

# Sports

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## Softball: Union half-game out of second following three straight wins

First round of region tourney begins Saturday with the higher seeded team hosting best-of-three series

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A week ago, Union County softball was an afterthought in Region 7-AAA.

Clinging to sixth place in a seven-team region, the Lady Panthers were 2-5 in 7-AAA after starting 2-2. During the weekend of Sept. 15-16, Union County traveled to Morgan County to take part in a two-day tournament that saw them lose three-of-five games.

Then the Lady Panthers hosted Greater Atlanta Christian on Monday and dropped nine runs on the visitors from Gwinnett County in a 9-4 victory.

A day later, they took the defending region champs, East Hall to the woodshed 11-1 - the Lady Vikings' first region loss of the season.

The red-hot play continued on Wednesday with a 6-1 victory over the 2016 regular season region champs, North Hall.

The win created a standings log jam involving five teams: Union County, North Hall, GAC, and Dawson County are all tied for third with a 5-5 record. Lumpkin County (6-5) is in second by a half-game in the win column while East Hall (10-1) has clinched first place and seventh place Fannin County isn't going anywhere at 0-10.

The Tuesday region schedule should provide the Lady Panthers an excellent opportunity take control of third place. Union County visits last place Fannin County, North Hall goes to first place East Hall, and Dawson hosts GAC in a battle of 5-5 teams.

Region play concludes on Thursday when the Lady Panthers travel to GAC, Lumpkin visits Dawson, and Fannin hosts North Hall.

Currently, Union owns the tiebreaker over North Hall and Dawson County but Lumpkin County has the tiebreaker over the Lady Panthers.

The 7-AAA Region Tournament gets underway this weekend with the No. 5 seed at No. 4 and No. 6 at the No. 3 seed. Each matchup will be a best-of-three series with the third game on Monday - if needed. The seventh place team (Fannin County) doesn't qualify for the postseason.

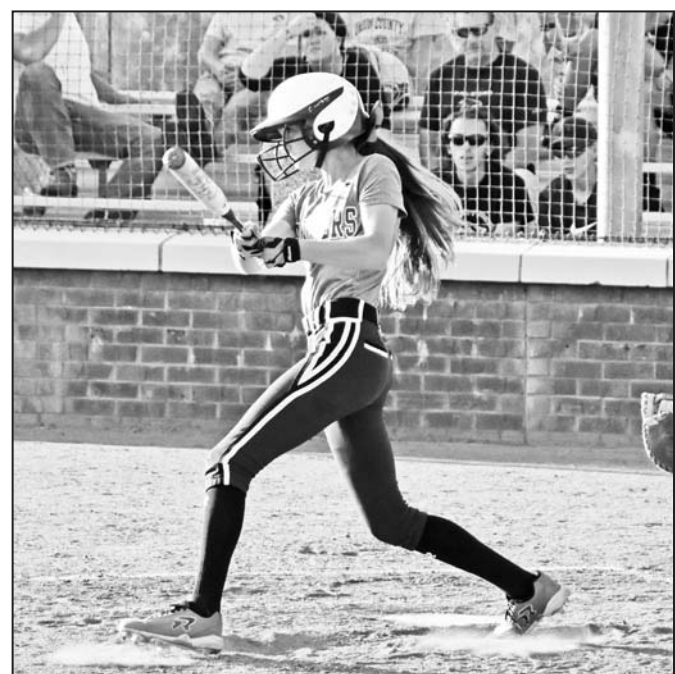
Meanwhile, the top two seeds receive bye and an automatic berth in the state playoffs. The region finals will take place on Wednesday, Oct. 4 at top-seeded East Hall.

Last Tuesday, Union County paid a visit to the -- then unbeaten -- Lady Vikings and did a number on the reigning 7-AAA Pitcher of the Year Macy Banks.

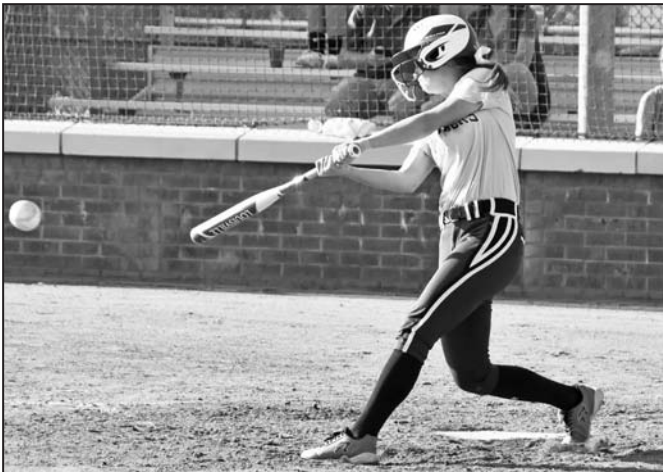
The Lady Panthers jumped out front 4-0 in the first before extending the lead to 7-0 in the third. East Hall got a run in the bottom half of the third



Junior outfielder Aladriel Arnold went 3-for-3 vs North Hall and homered at East Hall. Photo/Todd Forrest



Senior Braden Poteete drives in two vs North Hall. Photo/Todd Forrest



Katelynn Hodges leads the team in average and runs. Photo/Todd Forrest

run, bases loaded single. The Lady Trojans took advantage of a Union error to get a run in the fourth but that's as close as Lawn would allow them to get.

On Monday, the Lady Panthers pulled away from GAC with four runs in the fourth and one in the sixth during a 9-4 victory.

Lawn, who allowed four unearned runs, got the win with the first of three six hitters on the week. At the plate she was 3-for-3 with a double and 2 RBIs.

Pack finished 3-for-4 with 2 runs and 2 RBIs; Arnold went 2-for-3 with one run and one RBI, Patton drove in two on two hits and Hodges scored twice during a two-hit outing.

Ludlum scored twice, Kristen Poteete had an RBI single, and Wischmeyer reached on a fielder's choice.

During the three game winning streak, Hodges and Arnold were a combined 13-for-23 (.565) with 10 runs and 5 RBIs.

As a team, Union hit .368 during the streak with a .484 slugging percentage.

However, the most important stat may have been the .932 fielding percentage. Prior to the winning streak, they were at .862 in the field on the season. During the three-game skid prior to the Morgan County tournament, Union's fielding percentage was just .804.

Over the same span,

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#	Roster	GP	PA	AB	H	1B	2B	3B	HR	RBI	R	HBP	ROE	FC	CI	BB	K	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS
8	Katelynn Hodges	23	87	83	33	24	9	0	0	12	21	0	4	2	0	4	3	.398	.425	.506	.931
21	Jillian Lawn	23	83	80	28	19	8	0	1	15	1	1	7	5	0	1	13	.350	.361	.487	.849
11	Aladriel Arnold	22	74	68	24	18	5	0	1	15	17	1	6	6	0	0	12	.353	.352	.471	.823
26	Maddie Sutton	23	85	74	22	16	5	1	0	12	16	2	10	1	0	1	11	.297	.325	.392	.717
14	Mary Wischmeyer	23	77	74	21	13	8	0	0	14	4	0	4	6	0	0	9	.284	.276	.392	.668
18	Aubree Pack	23	70	59	19	18	1	0	0	11	13	5	3	2	1	3	5	.322	.403	.339	.742
27	Hannah Patton	17	56	50	15	14	1	0	0	6	6	1	3	3	0	5	9	.300	.375	.320	.695
00	Bailey Rayfield	10	34	29	11	9	2	0	0	5	4	2	2	1	0	3	2	.379	.471	.448	.919
15	Ellie Garrison	6	15	15	5	3	1	0	1	4	7	0	1	3	0	0	3	.333	.333	.600	.933
12	Skyler Ludlum	18	25	23	5	4	1	0	0	2	11	1	0	0	0	1	9	.217	.280	.261	.541
7	Kristen Poteete	16	12	11	2	2	0	0	0	1	9	0	0	0	0	1	5	.182	.250	.182	.432
24	Madeline Tanner	13	25	23	2	1	1	0	0	2	2	0	4	2	0	2	4	.087	.160	.130	.290
13	Braden Poteete	13	30	26	1	1	0	0	0	3	4	0	4	1	0	2	3	.038	.107	.038	.146
5	Megan Bright	7	8	7	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	.143	.250	.143	.393
2	Miranda Lockaby	7	14	13	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	5	.077	.143	.077	.220
35	Spivey	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.000	1.000	2.000	3.000
6	Megan Lockaby	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000	.000	.000
22	Trinity Queen	2	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000	.000	.000
Totals		23	701	641	191	144	43	1	3	103	116	14	49	34	1	24	95	.298	.335	.382	.717

#	Roster	IP	GP	GS	W	L	SV	SVO	BS	SV%	H	R	ER	BB	K	HBP	ERA	WHIP
21	Jillian Lawn	101.1	18	16	8	7	0	0	0	.000	86	57	13	20	69	3	.898	1.046
5	Megan Bright	20.1	7	1	1	1	0	0	0	.000	19	17	8	13	16	3	2.754	1.574
18	Aubree Pack	14.0	5	4	0	4	0	0	0	.000	19	30	7	10	12	6	3.500	2.071
22	Trinity Queen	9.2	4	2	0	2	0	0	0	.000	10	7	7	3	4	2	5.069	1.345
12	Skyler Ludlum	0.0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000
Totals		145.1	23	23	9	14	0	0	0	.000	134	111	34	46	101	14	1.638	1.239

Lawn was tough as nails with a 0.33 ERA and a 1.048 WHIP over 21 innings.

The Lady Panthers wrapped up the week with a 2-0 loss at Chestatee.

Bright and Queen combined to limit the Lady War Eagles to just three hits and two unearned runs.

Bright worked four innings, striking out six, allowing three hits and yielding two unearned.

Queen pitched the final two innings and didn't surrender a hit and only walked one.

Hodges, Sutton, Lawn, Wischmeyer, Pack, and Patton all recorded one base hit each.

Bright drew a walk and Arnold reached on an error.

For more on Union County softball's final week, you can follow on Twitter at: @hotrotdodd25 and/or visit our online blog at: www.ngnsports.wordpress.com

## Cross Country: Union County boys; Zoe Sanchez blister the field at Gilmer

By Todd Forrest  
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Ellijay - On Tuesday Zoe Sanchez's first place finish led the girls cross country team to second place overall. Meanwhile, Lance Underwood placed second individually to propel the boys to a convincing victory.

Union County girls times: Sanchez 22:32; Lexie Ochoa 25:27; Emmi Schakat 26:19; Sadie Underwood 26:37; Jessie Holbrook 27:50; Destiny Orellana 27:58; Allison Vincent 28:52; Erika Clouse 32:52; Evelyn McBride 33:12; Demi Thorn 36:18; Sarah Steele 36:32 and Hannah Ledford 37:12.

The Union County boys times were: Underwood 18:15; Luke Gambrel 19:19; Tim Murphy 19:49; Colby Ives 20:01; Guage Shumaker 20:27; Milo Bauman 21:17; Gehrig Patterson 21:33; Thomas Mellendorf 21:49; Will Harkins 22:12; Cole Payne 22:09; Brian Williams 22:17; James Rosser 22:27; Hayes Glover 22:28; Sam Cock-erham 22:29; Nolan Bachman 22:32; Malachi Patrick 22:41; Nathan Cobb 22:52; Elliot 23:10; Cesar Velador 23:21; Steven Williams 23:22; Hunter Payne and Zach Jackson 23:27 (TIE); Bryson 23:32; Matt Patrick 23:55; Alex Mendoza 24:10; Daniel Griggs 24:34



Union County Cross Country at Gilmer's Clear Creek Middle School. Photos/Todd Forrest