

Wilkes no match for Lady Panthers; struggles at Rabun County continue

By Todd Forrest
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In the first of two Friday night battles of 8-AA's only undefeated teams, Rabun County took advantage of Union's foul trouble as they rallied past the Lady Panthers in a 47-41 game that left the Lady Wildcats as the only unbeaten squad in the Region at the conclusion of the weekend.

On Saturday, Union (11-5, 4-1) had little trouble disposing of Washington Wilkes in a 65-37 rout. The Lady Tigers entered the contest with a 2-0 record in Region play but the Lady Panthers erased all doubt as to who the top two teams are in 8-AA.

The Lady Panthers will have Tuesday off before going to Fannin County on Friday where they will be looking to avoid a three-game losing streak to the rival Lady Rebels.

Region play resumes on Saturday as Union visits Social Circle, who is 1-2 in Region and 7-5 overall. The Lady Redskins fell to Oglethorpe and Rabun before defeating Greene

**Lady Panthers 41
Rabun County 47**

Tiger - The Rabun Coun-



Kaitlyn Day scores two for the Lady Panthers. The senior led Union at Rabun County with 14 points. Photo/Todd Forrest

ty Lady Wildcats made a living at the foul line as they were able to take a lead in the fourth quarter that they would never relinquish.

With Rabun attempting 23 free throws to Union's four attempts, the Lady Panthers managed to hold a lead into the fourth quarter.

Brooke Maddox and Lisa Nalaschi eventually fouled out and Rabun used that to its advantage - outscoring Union

13-5 in the fourth quarter.

Senior Kaitlyn Day would get the Lady Panthers off on the right track as Union's sharpshooter connected on three treys and Maddox posted 7 points in the first quarter for an 18-11 advantage after one.

Nalaschi scored 6 points in the second and Layne Colwell nailed a 3-pointer but Rabun was able to chip away at the Lady Panthers' lead and went into the intermission trail-



Senior Lisa Nalaschi grabs a board as Brooke Maddox and Layne Colwell look on. Photo/Todd Forrest

ing 27-22.

Maddox added 4 points in the third, Colwell hit from long distance again and Day added a basket but the Lady Wildcats were within two at 36-34 when the fourth quarter opened.

Union was limited to only five points in the final frame with Day converting an old fashioned 3-point play and freshman Jillian Lawn adding a basket.

SCORING: Day 14, Maddox 11, La. Colwell 8,

Nalaschi 6, Lawn 2

**Lady Panthers 65
Washington Wilkes 37**

Union County returned home on Saturday and gave a rude welcoming to the Lady Tigers who were sporting a 2-0 record in Region 8-AA.

With their wins coming over Greene and Oglethorpe, the Lady Panthers quickly proved that Wilkes still has a ways to go before competing for one of the Region's top

two spots.

Union took an early 24-7 lead and went into the half with a 46-12 advantage. They eventually stretched the lead to 60-20 after three quarters.

Nalaschi scored 17 of her game high 22 points in the first half, while sophomore Holly Stroman hit a pair of treys in the first quarter and one in the second for an 11-point first half.

SCORING: Nalaschi 23, Stroman 11, Maddox 9, Coyne 8, Day 7, La. Colwell 3, Larissey 2, Danek 2

Union All Stars... continued from page 10A

Owenby, a dual threat quarterback was Union's starter from 2007 to 2009. To go along with his remarkable passing statistics, he also accumulated 2,507 yards on the ground and 33 rushing scores for his career.

Mancuso also made some history by being named First Team All State. He now becomes just the second Union County quarterback to receive that honor - joining Mickey Jones who was named First Team All State by the AJC in 1975.

Since 1966, Mancuso is the eighth Panther awarded first team honors by the AJC. He joins Luther Jones (2013), Blake Gowder (2008-09), Brian Allison (1983),

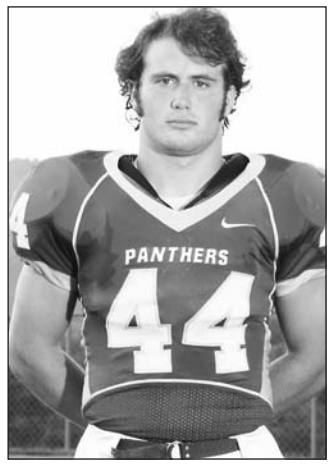
Mickey Jones (1975), Phil Kelley (1974), Robby Rogers (1974), and Bill Jones (1966-67).

Union County's other First Team All-Region selections from 2014 are senior wide receiver Jacob Rogers, senior offensive lineman Jacob Witting, senior offensive lineman Kyle Oliver, junior place kicker Knox Kieman, junior safety Andrew Brown, junior wide receiver Sam Gilbert and Barnett.

Region 8-AA Honorable Mention selections were: Senior corner back Luke Chatham, senior linebacker Brett Dietz, junior offensive lineman Parker Daniel, senior wide receiver Robert Prunier, and Barnett.



Joseph Mancuso
The Elite Junior Classic game can be viewed online in



Chase Barnett
its entirety at: www.elitejrclasic.com.

Union wrestling just misses at Area Duals Tournament

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Monticello - Union County wrestled well at the Area Duals Tournament over the weekend but fell short of reaching this weekend's State Tournament.

In the first round, the Panthers just missed an opening round victory by falling 42-41 to Oglethorpe County.

In the second round, Union was knocked out of State Tournament contention following a 42-36 loss to Washington Wilkes.

In both losses, the Panthers gave up 18 points due to forfeiting three weight classes (113, 170, 220).

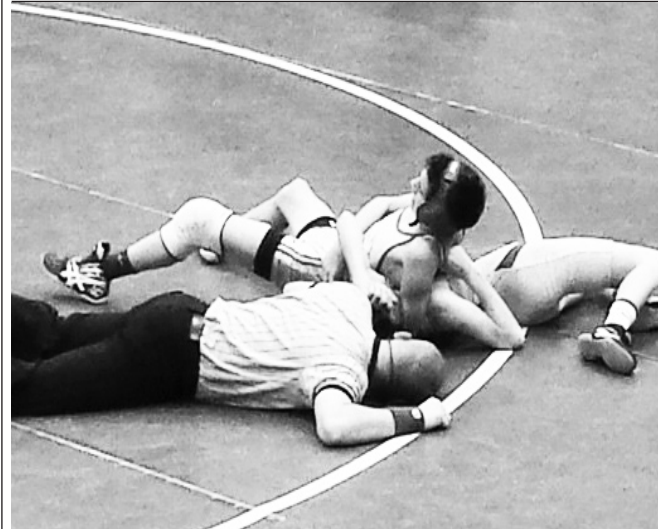
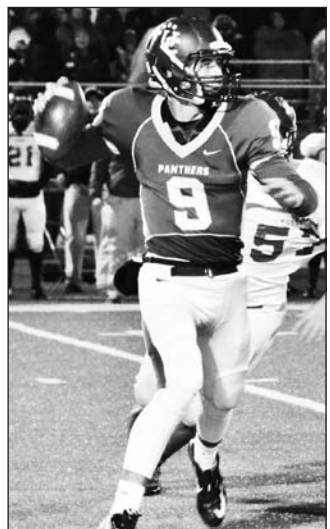
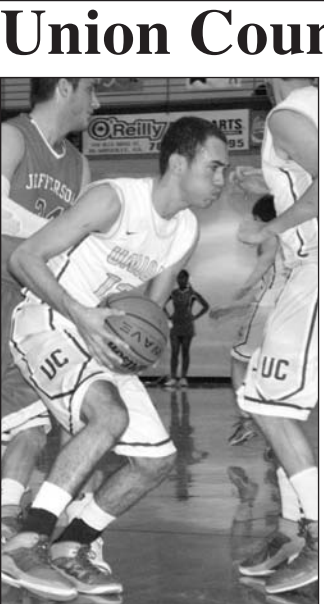
"We just need more young men to come out and try the sport and then stick with the sport," said Union County Wrestling Coach Michael Smith-Foot. "We have over 300 young men at the high school, hopefully in the future we will have at least 20-to-30 come out. Right now we have 13 young men wrestling on the team."

"Next year we have at least eight-to-12 eighth graders moving up and sev-

eral of them can fill these weight classes if they come out and stick with it. Most of these young men have two or three years experience, so they would be coming to the program with much needed mat presence and knowledge of how the sport works."

Union County will host Fannin County and Rabun Gap on Wednesday at The Pit. The Panthers will be looking to regroup before the Individual Area Tournament takes place on Jan. 29 and 30.

"We have a home match against Rabun Gap and Fannin this Wednesday, then next week, we will wrestle at Pickens on Wednesday, and Friday at Oglethorpe hoping to improve on our performance from last weekend," Coach Smith-Foot said. "On the 30th and 31st, we have traditional Area (Tournament) at Social Circle High School. I expect to have several area placers that will qualify for Sectionals at Greater Atlanta Christian School on Feb. 6th and 7th. I also expect to have our first area finalist this year and our first State qualifier this year as well."



Top row: (left to right) senior Dylan Coyne recorded a triple double on senior night, then led the Panthers to their first State Playoff appearance since 2009. Lauren Zollinger (3) in The Pit. Before the Lady Panthers reached their fourth straight State Tournament. Union County basketball played in The Pit for the first time since 2002. Lane Everett (15) fired a perfect game against Oglethorpe County in what is believed to be the first perfect game in school history. Freshman golfer Maddie Horinek reached the State Championships as an individual. Bottom row: (left to right) Rachel Vester (5) led the Lady Panthers soccer team to one of its best seasons in recent history. The Union County ladies just missed a Region Championship after falling to Jefferson on penalty kicks. Meanwhile, without a senior, the mens soccer team managed to earn the fourth and final State playoff spot in 8-AA. Laken Chambers' arm and bat helped the Lady Panthers softball team to the State Sweet 16 for the first time since 2010. Union just missed out on a Region 8-AA title and a trip to the Elite 8. Julia Lindsey (112) helped resurrect Union's track program in the spring, leading her squad all the way to State. In the fall, she won the Cross Country Region title as an individual and as a team. The mens cross country squad also won Region. Joseph Mancuso (9) and the Panthers football team won 9 games and hosted the first round of State. Mancuso's passing statistics were some of the best in the state, regardless of classification.

Union County's Brendan Mason scoring points at the Area Tournament last weekend in Monticello. The Panthers were handicapped by having to forfeit three weight classes.

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