

Sports

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Basketball: Panthers run the table at UCHS, UGA camps

By Todd Forrest
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Union County basketball finished its first week of summer camps with a 7-0 record (5-0 varsity) between the UCHS camp on June 7 and the June 8 University of Georgia camp.

The Panthers, missing three key players at both camps due to injury and football, wrapped things up Saturday afternoon in Athens with wins over Greeneville (Tennessee), Easley (South Carolina) and Treutlen County.

Union's only serious challenge came in the victory over Greeneville, a 20-win squad last winter, but rising sophomore Ethan Hogsed's last-second heroics lifted the Panthers to the win.

Trailing by five with under 2 minutes left, Union used its full-court pressure to disrupt Greeneville, eventually resulting in Hayden Hughes' game-tying 3 inside the 30-second mark. After the Greeneville free throws dropped the Panthers behind by a deuce, Hogsed knocked down a game-winning trey with 3 seconds remaining.

"We came down and Ethan kind of trailed into the play, got an open 3 and hit it," Panthers head coach Corey Garrett said. "[Greeneville] had to go the length of the court and all they got up was a halfcourt and we ended up winning by one."

Later in the day, Union County cruised to easy wins over Easley, SC and Treutlen



Ethan Hogsed drops in a layup vs. Hayesville, NC. The rising-sophomore's late 3 lifted Union to a win at UGA the next day. Photo/Todd Forrest

County. Easley went 9-19 a year ago; Treutlen finished 20-7 in 2024 and won the Region 4-A (D2) title.

"You could definitely tell it was a camp," Garrett said. "Both teams were subbing a lot. They were playing a lot of guys that probably won't play a lot, and we were playing guys that we probably wouldn't have if it were a regular game."

The day before, Union County hosted Hayesville, NC and White County at the UCHS

camp, picking up two wins. As was the case at UGA, the Panthers were without its two big men, Kaden Combs and Jaxon Totherow. Meanwhile, Jude Ellis sat out both camps while nursing a knee injury.

In its opening-game win over Hayesville, Union County jumped out to an early 7-0 lead and took a 34-13 margin into the break. Hayesville chipped away in the second half but couldn't cut the gap to single digits.



Rising senior Hayden Hughes (34) attacks the basket during Union County's win over Hayesville, NC on Friday, June 7. Photo/Todd Forrest

Rising seniors Houston Henry, Hughes and Maddox Young, along with rising junior Cade Dockrey, did most of the damage for UCHS. Ryland Chambers, Hogsed, Marquis Gatwood, Holden Payne, Jacob Rodriguez and Kainen Shirley also contributed during the week's victories.

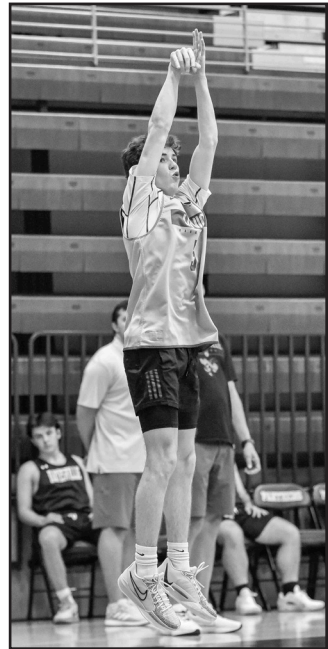
The Panthers faced its first challenge of the summer vs. White County but came away with a 5-point victory courtesy of late scores from

Henry and Hughes.

Union County led most of the contest with its largest lead coming at 6 points. White County's largest lead was 3 points.

"I don't know if all the teams were at full strength, but it looked like White County had all their guys there," Garrett said. "I know we definitely weren't at full strength."

The Panthers traveled to Piedmont University on Monday for a three-day, two-night



Rising junior Holden Payne fires a 3 from the corner. Photo/TF

camp. Union County will face a significant leap in competition vs. North Oconee (Class AAAA State champ), Toombs County (Class AA State runner-up), West Hall and Oconee County.

Next week, Union County is in the top flight at the University of North Georgia camp, facing three state champions in Lakeview (GIAA champion), Riverwood (Class 6A champion) and North Oconee on opening day. Joining them in the top flight are North Gwinnett (Class 7A State tournament) and South Gwinnett (Class 7A).

Union County is coming off its first 20-win season (21-7) since 2007 and expects to return its top-eight players from a year ago.

Lady Panthers perfect at UCHS basketball camp, visit Emmanuel next

By Todd Forrest
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The Lady Panthers opened the summer with a perfect week, cruising to four victories at last week's UCHS basketball camp, notching two wins over Murphy (NC) and one apiece vs. Hayesville (NC) and Hiwassee Dam (NC).

Union County and second-year coach Thomas Nelson entered the camp missing two key players: Katelyn Brown and Sloane Dyer. The Lady Panthers were also dealt a severe blow earlier this month when second-leading scorer Paula Robertson announced her transfer to Gilmer.

"We started out slow [at the UCHS camp] but we won all of our games," Nelson said. "I'm feeling really excited about all the girls we have coming back. We're going to be a senior-led team this year and I like the way they are leading and I think we are going in the right direction."

Union County leaned heavily on returning starters Ariel McCarter and Hope Taylor at camp. Meanwhile, rising sophomore Regan Trlica filled in nicely in the backcourt in place of Robertson and the recently graduated Kamryn Mull.

"[Trlica] is picking up things really fast and is doing well," Nelson said. "But this year is going to look a little different. We lost three seniors [from last year] and Paula. We wish [Robertson] the best with everything she does."

"But [the transfer is] going to make it a little difficult, but I'm pleased with how hard the girls have worked this summer. But this gives some of the younger girls an opportunity, and we have some



Rising sophomore Regan Trlica during Union County's 25-point victory over Murphy, NC on Thursday, June 6. Photo/Todd Forrest

good kids to replace some good players."

Hensley Adams, Ella Akins, Mady Adams, McKenna Hood, Ragan McCarter and others also contributed to Union's perfect week.

The Lady Panthers JV squad finished the camp at 2-2.

This week, Union County will spend three days and two nights at the Emmanuel University camp, facing region foe Murray County in the opening game.

"We're going to face

some really tough teams down there and we have Murray County right off the bat," Nelson said. "So we're going to find out how things are going for us real quick. I love playing in these tournaments because you don't know who you're playing and it lets you see some high-level programs."

The Lady Panthers will join the men at the University of North Georgia next week before hosting the UCHS youth camp later in the month.

"We're thankful for all



Rising senior Hensley Adams lines up a 3 vs Murphy. Photo/TF

the support we receive and I'm so proud of how close these girls have become," Nelson added.

The Lady Panthers finished 2023-24 with a 17-12 record after reaching the Region 8-AA title game. Union County easily won its Class AA State Tournament opener over Landmark Christian before suffering a heartbreaking 45-41 loss at Murray County in the Sweet 16.

Union County brings back three starters from 2023-24: Brown, McCarter and Taylor.

Since 2020, the Lady Panthers have reached the Class AA Sweet 16 three times, appearing in one Elite 8 and claiming a region championship.



Rising senior Ariel McCarter enters 2024-25 within striking distance of the Lady Panthers' all-time scoring record. Photo/Todd Forrest

UC WOMEN'S INDIVIDUAL BASKETBALL CAMP

When: June 17th - June 19th

Time: 9:00am - 12:00pm

Where: UCHS Gym

Who: Rising 2nd - Rising 8th Grade

Cost: \$75.00

(Includes a Camp T-Shirt)



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Football: Panthers' summer begins with 7-on-7 victories

By Todd Forrest
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Union County picked up three 7-on-7 wins over Andrews, North Carolina on the morning of June 6, providing head coach Michael Perry some insight on first-year quarterback Cade Dockrey and his new receiving corp.

"I thought Cade did a good job in his first real action," Perry said. "Overall, I think the receivers, Tyler Parker, Maddox Young and Chetley Cox did some really good things for us."

In the first game vs. the Wildcats, the offense only found the endzone once during an 8-2 win, but the defense, led by Braden Plott, picked up the slack.

"Offensively, we only scored once in that first game," Perry said. "But the defense bailed us out numerous times. Plott had two interceptions on the day, and Maddox and Chetley made some key plays for us."

Union's offense found another gear in the second game - a 27-19 victory.

"We had some busted coverages in the secondary that we need to fix, but we had some players missing. We're just going to keep coaching them up and we'll get after it again this week."

The Panthers host An-



Rising junior quarterback Cade Dockrey was praised by head coach Michael Perry for his first 7-on-7 performance at the team's new starting quarterback. Photo/Todd Forrest

draws on Thursday in another 7-on-7 contest beginning at 10 a.m.

"The biggest thing we need to work on this week is our red zone [offense]," Perry said. "The one area Cade struggled in is putting a little

more touch on the ball around the red zone or goal line area. There were a couple times he had Maddox on the corner route, but he just didn't put enough air under it.

"It's just the little things like that, but those are things

we haven't really worked on, at least not as much as our open-field stuff. But it was his first 7-on-7 and I think he's going to be just fine."

During the third and final game last week, the Union County JV defeated Andrews



Rising senior Braden Plott will see action on both sides of the ball this autumn. Photo/Todd Forrest

11-0 behind incoming freshman quarterback Kamden Kendrick.

Besides the quarterback play, Perry is looking to correct a few mistakes in the defensive backfield during this week's 7-on-7 sessions.

"We just need to clean up some things in the secondary," he said. "We had some blown assignments and some mental lapses [vs. Andrews]. But we'll get on that and fix it, and just keep rolling through the summer."



Rising junior WR/DB Tyler Parker hauls in a touchdown catch in 7-on-7 action. Photo/Todd Forrest



Rising sophomore Chetley Cox takes a Dockrey pass to the house vs. Andrews, NC. Photo/Todd Forrest



L-R: coaches Michael Perry, Tyler Perry and Todd Peugh. Coach Peugh returns to UCHS following a stint at Rockmart. Peugh was Union County's head coach in 2006 and 2007. Photo/Todd Forrest

Kathy McAfee named the 2024 Old Union Women's Golf Association Champion

Congratulations to Kathie McAfee who is the 2024 Old Union Women's Golf Association Champion. Not only is Kathie a very talented golfer, but she is a very giving and generous member of the league. Because of her exemplary play, Kathie has the privilege of her very own, private, close-in parking place for one year.

The Old Union Women's Golf Association had a fabulous Monday on the course. There were 24 players, and the game was "Forget The Fives." Only the par 3 and par 4 holes counted towards the game. Two places were paid out in four flights. The winners for the day were as follows: Flight A: Kathie McAfee with a net 54, \$11. Geni Preece with a net 55, \$11, includes birdie. Flight B: Kathleen Bolin with a net 51, \$15, includes birdie. Shelia Baggett with a net 53, \$11, includes birdie. Flight C: Sandy Snyder with a net 55, \$17, includes chip in. Becky London with a net 57, \$7. Flight D: Cynthia Panter with a net 52, \$11. Debbie Estes with a net 55, \$7, and Linda



Kathy McAfee

Miles received \$6 for her chip in. The total purse paid out was \$96. "Closest To The Pin" went to Cynthia Moorehead on hole number 3. She is awarded a free round of golf or a \$25 gift card in the pro shop. The league welcomed back Geni Preece and then, after golf, 12 of the ladies met and lunched at Monte Alban where they had a roaring great

time. Golf lessons are available through the clubhouse with Matt Cook or with Mary Holmes who drives in from Clayton for private or group lessons. Anyone interested in joining this great group of ladies is asked to contact Karen Mussoline at 352-638-3649 or Cynthia Panter at 706-633-7587. N/Un12.28/CA

SUMMER YOUTH CAMP

When: July 16th - July 18th

Time: 12:00pm - 2:00pm

Where: UCHS Stadium

Who: Rising 2nd Grade

Rising 6th Grade

Cost: \$75
(Includes Panther Football Camp Shirt)

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YOUTH BOY'S BASKETBALL CAMP

JUN 25 - JUN 27, 2024

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

UPCOMING 2ND - 8TH GRADERS
UCHS GYM

REGISTRATION FEE:
\$75

Scan the QR code to sign-up: