

Swimming: Union County shatters records at State Championships

North Georgia News Sports Special

ATLANTA - Under the tutelage of head coach Kathy Mancuso, and assistant coach Emily Stafford, the Union County High School Swim team accomplished what had never been done before in program history: Competing in the Finals of the 2019 State Swimming Championships.

The top 30 in each event in Prelims progressed to the Finals competition on Saturday, Feb. 9. UCHS swimmers advanced to Finals in six of eight events. Schools in A-AAAAA competed all together at the Georgia Tech McAuley Aquatic Center and the final results were broken out per division.

Preliminary competition opened with senior swimmer Brendan Bowman standing barefoot on the pool deck singing the National Anthem to a packed stadium of thousands of swimmers and spectators.

"It was such an honor to sing the Star Spangled Banner at my last time competing here," said Bowman. "It made my fourth and final year at state one to remember."

Sprint-Freestyle specialist Bowman, and Medley specialist Brian Williams both made it to Finals on Saturday in their respective events and were also members of the 200 Medley relay (Steven Williams, Brian Williams, Bowman and Grayson



Clockwise: State Team (front row L-R) - Brendan Bowman, Steven Williams, Brian Williams (Back Row L-R) Emily Stafford, Hunter White, Grayson Blocker, Kathy Mancuso and Luke Gambrell. Winning relay team (front row L-R) - Brendan Bowman, Brian Williams, Grayson Blocker and Steven Williams. State Team (front L-R) Steven Williams, Grayson Blocker, Brendan Bowman, Brian Williams (back L-R) Hunter White and Luke Gambrell. Photos/Submitted

Blocker) and 200 Free relay (Brian Williams, Steven Williams, Blocker and Bowman) that also qualified for Finals.

Other UCHS swimmers competing on Friday included Steven Williams in the 100 Backstroke and the school-record holding 400 Free Relay team (Luke Gambrell, Hunter

White, Blocker, and Steven Williams).

The results were the best that the UCHS swim team has ever seen in its decade of existence. Returning individual state-qualifier Brian Williams brought in the fastest AA time and new school records in the 200 Medley (2:01.54) and the

100 Breaststroke (1:01.55). Bowman was the second and third fastest in Class AA in the individual 50 Free (22.13) and 100 Free (49.45) races respectively, establishing new school records in both events. The 200 Medley relay (Steven Williams, Brian Williams, Bowman and Blocker [1:42.05]) and the 200



Free Relay (Brian Williams, Steven Williams, Blocker and Bowman [1:32.24]) both brought in the top time in AA competition and established new school records, as well.

"Our swimmers have worked so hard all season long and our great results at state are evidence of their hard work,"

Coach Mancuso said. "With only two graduating seniors from the state team, Blocker and Bowman, the UCHS Swim Team will be returning strong in 2019-2020 to shatter more school records and represent the excellence of the North Georgia mountains at Georgia Tech."

Soccer: After a week of cancellations, Union County opens region play Friday

By Todd Forrest Sports Editor sports@nganews.com

Union County was unable to see any action last week due to a stubborn weather pattern that refused to depart North Georgia.

As a result, Union County begins region action with a very limited amount of game experience when both teams travel to Banks County to kickoff Region 8-AA play at 5 p.m. Tuesday.

The region home opener is slated for Friday when they host Putnam County beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Union travels to Rabun County on Tuesday, March 5 before visiting East Hall in a non-region contest on Wednesday, March 6. The week concludes with Monticello at home on Friday, March 8.



Sophomore goalkeeper Aaron Helton and a young Panther squad have their sights set on returning to the State Tournament for the first time since 2016. Photo/Todd Forrest

2019 Panther Soccer		
Feb 5	Lumpkin Home	JVB 4:00 VG 5:30 VB 7:30
Feb 8	North Murray Home	VG 5:30 VB 7:30
Feb 9	Darlington Home	VG 2:00 VB 4:00
Feb 11	Towns Home (Middle School)	8G 4:15 8B 5:15
Feb 12	Fannin Home	VG 5:00 VB 7:00
Feb 14	@Lumpkin (Middle School)	8G 4:15 8B 5:15
Feb 20	@White	JVB 4:00 VG 5:30 VB 7:30
Feb 21	@Fannin (Middle School)	8G 4:15 8B 5:15
Feb 22	Riverside Military Home	JVB 5:00 VB 7:00
Feb 23	@Rabun Gap	JVG 1:00 VG 2:30
Feb 26	@Banks REGION	VG 5:00 VB 7:00
Feb 28	Dawson Home (Middle School)	8G 4:15 8B 5:15
March 1	Putnam Home REGION	VG 5:30 VB 7:30
March 4	@Towns (Middle School)	8G 4:15 8B 5:15
March 5	@Rabun REGION	VG 5:00 VB 7:00
March 6	@East Hall	VG 5:30 VB 7:30
March 7	@Clear Creek (Middle School)	8G 4:15 8B 5:15
March 8	Monticello Home REGION	VG 5:30 VB 7:30
March 12	@Hayesville	VG 5:00
March 12	Dawson Home	JVB 5:00 VB 6:30
March 14	White Home (Middle School)	8G 4:15 8B 5:15
March 15	Pickens Home	VG 5:30 VB 7:30
March 18	@Pickens (Middle School)	8G 4:15 8B 5:15
March 19	Elbert Home REGION	VG 5:00 VB 7:00
March 22	@Oglethorpe REGION	VG 5:30 VB 7:30
March 26	Towns Home	VG 5:00 VB 7:00
March 28	@Social Circle REGION	VG 5:00 VB 7:00
April 9	@Gilmer	JVB 4:00 VG 5:30 VB 7:30
April 18	Tri-County Early College	VG 5:00



Sadie Underwood takes over at goalkeeper for the Lady Panthers this season. Photo/Todd Forrest

Basketball: 12U Panthers headed to State



Union County's 12U boys basketball team won the District 7 title at the Towns County Recreation and Conference Center on Feb. 15-16. The Panthers dismantled Commerce, 70-28 in Friday night's opener before crushing Lumpkin County, 61-23. Union County met Towns County in the semifinals and battled to a 25-25 tie at the half. The Panthers would eventually pull away with a 58-48 victory to punch their ticket to the finals. Union and Rabun would square off in the title game with the Panthers once again overcoming a slow start. Tied at 14-14 after one, Union would shift into overdrive and take the District title with a 62-38 rout. The Panthers will begin State Tournament play this Friday at Gilmer. Photo courtesy of Tina Dockrey.

Baseball: Union County at Commerce combined stats

#	Roster	GP	PA	AB	H	1B	2B	3B	HR	RBI	R	HBP	ROE	FC	CI	BB	SO	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS
1	John Mancuso	1	3	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.000	1.000	1.000	2.000
30	Austin Garrison	2	4	4	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.250	.250	.250	.500
9	Isaak Mullinack	2	6	4	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	.250	.500	.250	.750
5	Mason McCombs	2	6	6	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	.167	.167	.167	.333
6	Alec Scott	2	7	6	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000	.000	.000
27	Alec Youngblood	2	6	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	.000	.000	.000	.000
24	Ean Harkins	2	6	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	.000	.000	.000	.000
18	Hunter Kelley	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	.000	.667	.000	.667
16	Jonathan Everett	1	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	.000	.000	.000	.000
15	Matthew Kelley	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	.000	.500	.000	.500
31	Peyton Ivester	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000	.000	.000
22	Zeke Swartz	2	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	.000	.250	.000	.250
Totals		2	52	44	5	5	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	6	7	.114	.216	.114	.329

#	Roster	IP	GP	GS	W	L	SV	SVO	BS	SV%	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HBP	ERA	WHIP
9	Isaak Mullinack	5.0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	.000	5	2	2	1	3	1	2.800	1.200
22	Zeke Swartz	5.0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	.000	2	2	0	2	4	0	.000	.800
30	Austin Garrison	2.0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	3	2	0	3	4	0	.000	3.000
24	Ean Harkins	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	1	1	0	.000	1.000
Totals		13.0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	.000	10	6	2	7	12	1	1.077	1.308

MARCH MULCH MADNESS

Cypress Mulch | 2 cu. ft. bags for \$3
 Pick up March 9th from 9am-1pm at Bank OZK
 Order online at
<https://squareup.com/store/mulch2019>

Place your mulch orders before the pickup date of March 9 to raise money for the UCHS marching band.