

Volleyball: Union County advances to program's first Sweet 16

By Todd Forrest
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Harlem - Union County volleyball won its first state playoff match in school history, downing Model in straight sets, 25-13, 25-21 and 25-19.

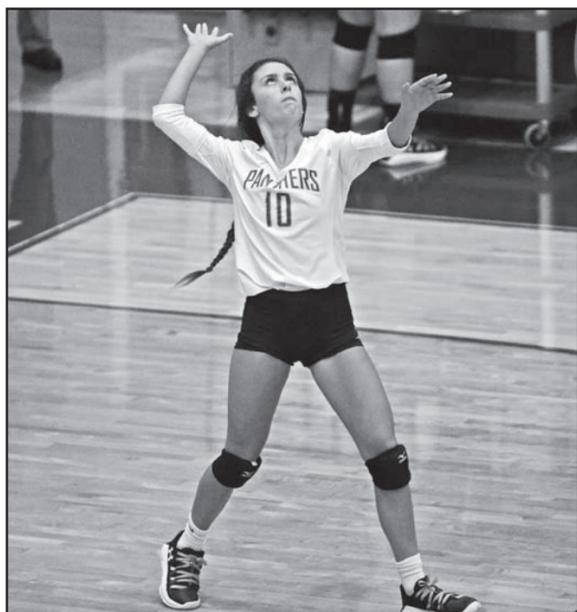
The Panthers will play for an Elite 8 berth on Wednesday when they travel back to Harlem to face the host team.

Unfortunately, Union was unable to play the second round on Saturday, as most teams (e.g. Rabun County) across the state did.

As a result, the Panthers will be forced to make another drive back to the outskirts of Augusta on Wednesday.

Union County head coach Megan Swanson remains confident that her squad will overcome the lengthy bus ride and punch its ticket to the Elite 8.

"We had to make some adjustments with Izzy (Zamora) breaking her hand (at Rabun County) but everything seemed to go really well for us," she said. "You couldn't really tell that we were missing anyone. The new rotation played really well and I was able to get in most of my subs. I wanted to get them playing time in a state playoff game and that was re-



In just its third year, Union County volleyball is one win away from the Elite 8 despite losing key senior Izzy Zamora to injury. Photo/Todd Forrest

ally special for them." As for the next opponent, Harlem, Coach Swanson believes they are very beatable.

"They are a good team but if play the way we're capable of, I have a very good feeling that we'll advance."

Wednesday's second round match gets underway at 5 p.m. with a best-of-five contest.

"I made our (regular season) schedule as tough as possible for this very reason," Swanson said. "I wanted them to know that they could compete with anyone."

"We weren't able to come out on top in the region but we played right there with (Rabun) and they weren't expecting it, so I think our girls will be ready for any challenge."

Youth Football: Union goes 2-for-2 Saturday

The 9&U Panthers took on the East Hall Vikings trying to stay undefeated, while Union's 10&U squad took on White County, searching for its fourth win of the season.

9U - The Panthers had a dominant game as No.31 Kevin Kilpatrick would run for an early touchdown. Later in the quarter, he got his second touchdown of the game.

No.13 Kamden Kendrick would also add a first-half rushing touchdown. Meanwhile, No.88 Micah Wallace, Corbin Combs, and Mikey Davis would

all add rushing touchdowns.

A big shout out goes to the offensive line of Jax Dillinger, Isaiah Stepp, Ethan Majors, Arthur Galinedo, and Connor Stanford, who led the Panthers to a 50-0 victory. Union remains undefeated and hasn't allowed a point this season.

10U - The first drive for White County failed as the Panther defense forced a safety that was credited to No.25 Kasch Smith.

Leading 2-0 in the first quarter, No.1 Brandon Lynch would take it in for the touch-

down, but the extra point was no good. Later in the first half, Lynch sacked the quarterback for another safety and a 10-0 advantage.

At the beginning of the second half, Lynch took it to the house but the extra point was good. In the fourth, Lynch would add two more rushing touchdowns as the Panthers won 29-15.

Shout outs go to Gunner Franklin and Alan Godinez for making plays on defense with a forced fumble and a fumble recovery.



Union County youth football in action over the weekend at White County

Meet your 2019-20 UCHS Homecoming Court

Homecoming photos by Todd Forrest



Caroline Collins - Senior



Brooke Dockrey - Senior



Leanna Gray - Senior



Miranda Lockaby - Senior



Cydney Rich - Senior



Katie Baumeister - Junior



Hannah Patton - Junior



Delana Stephens - Junior



Chloe Truex - Junior



Allie Brey - Sophomore



Niya Cobb - Sophomore



Mia McCombs - Sophomore



Lasada Johnson - Freshman



Caroline Karnes - Freshman



The 2019-20 Union County High School Homecoming Court: One of these girls will be crowned Homecoming Queen on Friday night. Photos/Todd Forrest