

Sports

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Union qualifies for State in six events at Track and Field Sectionals

Zoe Sanchez takes first place by 20-plus seconds in 3200M race

By Todd Forrest
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NORCROSS - Union County Track and Field turned in a strong performance at Sectionals on Saturday, qualifying for State in six events.

The highlight of the day was Zoe Sanchez's blistering performance in the 3200-meter (2-mile) race, clocking in at 12 minutes and 29.62 seconds - more than a half-minute quicker than second place Elise Karinschak (12:50.57) of host school Greater Atlanta Christian.

Sanchez also qualified for state with a fourth-place finish in the 1600M (1-mile) race, posting a 5:37.69 - eight seconds back of third and 25 seconds behind first-place Tanner Guest of Hart County.

On the boy's side, seniors Riley Barrett and Lance Underwood led the Panthers with second and third place finishes in their respective events.

Barrett just missed a first-place finish by three-tenths of a second in the 400M race - clocking in at 49.85.

Liberty County's Joshua Ferrell edged Barrett with a time of 49.54.

Barrett also logged a fourth-place distance in the long jump at 21-feet, 3 inches. Third place was claimed by Morgan County's Seth Robertson, who held off Barrett by three-quarters of an inch at 21-03.75.

Pierce County junior Emmanuel Jernigan was first with a distance of 22-02.75 and Beach's Ralph Lovett placed second at 21-08.50.



Union County seniors Lance Underwood (left) and Riley Barrett (right) both qualified for the upcoming State Meet in Albany later this month. Only Barrett will compete in three different events while Underwood will lace up his sneakers one final time for Union County High School following a decorated, four-year career in not only track and field but cross country and soccer. Photos courtesy of Jenni Dixon.

Meanwhile, Underwood recorded a 10:11.62 in the 3200M event, good enough for third.

East Jackson's Shane Shelafoe was first with a time of 9:57.73 and North Hall freshman Andrew Jones held off Underwood by 10 seconds, crossing the finish line in second at 10:01.23.

The 4x400 boys relay team will also compete at state following a 3:35.80 at Sectionals. Union County's relay team finished less than nine seconds back of first place Liberty County in a tightly contested

race that saw 10 different teams finish within 10 seconds of the leader.

The State Meet is scheduled to begin on Thursday, May 10 in Albany and continue through Saturday, May 12.

According to Union County Assistant Track and Field Coach Paul McBride, 2018 has been a year to remember for the upstart program.

"This has been our most successful season since we started the program five years ago," he said via *Twitter*. "Thank you to the past and present members of the team

that got us here."

Others that competed for Union County at Sectionals were the boys 4x100 relay team that finished 13th with a time of 44.99 - less than three seconds back of first place Liberty County (42.41).

Sophomore Evelyn McBride placed 11th in the high jump with a height of 4-feet, 8 inches. GAC senior Danielle Shipp was first with a jump of 5-04.

Junior Courtney Moose was 10th in the discus with a distance of 84-10. First place went to North Hall senior



Rebecca Bowen who posted a throw of 116-08.

Union County also fared very well when compared to other local competition.

Lumpkin County had one athlete place in the top five: junior Connor Pierce - third in the Boys 100M.

Fannin County's only top five was a fifth-place finish (42.11) by freshman Thomas Mercer in the boys 300M Hurdles.

Dawson County picked up a second place finish in the boys high jump, along with a pair of third-place finishes in

the girls 1600M and 3200M.

East Hall's top performance was a third-place finish in the girls high jump. North Hall, on the other hand, recorded two first-place finishes and a third on the girl's side, to go with two first, one second, and two fourth-place finishes for the boys.

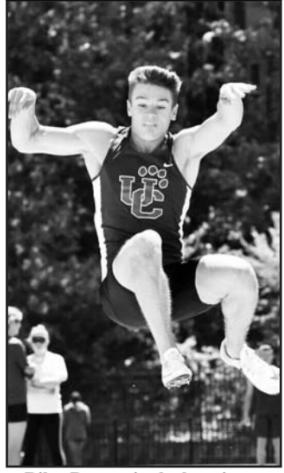
Last but not least, the *North Georgia News* would like to thank Ms. Jenni Dixon for helping out by submitting some amazing photos throughout the school year. We're grateful for her and all of her hard work.



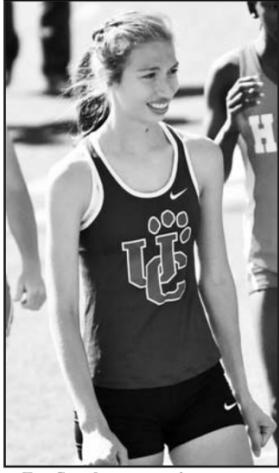
Zoe Sanchez in action at Sectionals last weekend. Photos courtesy of Jenni Dixon



Lance Underwood celebrates



Riley Barrett in the long jump



Zoe Sanchez preparing to race



The Union County relay teams: group shot (top) and in action (below). Photos courtesy of Jenni Dixon.

Soccer: Union County Senior Night



In last week's edition of the North Georgia News, senior Lance Underwood's family photo was inadvertently left off the Senior Night page. Underwood is the son of Kurtis and Carol Underwood. He's a member of Beta Club, Spanish Club, Key Club, a 2-time Region Honorable Mention (soccer), 4-time all-region team (XC), region champion (XC), UCHS 5K record holder, and also had the assist for Sean Dobbins' diving header. His future plans are to hopefully attend the US Air Force Academy or US Naval Academy and have a successful military career, start a family and live in the mountains while watching his kids compete in sports. He would like to thank God for the talent he has given him, his mom and dad for always having his back and driving him all over the face of creation to compete. Also, he would like to thank his sister for being his best friend, and Maddie Sutton for always coming to watch him.

Local Motorsports weekend results

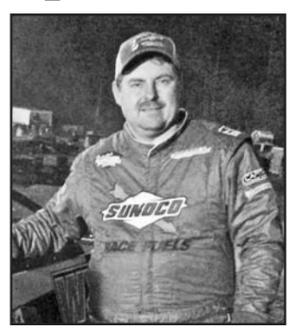
By Blake Lynch
North Georgia News
Sports Special

BLUERIDGE - Blue Ridge Motorsports Park hosted racing on Saturday with the Schaeffer's Oil Southern National Bonus Series.

Here are the top five from each class.

Street Stock - No. 43 Micheal Harper gets a very special birthday present with another victory at Blue Ridge as he led flag-to-flag. Second place was No. 14W Evan Winkler Jr. Third place was No. 05 Ronnie Gill. Fourth place was No. 31 Bryson Hamby. Fifth place was really close between No. 91 Marlin Gunter and No. 01 Jacob Lynch. Gunter edged Lynch by half a nose to round out the top five.

Modified/602 - No. 17T Brad Thomas walks away with the win. Second place was No. 48 Shawn Chastain. Third place was No. 4 Jacob Paris. Fourth place was No. 5 Russel Schell. Fifth place was No. 81 John Howard.



The "Tarheel Tiger" Ray Cook

Crate/Limited - No. 7 Jason "The Real Deal" Deal walks away with another victory on the year. Second place was No. 200 Jacob Anderson. Third place was the No. T31 of Seth Wimpy. Fourth place was the No. 27K of Brian Kinnersley. Fifth went to No. 12 Drew Deaver.

Beginner 602 - First place was No. 25 Jacob Hamby. Second place was No. 99 Reese Stillwell. Third place was No. 8 Colby Paris.

Fourth place was No. 41 Jeff Holoway. Fifth place was No. 2 Randy Roberts.

Front Wheel Drive - First place was No. 18 Jeff Peardon. Second went to No. N5 Micheal Follmer. Third place was No. 72 Dustin Pettit. Fourth place was No. K3 James Klaucke. Fifth place was No. 3 Jason Young.

Beginner 4-cylinder - First place was No. 22 Tucker Anderson - his first career win. Second place was No. 11 Nathan Peardon.

Super Late Models - Blue Ridge welcomed The Schaeffer's Oil Southern National Bonus Series and as the green flag waved, No. 00 Johnny Chastain took the lead. On lap 30 he had a flat, handing the lead to his brother No. X15 Shawn Chastain, who took home the win.

Second place was No. 53 The "Tarheel Tiger" Ray Cook. Third place was No. 22 Will Roland. Fourth place was No. 144 Chucky Barton. Fifth was No. 8 "The Coach" David Payne.