

Softball: Lady Panthers headed back to State Tournament

Union County advances to Wednesday's Region 8-AA Semifinals, Finals

By Todd Forrest
Sports Editor
sports@nganews.com

The Lady Panthers (12-12) are headed back to the State Tournament after sweeping Oglethorpe County in the opening round of the Region 8-AA Tournament.

Union County would take care of business 2-0 and 4-2 last week vs the Lady Patriots as Trinity Queen fired a complete-game shutout, allowing only three hits in the Game One win. Senior Megan Bright got the win in Game Two, giving up just one earned run in the 4-2 victory.

Rebekah Kelley provided Bright a 1-0 lead in the second when she reached on an error, then scored on an RBI off the bat of Queen. Oglethorpe, who was the home team in Game Two, tied things up with a run in the bottom half of the second, then grabbed the lead with an unearned run in the third.

Trailing 2-1, Union County broke through with three in the fifth when Aubrie Banton and Lexi Sisum led off with consecutive base hits. An error off the bat of Mary Wischmeyer allowed Banton to tie things up. Later, a bunt single by Emma Roxbury and a run-scoring fielder's choice by Ansley Collins put the Lady Panthers ahead.

Kelley capped off the scoring with another RBI groundout to make it a 4-2 game.

The Lady Patriots wasted a leadoff double in the bottom of the fifth as they loaded the bases before Bright induced an inning-ending pop-up.

Following a 1-2-3 sixth



Trinity Queen recorded a win and a save during last week's opening round of Region. Photo/Todd Forrest

and two quick outs in the seventh, Bright ran into trouble when an error and a single put the tying run aboard, bringing Queen back to the circle to record the final out - a called strike three on Oglethorpe's clean-up hitter.

"That was the one hitter in their lineup that really scared us," Union County head coach Stephen Mitchell said. "So we brought Trinity (Queen) in and she finished off the game

for us."

In Game One, a fourth-inning double by Hannah Patton and an RBI single from Susum gave Queen all the run support she would need.

Union County added an insurance run in the sixth when Sisum singled with two outs and Wischmeyer brought her in with a double.

Up next, the Lady Panthers will play Rabun County on Wednesday with a spot in

the 8-AA Region Championship on the line. The game will be at 2 p.m. in Banks County. The winner will take on the Banks-Monticello winner for the Region title at 6 p.m. Wednesday.

The losers will play in the Consolation Game at 4 p.m. Wednesday.

A semifinal win over Rabun County and Union County is guaranteed to host the first round of state. Two wins on Wednesday and the Lady Pan-



Rebekah Kelley calls off Lexi Sisum to make a catch. Photo/Todd Forrest

thers will claim their first region title in eight years.

The State Tournament begins next week on Oct. 8. and 8-AA is matched up with Region 6-AA, which includes Washington-Atlanta, South Atlanta, Therrell, KIPP Atlanta, Douglass, Coretta Scott King and McNair.

Last Monday, Sept. 23, Union County lost 6-2 to East Hall in the final regular season game of the year.

Roxbury singled and scored in the fourth on an RBI single by Kelley, who also reached on a fielder's choice and scored in the seventh inning.

In the previous week's win over Gilmer, Wischmeyer and Sisum each scored a pair of runs as Union jumped out to a 4-3 lead after three.

Both offenses would go quiet as the 4-3 score held up behind a complete game from Queen.

Volleyball: Union hosts Senior Night on Tuesday with No. 2 seed up for grabs

By Todd Forrest
Sports Editor
sports@nganews.com

Union County opened Area play with consecutive victories over Washington Wilkes and Oglethorpe County. Later in the week, the Panthers lost a nailbiter at first place Rabun County before taking care of Putnam County to clinch a spot in the State Tournament.

All that's left to decide is where Union will place in the Area standings as they welcome Lake Oconee Academy (LOA) on Tuesday for Senior Night at 5 p.m.

A win over Lake Oconee and the Panthers are the No. 2 seed and will host a state play-off match. A loss would create a three-way tie for second with LOA and Oglethorpe County.

In last Tuesday's win over Washington Wilkes, the Panthers dominated in straight sets, 25-10 and 25-13.

Senior Adelia Pyle had a team-high four kills while freshman Sofia Swartz had three. Senior Kait McCarter and junior Haley Noe added



R-L: Senior Kait McCarter slips a point in between two Washington Wilkes players. Senior Adelia Pyle with one of her 11 kills vs Oglethorpe County. Photos/Todd Forrest

two kills apiece.

Sophomores Maci Williams and Riley Allison recorded three aces each, while McCarter, Swartz and Morgan Fussel had one block apiece.

The second match was much tighter with Union Coun-

ty surviving 2-1 after dropping the second set, 25-14.

Trailing 11-5 in the first set, the Panthers rallied for a 15-14 lead before pulling away, 25-20.

In the third and final set, Union County jumped out front



6-2 and never looked back as they took the set, and the match, 15-10.

Allison finished with 13 kills, Pyle added 11 and Fussel had three.

McCarter recorded three blocks, Izzy Zamora and Pyle

had four digs each, while Noe added three.

Sophomore Maci Williams finished with 23 assists. In the win over Putnam, Union won in straight sets, 25-21 and 25-18.

During their loss to

Rabun, the Panthers dropped the first set in extra points, 26-24. They would bounce back with a one-sided 25-13 victory in set two, but Rabun edged Union 16-14 in the third set to move atop the Area standings.

Youth Football: Panthers split at Fannin

Blue Ridge - Both Union teams traveled to Fannin County to take on the Rebels last weekend.

The 9U team was looking to continue its winning streak as they entered 3-0 with a defense that hasn't been scored upon.

The Union County 10U team, however, was trying to pick up its second win of the season.

9U Panthers - In the first quarter, No.88 Micah Wal-

lace scored the only touchdown of the day, but the extra point was no good as they built an early 6-0 lead.

In the fourth quarter, with Fannin trying to even the score or take the lead, the Rebels handed the ball off and there was fumble on the play. The loose ball was recovered by the Panthers' No.34 Isaiah Steep, who preserved the 6-0, Union County victory.

The 9UPanthers are now 4-0 on the season.

10U Panthers - The Panthers got the ball to begin the game and they handed it off to No.1 Brandon Lynch, who broke free for a 70-yard touchdown run to give Union the early lead.

No.22 Jaxon Totherow would add the two point conversion for a 8-0 lead. Unfortunately, that would be their only score as Fannin came up with the win, 19-8.

The 10U Panthers are now 1-3 on the season.



Hole-in-One at Old Union GC



Diane Walker recorded a hole-in-one on the 13th hole at Old Union Golf Course on Monday, Sept. 23. Walker was playing with the Old Union Women's Golf Association at the time of her ace. Congratulations, Diane!

| Week 5 10/5 | Week 6 10/12 | Week 7 10/19 | Week 8 10/26 |
|--|---|---|--|
| 9:00am Dawson AT Dawson 6U 10:30am White AT Dawson 7U 12:00pm White AT Dawson 10U 1:30pm Fannin AT Dawson 11U 3:00pm Pickens VS Gilmer 11A | 9:00am Chestatee AT Chestatee 6U 10:30am Pickens AT Chestatee 7U 12:00pm White VS East Hall 7U 1:30pm Pickens AT Chestatee 9U 3:00pm White AT Chestatee 10U | 9:00am Dawson AT Dawson 6U 10:30am East Hall AT Dawson 7U 12:00pm Pickens AT Dawson 9U 1:30pm Fannin AT Dawson 10U 3:00pm Lumpkin AT Dawson 11U | 9:00am Fannin AT Fannin 6U 10:30am Dawson AT Fannin 7U 12:00pm Lumpkin AT Fannin 8U 1:30pm East Hall AT Fannin 9U 3:00pm White AT Fannin 10U 4:30pm Lumpkin AT Fannin 11U |
| 9:00am Lumpkin AT Lumpkin 6U 10:30am White AT Lumpkin 8U 12:00pm Pickens VS Gilmer 9U 1:30pm Pickens VS Gilmer 10U 3:00pm Union AT Lumpkin 10U | 9:00am Dawson AT Dawson 6U 10:30am Fannin AT Dawson 7U 12:00pm Fannin AT Dawson 9U 1:30pm AT Dawson 10U 3:00pm East Hall AT Dawson 11U | 9:00am Pickens AT Pickens 6U 10:30am White AT Pickens 7U 12:00pm Fannin AT Pickens 8U 1:30pm Fannin VS Gilmer 11U | 9:00am Gilmer AT Gilmer 6U 10:30am Dawson VS Chestatee 7U 12:00pm Pickens AT Gilmer 8U 1:30pm Dawson AT Gilmer 9U 3pm White AT Gilmer 10U |
| 9:00am Fannin AT Fannin 6U 10:30am Chestatee AT Fannin 7U 12:00pm Gilmer AT Fannin 8U 1:30pm **Chestatee AT Fannin 9U 3:00pm **White VS Union 9U 4:30pm Chestatee AT Fannin 10U | 9:00am Lumpkin AT Lumpkin 6U 10:30am **Fannin AT Lumpkin 8U 12:00pm East Hall VS Gilmer 9U 1:30pm Fannin AT Lumpkin 10U 3:00pm Pickens AT Lumpkin 11U 4:30pm Gilmer VS White 11U | 9:00am Chestatee AT Chestatee 6U 10:30am White AT Chestatee 7U 12:00pm Fannin AT Chestatee 9U 1:30pm AT Chestatee 10U 3:00pm Gilmer VS Lumpkin 10U 4:30pm Union AT White 11U | 9:00am Pickens AT Pickens 6U 10:30am East Hall AT Pickens 9U 12:00pm Lumpkin AT Pickens 10U 3:00pm East Hall AT Pickens 11U |
| 9:00am East Hall AT East Hall 6U 10:30am Gilmer AT East Hall 7U 12:00pm Dawson AT East Hall 9U 1:30pm Lumpkin AT East Hall 11U | 9:00am Union AT Union 9U 10:30am Pickens AT Union 10U 12:00pm Pickens VS White 8U 1:30pm Pickens VS White 8U | 9:00am White AT White 6U 10:30am Gilmer AT White 8U 12:00pm Union VS East Hall 9U 1:30pm Union AT White 10U 4:30pm East Hall AT White 11U | 9:00am White AT White 6U 10:30am Pickens AT White 7U 12:00pm Chestatee AT White 9U 1:30pm Dawson AT White 11U |
| Week 5 Byes: 8U Pickens 11U White | Week 6 Byes: 8U Gilmer 11U Fannin | Week 7 Byes: 8U Lumpkin 11U Pickens | Week 8 Byes: 8U White 11U Gilmer |