

Lady Panthers power past Elbert and Putnam; improve to 2-1 in region

By Todd Forrest
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Union County (8-4, 2-1) rallied from a pair of deficits to fend off a scrappy Elbert County (2-8, 1-1) squad on Tuesday before thumping Putnam County on the road Thursday.

The Lady Panthers fell behind 4-1 to Elbert at home before rallying for the 9-7 victory.

Through the first two and-a-half innings, Union County committed five errors while a Skyler Ludum RBI double was the only offense they could muster.

"You can look at it two ways," Union County Head Coach Stephen Mitchell said. "You can say, 'we committed seven errors' or you can say, 'we committed seven errors and still won.' I'll choose to look at it the second way."

"We don't have pitchers that will get a lot of strikeouts so (opponents) are going to put the ball in play. Our pitchers are doing a good job of pitching to contact, we just have to do a better job behind them."

The gloves eventually settled down long enough for the bats to wake up vs Elbert. Down 4-1 in the third, the Lady Panthers scored two runs thanks to a Mary Wischmeyer RBI triple and a Lady Devil error off the bat of Aladriel Arnold.

Still trailing 4-3 in the fifth, Union County took its first lead of the game with three in the bottom half of the inning.

A Wischmeyer double led off the inning before Emma Roxbury tied things up with a two-out hit. Krysten Hodges brought home Roxbury with a double to center then later scored on a wild pitch.

Union's 6-4 lead quickly evaporated as a walk and two errors led to three Elbert runs in the sixth.

Trailing 7-6 in the bottom of the sixth, Maddie



A not-so-happy Coach Mitchell provides his infield some motivation following five errors in two innings during Union County's comeback victory vs Elbert County. Photo/Todd Forrest

Sutton opened with an infield single and Wischmeyer reached on a one-out error.

With two on, Arnold singled to left, bringing both Sutton and Wischmeyer to the plate. But the Lady Panthers weren't finished.

Ludlum lined a double to left-center, scoring Arnold and sending Union to the seventh with a 9-7 advantage.

Sophomore starter Trinity Queen finished off the Lady Devils following a little seventh inning drama.

With the tying run at the plate, Elbert sent two deep fly balls to the warning track in center but Sutton was able to snag them both.

A two-out error put the tying run on base but Queen

induced a pop-up to shortstop Rebekah Kelley to end the game.

Queen scattered six hits over seven innings, allowing seven unearned runs off seven Lady Panther errors.

Ludlum went 2-for-4 with two doubles and 2 RBIs; Wischmeyer also finished 2-for-4 with 3 runs and an RBI; Arnold scored twice and knocked in one during a 2-for-4 performance at the plate.

Sutton turned in a 2-for-4, one-run outing while Hodges was 2-for-3 with a run and an RBI. Kelley provided a spark off the bench, going 2-for-2.

Roxbury and Caley Davis added one run each for

Union County.

Two days later, Union made the long journey to Putnam County (1-8, 0-3) where they made quick work of the Lady War Eagles, 12-2 in six innings.

The Lady Panthers got four in the first but Putnam responded with two in the bottom half of the inning.

"A couple defensive miscues let (Putnam) get two runs, then we left two runners on in the second but we eventually made the adjustments," Coach Mitchell said.

Union would pull away with two in the third, two in the fifth, and four in the sixth.

Junior Megan Bright struck out nine over six in-



Mary Wischmeyer rounds second during the sixth inning rally vs Elbert. The junior had five hits and 3 RBIs last week. Photo/Todd Forrest

nings of four-hit softball.

Sutton finished 4-for-5 with 2 runs and 2 RBIs; Wischmeyer went 3-for-5 with an RBI; Arnold was 1-for-4 with a double and 2 RBIs.

Lexi Sisum finished 2-for-3 with 2 RBIs; Roxbury went 2-for-3; Davis drove in two during a 1-for-4 day at the plate; Ansley Collins singled and scored.

Hannah Patton and Miranda Lockaby each drove in a run. Madeline Tanner singled and scored; Hodges scored once and Ludlum knocked in a run.

Up next is a trip to Dawson County on Tuesday at 5:55 followed by Wednesday's annual Pink Out game for Cancer Awareness.

The JV begins at 4 p.m. with the varsity to follow at 5:55. The pregame cancer survivor recognition is scheduled for approximately 5:45.

Region play will resume Thursday when Union County hosts Social Circle at 5:55 p.m. The Lady Panthers are looking to end a 9-game losing streak to the Lady Redskins that began in 2013.

"We're pretty set at six or seven positions," Mitchell said. "The other three, until someone gets in there and takes the job, we're going to keep trying things. The girls have been great, but as a coaching staff, we want to settle on our nine and get rolling."

XC: Both Union teams fifth at Chestatee; Sanchez places second; Gambrell is ninth



Both Union County squads placed fifth at Chestatee's War Eagle Invitational. Zoe Sanchez placed second and Luke Gambrell was ninth to lead their respective teams. Latty Ryals was 17th, Sadie Underwood 33rd, Lexie Ochoa 54th and Jessie Holbrook 58th to round out the girls' top five. As for the guys, Steven Seiler was 22nd, Hunter Hartzog 31st, Thomas Mellendorf 44th and Nolan Bachman 50th. Photos/Todd Forrest

Local Racing results: Blue Ridge

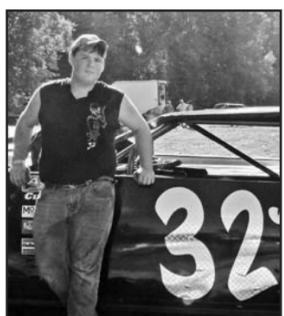
By Blake Lynch
Staff Writer
North Georgia News

Blue Ridge Motorsports Park hosted a race on September 1st, with \$800 to win in front wheel drive. Here are the top five results in each class.

Street Stock - Coming in first place was No.14 Charles Devine Jr. Finishing second place was No.9 Jim Twiggs. Finishing in third place was No.69 Jim Weller. Coming in fourth place was No.01 Jacob Lynch. Finishing fifth was No.2 Alton Ames

Limited - Coming in first place was No.16w Wesley English. Coming in second place was No.4 Trig Parris. Coming in third place was No.12 Daniel Wilson. Finishing in fourth place No.4 Danny Ledford. Finishing in fifth place was No.000 Johnny Gulizia.

Modified Street - Coming in first place was No.17 Brad Thomas. Finishing in second place



Franklin Burk Jr.

was No.81 John Howard. Coming in third place was No.4 Jacob Parris. Finishing in fourth place was No.88 Ricky Smith. Coming in fifth place was No.28 Dannie Parris.

Hot Shots - Coming in first place was No.22 Tucker Anderson. Coming in second place was No.32r Franklin Burk Jr. Finishing in third place was No.6 Colton Herbert. Finishing in fourth place was No.8 Ricky Queen. Coming in fifth place was No.55 Chase Norton.

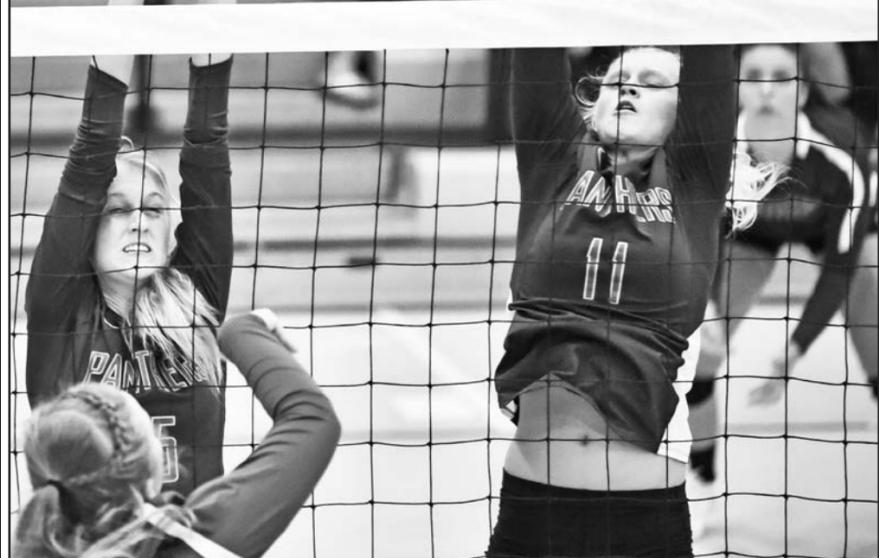
Crate - Coming in first place was No.7 Jason Deal. Finishing in second place was No.24 Seth Wimpey. Coming in third place was No.12 Ricky Weeks. Finishing in fourth place was No.78 Mathew Brocata. Finishing in fifth place was No.12 Drew Deaver.

Beginner 602 - Coming in first place was No.E-7 Evan Winkler Jr. Coming in second place was No.25 Jacob Hamby. Finishing in third place was No.8 Colby Parris. Coming in fourth place was No.41 Jeff Holloway. Coming in fifth place was No.9 Jordan Talent.

Pony - Coming in first place was No.32 Franklin Burk. Finishing in second place was No.43 Tain Ross. Finishing in third place was No.8 Johnny McClure.

FWD - No.14 Charles Devine Jr won the \$800. Coming in second place was No.K3 James Klaucke. Finishing in third place was No.05 Bradley Herbert. Finishing fourth place was No.32 Logan Exum. Finishing in fifth place was No.94 Mason Mark.

Volleyball: Union falls to Hiawassee Dam; JV knocks off Rabun County



Union County volleyball fell in straight sets to Hiwassee Dam, North Carolina last week by scores of 25-15, 25-13, and 25-5. Later in the week, Union County traveled to Fannin County and dropped two in-a-row to the Lady Rebels, 25-13 and 25-5. The Union County junior varsity recorded the first win in program history when they knocked off Rabun County during the tri-match at Fannin County. Tuesday, Union County has a region match with Putnam County at Lake Oconee Academy. Photos by Todd Forrest