

Sports

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Softball: Union wins third straight, enter final week of non-region play

Lady Panthers recognize Patton and Queen following Senior Night victory over Fannin

By Todd Forrest
Sports Editor
sports@nganews.com

Paced by a pair of starts from senior right-hander Trinity Queen, the Union County Lady Panthers improved to 4-1 on the year with victories over 10th-ranked East Hall and winless Fannin County.

On Monday, Aug. 24, Union paid a visit to East Hall, who sported a 6-1 record after opening the season ranked 10th in Class AAAA. With the Lady Panthers ahead 3-2 in the fourth, senior Hannah Patton sounded the death knell for the home team via a two-run, two-out double, spotting her squad a 5-2 advantage.

With Union owning a three-run lead, Queen finished off the Lady Vikings with four shutout innings to improve to 3-0 on the year. The Lady Panthers' ace surrendered five hits and no earned runs while striking out nine in seven total innings.

She also slammed the door on an East Hall rally during the bottom of the fourth, escaping a bases-loaded, one-out jam just moments removed from her team taking a 5-2 lead.

Consecutive one-out walks and a base hit to begin the bottom half of the fourth sparked the bases-loaded dilemma. But Union escaped the pickle when junior centerfielder Aubrie Banton cut down a Lady Vikings' base-runner at home for the second out, and Queen induced a fly out to left to retire the side.

After fanning two to end the fifth, Queen flirted with danger in the sixth when a walk and a single brought the tying run to the plate with one down. Once again, she escaped with assistance from her outfield arms, this one courtesy of junior left-fielder Ansley Collins, who threw out a base-runner at home to end the inning.

However, Queen's Houdini-like performances weren't limited to the late innings. In the bottom of the first, East Hall, already in



Through five games, senior Hannah Patton has already matched last year's season total with four doubles. She is also four RBIs away from matching her 2019 tally of 10. Photo/Todd Forrest

front 1-0, had the bases loaded with nobody out but Queen slammed the door.

Following a strikeout, Queen stopped the bleeding by snagging back-to-back line drives headed up the middle.

Inspired by their senior ace's glove work, the Lady Panthers tacked on three runs in the second - all coming with two outs.

Queen was plunked to lead off the frame, bringing in Caroline Karnes as her courtesy runner, then an opposite-field single by junior Caley Davis put the tying run in scoring position with one down.

Later in the inning, Collins reached on a two-out error, scoring Karnes in the process. Sophomore Chloe Potts followed with a single to right, bringing home Davis and Collins for a 3-1 lead.

A pair of 1-2-3 at-bats followed for both lineups until East Hall pulled within one run in the third inning.

A leadoff error came back to bite the Lady Panthers when a two-out single

trimmed the Union advantage to 3-2.

Davis and Potts each finished 2-for-3 with Davis scoring twice and Potts knocking in two. Patton went 1-for-3 with a double and two RBIs; Banton scored once during a 1-for-3 outing.

Karnes and Collins also tacked on runs for Union County. Junior Lexi Sisum stole a base.

East Hall left 11 runners on base while the Lady Panthers stranded five.

Union County honored Patton and Queen on Thursday during a 13-0, four-inning rout of Fannin County on Senior Night.

Once again, Queen got the nod and worked three no-hit innings before giving way to freshman Sierra Burnette, who capped off the abbreviated no-no with a 1-2-3 fourth that included one strikeout.

Queen fanned seven and walked one during her 46-pitch outing. She also hit two batters.

At the dish, the Lady Panthers churned out seven



Senior Trinity Queen delivers during the first inning of Union County's 13-0 win over Fannin. In 24 innings this season, Queen is ahead of last year's All-Region pace, posting a microscopic 0.58 ERA with 27 strikeouts. Through 27 innings last year, Queen sported a 1.56 ERA and 20 Ks. Photo/Todd Forrest

singles and four doubles while swiping three bags.

Union got two runs in the first on consecutive two-baggers from Potts and Patton, followed by an RBI ground out by Sisum.

The Lady Panthers broke things wide open by putting up six in the second for an 8-0 advantage.

Three straight singles by Davis, Emily Byers and Collins quickly loaded the bases. Potts walked to make it 3-0, a Patton sacrifice fly pushed the margin to 4-0 and a two-run error off the bat of Sisum gave Union a 6-0 lead.

Another error, via an Emma Roxbury grounder to third, made the score 7-0. Following a pop-up and a Banton hit-by-pitch, Davis gave Union an 8-0 lead with a two-out, RBI single to center.

Collins opened the third

with a double and later scored on an error. Patton made it 10-0 when she brought home Potts with her second hit of the day.

RBI singles by Roxbury and Rebekah Chambers, plus a run-scoring ground out by Banton, wrapped up the Lady Panthers' scoring at a baker's dozen.

Patton finished 2-for-3 with 3 RBIs and a double. Collins went 2-for-2 with a pair of runs.

Meanwhile, Davis posted consecutive multi-hit games for the first time in her varsity career, finishing 2-for-2 with a run and an RBI.

Potts was 1-for-2 with 3 runs, a stolen base and an RBI; Roxbury went 1-for-3 with 2 RBIs. Queen finished 1-for-2 with a double, and Emily Byers recorded her first hit as a Lady Panther - going

1-for-2 with a run.

Katie Byers scored twice, Georgia Patton scored once while Sisum scored, stole a base and knocked in a run. Chambers was 1-for-1 with an RBI; Banton was hit by a pitch and drove in one. Karnes swiped a bag.

Up next: On Monday, Union County visited Lumpkin County, who currently sits at 5-5 after splitting an opening-day doubleheader at UCHS. On Thursday, the Lady Panthers host a 5-1 Commerce squad ranked 4th in the preseason *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* softball rankings.

Union and Fannin meet next Tuesday for a rematch in Blue Ridge before Region 8-AA action begins Thursday, Sept. 10, when top-ranked Banks County pays a visit to Blairsville.

#	Roster	GP	PA	AB	H	1B	2B	3B	HR	RBI	R	HBP	ROE	FC	CI	BB	SO	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS
10	Rebekah Chambers	3	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1.000	1.000	1.000	2.000
1	Sierra Burnette	2	4	4	3	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	.750	.750	1.000	1.750
17	Ansley Collins	5	15	15	7	6	1	0	0	0	7	0	1	0	0	0	1	.467	.467	.533	1.000
2	Caley Davis	5	12	11	5	5	0	0	0	2	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	.455	.455	.455	.909
6	Hannah Patton	5	19	14	6	2	4	0	0	6	1	0	0	1	0	4	1	.429	.556	.714	1.270
11	Chloe Potts	5	19	15	6	5	1	0	0	5	7	1	2	0	0	3	2	.400	.526	.467	.993
4	Lexi Sisum	5	19	17	5	1	3	1	0	7	5	0	2	1	0	2	3	.294	.368	.588	.957
5	Emma Roxbury	5	19	16	4	2	2	0	0	7	4	0	1	1	0	2	3	.250	.333	.375	.708
13	Trinity Queen	5	18	16	4	2	2	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	1	4	.250	.333	.375	.708
8	Aubrie Banton	5	18	14	2	2	0	0	0	2	2	1	1	0	0	2	1	.143	.294	.143	.437
3	Emily Byers	4	7	7	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	.143	.143	.143	.286
22	Addison Kennedy	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000	.000	.000
19	Caroline Karnes	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000	.000	.000
18	Georgia Patton	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000	.000	.000
15	Jewell Massey	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000	.000	.000
16	Kaelyn Jones	4	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	.000	.000	.000	.000
23	Katie Byers	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000	.000	.000
9	Tori Tracy	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000	.000	.000
Totals		5	158	136	44	29	14	1	0	33	43	3	8	5	0	15	18	.324	.403	.441	.844

Union County softball 2020 batting statistics - through five games



Junior Ansley Collins drops down a bunt vs Fannin. She finished the game 2-for-2 with two runs and a double. Among players with 5+ plate appearances, Collins leads the team with a .467 average. Photo/Todd Forrest

#	Roster	IP	GP	GS	W	L	SV	SVO	BS	SV%	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HBP	ERA	WHIP
13	Trinity Queen	24.0	4	4	3	0	0	0	0	.000	17	6	2	8	27	6	.583	1.042
1	Sierra Burnette	7.2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	6	3	2	2	5	0	1.826	1.043
12	Adaley Burnette	0.1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	.000	2	6	6	4	0	0	126.000	18.000
Totals		32.0	5	5	3	1	0	0	0	.000	25	15	10	14	32	6	2.188	1.219

Union County softball 2020 pitching statistics - through five games