

Lady Panthers show no mercy at Lovett; two wins away from Columbus

By Todd Forrest
North Georgia News
sports@nganews.com

Atlanta - The Lady Panthers opened the 2016 Class AAA State Tournament with their highest run total of the season - a 17-0 shellacking of a familiar foe from their Class AA days, the Lovett Lady Lions.

Union County (17-11) continued to pound Lovett in the second game and secured its spot in this week's Sweet 16 with a 9-3 victory.

Jillian Lawn jumpstarted the Lady Panthers offense in the first game with a 3-run homer in the first inning. She went on to finish with 5 RBIs during a 2-for-3 performance that included a two-run double and two runs scored.

Senior Laken Chambers went deep later in the game while tossing a three-hitter and striking out four during four innings from the circle. The four-year starter also finished 3-for-3 with 3 RBIs and one run.

Braden Poteete chipped in a three-hit game with two runs and an RBI single.

Union County out-hit the home team 13-to-3 while playing error-free in the field. Meanwhile, the Lady Lions committed six errors that led to seven Lady Panther runs.

Lawn's first inning bomb came after senior Lydia Arrowood reached on an error and Chambers drew a walk.

With one down in the third, Chambers sent a solo-shot over the left field fence to extend the lead to 4-0. Lawn followed with a walk and Aladriel Arnold singled to left, allowing Mary Wischmeyer to score Lawn and Arnold with an opposite field base hit.

But Union wasn't content with a six run lead.

Ellie Garrison reached on



Coaches Jessica Stewart (front left), Kaitlyn Seabolt (front right), and the rest of the Lady Panthers celebrate a recent victory. Union County is on the verge of reaching the Elite 8 in consecutive seasons for the first time since 2010 when they finished second. Photo/Todd Forrest

an error, Maddie Sutton singled up-the-middle and stole second, then Poteete scored Garrison with a bunt single. After Poteete swiped second, Kendra Tanner brought home Sutton and Poteete with a single to center.

Arrowood scored Tanner - who stole third - with a base hit and Chambers drove in Arrowood with a base hit.

When the dust settled, the Lady Panthers scored eight times in the third to hold an 11-0 lead entering the bottom half of the inning.

Arnold and Wischmeyer opened the fourth with consecutive walks, Garrison reached on a fielder's choice, and Wischmeyer scored when the Lovett shortstop was unable to handle

a ground ball off the bat of Sutton.

Poteete singled to left and Tanner brought home Garrison and Sutton when her grounder to second was misplayed.

Leading 14-0, Arrowood reached on the Lady Lions' third error of the inning, Chambers knocked in Poteete with a base hit, and Lawn doubled home Tanner and Arrowood.

Lovett never seriously threatened at the plate. They opened the game with a single and a sacrifice but Chambers induced a grounder to second and fanned the cleanup hitter to escape the first.

A one-out double in the second went to waste after Chambers recorded a strikeout

and managed to get a pop fly to Sutton in right field.

A two-out single was followed by a grounder to short in the third before Chambers sat down Lovett 1-2-3 in the fourth. The game was called after four due to the mercy rule.

Tanner finished 1-for-4 with 3 RBIs and a pair of runs, Arrowood also went 1-for-4 with three runs, Arnold was 1-for-3 with a walk and a run, and Wischmeyer went 1-for-2 with two RBIs, a walk, and a run.

Sutton finished 1-for-3 with two runs, Garrison also scored twice, and Skyler Ludlum scored once.

In the second game, Union once again jumped on

Lovett with three runs in the first. They tacked on four more in the fourth after the Lady Lions got one in the second. They made it a 7-2 game in the fifth but the Lady Panthers added two in the sixth before Lovett scored one in the top half of the seventh.

Chambers tossed seven innings, allowing nine hits, two earned runs, while striking out seven and walking one in the win.

At the plate, Union got three RBIs from Wischmeyer, two from Garrison, and another RBI from Lawn.

The Lady Panthers' three-run first began with a leadoff walk by Tanner, a sacrifice bunt from Arrowood, and

an RBI single by Chambers.

Lawn followed with a walk and Arnold scored Ludlum, who was running for Chambers, with a base hit to right. Wischmeyer drove in Lawn's pinch runner, Kristen Poteete, with a sacrifice fly.

Lovett opened the second with a double, RBI single, and another single but Chambers pitched her way out of trouble, limiting the damage to one run.

Tanner singled to open the fourth and later scored when Lawn reached on an error. Wischmeyer would bring two more to the plate when she singled to right to stretch the lead to 6-1. Garrison made it a 7-1 game when she brought home Wischmeyer with an RBI single.

Lawn gave Union an 8-2 lead in the sixth when she scored Arrowood with a base hit to right. Garrison drove in Lawn with an RBI groundout to shortstop.

Tanner scored twice and walked during a 1-for-3 performance, Arrowood finished 1-for-1 with a run, Chambers went 1-for-3 with an RBI and a walk, and Lawn recorded another two-hit game with an RBI and a walk.

Arnold was 2-for-3 with an RBI, Wischmeyer went 2-for-3 with 3 RBIs and a run, Garrison finished 1-for-2 and drove in two, and Braden Poteete walked once.

Ludlum scored twice and Kristen Poteete added one run.

Up next is a trip to the Region 3 Champions, Southeast Bulloch, located just outside of Statesboro.

Game one gets underway at noon Wednesday with game two to follow. If necessary, Game three would be Thursday. The winner will earn a spot in Columbus for the Elite 8.

Firearms deer hunting season opens October 22

If you have never had that pre-opening day of firearms deer hunting season feeling, let this be the year you experience it! Firearms deer hunters can take to the woods beginning Sat., Oct. 22 and continue through Jan. 8, 2017 statewide.

"Hunters already know the benefits of having a few deer in the freezer," said John W. Bowers, chief of game management for the Wildlife Resources Division. "However, we hope that people interested in providing healthier, organic meals for their families take an interest in the pursuit of their own meat. Venison is a healthier alternative to most domestic meat, and hunting is an excellent way to enjoy the 'field to fork' experience."

During firearms deer season last year, over 302,000 hunters harvested almost 300,000 deer in the state. The use of regulated deer hunting ensures that Georgia's deer population continues to be healthy and strong.

New: Either Sex Day Map: A new interactive map has been created for Georgia hunters allowing hunters to see the opportunities avail-

able for the counties they hunt. More info at www.georgiawildlife.com/hunting/deer-opportunities.

New: Georgia Game Check: While deer hunters have utilized a deer harvest record in the past (to record the date and county of kill), beginning this deer season, all hunters on both public and private lands must record their deer on the harvest record AND report their harvest using Georgia Game Check. All deer must be reported within 72 hours of harvest. However, deer taken to processors/coolers must be reported before the deer can be left at the place of business. More info at www.georgiawildlife.com/HarvestRecordGeorgiaGameCheck.

Georgia hunters have access to more than one million acres of public hunting land across the state, including over 100 state-operated wildlife management areas. In addition to traditional hunts, a number of special hunts are offered, including ladies-only and adult/child hunts. Dates and locations for these hunts, as well as WMA maps, can be found in the 2016-2017 Georgia Hunting Seasons and

Regulations Guide at www.gohuntgeorgia.com/hunting/regulations.

Hunters are allowed a harvest of up to 10 antlerless deer and no more than two antlered deer (with one of the two antlered deer having a minimum of four points, one inch or longer, on one side of the antlers).

To pursue deer in Georgia, all hunters must have a valid hunting license, a big game license and a current deer harvest record. If hunting on a WMA, a WMA license is required. Licenses can be purchased online at www.gohuntgeorgia.com/licenses-permits-passes, by phone at 1-800-366-2661 or at a license agent (list of agents available online).

All deer hunters must wear at least 500 square inches of fluorescent orange above the waist to legally hunt during firearms season except on archery-only areas.

Georgia's deer rut map can be found at www.georgiawildlife.com/rut-map. For more information on deer hunting seasons, regulations, licenses and WMA maps, visit www.georgiawildlife.com/hunting. NT(Oct19,F5)SH

222, 204, Ken Clark 224, Brandon Hartness 200, Stanley Tyler 200, Jay Burrell 203, Herb Pokey 219, Ron Wingate 214, 219, Keith Rhodes 215, Dewey Allen 212, Walter Carpenter 214, Tim McVey 203, 224, Curtis Corn 202, 202, 245, Series 649, John Harkins 205, Randy Jones 225, Joe Teague 288, Derick Rice 267, 270 Series 726, Bill Cox 206, Greg Wiittenberg 206, 222, 203, Taz Matetzschk 200, 221, Jeremiah Plott 204, 225.

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Thursday Night Fun Mixed: Justin Miller 200, Ryan West 225, 237, Tony Lynch 257, 236, Stanley Tyler 215, Paul Lierd 213, Mike Arnold 200, Tim McVay 216, 227, 236, Series 679, Dewey Allen 208, 223, David Carroll 225, Ray Everett 234, 244, Doug Roberts 202, Jimmy Southern 223, 247, Brandon Hartness 227, 246, Series 668, Curtis Corn 216, Bonnell Thomas 218. NT(Oct19,A2)SH

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check out the Sports Section in next week's edition of the North Georgia News.

According to Allison, the Panthers will practice Monday-through-Wednesday of this week (while school is out for Fall Break) before resuming their regular practice schedule next week.

Scoring summary:

1ST QUARTER
UC: 3 plays, 80 yards in 1:01. Dobbins 64-yard TD pass from Wright. (7-0)
NH: 6 plays, 0 yards. 36-yard FG (7-3)
UC: 8 plays, 80 yards. Wright 20-yard TD run. (14-3)

2ND QUARTER
NH: 9 plays, 63 yards in 4:44. 1-yard TD run. (14-10)
UC: 1 play, 79 yards in 17 seconds. Wright 79-yard TD run. (21-10)

3RD QUARTER
NH: 6 plays, 80 yards in 2:52. 8-yard TD run. (21-16)
NH: Safety (21-18)
NH: 2 plays, 49 yards in 19 seconds. 49-yard TD run. (21-25)
UC: 3 plays, 72 yards in 1:07. Dobbins 71-yard TD pass from Wright. (28-25)

4TH QUARTER
NH: 13 plays, 80 yards in 5:50. 9-yard TD run. (32-28)
UC: 1 play, 35 yards in 9 seconds. Lynch 35-yard TD run. (35-32)

Team stats:

Union County: 43 plays, 405 yards of total offense. (RUSHING) 23 car-

ries, 197 yards. (PASSING) 9-for-14, 208 yards.

First downs: 13. Third down efficiency: 3-for-8 (38%). Fourth down efficiency: 0-for-1. Turnovers: 1 (1 fumble).

North Hall: 77 plays, 400 yards of total offense. (RUSHING) 372 yards (PASSING) 28 yards.

First downs: 22. Third down efficiency: 7-for-13 (54%). Fourth down efficiency: 2-for-4 (50%). Turnovers: 3 (2 interceptions).

Individual stats:

Union County: (OFFENSE) Wright: 11 carries, 121 yards, 2 TDs. 9-for-14, 208 yards, 2 TDs. Lynch: 11 carries, 76 yards, 1 TD.

Dobbins: 4 receptions, 162 yards, 2 TDs. Pattee: 2 receptions, 21 yards. Logan Dyer: 2 receptions, 16 yards. Hemphill: 1 reception, 9 yards. Dockrey: 1 carry, 0 yards.

(KICKING) Smith 5-for-5 PATs, 5-of-6 touchbacks.

North Hall: (OFFENSE) Turner: 14 carries, 162 yards, 2 TDs. Bacus: 31 carries, 121 yards, 1 TD. Madonna: 28 passing yards, 2 INTs, 1 rushing TD.

Game notes: This year's senior class matches last season's seniors as the winningest class in program history with 30 victories. They could also surpass their predecessors if they become the first class to reach four straight State Tournaments.

Union is one home win away from finishing 5-0 at home during the regular sea-

son for the second straight year - something that has never been accomplished.

Union went 5-0 at home in 2001, 1983, 1979, and 1977. The previous record of nine-straight home wins began in week one of 1983 with a 42-0 win over Andrews, NC and ended during the final home game of the season in 1984 - a 20-14 loss to Commerce.

On two other occasions, Union has won seven straight regular season games at home, in 2000-2001 and from 1978-to-1980.

Wright's 121 rushing yards puts him at 1,016 for the year. It also puts him ahead of Mancuso's 2015 pace. Through eight games last season, Mancuso had rushed for 927 yards. He also equals Mancuso's total of six regular season, 100-yard rushing games.

Wright and Lynch both surpassed 25 total touchdowns for their career during the win over North Hall.

Lynch also surpassed 2,000 total yards for his career on his first rushing attempt of the game vs North Hall.

Wright is now 49 passing yards away from 1,500 for his career and three scores away from 30.

Union remains undefeated against North Hall with a 4-0 record. Last week's meeting was the first since 1967 - a 38-6 Union win.

Coach Allison moves to 115-98 for his coaching career. He is 90-62 at Union



On October 13th, the Mountain High Hikers took to the woods to perform trail maintenance activities in the Coopers Creek Recreational Area.

Three trails totaling 5 1/2 miles were cleared of fallen trees, hanging limbs, branches and overgrown weeds and new blazes were placed.

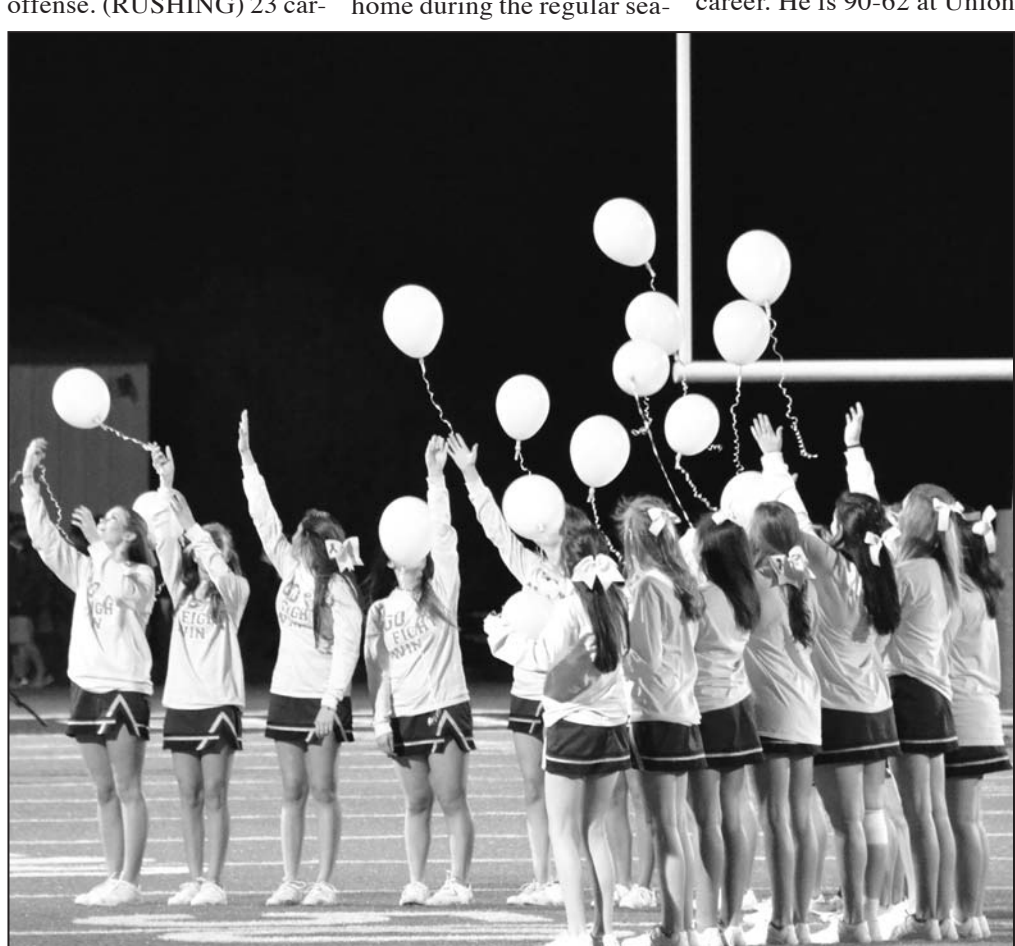
After the work was done the group gathered at the game check station for a potluck picnic and bit of relaxation in the perfect fall weather.

Mountain High Hikers originated in the winter of 1993 from a Young Harris College ICL course entitled "Hiking in the Blue Ridge". Their mission is to promote and facilitate hiking activities in the Southern Appa-

Bowling scores

Monday Night Men: Richard Tanner 265, Bart Rodgers 200, Doug Tanner

Don't Be Left Out!
9-12 Year Old Basketball Registration ends October 31st for the Union County Recreation Department.
Register in the Recreation Office or Online at meekspark.com before October 31st.
For more information call the Recreation Office at 706-439-6074.



The Union County Cheerleading squad releases pink balloons at halftime of Friday's game in honor of those who have lost the battle, or are still battling cancer. Last Friday was also the annual "Pink Out" game for Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Photo/Todd Forrest