

Sports

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Lady Panthers tied for third in 7-AAA entering final week

Union knocks off second place East Hall after struggling late during loss to North Hall

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With one week remaining in the 2017-18 season, the Lady Panthers are in the thick of the Region 7-AAA race for the second seed in next week's region tournament.

Union County (14-8, 5-5) finished the previous week at 1-1 with a victory over East Hall on Friday following a Tuesday loss to North Hall. This week, Union will visit Lumpkin County on Tuesday before returning home to host Dawson County for Senior Night on Friday.

Currently, the Lady Panthers are tied for third with North Hall, who owns the tiebreaker over Union County. However, the Lady Panthers own the tiebreaker over second-place East Hall - who sits one game ahead of Union and North Hall.

Meanwhile, fifth place Dawson County is just one game out of the top-four and still has two make-or-break games with Union and East Hall. As for the Lady Vikings, after visiting Dawsonville on Tuesday, they host Fannin County in the regular season finale. With North Hall owning a sweep over Union County, who swept East Hall, who swept North Hall, the tiebreakers should remain pretty cut-and-dry unless there's a three-way tie - in which case, record vs the next highest ranked opponent would come into play. GAC is undefeated which leaves record vs the 5-seed as the likely determining factor.

Union County 61, East Hall 53 - The Lady Panthers held off a late push by a hot-shooting Lady Vikings squad to take their second win of the season vs East Hall and keep hope alive for the No. 2 seed in the region tournament.

Trailing 11-6 early in the second, the Lady Panthers stormed ahead with a 9-0 run before an East Hall trey evened the score at 21-21 late in the period. Union County, however, would open up a bit of breathing room with five unanswered over the final 72 seconds, capped by a 15-footer from Adeline Dockrey at the buzzer for a 26-21 halftime advantage.

The Lady Vikings would pull within a point on multiple occasions and even knot the score late in the third, but Union County never trailed again.

The second half got un-



Sophomore guard Brooke Dockrey gets hacked on a drive to the basket during the second half vs North Hall. Photo/Todd Forrest

derway with baskets by McCarter and Daniel for a 30-21 lead before a trey kept the Lady Vikings within striking distance at 30-24. East Hall continued to rain threes on the Lady Panthers, answering a Hill bucket with a 3-ball. Then a Daniel breakaway layup was followed by another Lady Vikings trey.

With 4:25 left in the third, East Hall used a conventional 3-point play to pull within one at 34-33 but McCarter responded with a basket on the ensuing Union possession. A Daniel trey extended the lead back to five at the 2:35 mark but the Lady Vikings scored the next five points - tying the score at 39-39 with a 3-ball at the two-minute mark.

Back-to-back buckets by McCarter stretched the margin to four before East Hall closed the third with a basket to cut the lead in half.

Union went back to McCarter for a quick bucket to open the fourth but a Lady Vikings' trey made it a one-point game. East Hall matched a Brooke Dockrey deuce to stay within a point at the 6:00 mark until baskets by Brooke Dockrey and Hill opened up a 5-point Union lead with 4:48 to play. Later, on the heels of a two-minute scoring drought by both offenses, Daniel scored on the break with 2:45 to play. Up seven, Hill scored in the paint to match the Lady Panthers' largest lead of the night at 55-46.

Daniel made it a 10-point game with a free throw at the 1:38 mark, but East Hall was

far from being finished. After Union missed the front-end of a 1-and-1 attempt, the Lady Vikings drilled a three to pull within seven. The Lady Panthers came up empty on another 1-and-1 attempt and East Hall quickly cut the lead to five with 48 seconds left.

Another 1-and-1 miss by Union was only made worse when the Lady Panthers were hit with a foul on the rebound, sending East Hall to the line with an opportunity to make it a one-possession game with two free throws.

Luckily for Union County, the visitors also missed the front-end and Daniel sank a pair on the other end, then McCarter hit 1-of-2 following a Lady Viking miss. East Hall would slice the margin to six with 17 seconds left but Wischmeyer put the game away with two free throws.

Game Notes (Individual): Daniel finished with 21 points, seven rebounds, and two steals on 3-of-3 shooting from 3-point range.

McCarter turned in another double-double with 15 points, 14 rebounds, and two blocks while connecting on 6-of-9 from the floor.

Hill also hauled in 13 boards to go with 8 points and two blocks.

Brooke Dockrey had 7 points and five assists; Adeline Dockrey finished with 4 points, four boards, three steals, two assists, and a block.

Rogers had 4 points and three rebounds; Wischmeyer-



Sophomore Andelin Hill (14), juniors Adeline Dockrey (10) and Jordan Rogers (22) battle for a rebound vs East Hall. Photo/Todd Forrest

er added 2 points and five boards.

Game Notes (Team): East Hall hit 10-of-27 (27-percent) from long distance but struggled elsewhere, going just 3-for-15 (20-percent) from the stripe and 20-for-71 (28-percent) from the floor.

The Lady Vikings missed 10 of its final 11 attempts from downtown after hitting 9 of their first 16 threes.

Union County shot 22-for-55 (40-percent) from the field; 3-for-4 (75-percent) from 3-point distance and 14-of-25 (56-percent) at the line.

The Lady Panthers pulled down 51 rebounds and 16 offensive boards resulting in 13 second-chance points.

Twenty-one of East Hall's 44 rebounds came on the offensive end - leading to 7 second-chance points.

Union County scored 17 points off 18 Lady Viking turnovers. Meanwhile, East Hall wasn't as efficient - only converting 23 Lady Panther turnovers into 8 points.

North Hall 57, Union County 47 - Leading 18-14 after one and tied 25-25 at the break, the Lady Panthers were the victims of a 12-4 run coming out of halftime, allowing North Hall to open up a 42-31 lead before a Rogers bucket cut the deficit to nine entering the fourth.

Despite only two players with two fouls at the intermission, Union County was plagued by foul trouble in the third. By the end of the period,

with 16 seconds remaining for the Lady Panthers' final points of the night.

Game Notes (Individual): McCarter led the way with 14 points and six rebounds on 5-of-7 shooting before fouling out.

Brooke Dockrey finished with 11 points, four steals, four boards, and two assists.

Daniel was limited to 7 points on just 1-of-4 shooting from the floor. The senior guard hit 5-of-7 at the line with two steals and an assist while battling foul trouble.

Wischmeyer scored 4 points and hauled in eight rebounds. Adeline Dockrey also finished with 4 points while grabbing five boards. Meanwhile, Hill had 4 points, 10 rebounds, two assists, and one steal.

Rogers ended up with 3 points, two rebounds, and one assist.

Game Notes (Team): Union County shot 16-for-46 (35-percent) from the floor; 0-for-7 from three and 15-for-27 (56-percent) at the line.

North Hall hit 19-of-54 (35-percent) from the floor; 4-of-19 (21-percent) from long distance and 15-for-29 (52-percent) at the line.

The Lady Panthers hauled in 41 rebounds - 16 on the offensive end - leading to 8 second-chance points. The Lady Trojans collected 34 rebounds with 16 offensive boards - resulting in 16 second-chance points.

Union turned it over 25 times, gifting North Hall 15 points. Meanwhile, the Lady Trojans coughed it up 15 times for 9 Lady Panther points off turnovers.

Looking ahead: Union County visits Lumpkin County at 6 p.m. Tuesday. The Lady Indians are 2-8 in region play but their two wins came at home over North Hall and Dawson County.

On Friday, the Lady Panthers will recognize its seniors when they host Dawson County for Senior Night. Tip-off is scheduled for 7 p.m.

REGION 7-AAA GIRLS STANDINGS

1. GAC	11-0 (18-3)	Remaining opponents: Fannin
2. E. Hall*	6-4 (13-10)	@Dawson; Fannin
3. N. Hall**	5-5 (11-11)	Lumpkin; @Fannin
3. Union***	5-5 (14-8)	@Lumpkin; Dawson
5. Dawson	4-6 (12-10)	EHall; @Union
6. Fannin****	2-7 (8-12)	@GAC; @NHall; @EHall
7. Lumpkin	2-8 (9-12)	Union; @NHall

* EH owns tiebreaker over NH
** NH owns tiebreaker over UC
*** UC owns tiebreaker over EH
**** FC owns tiebreaker over LC

Burnette named GSGA Junior Player of the Year

North Georgia News
Sports Special

ATLANTA - Local golfer Beck Burnette was awarded the 2017 Georgia State Golf Association's Junior Player of the Year at the GSGA Banquet over the weekend.

Burnette is an 11th grader at GRACE Homeschool Co-op while dual enrolling at North Georgia Technical College.

Burnette began his golf career on the local Tri-County Junior Golf Tour at age 6. He plays locally at Butternut Creek and Old Union Golf Course and sports a plus 2.9-handicap.

According to the Junior Golf Scoreboard, Burnette is currently ranked fifth in Georgia and 80th in the world for the Class of 2019.

Last year he played 16 ranked multi-day tournaments, but three events, in particular, earned him GSGA Junior Player of the Year: First he won the Georgia Junior PGA Championship, which also earned him a trip to Missouri for the National 42nd annual Boys' Junior PGA Championship.

Next, he placed seventh in the GSGA Georgia Junior Championship which also earned him a spot on the Georgia team of eight in the 42nd annual Georgia-South Carolina Match Play Challenge.

And third, at the University of Georgia course, he qualified for an alternate spot for the US Junior Amateur.

"If it's not below freezing and he's not on the road, he's probably at Butternut,"



his mother Dawn Burnette said.

Beck attends Grace Presbyterian Church and is the son of Dawn and Rod Burnette of Blairsville. His sister Ansley Burnette is a currently a high school senior.

He currently has scholarship offers to play at several colleges but hasn't made a final commitment yet.

His next tournament is the Sea Pines Junior Heritage in Hilton Head, SC on Feb 3-4.

The North Georgia News would like to congratulate Beck Burnette this accomplishment, as well as all of his previous success. We wish him nothing but the best in the future as he continues to do a fine job representing our local community, both on and off the golf course.



Union County Recreation Department 2018 Evening Step-Aerobics Program Ages: 50 and over

You asked and we listened! Union County Recreation Department is now offering evening fitness classes! If you are looking for an indoor exercise program to fit your work schedule and other needs, then come on down to the Union County Recreation Department and sign up for our new Step-Aerobics program. The Program Director of Union County Parks and Recreation will be leading step-aerobics sessions two times a week for February and March for 45 minutes. This is a great time to socialize and exercise with a fun group for a very low cost. Step-Aerobics Registration begins on January 15, 2018 and ends February 2, 2018 at the Recreation Office (310 Wellborn St.) Registration must be done in person due to class size limits. If you have any questions, please call our office at (706) 439-6074. N(Jan17.M)JSH

Union County Recreation Senior Dance Program Winter 2018 Ballroom Dancing Program Ages: 50 and over

Did you know dance could be fun? You do not need to have coordination to have a great experience dancing! The Program Director of Union County Parks and Recreation will be leading the next session of beginning ballroom dance two times a



week for 4 weeks in this winter session. You will learn the basics of four ballroom dances, such as the Waltz and Foxtrot. This is a great time to socialize and dance with a fun group. We will meet at Union County Recreation Room and dance our hearts out for 60 minutes.

**Winter session registration begins on January 8, 2018 and ends February 2, 2018 at the Recreation Office (310 Wellborn St.).

Registration must be done in person due to cap on participants per session. If you have any questions, please call (706) 439-6074. Price discount the more lessons you sign up for.