

Wrestling: Cone, Martinez place second at King of the Mountain

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Young Harris - Union County Wrestling turned in its best-ever performance at the King of the Mountain tournament last weekend at the Towns County Rec Center.

With three wrestlers surviving until the second day, the Panthers fell just shy of its first individual KOM championship with John Cone and Cristian Martinez reaching the finals and Landon Clark placing fifth.

"Overall, it was a great weekend for us," Union County coach Justin Byers said at the tournament's conclusion. "We had two guys place second, which is the best we've ever done over here. Also, Landon Clark has come a long way and he finished one win away from (a top-three).

"Our younger guys were able to gain some valuable experience in the JV matches so it was a great tournament all the way around. I foresee us, later in the year, sending more kids to State than we have before."

In the 182-pound weight class, the senior Martinez punched his ticket to the finals with a dramatic semifinal win over Gilmer's Carlos Lopez in a sudden victory overtime session.

Trailing 5-3 with seconds remaining, Martinez scored a two-point reversal to even the match. In the extra session, Martinez recorded an early takedown to end the match with a 7-5 victory.

In the finals, Martinez met White County's Seth Stonecypher, who entered Friday with an 8-1 record before



John Cone (left) and Cristian Martinez with their second place medals at last weekend's King of the Mountain tournament. Photo/Todd Forrest

advancing to the KOM finals with three-straight pinfall victories. Stonecypher, a junior, is expected to qualify for State in Class AAAA.

After trailing 3-0 early, Martinez took control for the remainder of the match but Stonecypher was able to score a late point to break a 5-5 tie and come away with the 6-5 decision.

Prior to a pair of dramatic late-round matches, Martinez made quick work of his first round opponent, pinning Morgan County's Nym

Carrera in 28 seconds.

In the second round, Martinez won a 14-10 decision over the eventual third-place finisher, Braden Taylor of Cherokee, NC.

At 160 pounds, Cone defeated West Oak SC's Noah Lay with an 11-5 decision in the first round. Lay would go on to win the remainder of his matches and finish third.

White County's Jeb Robinson was Cone's next victim, who he defeated via pinfall in the fifth minute. During the semis, the Union

County junior pinned Hart County's Brodie Lack in under two minutes to advance to the tourney finals.

Facing another Hart County grappler, Cone was pinned in 1-minute, 54 seconds by Damon McMillan in the 160-pound championship match.

Meanwhile, Clark earned a first-round bye at 113 pounds before falling to Mt. Pisgah's Josh Noble via pinfall.

After earning another bye, the sophomore Clark

pinned Hayesville, NC's Dylan Walls in 3:05 to advance to the consolation semifinals.

One match away from advancing to the third-place contest, Clark dropped a 13-6 decision to Banks County's Alan Boyer.

Sophomore Eli Smith-Foot won his first match at 285 pounds - scoring a pinfall over West Oak's J.T. Box in just 75 seconds. However, the eventual runner-up, Gilmer's Tony Olea, defeated Smith-Foot in round two. He would fall again to Mt. Pisgah's Sean

Ainsworth in the consols.

Brady Guild reached the third round of the consolation brackets at 152 pounds. The sophomore fell to the eventual champion, West Oak's Ryan Dobbs, in the first round before knocking off Murphy, NC's Jason Butler. He eventually fell to Gilmer County by a 13-6 decision in the next round.

Junior Ben Pongetti won his first match by forfeit at 170 pounds before falling to the eventual runner-up, Tyler Byars of West Oak, in the second round. In the consols, Pongetti fell to Gilmer's Daniel Reynoso via pinfall at 4:36.

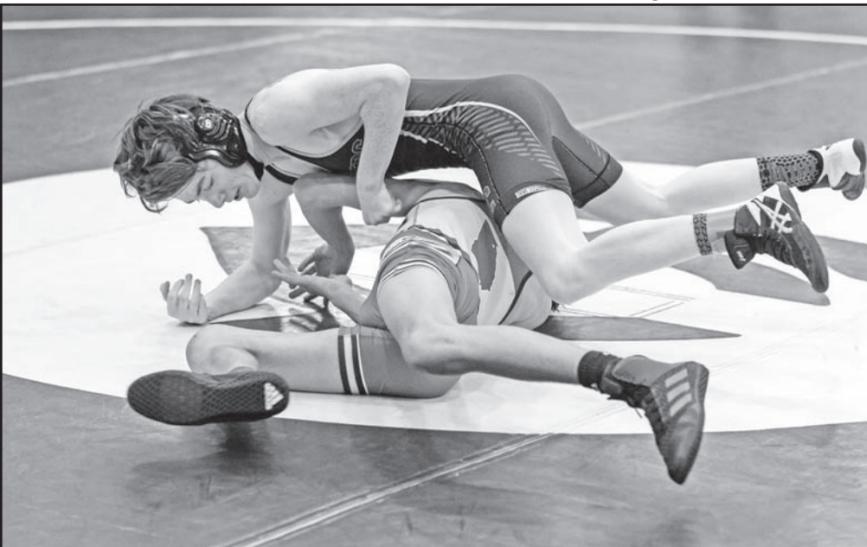
At 120 pounds, junior Kanon Abercrombie reached the second round of the consols where he fell to Hart's Duncan Ringer via pinfall. Freshman Damon Wallace (126 pounds) also made it to the second round of the consols where he fell to Towns' Garrett Oakes.

As a team, Union County would place 11th out of 22 squads -- three spots better than last year's 14th place finish.

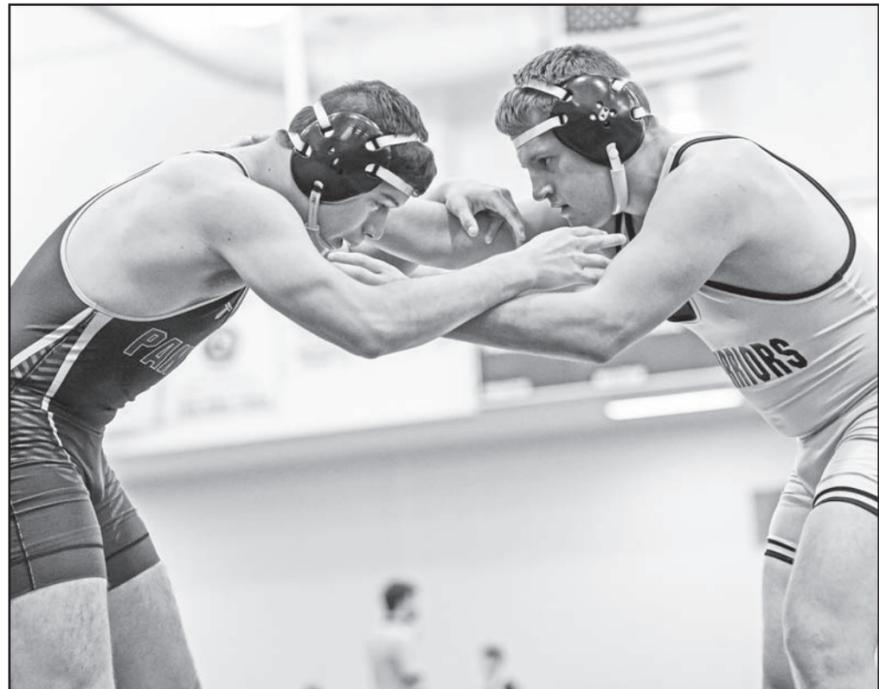
The Panthers will host Friday Night Fights on Dec. 13 which will also double as Senior Night and Alumni Night for Union County Wrestling.

The middle school team will open the action at 4 p.m., then the varsity squad will hit the mat at 6 p.m.

"Friday night is a big night for our program," Coach Byers said. "Our middle school team is holding its Duals Championship earlier in the afternoon then the high school will be hosting its Senior Night and Alumni Night at 6 p.m."



Landon Clark looks for a pinfall in the 113-pound consolation semifinals vs Banks County. Photo/Todd Forrest



Cristian Martinez (left) and White County's Seth Stonecypher battle in the KOM finals. Photo/Todd Forrest

Union General Sports Medicine Program hosts monthly CME Conference

Dr. Jacob Stirton and the Union General Sports Medicine Program held their monthly Continuing Medical Education (CME) Conference at Union General Hospital on December 2nd. This CME lecture series is the first of its kind to be offered in the Tri-State area. This monthly series aims to educate medical staff on the most up-to-date science behind a variety of sports related injuries.

CME credit is given to all physicians, advanced practitioners, nurses, physical therapists, and athletic trainers who attend their lectures - all free of charge.

The conference consisted of knowledgeable speakers and a delicious dinner. The speakers included Cardiologist, Charles Campbell, MD and Orthopedic Surgeon and Sports Medicine Medical Director, Jacob Stirton, MD. The physicians educated medical staff on Sports Cardiology/Cardiac Screening as well as Shoulder Exam/Rotator Cuff and Shoulder RTC Cases. For more information, please call (706) 439-6858. NIDec11Z18CA



Speakers at the Union General Sports Medicine Program CME December Conference

Union County Wrestling Schedule

December			
3rd	White County Tri	White County High School	5:30 PM
6th	KOM	Towns County Rec	5:00 PM
7th	KOM	Towns County Rec	9:00 AM
13th	Friday Night Fights	Home (senior night/Alum Night)	6:00 PM
18th	515 Tournament	Gilmer	5:00 PM
21st	Battle at the Border	Hart County High School	9:00 AM
27th	Amicalola Classic	Dawson County High School	9:00 AM
28th	Amicalola Classic	Dawson County High School	9:00 AM
January			
4th	Cherokee Tournament	Cherokee High School NC	9:00 AM
7th	Fannin Dual	Home	6:00 PM
10th	Team Area	TBD	TBD
11th	Team Area	TBD	TBD
15th	Marietta Tri	Marietta High School	5:30 PM
25th	Elbert Inferno	Elbert High School	9:00 AM
31st	Traditional Area	TBD	TBD
February			
1st	Traditional Area	TBD	TBD
7th	Sectionals	TBD	TBD
8th	Sectionals	TBD	TBD
12th	State Tournament	Macon GA	TBD
13th	State Tournament	Macon GA	TBD
14th	State Tournament	Macon GA	TBD
15th	State Tournament	Macon GA	TBD