

Union Cross Country begins state title defenses with clean sweep

By Todd Forrest
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Union County Cross Country survived the heat, humidity and a talented field to take all four gold medals at last Thursday's season opening race at Meeks Park.

In the girls race, senior Zoe Sanchez grabbed the lead in the first quarter-mile and never looked back. The defending Class AA Individual State Champion built a commanding lead by the 1-mile mark as she cruised to victory with a time of 21:27.

The team standings were a little more competitive as Gilmer did its best to overtake the home team but eventually came up short.

As for the Class AA State Champion guys team, the biggest question mark wasn't if they would win, but how many runners they would place inside the top-10.

Junior Luke Gambrell, who placed fourth at state, cruised to first place finish, clocking in at 18:25.

The guys team ended up with 18 points - 66 points better than second place Towns.

Hunter Hartzog finished in 18:39, Thomas Mellendorf



Left: Led by junior Luke Gambrell (middle) the Union County boys dominated Thursday afternoon's race at Meeks Park. Right: Senior Zoe Sanchez led wire-to-wire at Meeks Park to help the Union County girls team fend off Gilmer. Photos/Todd Forrest

posted a 19:46, Malachi Patrick crossed the finish line in 19:54, Gauge Shumaker finished in 20:23 and Marcus Forrester posted a 20:31 to round out Union's top seven runners -- all

placing in the top 10.

The girls team edged second place Gilmer 61-74 as Sadie Underwood posted a top four finish with a 24:58. Lexi Ochoa clocked in at

27:07, Hana Gregory posted a 27:44, Jessie Holbrook finished in 28:11. Rachel Reid and Allison Vincent rounded out the Union top-seven with a 29:19 and 29:27, respectively.



Right: Senior Zoe Sanchez led wire-to-wire at Meeks Park to help the Union County girls team fend off Gilmer. Photos/Todd Forrest

Lumpkin, Rabun and Fannin rounded out the girls top-five while Lumpkin, Gilmer and Rabun placed third, fourth and fifth in the boys race.

County will visit Chestatee for the first of three races against elite competition. Thursday's meet will get underway at 5:30 p.m.

Football: Union County opens 2019 with trip to Valhalla on Friday

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Union County kicks off 2019 on the road looking for its 16th consecutive season-opening victory when they visit the East Hall Vikings on Friday at 7:30.

Know Your Enemy: East Hall - The Vikings are coming off a 50-0 loss at Flowery Branch after struggling in a blow out scrimmage loss to Elbert County the week before.

At Flowery Branch, they fell behind 42-0 at the half as Vikings' quarterback Clete Cooper, who took most of the snaps, finished 10-for-23 with 78 yards (75 yards coming on the game's opening drive) and a pair of picks. The East Hall defense wasn't any better, surrendering 148 yards and five touchdowns in the first half to the Falcons' running back duo of Jaizen Ellingham and Chase Dial-Watson.

Flowery Branch was without starting quarterback Elijah Gainey after the South Alabama commit tore his ACL earlier this month.

UNION CO. 2018 GAME HIGHS

Overall: 9-2, Region: 6-1, Home: 5-1, Away: 4-1

Team Game Highs:
Rushes: 38 at Monticello
Yards Rushing: 300 at Oglethorpe County
Yards Per Rush: 11.5 at Oglethorpe County
TD Rushes: 6 at Oglethorpe County
Pass Attempts: 41 at Elbert County
Pass Completions: 26 at Elbert County
Yards Passing: 400 at Elbert County
Yards Per Pass: 22.9 vs Social Circle
TD Passes: 5 vs Social Circle
Total Plays: 75 at Elbert County

Total Offense: 564 yards at Monticello
Yards Per Play: 13.7 vs Social Circle
Points: 56 at Oglethorpe County
Sacks By: 7 vs Putnam County
First Downs: 30 at Monticello
Penalties: 12 vs East Hall
Penalty Yards: 95 vs East Hall
Turnovers Forced: 3 (twice) at Towns County, vs Banks County
Interceptions Forced: 3 vs Banks County

Punts: 5 (twice) at Elbert County, vs Bremen
Punting Average: 43 vs East Hall
Punt Long: 45 vs East Hall

Opponent's Team Game Highs:
Rushes: 54 - Bremen
Yards Rushing: 390 - Bremen
Yards Per Rush: 7.6 - at Rabun County
TD Rushes: 7 - at Rabun County
Pass Attempts: 24 - at Monticello
Pass Completions: 16 - Putnam County
Yards Passing: 197 - at Monticello
Yards Per Pass: 9.9 - at Rabun County
TD Passes: 2 - at Monticello
Total Plays: 71 - Putnam County

Total Offense: 491 yards - at Rabun County
Yards Per Play: 7.6 - at Rabun County
Points: 56 - at Rabun County
Sacks By: 2 (twice) - at Elbert County, Bremen
First Downs: 27 - Bremen
Penalties: 9 - at Towns County
Penalty Yards: 57 - at Towns County
Turnovers Forced: 2 - at Rabun County
Interceptions: 1 (seven times)
Punts: 9 - East Hall

Individual Game Highs:
Rushes: 18 - Chad Buzzard at Monticello
Yards Rushing: 135 - Pierson Allison at Monticello
TD Rushes: 3 - Buzzard vs East Hall, Jonah Daniel vs Putnam
Long Rush: 56 yards - Buzzard vs Banks County
Pass Attempts: 41 - Allison at Elbert County
Pass Completions: 26 - Allison at Elbert County
Yards Passing: 400 - Allison at Elbert County
TD Passes: 4 (three times) Allison vs Putnam, Banks, Social Circle
Long Pass: 77 yards - Allison vs Social Circle
Receptions: 6 - Drake (x5), Kanon Hemphill (x2) Morlock (x2)
Yards Receiving: 140 - Drake vs Rabun County
TD Receptions: 2 - Drake (x2), Morlock, Kanon Hemphill
Long Reception: 77 - Drake vs Social Circle
Field Goals: 2 - Brian Smith vs Putnam County
Punts: 4 - Allison at Elbert County, Smith vs Bremen
Kick Return Long: 85 yards - Chayton Schafer vs East Hall
Long Punt: 45 - Allison vs East Hall
Tackles: 13 - Jackson Colwell (twice) at Towns, at Oglethorpe
Sacks: 3 - Sloan Sutton vs Putnam County
Tackles For Loss: 3 - Schafer (twice), Sutton, Colwell
Interceptions: 2 - Ean Harkins at Towns, Schafer vs Banks

2019 VARSITY FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

August 9	H	Chestatee (Scrimmage)	7:30
August 16	A	Habersham Central (Scrimmage)	7:30
August 30	A	East Hall	7:30
September 6	H	Towns County	7:30
September 13	A	Fannin County	7:30
September 20	H	Monticello	7:30
September 27	A	Putnam County	7:30
October 4	H	Elbert County	7:30
October 11		Open	
October 18	A	Banks County	7:30
October 25	H	Oglethorpe County	7:30
November 1	A	Social Circle	7:30
November 8	H	Rabun County (Senior Night)	7:30

Junior Varsity Schedule

August 22	A	Gilmer County	5:30
September 12	A	White County	5:30
September 19	A	Pickens County (9/10)	5:00
September 26	H	Dawson County (9/10)	5:00
October 3	A	Habersham	5:30
October 10	H	Rabun County	5:30
October 17	H	Fannin County	5:30

GAME CAPSULE: AT EAST HALL

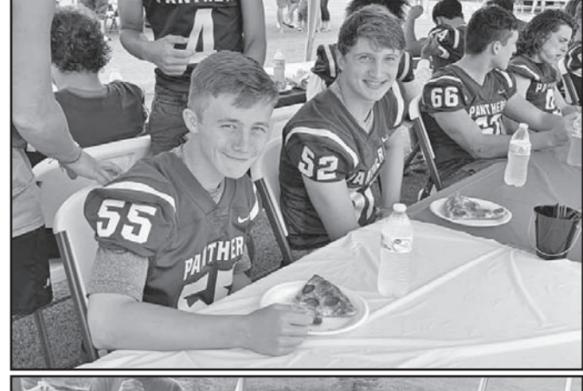
Nickname: Vikings
Location: Rabbittown
Stadium: East Hall Stadium - 3633 Old Cornelia Hwy
Head Coach: Michael Perry - 1st season
2018 record: 3-7
All-time record vs East Hall: 4-7
All-time record at East Hall: 1-4
Record in last five meetings: 2-3
Coach Allison record vs EH: 3-4 (0-3 at EH)
Allison record vs EH coach: First meeting
Last meeting: 2017 (L 62-42)
Last win: 2018 (35-6)

UNION VS EAST HALL: THE SERIES

2018: HOME 35-6 W
2017: AWAY 62-42 L
2016: HOME 51-46 W
2011: HOME 33-3 L
2010: AWAY 35-28 L
2005: HOME 35-13 L
2004: AWAY 42-0 L
2001: HOME 25-20 W
2000: AWAY 35-21 L
1959: AWAY 12-6 W
1958: HOME 13-7 L



Union County junior Jonah Daniel takes over for Chad Buzzard as the Panthers' primary running back in 2019. Photo/Todd Forrest



Union County High School's 2019 Meet the Team was another success as players and cheerleaders visited with the community. Photos/UCHS



Fall Fitness Family Programs

Fall Fitness Family Programs
Union County Recreation Department
Fall 2019 Session / Ages: 50 and over

Fall is quickly approaching! Union County Recreation Department will be offering many awesome fitness class options for the fall session. Here is a list of the following fitness classes we will offer:

- Regular Aerobics (T/Th) @ 8:30-9:30 AM
- Advanced Strength-Core class (M/W/F) @ 9:45-10:30 AM
- Outdoor Exercise/Indoor Walking (M/W/F) @ 9:00-9:45 AM
- AM Beginner Strength and Core class (T/Th) @ 9:45-10:30 AM
- AM Step-Aerobics class (M/W/F) @ 10:45-11:30 AM
- PM Beginner Strength-Core class (T/Th) @ 5:30-6:30 PM
- Chair Fitness-Aerobics class (T/Th) @ 1:15-2:00 PM
- **New Line Dance class (W/F) @ 8:00-8:50 AM
- **New Balloflex class (M/F) @ 1:30-2:15 PM
- AM Dance Jams class (T/Th) @ 10:45-11:30 AM
- PM Dance Jams class (M/Th) @ 6:30-7:30(M) and 5:30-6:30(Th)
- Beginner Yoga (M/Th) @ 8:00-8:45 AM

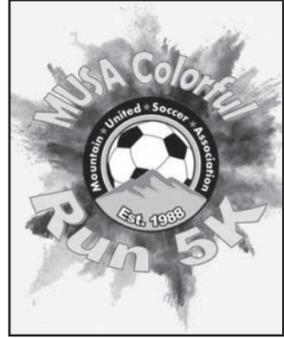
*Fall Session 2019 Registration begins on August 1, 2019 and ends August 30, 2019 (or until classes fill to capacity) at the Recreation Office (310 Wellborn St.) Registration and class payments must be done in person. If you have any questions, you can call (706) 439-6074 and ask for Jennifer.

MUSA 'Colorful Run' 5K benefit race scheduled for Aug. 31

Go online and register for Blairsville's first EVER Colorful Run 5k. This is open to kids, adults, grandparents, runners, walkers, joggers - anyone who would like some exercise while getting showered in color!

You can register online now at <https://endurance.active.com/event-reg/select-race?e=63477154>.

Make sure to register by August 5th to assure you get a shirt and the size you would like as after that date it will be while supplies last! If you would like to sponsor and be on the shirt message us and we



will get you on there! All monies will go to help kids with their individual registration costs.