

Sports

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Summer youth camps in the books, fall sports underway Aug. 1

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The recent youth camps at Union County High School concluded last week with football, volleyball, and wrestling on campus. In addition to the high school camps, the fourth annual Junior Golf Clinic was hosted at Old Union Golf Course.

The football camp, which honored the late Noah Helton, welcomed 75 young athletes entering grades 1-6 on July 16-18. The kids received coaching from Union County players and coaches at different positions, breaking into groups based on age.

The first day of the football camp kicked off with a few words from Rev. Jerry Helton, followed by a special message from Noah Helton's father, Nathan.

Union County head football coach Michael Pery said, "I'm really proud of the turnout, and we had a lot of fun. Our players enjoyed working with the kids, and it was heartwarming to see all the kids wearing the number '67' on their shirts to honor Noah."

The Panthers will host Chestnut in a scrimmage game on Aug. 9.

Union County Wrestling hosted grades K-6 at the 'rubber floor gym' from July 15-17.

"Our youth camp was a great success this year," said Union County wrestling coach Justin Byers. "The campers are the future of this sport, and the future looks bright. I would like to thank Coach Michael Smith-Foot for leading the camp, Crystal Gary for organizing our camp shirts, and our high school wrestlers who worked



Nathan Helton addresses the UCHS youth football camp as attendees wear special No. 67 camp shirts in honor of 2023 graduate Noah Helton. Photo/Todd Forrest

as counselors."

Union County Wrestling hosts its first-annual Grapple Fest on Aug. 3 at the rubber floor gym.

As for Union County volleyball, more than 30 young ladies were in attendance at the UCMS gymnasium from July 17-19. Head coach Megan

Brown and the UCHS players were on hand to instruct youngsters entering grades 3-8 in all facets of the sport.

Volleyball opens 2024 on Aug. 8 at 5 p.m. vs Pickens.

Meanwhile, 36 young golfers participated in Old Union Golf Course's Junior Golf Clinic on July 15, 16,

and 18.

The event teaches golf and life skills to help kids improve not only as golfers but as young people, Old Union General Manager Cameron Forrest said.

The youngsters spent time on the driving range and putting green, while also learn-

ing the rules and etiquette of the game over the three-day clinic. On the final day, the kids were able to hit the course for a round of golf.

"We want to thank all the volunteers, parents and juniors who participated in our clinic," Forrest added.

UCHS fall sports offi-

cially get underway on Aug. 1 when the Lady Panthers softball team visits Pickens. The softball home opener is Aug. 3 vs. Woodland High School.

Union County softball will host its annual Players vs. Parents softball game on July 26.

See Youth Camps, Pg 9A



Union County wrestling camp wrapped up July 17 at the rubber floor gym. Photo/Todd Forrest



Youngsters and high schoolers get in the fun during last week's UCHS wrestling camp. Photo/Todd Forrest

Union FOOTBALL

HOME ■ AWAY ■

2024 SCHEDULE

AUG 23	AUG 30	SEP 6	SEP 13	SEP 20	SEP 27	OCT 4	OCT 18	OCT 25	NOV 1
@ Gilmer County	Vs. Fannin Co.	Vs. Murray Co.	@ Rockmart	Vs. N. Murray Co.	@ LFO	@ Ringgold	@ Coalhulla Co.	Vs. Sonoraville	Vs. No. Cobb Christian.



Future Union County volleyballers go through drills at last week's camp. More photos on Page 9A. Photo/Todd Forrest

Youth Camps... continued from Page 8A



UCHS Volleyball youth campers at the UCMS gym ahead of day three. Photo/Todd Forrest



Old Union hosted its three-day junior golf clinic last week. Photo/Matt Brown



The Union County youth football camp drew 75 campers to last week's three-day event. Photo/Todd Forrest



Junior golfers practice on the putting green. Photo/Todd Forrest

UCHS 2024 Softball schedule

DATE	OPPONENT (R) = Region Play, @ = Host Location, vs. = Additional Team	LOCATION	TEAM	TIME
August 1	Pickens County - Dragons	Away	Varsity	4:00 / 6:00 PM
August 2	Lumpkin County - Indians	Away	JV	5:00 PM
August 3	Woodland High School - Wildcats	Home	Varsity	12:00 / 2:00 PM
August 6	White County - Warriors	Home	JV / Varsity	4:00 / 6:00 PM
August 8	Dawson County - Tigers	Home	JV / Varsity	4:00 / 6:00 PM
August 10	vs. Alcovy - Tigers @ Prince Avenue - Wolverines	Away	Varsity	11:00 PM
August 12	White County - Warriors	Away	JV / Varsity	4:00 / 6:00 PM
August 15	Rockmart - Yellow Jackets (R)	Away	Varsity	5:30 PM
August 16	Tallulah Falls - Indians	Home	JV	4:30/6:00
August 17	@ Lumpkin County - Indians vs. Lanier High School - Longhorns	Away	Varsity	10:00 AM 12:00 PM
August 20	North Murray - Mountaineers (R)	Home	Varsity	5:30 PM
August 22	Lakeview-Fort Oglethorpe (LFO) - Warriors (R)	Away	Varsity	5:30 PM
August 23	Gilmer County - Bobcats	Home	JV	4:30 / 6:00 PM
August 26	Gilmer County - Bobcats	Away	JV	4:30 PM
August 27	Sonorville - Phoenix (R)	Home	Varsity	5:30 PM
August 29	Ringgold - Tigers (R)	Away	Varsity	5:30 PM
September 5	Murray County - Indians (R)	Home	Varsity	5:30 PM
September 6	Pickens County - Dragons	Home	JV	4:00 / 6:00 PM
September 9	North Cobb Christian - Eagles (R)	Away	Varsity	5:30 PM
September 10	Coahulla Creek - Colts (R)	Home	Varsity	5:30 PM
September 12	Rockmart - Yellow Jackets (R)	Home	Varsity	5:30 PM
September 17	North Murray - Mountaineers (R)	Away	Varsity	5:30 PM
September 19	Lakeview-Fort Oglethorpe (LFO) - Warriors (R)	Home	Varsity	5:30 PM
September 21	Gilmer County - Bobcats	Home	Varsity	10:00 AM
September 23	Lumpkin County - Indians	Home	JV	5:00 PM
September 24	Sonorville - Phoenix (R)	Away	Varsity	5:30 PM
September 26	Ringgold - Tigers (R)	Home	Varsity	5:30 PM
October 1	Murray County - Indians (R)	Away	Varsity	5:30 PM
October 3	North Cobb Christian - Eagles (R)	Home	Varsity	5:30 PM
October 8	Coahulla Creek - Colts (R)	Away	Varsity	5:30 PM
October 9	White County - Warriors	Away	Varsity	5:30 PM
October 14-15	1st Round of State			
October 21-22	2nd Round of State			



A pair of young grapplers attempt a takedown of Union County's State Bronze Medalist Asa Smith-Foot. Photo/Todd Forrest



UCHS youth volleyball camp was another resounding success. The 2024 season opens Aug. 8 at home. Photo/Todd Forrest

Jacob Lynch Memorial Softball tourney raises \$5K



A table with photos and memorabilia remembering Jacob Lynch. The Jacob Lynch Memorial Scholarship softball tournament raised \$5,000 for local UCHS and MEC scholarships.

The Family of Jacob Lynch would like to thank the 13 teams that came out to the softball tournament on July 14. We would like to thank Tony Hughes for running the tournament. We would like to thank the following businesses: Foodland, Ingles, Kevin Chase, and Pepsi for donations to the concession stand.

We would also like to thank our sponsors: Crossroads Baptist Church, Julie's Childcare, Nelson's Tractor, Berrong Towing, United Community Bank, Cozy Cabin Rentals and Realty, RNR Painting, King Ford, Candi Landscaping Services, The Bell Shack Souvenirs, Jennifer L. Wimpey, Fleets LLC, Mike Hemphill Trucking and Matheson Lawn Care. We would like to thank Recreation Department for

allowing us to use the field. We would like to thank Lake Hughes, Jay Lynch, Darrin Ingram and Justin Gwynn for umpiring the games.

A special thanks to the Gideons, who came out to give away Bibles.

Thanks to Jason Deal for throwing out the first pitch and all the ladies that ran the concession stand, and most of all, the community for coming out and supporting this cause. We would love to make this a yearly event.

Special thank you to Bell Shack Souvenirs for doing our T-shirts and anyone else we may have forgotten.

All money raised will be given out in local scholarships to Union County High School students and Mountain Area Education students.

GRAPPLE Fest 2024

AUGUST 3rd 4pm-8pm
UNION COUNTY SCHOOL CAMPUS
(Near the "rubber" gym below the elementary school)

Join Union County Wrestling for live outdoor wrestling (ALL AGES!) with competitors from all over the Tri-State area!

Vendors, Craft Booths, Live Wrestling, Concessions, Bounce House, and Children's Activities!

An EVENT like NO OTHER!

FREE ADMISSION

AUGUST 3rd 4pm-8pm

Travel Baseball for seasons Fall 2024 and Spring 2025

Sign Ups are open for the seasons in the following age groups:

Ages 9-10
Ages 11-12
Ages 13-14

For more info contact Derek at 706-994-8973

UCHS 2024 Volleyball Schedule

Union County High School 2024 Volleyball Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT (R) = Region Play, @ = Tri-Match Host, vs. = Additional Team	LOCATION	TEAM	TIME
June 24-26, 2024	White County Camp	Away		5:00 PM 7:00 PM
July 8-9, 2024	Gainesville Training Camp	Away		5:00 PM 7:00 PM
August 8, 2024	Pickens County - Dragons	HOME	JV / Varsity	5:00 PM 6:00 PM
August 13, 2024	Rabun County - Wildcats Stephens County - Indians	HOME	Varsity	5:00 PM 7:00 PM
August 15, 2024	@ Franklin County - Lions vs. Commerce - Tigers	Away	JV / Varsity JV / Varsity	5:00 / 6:00 PM
August 19, 2024	Andrews, NC - Wildcats	HOME	Varsity	6:00 PM
August 20, 2024	@ Stephens County - Indians @ Tallulah Falls - Indians	Away	JV / Varsity JV / Varsity	5:00 PM 6:00 PM
August 22, 2024	@ Dawson County - Tigers vs. West Hall - Spartans	Away	JV / Varsity JV / Varsity	5:00 PM 6:00 PM
August 26, 2024	Rabun Gap-Nacoochee - Eagles	HOME	JV / Varsity	5:00 / 6:00 PM
August 27, 2024	@ Banks County - Leopards vs. Habersham County - Raiders	Away	JV / Varsity JV / Varsity	5:00 PM 6:00 PM
August 29, 2024	Hiwassee Dam, NC - Eagles	HOME	JV / Varsity	5:00 PM 6:00 PM
September 5, 2024	Commerce - Tigers Dawson County - Tigers	HOME	Varsity	5:00 PM 7:00 PM
September 7, 2024	Gordon Lee Tournament	Away	Varsity	TBD
September 10, 2024	Rockmart - Yellow Jackets (R) Sonorville - Phoenix (R)	HOME JUC Rec Center	JV / Varsity JV / Varsity	5:00 / 7:00 PM
September 12, 2024	Andrews, NC - Wildcats	Away	JV / Varsity	5:00 PM 6:00 PM
September 17, 2024	@ Ringgold - Tigers (R) @ Lakeview-Fort Oglethorpe (LFO) - Warriors (R)	Away	Varsity	5:00 PM 6:00 PM
September 19, 2024	Hiwassee Dam	Away	JV / Varsity	5:00 PM 6:00 PM
September 24, 2024	@ Murray County - Indians (R) vs. North Murray - Mountaineers (R)	Away	JV / Varsity JV / Varsity	5:00 PM 6:00 PM
September 26, 2024	East Jackson "Senior Night"	HOME	JV / Varsity	6:00 PM 7:00 PM
October 1, 2024	@ Coahulla Creek - Colts (R) vs. North Cobb Christian - Eagles (R)	Away	JV / Varsity JV / Varsity	5:00 PM 6:00 PM
October 12, 2024	AREA TOURNAMENT	TBD	Varsity	TBD
October 14, 2024	AREA TOURNAMENT	TBD	Varsity	TBD