

Sports

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UCHS youth boys basketball draws over 50 for second straight year

By Todd Forrest
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Union County head basketball coach Corey Garrett declared the summer of 2023 an incredible success, culminating with another impressive turnout during last week's youth camp. The three-day event tipped off on Monday, June 26 before ending Wednesday, June 28 with a cookout, courtesy of Bob Overstreet.

"I can't thank him enough," Garrett said. "He cooked 175 hot dogs on Wednesday. Also, a big thank you to [Blairsville Ingles manager] T.J. Burgess for everything he did to help make [the cookout] possible."

According to Garrett, the camp attracted 51 youngsters for at least two days, matching last year's total. Additionally, the event saw a solid turnout among the high school players.

"It's just a fundamentals camp for the kids, but we wanted to get in there and show them how we work, what we expect and how we do things at practice [with the high school program]," Garrett said. "Really, we wanted them to have fun and be around the high school guys, and give the high school guys a chance to coach and improve their leadership and communication skills."

"I personally feel that [the UCHS players] improved a lot over those three days. And like I said, the young kids got to have a lot of fun and just be around the program while



Union County's three-day youth boys basketball camp wrapped up with a cookout and free t-shirts on Wednesday, June 28. Photo/Todd Forrest

learning a little bit about basketball."

Last week marked the GHSA's annual dead week, but the Panthers return to the gym twice a week starting Monday, July 10.

Every Monday and Thursday, the team will lift for 45 minutes in the weight room, followed by an hour and 15

minutes of pick-up ball.

"We're going to lighten things up a little and focus on the weight room a little bit more," Garrett said. "We haven't had a chance to do that in June because we've been playing so much. The main thing is keeping them in shape and keeping them around each other as much as possible."

Both UCHS basketball teams will participate in the 'Sandy's Spiel' fall league.

"(Kyle) Sandy has been really good us the last few years," Garrett said. "His camp is a little bit further away, but we're really excited about the opportunity."

"I got the parents together and made sure everyone

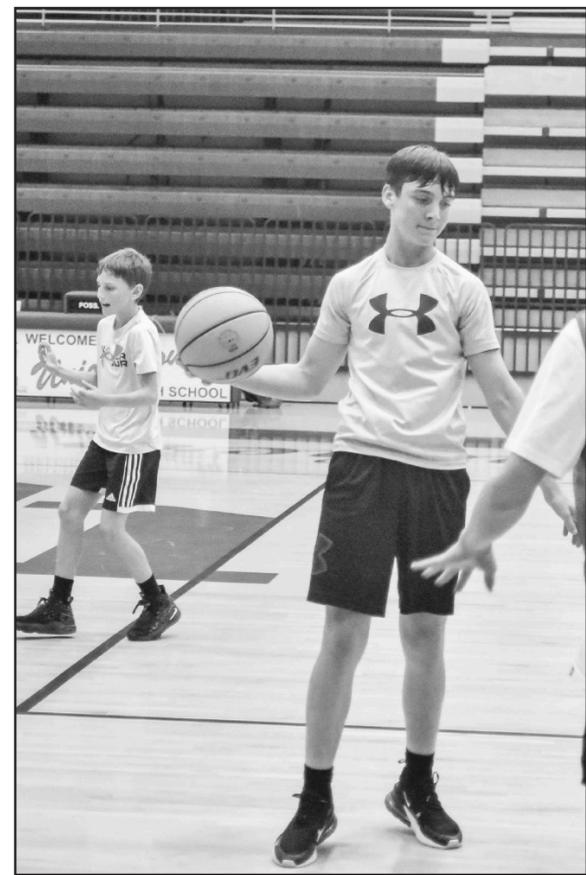
was okay with the extra traveling, but it's an opportunity to improve and get better and we couldn't pass it up."

The Lady Panthers' fall

league games will be at Chestatee (Gainesville), while the guys will travel to East Paulding (Dallas).



Youngsters play a pick-up game on the final day of camp. Jude Ellis (black shirt, second from left) tosses it up for the game's opening tip-off. Coach Garrett said he was glad to have Ellis back with the team after injury cost the rising-junior the UNG camp. Photo/Todd Forrest



Fun and fundamentals were the primary objectives of last week's UCHS boys youth basketball camp. Photo/Todd Forrest

UNION COUNTY YOUTH WRESTLE SUMMER CAMP

July 17th, 18th and 20th

- ✓ Build confidence
- ✓ Physical and Endurance Training
- ✓ Team building
- ✓ Matches

Camp will be held at the UCES gym "The Pit" from 5:30pm-8pm K through 6th Grade

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HOSTED BY UCHS PANTHERS



Football: Union, Chestatee agree to Aug. 11 scrimmage

Union County football has picked up a preseason game at Chestatee on Aug. 11.

The Panthers were scheduled to visit Chestatee last August before the game was canceled due to gun shots near the Union County Primary School on Aug. 11, 2022.

As a result of last summer's cancellation, Union County has agreed to return to Chestatee to make up the game.

The War Eagles were coached by UCHS alum Shaun Conley, who retired after last season. Chestatee is now led by Stuart Cunningham, a former North Hall assistant and Habersham Central head coach.

Chestatee finished 3-7 in 2022 with Conley's final victory a 32-28 thriller vs. Brian Allison's East Forsyth squad.



Coach Perry's Panthers and the War Eagles will meet in Gainesville on Aug. 11. Photo/Todd Forrest

10U Baseball receives District 7 title medals in ceremony at Meeks Park



Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris was on hand Tuesday, June 27 to award the Panthers 10U baseball team their District 7 medals. The team was unable to accept their medals at the tournament due to the protest that followed the championship game. Photo/Todd Forrest



Commissioner Lamar Paris hands out medals. Photo/Todd Forrest



Head coach Stephen Waggener accepts his medal. Photo/Todd Forrest



Union County 10U right-hander Nolan Towery. Photo/Todd Forrest



Union County 10U southpaw River Thompson (2) deals during last month's 10U District 7 Championship game at a jam-packed Yahoola Creek Park in Dahlonega. The Panthers advanced to the State Tournament, where they would finish tied for fifth. Photo/Todd Forrest

Local Racing: Tri-County celebrates July 4

By Blake Lynch
Racing Reporter
North Georgia News

Brasstown, NC - Tri-County celebrated American Independence Day with a spectacular fireworks display and racing program. The race track provided all veterans with a complete meal as a way to say thank you for their service.

602 Qualifier: Coming in first place was 116 Jonathan Cope. No. 117 Dylan Beaver was second. No. 45 Brandon Elliott was third. No. 56 Colton Berrong was fourth. No. 100 Cooper Twiggs came in fifth.

602 Non-Qualifier: No. 21P Mark Ledford was first place. No. 37 Michael Barnett finished second. No. 7 Keith Rollins was third. No. 11 Jody Hood was fourth. No. 5 Marcus Rider was fifth.

Open Wheel Modified: No. 73 Chris Nickerson took home first place. No. 95 C Steve Clark was second. Coming in third was No. 39 Keith Baker. No. K9 Gabe Wilson was fourth.

Pony: No.88 Cohen Fortson came in with the win. No. 441 Matt Gerrin was second place. No. 88b Steve Beaver was third. No. WO



Tri-County Racetrack included fireworks at last week's event.

Will Kettle was fourth. No. 11 Ricky Dyer was fifth.

Super Late Models: No. 8 Coach David Payne took home the win. No. 38 Jamie Oliver was second. No. 12 Daniel Wilson was third. No. 6 Mark Wilbanks was fourth. No. 25 Jacob Hamby placed fifth.

Street Stock: No. 95 Alex Vance took the checkered flag. No.14 Logan Exum was second. No. 4 Roger Beaver was third. No. 03 Matt Whit-

ener was fourth. No. 21 Troy Turner was fifth.

FWD: No. 32 Jim Exum was the winner. No. J32 Shannon Jones was second. No. 5 Shawna Harkins was third. No. 16 Jake Ware was fourth. No. 44 Chandler O'Neal was fifth.

Limited Late Model: No. 4 Danny Ledford was first. No. 7 Jason Deal was second. No. 22 Tucker Anderson was third. No. 03 Dante Curtis was fourth. No. 11 Dalton Cochran came in fifth.

Swim: North Georgia Rapids excel in Championship Summer League meet

The North Georgia Rapids swim team recently completed a two day swim meet in Gainesville.

A total of 12 teams competed in the league's championship meet, totaling over 400 swimmers from throughout northern Georgia. Our local team, the "Rapids," generally one of the smaller teams, took 18 swimmers and placed second overall in their division, adding an impressive trophy to their collection.

The team scored a total of 295 points over the two days, missing first place by six points to a larger team within their division. So with the league championship decided, the team will continue their efforts and look forward to future challenges.

The team's top performers were as follows: Sawyer Yancey - first place, boys 8-and- under age group.

Wyatt Yancey - fourth overall in 12U age group. Nicholas Nushtayeva - fourth place in 18U. Andrew Nushtayeva - fifth in 14U.

Hunter Yancey - sixth place in 18U. Clara Kazmierzak - sixth in girls 14U. Brooke Yancey - sixth in 18U girls age



The North Georgia Rapids Swim Team.

group. Henry Kazmierzak - seventh place, boys 12U. Tanner Simpson - seventh, boys 10U. Wyatt Nichols - 10th in senior boys age group.

Lily Helton 12th in senior girls age group. Conner Whitney and Ian Lander finished 12th & 13th, respectively, in the boys 12U.

Other swimmers with impressive showings and contributing to the team's success include: Kimberly Simpson, age 12; McKynley Simpson, age 11; Ella Fisk, age 12; Genevieve Conley, age 12; and Wyatt Chandler, age 14.

The Rapids practice year-round at the Union General Hospital's Wellness Center. If you would like more information about the team, contact Coach Barry Gay at 706-835-1662.