

Sports

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Soccer: UCHS achieves clean sweep of Region 8-AA

Union takes two at Rabun County, men blank Riverside 4-0 in region finale

By Todd Forrest
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Sixth-ranked Union County (13-2-1, 8-0) locked up its second straight Region 8-AA title with a 2-0 victory at Rabun County on Monday, March 28, setting up a meeting with Elite Scholars Academy (ESA) in the first round of State on Friday, April 15.

The Panthers put the finishing touches on back-to-back undefeated 8-AA campaigns with a 4-0 win at Riverside Military Academy on Thursday, March 31. With Thursday's victory, Union County has now won 16 consecutive region contests, outscoring 8-AA competition 100-5 over that same span.

Panthers 2, Rabun County 0 - Senior Kyler Robbins collected the brace for Union County, scoring a pair of goals in the first 39 minutes to secure the 8-AA title in Tiger.

Sophomore Joel Mendoza and junior Wilson Walker opened the scoring in the 24th by feeding Robbins for a 1-0 advantage. Wes Seiler got in on the action 15 minutes later, hooking up with Robbins for a two-goal edge.

Robbins' two goals proved more than enough as the Panthers' defense limited Rabun to only two shots on goal.

Panthers 4, RMA 0 - Sophomore Zuriel Mancillas' goal in the first minute put Union County on top for good during its 10th shutout of the season.

Senior MJ Delatte found



Sophomore Zuriel Mancillas is Union's second-leading points scorer with 10 goals and five assists. Photo/Todd Forrest

Walker 19 minutes later to provide the Panthers a 2-0 halftime advantage.

Delatte found the net in the 60th minute on a feed from Robbins, then Mancillas finished off his brace with a goal in the 63rd via an assist from fellow sophomore Benton Gregory.

Up next: Union County hosts Region 6-AA's No. 4 seed, Elite Scholars Academy (5-4), on Friday, April 15 at 5:30 p.m. ESA fell in the first round

a year ago, suffering a 7-0 loss to Model, who went on to drop a 5-0 contest to Bremen in the Sweet 16.

Lovett, who defeated Union County 2-0 in the Sweet 16, ended Bremen's season by a 5-1 score in the Class AA Final Four.

Should the Panthers advance to this year's Sweet 16, they would face the winner of Region 2's runner-up (likely No. 10 Woodville-Tompkins [9-3-1], Bacon County [8-3]



Senior Melia Whitener (L) and sophomore Zoe Crawford (R) celebrate during a recent Union County match. Photo/Todd Forrest

or Toombs County [9-4-3] vs. Region 4's No. 3 seed Jefferson County.

Should both No. 1 seeds hold serve during the first two rounds, the Class AA Elite Eight would feature a rematch of the 2019 State Championship between Union County and fifth-ranked Thomasville (14-1-1).

However, due to a potential meeting with No. 9 Callaway (12-2-1) in the second round, Thomasville would face a more difficult path to the Elite Eight than the Panthers.

Whichever team emerges from the aforementioned Union County-Thomasville/Callaway bracket will likely face top-ranked Lovett (13-1-1) in the Final Four.

In the event of two No. 1 seeds meeting at State, the home team will be determined by the GHSA's "universal coin flip."

Lady Panthers 5, Rabun County 0 - Union County (10-3-1) closed out the 2022 region schedule with a perfect record

following its shutout win at Rabun on March 28.

The Lady Panthers scored three goals in under 14 minutes to seize control early. Senior Lorelei Skinner fed freshman Ariel McCarter in the 1st minute, junior Alli Franklin found sophomore Lara Turner in the 10th and sophomore Zoe Crawford scored in the 14th off a Turner assist.

Junior Italia Salazar accounted for both of Union's second half points - the first an unassisted goal in the 43rd minute. Her second goal came via Turner in the 76th minute.

Up next: Union County will likely face Therrell in the first round of the Class AA State Tournament on Thursday, April 14. The Sweet 16 will include the Union / Therrell winner facing either the Region 2 runner-up, East Laurens (10-6), or third-seeded Laney (5-3) from Region 4.

Furthermore, the Lady Panthers could host No. 8 Fannin County (13-1) in the Elite Eight, assuming the Rebels -- who are currently tied with fourth-ranked Model (13-1) for first in Region 7 -- end up as the No. 2 seed. Although, Fannin / Model would have its hands full during the second round with a potential trip to No. 6 Fitzgerald (11-0-1).

Like the men, the Union ladies wouldn't face No. 1 Lovett until the Final Four. As for the Lions, they feature one of the easiest paths to the semis with No. 7 Lamar County (13-3) and unranked Putnam County (7-5) as the probable toughest opponents in their bracket.



Junior Wilson Walker (6) dished out one assist at Rabun County and found the net at Riverside Military Academy three days later. Photo/Todd Forrest



Lady Panthers senior captain Lorelei Skinner (16) fights through contact during a shot attempt inside the opponent's penalty box. Photo/Todd Forrest



(L-R) Junior Avary Smith-Foot throws in near the Union bench. Freshman Antonio Solorio (14) and sophomore Nick Depalma both attack a free ball. Photos/Todd Forrest



Spring is bursting all around us! BRMJ welcomes all Jeep enthusiasts to join us for any or all of our events. Whether you enjoy driving through the forest, riding in parades, or wrangling the creeks and mud in FWD, we've got your ride. Join us at one of our club meetings and find out what we are about. Meetings are the second Friday of each month at the Blairsville Skillet Cafe. Lunch is at 11:30. The meeting begins at 12:30.

For more info, please attend a meeting or contact us via our website, www.blueridgemountainjeepers.com. View our Calendar of Events and see photos of recent rides and activities. Also "like" us on Facebook.

Baseball: Panthers rout RMA and Towns, clinch postseason berth

By Todd Forrest
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Union County's Friday shellacking of rival Towns County capped a perfect week that saw the Panthers (5-14, 3-6) secure their third-straight postseason berth with a three-game sweep of Riverside Military Academy.

Panthers 12, RMA 2 (Game one) - Union's 4-0 week opened with a five-inning home victory over Riverside on Tuesday, courtesy of a combined one-hitter from Parker Grisham and Thomas Dyer.

Grisham earned the starting nod and worked three innings, allowing one hit, three earned runs and one walk while striking out three in the win. Dyer entered in the fourth and tossed two innings of no-hit baseball, fanning two and walking a pair before the Panthers ended the contest early via a four-run fifth.

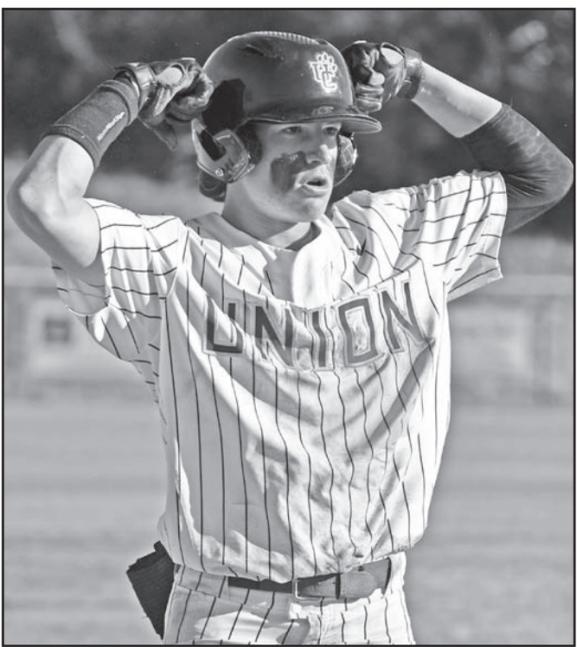
The Union fifth began with an error off the bat of senior Bailey Brown followed by two stolen bases and a Grisham RBI single. Hughes worked a four-pitch walk allowing Dyer to plate a pair with a double to left. An RMA throwing error brought Dyer around to score as the Panthers walked off the 12-2 victory.

The Eagles' only lead came in the first when they capitalized on two hit batters, a walk and a wild pitch. Trailing 1-0 with two aboard and one away, the Panthers escaped without further damage when a grounder to senior shortstop Connor Shields instigated a 6-4-3 inning-ending double play.

Following a 1-2-3 bottom of the first, Union County broke through with three in the second and five in the third when senior Logan Anderson singled and eventually scored to even things at 1-1. Senior Caleb Towe walked and came around on an error, then Brown tripled and scored to build a 3-1 advantage.

Two Panthers' errors led to an RMA run in the third but the Panthers exploded for a five-spot, opening up an 8-2 margin in the bottom half of the frame. Senior Tyler Loyd got things going with a hit-by-pitch, and Anderson plated him on a base hit to left. Towe tripled to left and later scored on a Chris Fletcher base knock.

Leading 5-2, Shields reached on an error and a Grisham hit-by-pitch loaded the bags for



Senior Lake Hughes is fired up after his second hit of the first inning - an RBI triple to greet Towns County lefty Cabe Poston. Photo/Todd Forrest

Hughes, who brought home three runs when RMA couldn't corral his fly ball to right. Anderson finished 2 for 2 with two steals, a run and a ribby. Towe tripled, walked, swiped a bag and scored twice during a 1-for-2 game; Grisham also finished 1 for 2, stealing three bases, scoring twice and knocking in one. Brown added a pair of runs during a 1-for-3 day at the dish that included a triple and two stolen bases.

Fletcher went 1 for 2 with a run and an RBI; Dyer doubled and knocked in two during a 1-for-4 performance. Hughes walked twice and scored a run. Shields and Loyd added one run apiece for the Panthers.

Panthers 17, RMA 2 (Game two) - Union County scored eight in the third and five in the fourth to put away the home team in four innings during the opener of Thursday's doubleheader in Gainesville.

James McPherson doubled and plated a career-high four RBIs during a 2-for-2 game that saw the junior surrender one hit and an unearned run during two innings on the hill.

Will Duncan tossed two innings in the start, fanning three while giving up one unearned run, a walk and a hit. The junior also finished 2 for 4 at the plate with one ribby.

Dyer and Loyd each drove

in three runs during a pair of two-hit, two-run outings. Anderson went 2 for 4 with two runs and an RBI; Hughes scored three times while going 1 for 3 with a walk and a ribby. Fletcher doubled, walked, scored a run and knocked in another.

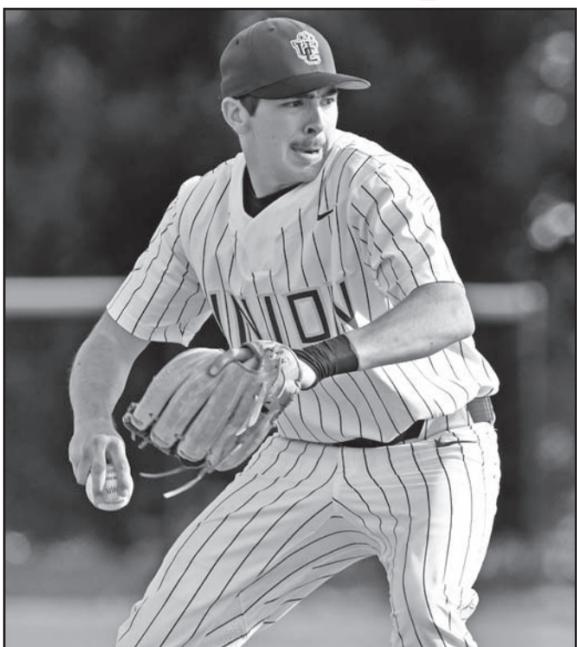
Fleming scored three times and Brown came around twice, while Grisham and Towe each tacked on one run.

Nursing a 4-1 lead in the third, Union blew things open with eight runs, beginning with a double from Fletcher and an error off the bat of Towe. A wild pitch brought home Fletcher and Duncan singled home Towe with one away.

Consecutive errors stretched the lead to 7-1, then a two-run double by Loyd and an RBI-single from Anderson opened up a 10-1 advantage. Following a wild pitch that added another Union run, McPherson made it a 12-1 game on a base hit to left.

Dyer's two-run triple built a 14-1 margin after Brown and Hughes both reached to start the fourth. A pair of two-out walks to Grisham and Fleming set the table for McPherson, who roped a two-run double to center, marking Union's final runs of the contest.

Panthers 18, RMA 1 (Game three) - A nine-run third sparked Union County to the Region 8-AA sweep, eventually



Senior Parker Grisham deals during game one vs. RMA. Photo/Todd Forrest

closing out Thursday's twin-bill with an 18-1 victory in five innings.

Anderson and Duncan each recorded their first four-RBI game, while Towe notched a career-best four runs in the first of Union's two 18-run outbursts in back-to-back days. Duncan scored three times and doubled during a 2-for-3 game. Anderson laced two doubles in a 2-for-4 performance.

Shields scored three times while going 2 for 3; McPherson came around twice while finishing 2 for 4 at the dish.

Anderson started on the mound and lasted two innings, fanning one without allowing a hit. Shields gave up two hits and an unearned run over two frames; Towe struck out two during a scoreless fifth.

Already out front 5-0, Duncan was plunked to begin the third and Grisham reached on an error, putting two aboard for Anderson, who plated a pair via a double to center. Sweat's RBI groundout made it 6-0 before a Shields single and a Towe walk loaded the bags for Fleming, who added another run with a base hit to left.

A two-out, bases-loaded double by Duncan built a 10-0 margin before consecutive RMA errors pushed the lead to 12-0.

Two singles and an error put the Eagles on the board in the

the eight-run frame with an RBI double.

The Panthers added two more in the second, forging a 10-1 margin when Shields doubled home Towe and Fletcher.

The Indians refused to go away, however, putting up a four-spot in the third to cut the lead in half at 10-5. During the frame, Hughes surrendered four singles and a double, keeping hope alive for the visitors, albeit very briefly.

Union County responded with four of its own in the bottom of the third, beginning with a two-run single by Anderson. Fletcher made it 14-5 when his two-run opposite-field single brought home Anderson and Towe with one away.

Dyer's two-run triple made the Indians pay for a pair of walks to open the fourth before coming around on a base hit by Loyd. Following a double-play, Towe singled and moved into scoring position on a wild pitch, where Grisham plated the senior outfielder with a base knock to left.

Duncan spelled Hughes with two on and one out in the fifth following a 98-pitch outing from the Union southpaw. Duncan induced a run-scoring groundout and a game-ending pop-up to nail down the 18-6 win.

Dyer tripled during a 3-for-3 day at the plate, knocking in three, swiping three bags and scoring three times.

Towe scored four times during a 3-for-3 game; Fletcher also finished 3 for 3, driving home three runs and scoring twice. Hughes scored four times with two walks and a ribby during a 2-for-2 day. Shields went 2 for 4 with an RBI; Loyd ended his day 1 for 4 with a ribby.

Brown scored twice, Sweat knocked in two and Grisham plated a run during a 1-for-1 game.

Hughes allowed nine hits and five earned during 4 1/3 innings, fanning eight and walking two.

Union County and Towns will meet in a 5:30 p.m. rematch on Monday, April 11 before Region 8-AA play resumes with a three-game set vs. Rabun County.

The Panthers host the Wildcats at 5:55 p.m. on Tuesday, April 12, then travel to Tiger for a doubleheader on Friday, April 15 where the No. 3 seed in 8-AA will be up for grabs.

Track: Union hitting its stride at Dawson County tri-meet

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Dawsonville - Union County attended the Dawson County Tri-Meet on March 24, picking up 19 gold medals against the host Tigers and neighboring East Forsyth.

The Union ladies collected a dozen first-place finishes, including two apiece from Mattie Brookshire, Hana Gregory, Linley Jones, Hannah Long and Lexi Sisum.

Furthermore, Ashley Shipes' time of 15 minutes, 13.91 seconds in the 3200M race and Allie Brey's 4-foot, 10-inches in the high jump were both good enough for first place.

As for Brookshire, her day featured gold-medal distances of 81-9 in the discus and 28-4.5 in the shot put. Gregory was victorious in the 800M and the 1600M races, crossing the finish line at 2:39.67 and 5:59.01, respectively.

Jones' gold medals came in the long jump (14-7.5) and the triple jump (29-5.75). She also placed second in the 100M hurdles and the 300M hurdles behind her teammate Long, who logged times of 18.35 in the 100 hurdles and 51.33 in the 300 hurdles.

Meanwhile, both the 100M and 200M races went to



Union County track athletes at Dawson County (L-R): Hunter Hartzog, Benton Gregory, Zander Rotko and Trace Wright. Photo/submitted

Sisum, clocking in at 13.80 and 28.60, respectively. Noel Hyatt placed second in the 400M race, while each of Union's three relay teams (4x100, 4x200 and 4x400) all left with silver. Long came in third in the 200M dash and Ellie Adams also took home bronze in the 800M event and fourth in the long jump.

Katie Byers placed third in the high jump and third in the 1600M race went to Natalie Payne. Katie Payne was fourth at 400M while Brey placed fourth at 800M and 1600M. Brooklyn Brown came in fourth in the discus and fifth in the shot put. Andrea Barrera placed fifth in the 400M race.

Tyler McBride placed

second in the shot put and Barnes came in second in the discus. Abercrombie logged a runner-up finish in the long jump; Hayden Payne placed second in the high jump.

The 4x100 and 4x400 relay teams each finished in second place, while Nolan Thompson was second in the 110M and 300M hurdles. Rotko placed second in the 400M dash and Taylor Whitehead earned a silver medal in the 200M dash.

Wright was third in the 400M race and Noah Payne received bronze in the 800M event. Abercrombie crossed the line third during the 300M hurdles, Daniel Snow placed third in the high jump and Marevka finished third in the long jump.

McBride turned in a third-place distance and Eli Underwood placed fourth in the discus throw. Alec Wilder was fourth and Brady Mull fifth in the 3200M event. Eli Peugh checked in fourth in the 200M dash and Ivan Garcia came in fifth during the 1600M race.

Brady Guild placed fifth in the 400M race, Thompson was fifth at 200M and Marevka came in fifth in the high jump. Hayden Payne and Eli Underwood rounded out Union's top-five performances by placing fifth in the long jump and shot put, respectively.

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GEORGIA CHAPTER

Join us for the next Parkinson's support group
Tuesday, April 12, 2022, 2:00 PM
North Georgia Technical College, 121 Meeks Ave., Blairsville, GA 30512
Room 414 in the Conference Center
For more information contact: Cathy Agacinski, PTA
Phone: 706-439-6467 or
Email: Catherineagacinski@uniongeneral.org

April is Parkinson's Disease (PD) Awareness Month, Make A Difference

Did you know that April is Parkinson's Disease (PD) Awareness Month? Did you also know that although a tremor is a common symptom of PD, not everyone with the disease has one? Or that PD is not just an older person's disease? Parkinson's disease Awareness Month is the perfect time to learn a bit more about this disease that affects more than one million people in the U.S.

You can make a difference this April - or any time - by taking action in a host of ways:

Spread awareness about PD! Share an article from a reliable source like apdaparkinson.org on your social media or through email or even just start a conversation about PD with a friend or neighbor. Learn some of the most common signs and symptoms of PD. Get involved and get to know your local PD

community! Register today for the APDA Georgia Optimism Walk taking place on Saturday, April 23, 2022 at Pernoshal Park, 4575 North Shallowford Rd., Dunwoody, GA. Visit apdaparkinson.org/GA to sign-up.

If you're concerned about symptoms that you or a loved one has noticed, make this the month when you finally schedule an appointment with a neurologist.

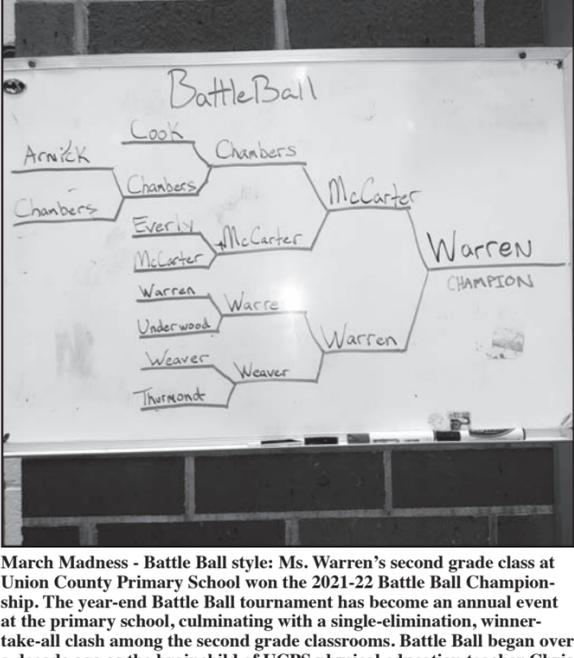
Reach out to someone you know who has PD or is personally affected by the disease to say hello, offer support, or just lend an ear.

If you're able, show your support with a donation of any size to make sure important programs and support that help people with PD live life to the fullest can continue. Visit www.apdaparkinson.org/GA to make a gift.

Ms. Warren's 2nd grade class wins 2021-22 UCPS Battle Ball championship



Ms. Warren's UCPS class celebrates their second grade Battle Ball title.



March Madness - Battle Ball style: Ms. Warren's second grade class at Union County Primary School won the 2021-22 Battle Ball Championship. The year-end Battle Ball tournament has become an annual event at the primary school, culminating with a single-elimination, winner-take-all clash among the second grade classrooms. Battle Ball began over a decade ago as the brainchild of UCPS physical education teacher Chris Robbins.