

Sports

See the Sports Section at ngame.com

No. 4 Panthers' visit to Dawson County ends in 1-1 draw

Crawford, McCarter lead the charge in Lady Panthers' win over MACA

By Todd Forrest
Sports Editor
sports@nganews.com

The No. 4 Panthers left Class AAA Dawson County on Tuesday, March 26 with a 1-1 tie courtesy of junior Antonio Solorio's early goal.

During the opening minutes, senior Zuriel Mancillas found Solorio for a 1-0 Union County lead, but Dawson County answered with the equalizer in the fifth.

Neither team found the net over the next 75 minutes of a physical contest on a rainy night in Dawsonville.

Earlier, the Lady Panthers suffered a 9-0 loss to No. 6 Dawson County, giving up five goals in the first 40 minutes.

Union County bounced back with a win over Mountain Area Christian Academy (MACA) on Thursday, March 28.

The Lady Panthers scored 10 goals during the first half for a 10-0 victory.

Senior Zoe Crawford opened the scoring when she turned a MACA goal kick into the day's first point during the 2nd minute. Junior Ariel McCarter found the net in the sixth courtesy of Crawford, then junior Lily Brookshire added an unassisted goal in the eighth for a 3-0 lead.

McCarter's second goal came in the 11th via Crawford. Junior Katelyn Brown scored in the 17th for a 5-0 lead; senior Marina Stepps added another in the 26th.

Sophomore Chanda Gray bumped the lead to 7-0 in the 33rd; senior Allana Franklin scored in the 37th and Crawford rounded out the scoring in the 39th.



Senior Marina Stepps scored her first high school goal last week during Union's 10-0 win over Mountain Area Christian Academy. Photo/Todd Forrest



Union County celebrates a Zoe Crawford goal during a recent game. L-R: Lily Brookshire, Ariel McCarter, Crawford and Emerson Kight. Photo/Todd Forrest

Up next: Union County is off for spring break but returns to action on April 11 vs. White County.

The Union County men will open postseason play at home on April 19 vs. the No. 3 seed from Region 5, Towers

(Decatur). The winner will likely travel to top-ranked Model (Rome) on April 26.



Junior Antonio Solorio scored his 12th goal of the season at Dawson County on Tuesday, March 26. With a dozen goals in 2024, Solorio joins Wilson Walker, Zuriel Mancillas, Tyler Robbins, Kobi Robbins and Brian Smith as Union County's single-season 12-goal scorers over the last seven seasons. Photo/Todd Forrest

Golf: Union men improve to 5-0 with wins at Old Union, Kingwood



Junior Huston West (L) and freshman Hayden Price (R) in action at Old Union Golf Course on Monday, March 25. At Old Union, the Panthers defeated Murphy, NC and Lumpkin County. The Union boys fired a 167. Murphy had 176 and Lumpkin County shot 179. The Lady Panthers were defeated by Lumpkin County 113-125. Later in the week, the Union men traveled to Rabun County's Kingwood Golf Course and left with a 170-176 victory. Huston West led the way with a 39, Will Henson shot 41, Price had a 42 and Turner West shot a 48. The Union County ladies didn't compete at Rabun County. Photos by Todd Forrest

Athens Academy silences Union Co. bats in three-game sweep

Panthers to host Providence Christian in Saturday doubleheader

By Todd Forrest
Sports Editor
sports@nganews.com

Union County dropped to fifth place in Region 8-AA following a three-game sweep at the hands of Athens Academy.

The Panthers (5-9, 2-5) suffered a 12-1 home loss in Wednesday's opener before losing two in Athens on Friday night, 4-0 and 11-0.

Union County returns to the diamond on Saturday, April 6, when they host Providence Christian in a doubleheader rescheduled from March 22.

Panthers 1, Athens Academy 12 (Gm 1) - The Spartans scored the first dozen runs to build a 12-0 lead in the fifth. Union County pushed across one in the bottom half, but it wasn't enough to continue as the mercy rule ended things after five.

Sophomore Gunnar Akins started for the Panthers, giving up 6 runs (four earned) and 5 hits over 3+ innings. The Union lefty struck out five, walked two and hit a batter.

Union County manufactured only one run on 8 hits and a pair of walks. Senior Will Doyle and sophomore Lane Haney logged two hits apiece, with Haney driving in the lone run via a fifth-inning single.

Athens pushed across one in the first courtesy of a leadoff single, a wild pitch and a blooper into shallow right field.

Two Union errors and two hits extended the Spartans' lead to 4-0 in the second. The Panthers stranded two runners in the bottom half after Doyle singled to left-center and Akins drew a walk.

An Athens Academy double and a sacrifice fly made it 5-0 in the third, but Union loaded the bases before a pop-up ended the inning.

Akins walked a batter to start the fourth, bringing junior



Senior Connor Swanson accounted for four of Union County's seven hits during Friday's doubleheader at Athens Academy. Photo/Todd Forrest

Kaden Combs to the mound. A base hit and a Union error extended the Spartans' lead to 7-0, but Combs escaped by inducing an inning-ending double play.

The Panthers failed to answer after Haney and Bo Brown singled in the Union half of the frame. Athens tacked on five in the fifth via five hits, a walk and a hit batter to mount a 12-0 advantage.

The bottom half began with a Maddox Patton walk, followed by Moses Stevens' two-out single. Haney put Union on the board when his base hit up the middle brought home Patton.

Doyle's single to left loaded the bases, but that proved all the offense Union could muster as a strikeout ended the threat and the game.

Doyle finished 2 for 3; Haney went 2 for 3 with an

RBI. Junior Travis Tracy and Stevens both went 1 for 3; Brown and Eli Gwynn each went 1 for 2. Patton ended up 0 for 2 with a walk and a run.

Combs worked 2 innings of relief, allowing 6 hits, 5 runs (4 ER) and a walk.

Panthers 0, Athens Academy 4 (Gm 2) - Gwynn kept Union County in the game, allowing 5 hits and 3 earned runs over 6 innings, but the Panther bats were limited to 4 hits in the shutout.

Union County wasted a walk and a single to start the third and Athens broke the scoreless tie in the bottom half via a two-out, two-run single.

An inning-ending double play during the fourth ended the Union threat before the Panthers left two runners aboard in the fifth.

Haney walked and advanced to third in the sixth,

but a pop-up and a strikeout left him 90 feet away.

The Spartans capitalized on three sixth-inning walks to grow its lead to 4-0.

In the seventh, a questionable base-runner interference call thwarted a Union rally after Doyle led off the frame with a hit by pitch.

The bottom third of the lineup accounted for all four Union hits with senior Connor Swanson doubling during a 2-for-3 day. Senior Eli Sosensky and junior Hayden Hughes each went 1 for 2 with a walk. Sosensky added a stolen base.

Haney and Gwynn walked; Tracy was hit by a pitch.

On the bump, Gwynn stuck out three Spartans and walked four.

Panthers 0, Athens Academy 11 (GM 3) - Union County's Friday doubleheader



Sophomore Eli Gwynn scattered five hits over 6 innings at Athens Academy but received no run support. Photo/Todd Forrest

ended without a run as the Spartans halted the nightcap during the fifth inning.

Four fielding errors proved costly as Athens scored three in the first, five in the fifth and three in the third.

Hughes, junior Tyler Richards and freshman Junior Davis limited the Spartans to only five hits, but the errors, along with six walks and two hit batters were too much to overcome.

Swanson accounted for two of Union's three hits during his 2-for-3 outing. Patton finished 1 for 1 with a walk.

Hughes went 1 1/3 on the mound, allowing 8 runs (4 ER), 3 hits and 4 walks. Richards went 2/3 of an inning, giving up 2 hits, 3 runs (2 ER), a walk and two hit batters.

Davis fanned two and walked one while not allowing a hit over two scoreless

innings.

Up next: Union County and Providence's Saturday doubleheader gets underway at noon. The Storm took the first game of the series 10-0 on March 19.

Notes: The Wednesday, March 27 contest with Murphy, NC was canceled to allow for a makeup game vs. Athens Academy. Union and Athens were originally slated for Tuesday, March 26 before rain washed out the region contest.

Learn to play Pickleball

Free Beginner Classes every Tuesday at 6 PM (weather permitting). All equipment provided and no registration needed, just show up. Courts are located on Chase Drive behind Union County Health Department. NTApr3.29/CA



Sophomore Lane Haney went 2 for 3 in Wednesday's series opener, driving in Union County's only run of the week during the fifth inning of game one. Photo/Todd Forrest



Junior Hayden Hughes slides safely into third during game one of Union County's three-game region series vs. Athens Academy. Photo/Todd Forrest

McCarter's Megalodons Union Co. Primary's 2024 Battle Ball champs



Ms. McCarter's 2nd grade class, the 'Megalodons' finished in first place during Union County Primary School's 2024 Battle Ball tournament. The annual end-of-the-year tournament for UCPS second graders is one of the highlights of Coach Chris Robbins' physical education class at the school.

POSITION AVAILABLE PART-TIME NEWS/SPORTS REPORTER IN TOWNS COUNTY

REQUIREMENTS:

Writing Experience, Must Meet Deadlines,
Reliable Transportation,
Ability to work some weekends & holidays

Apply at North Georgia News
266 Cleveland Street
Blairsville, GA 30512

or send resume to

northgeorgianews-ken@hotmail.com

NO phone calls, please.