

# Sports

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## Panthers go cold down the stretch; eliminated by North Hall

By Todd Forrest  
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**Rabbittown** - The 4-seed Panthers went without a field goal over the final 5:05, allowing 5th seeded North Hall (10-15) to close on an 11-3 run and pull away 50-42 in the first round of the Region 7-AAA Tournament at East Hall.

Trailing 31-30 after three, Union County (16-9) fell victim to a 7-0 Trojan spurt to open the final frame. The Panthers would respond by quickly tying the score at 39-39, courtesy of a 9-1 run, sparked by a Sawyer Drake bucket at the 5:34 mark.

North Hall hit 1-of-2 at the line to push the lead to 39-32 but Pierson Allison drove inside for the bucket plus a foul. The free throw was no good but Drake pulled down the miss and was fouled on the stick-back. The free throw pulled Union within two at 39-37 at the 5:06 mark.

With 3:47 to play, Patrick Baggett evened the score at 39-39 with a pair of free throws - capping off the 9-1 Panther run.

Following a Trojan miss, Union County missed a pair of go-ahead threes on the ensuing possession that allowed North Hall to regain the lead moments later.

Following a three-minute, 10-second Trojan field goal drought, North Hall broke the tie with a put-back at the 2:38 mark. They would extend their advantage to 43-39 thanks to a controversial sequence with just over two minutes to play. It began when RJ Banton pulled down a rebound off a North Hall miss. Upon landing, Banton was pulled to the floor on what appeared to be an obvious over-the-back violation on the Trojans.

With no whistle for a foul -- or even a travel on Banton -- another North Hall player was able to scoop up the loose ball for an easy, uncontested layup and a four-point lead.

Allison made it a one-



Senior Patrick Baggett shakes a North Hall defender during the second half of Union's Region 7-AAA Tournament loss. Photo/Todd Forrest

possession game with 1:58 remaining when he hit 1-of-2 at the line, however, the Trojans responded by going back inside for a deuce and a five-point advantage.

With 1:17 to play, Drake knocked down a pair from the stripe to pull Union within three at 45-42 but that would be the final Panther points of the day.

North Hall answered with an acrobatic layup on the other end before putting the contest away with 3-of-4 from the stripe over the final 27 seconds.

Drake led the Panthers with a 15-point, 11-rebound double-double on 5-of-9 from the floor and 5-of-6 at the line. He also added a pair of assists and a pair of steals.

The double-double was his first since Dec. 7 - a 56-37 home victory over Rabun County.

Baggett added 13 points and four rebounds on 3-of-9 from behind the arc in Tuesday's season-ending loss.

Meanwhile, Allison finished with six points - his second-lowest scoring output

of the season. Crawford Colwell had five despite playing with torn knee ligaments. He tore his ACL in the Jan. 30 victory at Lumpkin County but managed to finish the season.

Banton scored two and Candler Colwell had one to round out the Union County scoring.

The early-going saw the Panthers trail 5-2 and 7-4 before a Baggett trey and a Candler Colwell free throw gave them an 8-7 edge after one.

A Crawford Colwell three gave Union an 11-7 advantage early in the second but the next five points went to the Trojans. Drake put the Panthers back on top with a bucket at the 2:51 mark but, once again, North Hall answered with five-unanswered to take a 17-13 lead into the break.

Following a lethargic first half, both offenses began showing signs of life in the third period. Two free throws by Drake and an Allison triple gave Union an 18-17 lead, exactly one-minute in.

After the two teams



Sophomore Sawyer Drake (in air) and senior Crawford Colwell (far right) team up to block a North Hall shot attempt during the first half of last week's Region Tournament game. Photo/Todd Forrest

swapped buckets and the lead, the Trojans used an and-one to open up a 22-20 advantage. The Panthers answered with a game-tying dribble-drive from Drake and a 3-ball from Baggett for a 25-22 lead at the two-minute mark of the third.

The Trojans pulled within a point at 25-24 but Baggett nailed his second straight trey for a 28-24 advantage. North Hall would keep pace, however, with a triple that sparked a 7-0 run that was aided by two Panther turnovers. Union County caught a break to close the quarter when Baggett was able to beat the horn with a put-back as time expired - pulling the Panthers within a point at 31-30 through three.

The fourth got underway with a Trojan stick-back. Then the fullcourt pressure defense gifted North Hall a layup and a 35-30 lead with 7:06 to play.

The Trojans extended the margin to eight with a three at the 5:48 mark before going more than three minutes without a bucket, allowing Union to knot the score at 39-39.

### Game Notes (Individual)

Drake's 15-point outing was his fourth double-digit scoring performance in six games since his return from injury.

Baggett's 30 combined points were most on the team over the last two games.

After scoring a season-low three points vs Dawson County five days earlier, Allison was unable to get back into a rhythm, hitting just 1-of-6 from downtown vs North Hall. Although, he didn't let it impact the rest of his game. His four assists led the team over the final two games while his three steals were tied for the team lead.

Banton led the Panthers in steals with three vs North Hall while Candler Colwell finished with two steals and an assist.

### Game Notes (Team)

Union County shot just 33-percent (14-for-42) from the floor while missing its final six shots.

The Trojans hit 42-percent (18-for-43) of its field goal attempts while hitting on 4-of-6 to close. North Hall connected on 71-percent (10-of-14) from

the charity stripe while the Panthers hit 56-percent (9-of-16).

The Trojans went 4-of-16 (25-percent) from long distance. Union County finished 5-for-21 (24-percent) from 3-point land after missing its last four treys.

North Hall dominated the boards, out-rebounding the Panthers, 37-25 overall and 11-8 on the offensive glass. They also made Union pay, converting those offensive rebounds into 13 second-chance points. The Panthers, on the other hand, finished with eight second-chance points.

Despite facing a relentless fullcourt pressure defense from North Hall, Union won the turnover battle - coughing it up only 13 times compared to 15 for the Trojans.

The North Hall pressure, while contributing to the 7-0 third quarter run, resulted in only nine points off turnovers and four fast break points for the game. The Panthers, meanwhile, would finish with 12 points off turnovers.

## Dawson County storms ahead in second half; eliminate Lady Panthers

By Todd Forrest  
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**Rabbittown** - Fifth-seeded Union County (15-10) was unable to hold on after taking a 22-19 advantage into the intermission as 4-seed Dawson County used a 22-3 third quarter outburst to seize control.

Trailing 41-27 entering the fourth, the Lady Tigers (15-10) all but put the game away with six unanswered to open the quarter.

The Lady Panthers scored the next five points to pull within 13 at 46-33, but that's as close as they would get until a Brooke Dockrey bucket with 16 seconds to play trimmed the final margin to 53-41.

The first half was filled with momentum swings as both teams delivered counter-punch after counter-punch.

Dawson County opened the contest with a 10-0 run that featured junior Kaylee Sticker's 1,000th career point on a steal-and-score.

Union County finally got on the board with a Kait McCarter layup at the 3:35 mark. Her hoop would spark a 9-0 run that made it a one-point game with 2:01 left in the first.

Buckets by Adelin Hill and Adeline Dockrey followed McCarter, then a Bailey Daniel and-one capped off the run.

Leading 10-9, the Lady Tigers countered with seven-unanswered to open up a 17-9 advantage early in the second frame. But the Lady Panthers answered with 12-straight for a 21-17 lead with 2:23 remaining before halftime.

The 12-0 run began with two Daniel free throws followed by a McCarter put-back. Daniel nailed a corner-trey before Hill sank 2-of-2 at the line - giving Union its first lead of the game, 18-17.

McCarter followed up two missed Dawson County free throws with a 1-for-2 trip to the line before Daniel hit 2-of-2 at the 2:23 mark.

The Lady Tigers mo-



Kait McCarter defends while Brooke Dockrey gets the strip in last week's playoff game vs Dawson County. Photo/Todd Forrest

mentarily ended the run when a Union turnover led to a layup on the other end, but Daniel returned to the line and sank 1-of-2 to send her team into the break on a 13-2 run.

Trailing 22-19 to start the third, Dawson wasted little time in regaining the lead. A trey at the 6:02 mark broke a 22-22 tie and gave the Lady Tigers a lead they would never relinquish.

A Brooke Dockrey free throw at the 4:28 mark of the quarter stopped an 8-0 Dawson County run. Then an Adeline Dockrey 15-footer at the 2:40 mark kept Union within eight and ended a stretch of three minutes and 20 seconds without a Lady Panther field goal.

Unfortunately, the next eight points all belonged to the Lady Tigers - putting Union in a 16-point hole at 41-25.

Daniel would close the third with two free throws and Brooke Dockrey opened the fourth by hitting 1-of-2 but a Dawson County triple, followed by a deuce, stretched the margin to 18 with 4:38 to play.

McCarter would score the next seven Lady Panther points before fouling out with 2:03 remaining and Union trailing 48-35.

Daniel hit two from the

charity stripe at the 1:53 mark - the final two points of a remarkable career that included 1,106 points during four years as a Lady Panther.

Brooke Dockrey would score the final four points of the game to bring Union within 12 at the horn.

**Game Notes (Individual)**  
Daniel finished with 15 points after scoring a game-high 11 during the first half. She hit 10-of-11 at the line, 1-of-2 from downtown while hauling in four boards to go with two assists and a steal.

McCarter scored 12 points with four rebounds on 4-of-7 shooting and 4-of-5 at the foul line. Brooke Dockrey

### Turkey Calling Contest February 24

NWTF - Coopers Creek Sportsmen for Kids will host the Steve George Memorial Sanctioned Turkey Calling Contest on Saturday, February 24th at the Union County Civic Center. Doors will open at 10 a.m. Contest begins at 1 p.m. Lunch will be available.

There will be a 20 Gauge Youth Model Turkey Gun Raffle. Lots of great door prizes will also be distributed.

Come out and support Coopers Creek Sportsmen for Kids and hear some of the best callers from the south.



Coach Corey Garrett looks on as senior Bailey Daniel avoids a Dawson County trap during the first half of Union County's Region 7-AAA Tournament game. Photo/Todd Forrest

had six points and a team-high five assists.

Hill grabbed 11 rebounds - her sixth double-digit rebounding performance since Jan. 3. She added four points, one assist, and one steal.

Adeline Dockrey recorded a team-high three blocked shots to go with four points, four boards, and a steal. Mary Wischmeyer chipped in two boards while Jordan Rogers added one.

**Game Notes (Team)**  
Union County shot just 26-percent (11-of-42) matching its field goal percentage in the 70-38 loss to Dawson County, five days earlier.

The Lady Panthers hit

78-percent (18-for-23) at the line and 20-percent (1-of-5) from distance.

The Lady Tigers hit 33-percent (20-of-61) from the field, 18-percent (2-of-11) from downtown, and 48-percent (11-for-23) at the line.

While Dawson held a slight edge in rebounding (41-39), the difference was significant on the offensive end where they out-rebounded

Union County 19-12 for a dozen second-chance points to Union's three.

The Lady Panthers also turned it over 22 times, leading to 18 points off turnovers and 15 fast break points for Dawson.

The Lady Tigers' nine turnovers led to nine points off turnovers and two Union County fast-break points.

### FULL-OF-LIFE

Outdoor Exercise and Walking Program  
Union County Recreation Department  
Spring 2018 Session  
Ages: 50 and over

It is that time of year! Do you have spring fever? Do you feel you need to be outdoors and moving? The Program Director of Union County Parks and Recreation will be leading a free walking session two times a week, and two days a week of outdoor exercise using our park equipment. Both walking and outdoor exercise run for 12 weeks in the upcoming spring session! We have two levels of walking to choose from. Meeting times run for approximately 60 minutes.

\*\*Spring Session 2018 Registration begins on February 12, 2018 and ends March 1, 2018 at the Recreation Office (310 Wellborn Street)

Registration must be done in person. If you have any questions, you can call (706) 439-6074 and ask for Jennifer.



For more information call Tony at 706-897-2032 or Troy at 706-897-5211. N(Feb14,21)4CA