

# Sports

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## Eight Panthers crowned Region 8-AA track and field champions

### Union County to compete in 28 events at Saturday's State Sectionals in Calhoun

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**Homer** - Union County track and field individually qualified for the State Sectionals in 28 different events while both teams placed second in the team standings during last week's Region 8-AA Championships hosted by Banks County High School.

The Panthers also took home eight region titles from the two-day event that featured field events on Wednesday and the running competitions on Friday.

Hana Gregory claimed an 8-AA championship in the girl's 800-meter event with a time of 2 minutes, 37.16 seconds - nearly four ticks ahead of teammate Allie Brey. Gregory also placed first in the 1600M race at 5:59.32 - almost 9 seconds better than Rabun County's Molly Jo Wright.

The girl's 4x400 relay team of Gregory, Riley Allison, Allie Brey and Hannah Long picked up a region title with a season-best time of 4:29.60 - crossing the line 1.8 seconds quicker than Banks County.

Zander Rotko and Trace Wright took home the top two spots in the boy's 400M dash with times of 53.14 and 53.59, respectively.

The boy's 4x400 relay team of Wright, Rotko, Brady Guild and Elliot Stepps edged Elbert County by 2.5 seconds with a time of 3:37.10.

Senior Noah Underwood earned a pair of Region 8-AA titles in the shot put and discus events. Underwood's 115-foot, 9 inch toss in the discus throw lifted him past Banks County's Talmadge Wilkinson by almost 2 feet. Meanwhile, Underwood recorded a season-best 41-10.5 in the shot put to defeat Elbert's Sam Lavender by 6.5 inches.

Allison was the only athlete to clear 5-feet in the high jump - Elbert's Jamia Allen cleared 4-10 to come in second.

Other Union County athletes



Junior Riley Allison picks up a Region 8-AA title after clearing 5-feet in the high jump event. Photo/Todd Forrest

sectional qualifiers (top four) include Stepps in the 100M and 200M, Hunter Hartzog and Luke Gambrell in the boy's 800M and 1600M. Gambrell also qualified in the 3200M.

Nolan Thompson moves on to sectionals in the boy's 300M hurdles while the boy's 4x100 and 4x800 relay teams both advance. Riley Thomas, Underwood, Wright and Stepps make up the 4x100 team. The 4x800 squad consists of Gambrell, Hartzog, Hunter Payne and Daniel Griggs.

Griggs also qualified in the high jump, along with Kanon Abercrombie and Sam Page. Brey and Thomas move on to sectionals in the triple jump.

Lexi Sisum turned in a pair of top-three performances in the 100M and 200M races; Allison came in fourth in the 200M.

Gregory, Long and Linley Jones took three of the top four spots in the 400M. Long also qualified in the 100M hurdles and Jones placed second in the 300M hurdles.

The girl's 4x100 and 4x800 relay teams both ad-

vanced to the next round. Mia McCombs, Katie Byers, Sisum and Long make up the 4x100 squad. Brey, Katelynn Rash, Rachel Reid and Campbell Chambers competed in the 4x800 event.

Brey placed third in the

high jump and McCombs was fourth in the long jump. Allison qualified in the triple jump and Trinity Queen moved on in the shot put.

Of Union County's 28 athletes that advance to sectionals, 17 recorded season



Lexi Sisum will compete in three events this weekend. Photo/Todd Forrest



Senior Noah Underwood places first in the shot put. Photo/Todd Forrest

best times/distances. However, several UCHS athletes won region titles without posting a season-best finish, leaving plenty of room for improvement in the next round.

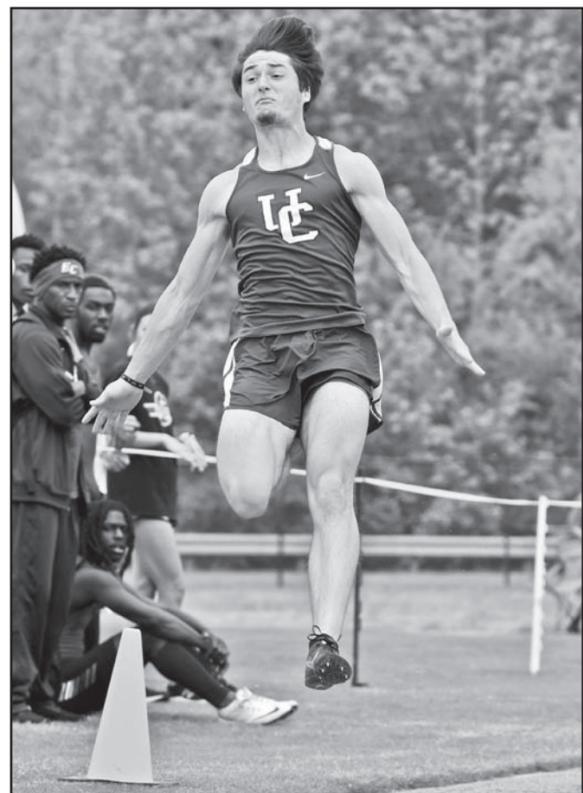
Sectionals begin at 10 a.m. Saturday morning at

Gordon Central High School in Calhoun.

The three-day State Championship meet gets underway Thursday, May 13 at McEachern High School in Powder Springs.



Mia McCombs qualified for sectionals in two events. Photo/Todd Forrest



Riley Thomas placed top four in the triple jump event. Photo/Todd Forrest

### Union County High School Track and Field 2021 season bests (men/women)

TRACK	TIME (W)	ATHLETE	GRADE	MEET / DATE
100m	11.47	ELLIOT STEPPS	2021	GHSA Region 8-AA Championship 2021-04-28
200m	23.06	ELLIOT STEPPS	2021	GHSA Region 8-AA Championship 2021-04-28
400m	52.28	ZANDER ROTKO	2024	Gilmer Home #2 2021-03-30
800m	2:01.43	HUNTER HARTZOG	2022	GHSA Region 8-AA Championship 2021-04-28
1600m	4:37.14	HUNTER HARTZOG	2022	Battle of the Blue Ridge 2021-03-26
3200m	10:27.96	LUKE GAMBRELL	2021	Mt. Yonah Invite 2021-04-02
110mH	20.34	DAMON WALLACE	2023	GHSA Region 8-AA Championship 2021-04-28
300mH	46.72	NOLAN THOMPSON	2024	GHSA Region 8-AA Championship 2021-04-28
RELAY	TIME	TEAM	MEET / DATE	
4x100m	44.88	Relay Team	GHSA Region 8-AA Championship 2021-04-28	
4x400m	3:34.33	Relay Team	Leopard Classic 2021-04-16	
4x800m	8:55.90	Relay Team	Gilmer Home #2 2021-03-30	
FIELD	MARK (W)	ATHLETE	GRADE	MEET / DATE
Triple Jump	38-10.5	DANIEL GRIGGS	2021	GHSA Region 8-AA Championship 2021-04-28
Long Jump	19-9.5	KANON ABERCROMBIE	2022	Gilmer Home #2 2021-03-30
High Jump	5-6	DANIEL GRIGGS	2021	GHSA Region 8-AA Championship 2021-04-28
Shot Put	41-10.5	NOAH UNDERWOOD	2021	GHSA Region 8-AA Championship 2021-04-28
Discus	117-3.75	NOAH UNDERWOOD	2021	Buford Home Meet # 2 2021-02-17

TRACK	TIME (W)	ATHLETE	GRADE	MEET / DATE
100m	13.39	LEXI SISUM	2022	GHSA Region 8-AA Championship 2021-04-28
200m	28.10	LEXI SISUM	2022	GHSA Region 8-AA Championship 2021-04-28
400m	1:05.70	HANA GREGORY	2022	Mt. Yonah Invite 2021-04-02
800m	2:33.71	HANA GREGORY	2022	Leopard Classic 2021-04-16
1600m	5:56.24	HANA GREGORY	2022	Leopard Classic 2021-04-16
3200m	14:27.78	NATALIE PAYNE	2024	Mt. Yonah Invite 2021-04-02
100mH	18.05	HANNAH LONG	2022	GHSA Region 8-AA Championship 2021-04-28
300mH	50.97	LINLEY JONES	2024	GHSA Region 8-AA Championship 2021-04-28
RELAY	TIME	TEAM	MEET / DATE	
4x100m	53.06	Relay Team	GHSA Region 8-AA Championship 2021-04-28	
4x400m	4:29.60	Relay Team	GHSA Region 8-AA Championship 2021-04-28	
4x800m	11:31.24	Relay Team	GHSA Region 8-AA Championship 2021-04-28	
FIELD	MARK (W)	ATHLETE	GRADE	MEET / DATE
Triple Jump	30-6.5	RILEY ALLISON	2022	Mt. Yonah Invite 2021-04-02
Long Jump	15-9	MIA MCCOMBS	2022	GHSA Region 8-AA Championship 2021-04-28
High Jump	5-0	RILEY ALLISON	2022	Gilmer Home #2 2021-03-30
Shot Put	27-10	TRINITY QUEEN	2021	Battle of the Blue Ridge 2021-03-26
Discus	79-10	SHELBY WHITNEY	2022	Battle of the Blue Ridge 2021-03-26