

# Sports

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## Morgan Fussell and UCRD host second annual youth volleyball camp

### Camp attendance sees fivefold increase on heels of UCMS volleyball announcement

By Todd Forrest  
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For the second straight year, recent Union County graduate Morgan Fussell teamed up with the Union County Recreation Department to offer a summer youth volleyball camp for rising 4th through 8th graders.

After attracting seven campers during the 2021 camp, this year's event saw attendance reach 35 entrees following news that Union County Middle School is starting a volleyball program. With the sport's local interest surging, Fussell added a second session to accommodate any girls remaining on the camp's waiting list.

"We didn't expect this many girls to sign up for the Tuesday, Thursday, Friday camp that we originally anticipated," said Fussell, who is preparing for her freshman year of college at Penn State-Altoona. "We ended up with about 10 girls on the waitlist, so our 4-6 (p.m.) Friday class is for those girls on the waitlist. We finally had to cut it off because there was just so many [girls showing interest]. But the rec department has been very supportive, especially with starting [the second] group."

The camp, which began June 2 at the Union County Sports Center, provided an introduction to the sport while focusing on the basics and laying a solid foundation for future coaches to build on.

"We want to introduce them to every aspect [of volleyball], but the last two weeks we focused on teamwork and getting three touches on the ball," Fussell said. "But mostly, we've been working on fundamentals and they've picked it up really fast. I'm very pleased with how well they've done."

When asked what lessons were learned from last year's camp that she applied this summer, Fussell admitted that the camp made her remember that she was once on a similar skill level as her young charges.

"I have to tell myself that they are learning and I was



Morgan Fussell's summer youth volleyball camp at the Union County Recreation Department's Sports Center drew up to 35 future Lady Panthers since under way June 2. Three current UCHS volleyball players assisted Fussell during the three-day-a-week camp. Those players are (pictured back row L-R) Addison Cross and Fussell (far left); Kaylee Ashcraft and Saylor Noe (far right). Photo/Todd Forrest

once in the same position," she said. "But they have made it incredibly easy and have been a great group. We've had so much fun."

Fussell went on to praise her fellow coaches, Kaylee Ashcraft, Addison Cross and Saylor Noe, who are all members of Union County's volleyball team. Ashcraft and Noe are both rising seniors; Cross will be a junior.

"They've all been a big help and I'm very grateful for them," she said. "I'm just really happy that I could have my former teammates helping out."

The youngsters weren't the only ones benefitting from the camp, even college players like Fussell acknowledged that simplifying the sport for the newcomers has been valuable to her own volleyball career.

"It's helped me by being able to go back and teach the fundamentals," she said. "Now when I go off to play in a couple weeks, it will help me

to remember the fundamentals, and I think it will also help [high school] players. But I just hope it sticks for the younger girls because they have [middle school] tryouts coming up."

During her time at UCHS, Fussell lobbied Union County Schools for a middle school volleyball program, and this year her dream comes to fruition.

"We're trying to get as many people involved in volleyball as possible," she said. "They finally announced they are starting a middle school team this year and I think that was a big reason for the rise [in attendance at the summer camp]."

"Coach [Anna] Chapman is going to run [the middle school program] and she's been very supportive of this camp and has been a big help in passing along information and getting the word out. But we're just really happy to be able to do this and that so many people showed up."



Morgan Fussell and UCRD's youth summer volleyball camp photos by Todd Forrest

# Volleyball: New coach praises senior leadership during summer workouts

Panthers volleyball to host three-day youth camp beginning Wednesday, July 20

By Todd Forrest  
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With the start of the season only three weeks away, new Union County High School volleyball coach Megan Brown has spent the summer getting acquainted with her two-time Area championship squad.

Since the program's inception five years ago, Union County has already established itself as one of the most decorated volleyball squads in northeast Georgia. During its first half-decade, the Panthers have appeared in four state tournaments, reaching the Elite Eight in 2019 before advancing to consecutive final fours in 2020 and 2021, where they fell both times to the eventual State Champion.

Union County's 2022 campaign opens Aug. 9 with a home scrimmage vs. Hiwassee Dam, North Carolina. The regular season begins Saturday, Aug. 13 at Chestatee.

The *North Georgia News* caught up with Coach Brown last week to discuss the busy summer schedule and UCHS Volleyball's upcoming youth camp.

**NGN:** What has volleyball been up to lately? Have they been going all summer like the other sports?

**MB:** Yes, we have. Besides the two weeks [for the Georgia High School Association's mandatory dead period], we've been in the gym and things are going well. We're practicing five days a week



Rising-senior Kaylee Ashcraft during the 2021 Class AA Final Four at LakePoint Sports Complex in Emerson. Last fall, Ashcraft set the program's single-season record with 86 aces. Meanwhile, her 113 kills were the third best single-season total in school history. Photo/Todd Forrest

from here on out, Monday through Friday. Then we'll be doing a three-day camp for 4th through 8th graders starting Wednesday, July 20. That will provide some good experience for those girls since Anna Chapman and the middle school are doing tryouts the following week. But so far, we have about 36 [campers] that have signed up. We asked that everyone sign up before [July] 13th to make sure we have enough t-shirts, but we won't

turn anyone away.

**NGN:** Has the focus or intensity changed after the dead period now that the season is less than a month away?

**MB:** I feel like the girls are really bonding as a team and in the community. The upperclassmen have reached out and been supportive of the freshmen, and that's been nice to see. The older girls have stepped up as leaders, encouraging the younger ones, and they've made a great amount of



As a junior last fall, Saylor Noe became the second player in program history to record 80-plus kills in consecutive seasons. Overall, only five UCHS players have reached 80 kills in a single season - Noe (twice), Morgan Fussell (twice), Riley Allison, Kaylee Ashcraft and Adelia Pyle. Photo/Todd Forrest

progress since we first started.

**NGN:** How has the turnout been among the returning players and the incoming freshmen?

**MB:** We have seven returning seniors, all on varsity, and seven freshmen.

**NGN:** We have the scrimmage on Aug. 9, but have you seen any other opponents this summer?

**MB:** We went to White County and played several matches with different schools.

We brought almost everyone, freshman through seniors and it was really neat. They all got on the court and gained some experience in a game setting, which was very good for them.

This week, we'll be in the gym practicing on Monday and Tuesday, then we have our camp starting on Wednesday. Next week, we'll be back at it five-days-a-week to start getting ready for our matches.

**NGN:** Overall, what's

been your biggest takeaway from the summer, so far?

**MB:** I've been impressed with the leadership shown by the upperclassmen. I'm also impressed by the work ethic of the freshmen coming up and how much improvement they have shown compared to when I first saw them in May. I'm proud of how they've all come together and worked well together. They are great girls with great attitudes and I'm looking forward to a successful season."

## 2022 Union County High School Volleyball schedule

Date	Time	Opponent	Location	Special Notes
Aug 9	5:00 PM	vs Hiwassee Dam (NC)	High School Gym	Scrimmage (Varsity Only)
Aug 13	TBA	@ TBA		Chestatee Preseason Elite Invitational @ Chestatee
Aug 16	5:00 PM	@ Stephens County		@ Stephens County
Aug 16	6:00 PM	@ Elbert County		@ Stephens County
Aug 18	5:00 PM	@ Dawson County		@ Dawson County
Aug 18	6:00 PM	@ Chestatee		@ Dawson County
Aug 22	5:00 PM	vs Rabun Gap	High School Gym	
Aug 22	7:00 PM	vs Rabun County	High School Gym	
Aug 23	6:00 PM	@ Rabun County		@ Fannin County
Aug 23	7:00 PM	@ Fannin County		@ Fannin County
Aug 27	TBA	@ TBA		Coal Mountain Classic @ North Forsyth
Sep 1	6:00 PM	vs Fannin County	High School Gym	
Sep 8	5:00 PM	@ Athens Academy		@ Athens Academy
Sep 8	6:00 PM	@ Morgan County		@ Athens Academy
Sep 10	TBA	@ TBA		Rally on the Ridge Tournament @ Fannin County
Sep 12	6:00 PM	@ Andrews (NC)		@ Andrews
Sep 15	5:00 PM	@ Fellowship Christian		@ Banks County
Sep 15	6:00 PM	@ Banks County		@ Banks County
Sep 19	6:00 PM	vs Andrews	High School Gym	
Sep 20	5:00 PM	vs East Jackson	High School Gym	
Sep 20	6:00 PM	vs Banks County	High School Gym	
Sep 22	5:00 PM	@ Rabun County		@ Rabun County
Sep 22	6:00 PM	@ Rabun Gap		@ Rabun County
Sep 27	5:00 PM	@ Fellowship Christian		@ Fellowship Christian
Sep 27	6:00 PM	@ Providence Christian		@ Fellowship Christian
Sep 29	5:00 PM	@ East Jackson		@ Providence Christian
Sep 29	6:00 PM	@ Athens Academy		@ Providence Christian
Oct 3	6:00 PM	@ Hiwassee Dam (NC)		@ Hiwassee Dam
Oct 5	5:00 PM	vs Dawson County	High School Gym	
Oct 5	7:00 PM	vs Providence Christian	High School Gym	
Oct 13	TBA	@ TBA		Area Tournament

## Local Racing Report: Tri-County

By Blake Lynch  
North Georgia News  
Racing Reporter

*There are two weeks of results due to technical issues.*

**Brasstown, NC** - Tri-County has been plagued with rain delays. The faithful race fans waited out the rain to enjoy the show.

### June 24 Results

**MMSA Pony** - The winner was No. 117 Matt Gilbert. No. 21 Tack Brown was second. No. 26 Johnny Rains took home third place. No. 04 Austin Brown was fourth. No. H3 Harley Holden was fifth.

**Open Wheel Mod** - No. 108 Chuck Southard took home the win. No. 55 Brad Sosbee was second.

**602 B Feature** - No. 192 Jay Lynch took home his first ever win. No. 3S Floyd Self was second. No. 7 Keith Rollins was third. No. D33 Dale Phillips was fourth. No. 10 Chance Hughes was fifth.

**602 A Feature** - The winner was No. 42 Johnny Gulizia. No. 100 Cooper Twigg was second. No. 81 John Howard was third. No. 44 Bobby Elkins was fourth. No. 39 Jamie Oliver was fifth.

**Street Stock** - No. 14 Charles Devine was the winner. Coming in second was No. 21 Troy Turner. No. 07 Lyn Burchfield was third. No. 01 Jacob Lynch was fourth. No. 192R Robbie Lynch was fifth.

**Limited Crate** - No. 44

Drew Deaver took home the win. No. 4 Danny Ledford was second. No. 7 Jason Deal was third. No. 22 Tucker Anderson was fourth. No. 11 Preston Crisp was fifth.

**FWD** - No. 32 Jim Exum was the winner. Coming in second was No. 11 Kane Walls. No. J32 Shannon Jones was third. No. 4 Glenn Coker was fourth. No. 2 Brent Lynch was fifth.

### July 1 Results

**Blue Ridge Outlaw Feature** - No. 8 Coach David Payne took home the win. Coming in a close second was No. 38 Jamie Oliver. No. 4N Mathew Nance was third. No. 22 Nick Deitz was fourth. No. 1W Dylan Watson was fifth.

**602 Feature B** - No. 3 Mark Ledford came in first place. Coming in second was No. 28 Roy Hardman. No. 30 Josh Wooten was third. No. 343 Jordon Rogers was fourth. No.

7 Keith Rollins was fifth.

**602 Feature A** - No. 44 Bobby Elkins took home the win. No. 03 Dante Curtis came in second. No. 42 Johnny Gulizia was third. No. 100 Cooper Twigg was fourth. No. 56 Colton Berong was fifth.

**Street Stock** - No. 14 Charles Devine took home first place. No. 95 Alex Vance was second. No. 01 Jacob Lynch was third. No. 7 Eric Burchfield was fourth. No. J6 Jim Weller finished fifth.

**Open Wheel Mod** - No. 12C Cly Strickland was the winner. No. 77 Bobby Jones was second. No. 14J Jeff Robinson was third. No. 52 Chris Stove was fourth. No. 108 Chuck Southard was fifth.

**FWD** - No. J32 Shannon Jones was the winner. Coming in second was No. K3 James Klauke. No. 11 Kane Walls was third. No. 59 Matt Cordin was fourth. No. J3 Josh Dease was fifth.

## Allegheny Masonic "Toss In The Mountains" Cornhole Tournament



Allegheny Masonic Lodge No. 114 is proud to sponsor the 1st Annual "Toss In The Mountains" on Saturday, August 13th; 11AM - 7 PM at the Pat Haralson Civic Center, Blairsville, GA 30512. The cost is \$40; bring your own team; \$20 person -

Blind Draw.

1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prizes plus many more prize opportunities; 50/50 Raffle; Food on hand for additional cost; Activities for the whole family; Pre-register by contacting: Korey Harkins @ kharkins0821@gmail.com or Ivy Smith @ allegheny114@outlook.com.

Presented by North Georgia Cornhole Association. NJUL2022JCA

## Butternut Creek Golf Hosts Mountain Ladies League

The Butternut Creek Golf Course and its Ladies Golf Association played host to the Mountain Ladies Golf League (MLGL) on Monday, July 11. The MLGL is a joint project of five local ladies golf leagues to supplement regular league play. The format on Monday was stableford where points are awarded for hole results (birdie and par get a positive point and bogey and above are negative points). The better score on each hole, the more points achieved.

Although the weather was a bit cloudy, the golf was enjoyed by almost 40 players. The League would like to extend grateful thanks to everyone at the Butternut Creek Golf Course for hosting the event and showing everyone a great municipal course.

The surprise of the day and a very big congratulations goes to Susan Carmichael for a hole in one on 17. Also, congratulations to Beth Poczynski



Susan Carmichael: Hole in one on 17 for shooting even par, quite an accomplishment!

Overall results for the first flight were first place Beth Poczynski, second place Diana Azor, third Lynn Manni and fourth place Lisa Smith. Results for the second flight were first place Patti McDonald, second place Mary Mott,

third place Karen Sandell and fourth place Alison Taylor. Results for the third flight were first place Karen Evans, second place Martha Quijano, third place Carol Crossley and fourth place Lee Cromwell. Results for the fourth and final flight were first place Kathy James, second place Dawn Kirkland, third place Rachel Tarr and fourth place Cathy Clement.

Butternut Creek Ladies Golf Association plays every Thursday at Butternut Creek Golf Course 129 Union County Recreation Rd Blairsville, GA. Tee time is 9 AM.

The league has just over 30 members from throughout the tri-county area and includes golfers of all skill levels. If you are not a member, but are interested in joining, please email our President, Martha Barker at marthabarker@windstream.net. The league web site at www.butternutcreeklga.com. NTJULY2022JH



Mountain Ladies Golf League

New Liberty  
Heavenbound Sportsmen

# 10th Annual

## 3-D Archery Coon Shoot

Door Prizes & Special Raffles

Food and Refreshments

*"And God was with the lad; and he grew, and dwelt in the wilderness, and became an archer." - Genesis 21:20*

Will be held **July 30, 2022** at **ALEXANDER'S Store**  
4482 Town Creek School Rd, Blairsville, GA

Sign-in From: 7:00pm till 8:30pm  
Shotgun Start at Dark

**Entry Fee: DONATION ONLY**

Classes will be: Mens, Womens, Traditional, Crossbow, Youth (12-16), Cubs (11 & under)

**This will be a known yardage shoot!!!**

Rules: No Shining Targets, Targets will be lit with a light.  
No Broadheads  
Must Shoot From Stake  
Bring a Small Flashlight for walking

Any Questions Please Contact: Trenness Elliott 706-781-8883  
Jason Seabolt 706-835-6978, Tim Bohannon 706-781-4658, or Tony Long 706-897-0633