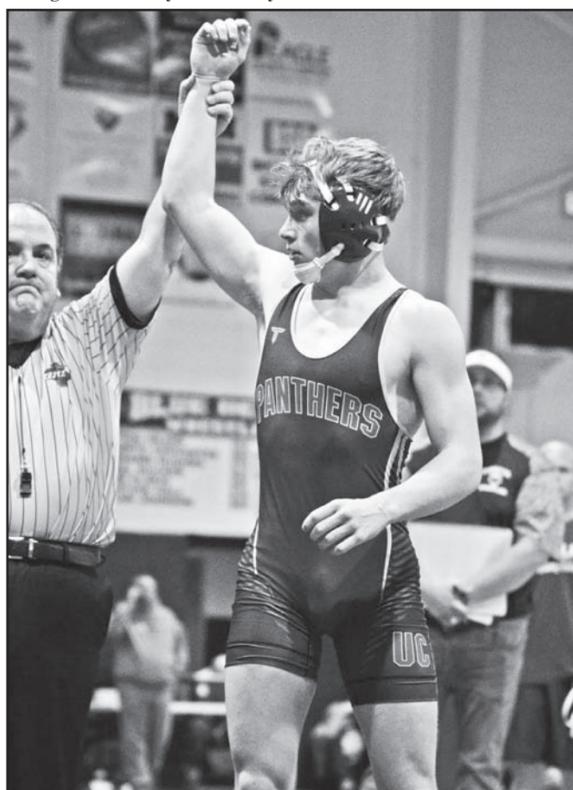
Volleyball: Saylor Noe at Davidson Fine Arts (Augusta), State Elite 8 - Oct. 28: Noe recorded a team season-high 12 kills on 23 attempts to propel Union County Volleyball to its first-ever final four.

The sophomore also notched a career-best 16 digs to go with one ace.

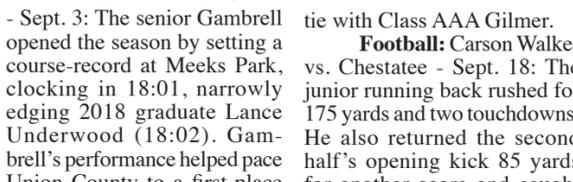
Additional photos are included on Page 3B.



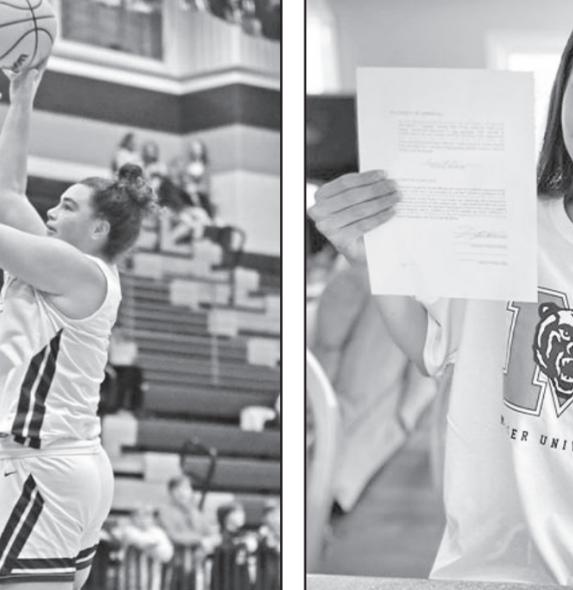
Ava Hunter during last year's State Tournament. Hunter scored 51 points with 28 rebounds in three State games. Photo/Todd Forrest



Brady Guild scores a victory at Area to punch his ticket to the Class AA State Sectionals last February. Photo/Todd Forrest



Zoe Sanchez commits to Mercer to run track and cross country during her virtual signing day last spring.



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