

Sports

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Union soccer caps off perfect week with sweep of Wilkes

Lady Panther defense doesn't allow goal in two games; Panthers get in the win column

By Todd Forrest
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On Tuesday, Union County will face arch-rival Towns County and both the Panthers and Lady Panthers are currently riding high off a week that saw Union open Region 8-AA play with a pair of wins.

The Panthers held off Washington-Wilkes 2-1 in overtime on Friday night after traveling to Pickens County and took care of the Dragons in another 2-1 game.

Kyle Hamby and Keaton Dyer provided the offense for the Panthers who overcame an early deficit.

"Late in the first we moved Rogers to defense and Kyle (Hamby) to right-mid and our team just really came alive," Union Head Coach Tim Hunter said. "Rogers kept finding Jesus Mancillas on the opposite center mid and we switched the field. Kyle was just unstoppable on the right side and close to the end of the half he got fouled and he struck the direct kick past the keeper."

During Friday's thriller with Wilkes, the Panthers dominated possession, taking nearly 20 shots on goal, but Union still



Joanna Irvin has been vital to the success of Union's defense who has not allowed a goal in three of the last four games. Photo/Todd Forrest

found themselves trailing as regulation was winding to an end. Jesus Mancillas tied things up with a penalty kick, giving Coach Hunter the confidence that his unit would prevail in O.T.

"He stepped up to the line and drilled it," Hunter said. "At that moment I knew we had the game when it went into overtime."

Hamby converted a pen-

alty kick that proved to be the game winner as the Panthers are now at the .500 mark with a 2-2 record.

Dylan Byers had to fill in as keeper during the contest and picked up the win of his high school career in a Region game.

"I was just so proud of our young team fighting the game out like a bunch of veterans," Hunter said. "Our team kept its compo-



Erin Innis, Maddy Morlock, Camryn Carter, and Mary Murphy relax after Union took a 7-0 lead over WW. Photo/Todd Forrest

sure and definitely did not play like a bunch of underclassmen.

"Byers, in his first soccer season had to step in as the varsity keeper and played exceptionally well. He got his first win as a keeper in a region game. I was very pleased at how well he composed himself and got himself ready to play on a big stage with such a short notice."

In the Lady Panthers 7-0 win over Wilkes, Rachel Vester got Union on the board before Maddy Morlock scored the next four goals, blowing things open.

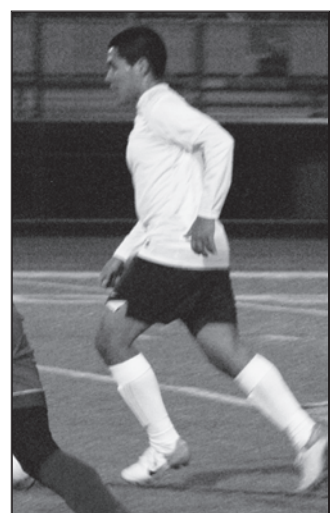
Emma Herum later scored

on a penalty kick and Emma Garrison scored the first goal of her high school varsity career.

Camryn Carter finished with 3 assists, Erin Innis, Joanna Irvin and Morlock had two apiece, and Vester added one.

"We passed the ball very well and we were counter attacking at will," Hunter said. "Our center-mids, Cam (Carter) and Erin (Innis) kept possession the entire game and Alyssa Arnold and Mary Murphy played very well at outside-mids."

In Union's 1-0 win over Pickens, Carter fed Vester for a goal just 10 minutes into the



Jesus Mancillas

game.

"Although we didn't get another goal we kept possession on their end the majority of the time," Hunter said. "Our midfield really played well. Innis and Carter played extremely well in center-mid. Braedyn Robbins came off the bench as a freshman and played her best game of the season so far."

The Union County JV Lady Panthers knocked off Rabun County last week 4-0.

Janey Thomas picked up a hat trick in the game and Braedyn Robbins contributed a goal and 2 assists.

Panthers pound Bulldogs; Everett saves Union from 0-2 Region start

By Todd Forrest
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Union County (5-2, 1-1) experienced a roller coaster week that concluded on Friday with Lane Everett's perfect game against Region 8-AA opponent Oglethorpe County.

The euphoria of the final inning and the post game celebration helped the Panthers forget the heartbreak they felt when the Patriots easily handled Union County 6-2 in game one of the day-night double header.

Panthers 2 Oglethorpe Co. 6

After baffling Murphy, NC for two innings while picking up his second win of the season, junior Tyler Odom seemed to have found a rhythm. But three days later, Oglethorpe had this number.

In game one of the Friday twin bill, the Patriots pounded out 6 hits and 4 runs off Odom in five innings of work.

Oglethorpe got a run in the first, two in the second, and one in the third to take a 4-0 lead on the Panthers.

Union got one back in the fifth but two Patriot runs in the sixth was too much to overcome. The Panthers loaded the bases in the seventh, bringing the tying run to the plate but were unable to work any late-inning magic.

Joseph Mancuso worked two innings in relief of Odom and surrendered two runs on



Senior Lane Everett was perfect on Friday night. Photo/Todd Forrest

two hits. Everett, Jake Sisum, and Robert Prunier each had a two-hit game. Josh Daniel and Sam Gilbert singled while Lance Rich finished 1-for-2 off the bench.

Panthers 7 Oglethorpe Co. 0

Everett faced 21 batters. Everett sat down 21 batters.

When the Panthers needed a spark, their senior ace put the team on his back and kept his team from falling to 0-2 on the

young season.

While picking up his third win of the season, Everett didn't receive much help until a two-run third and a four-run fourth awarded the Panther right-hander some breathing room.

The Panthers got another in the sixth for cap off the scoring and give Union the combined score (9-6) tiebreaker over Oglethorpe.

Daniel and Hunter Hughes each went 2-for-4 while Mancuso finished 2-for-2 with 2 RBIs. Sisum went 2-for-2 with an RBI, Rich and Prunier were



Junior Tyler Odom picked up the win vs Murphy. Photo/Todd Forrest

both 1-for-4 with an RBI.

Panthers 7 Murphy, NC 1

Odom (2-0) started the game on the bump for Union County (4-1) and worked two no-hit innings, striking out two, to pick up his second win of the season.

Daniel provided a constant spark at the top of the order, going 3-for-3 with an RBI, a walk, four stolen bases, and scoring three times. Junior Jackson Burks also provided a multi-hit game, with a

2-for-3 night, stealing a base and driving in a run. And in the first inning, it was Daniel and Burks who staked the Panthers to an early lead.

Daniel and junior catcher Chase Barnett reached on infield singles to open the inning and Daniel later scored on Mancuso's ground out. Then with two outs, Burks delivered a base hit to left, scoring sophomore Andrew Brown, who was running for the catcher. Sophomore Sam Gilbert would reach on an error, as did Odom, to load the bases but Union County would leave

three aboard in the bottom half of the first.

In the third, Mancuso took the mound and fanned four in two innings of work allowing the Panthers to blow things open in their half of the fourth. Union County posted three runs in the frame, all with two outs to take a 6-0 advantage entering the fifth.

Daniel drew a full count walk and Hughes brought him around with a base hit to left. Mancuso put runners at the corners with a base hit, where Hughes would score on a passed ball. Everett doubled to left to plate Mancuso and making it a 6-0 contest.

Senior Garrett Nix worked the fifth inning and escaped without harm following a one-out walk. Hughes entered for the sixth inning and surrendered a two-out RBI single before inducing a grounder back to the mound, preventing further damage.

Union picked up an insurance run in their half of the sixth when Prunier drew a leadoff walk and stole second, allowing Daniel to bring him around with a base hit.

Everett took the mound and retired the Bulldogs in order in the seventh inning.

Daniel's four counts of larceny began in the first when he swiped second on the second pitch to the ensuing hitter. In the second inning, he once again took second base on the second pitch, when Bulldog pitcher Jacob Bates took his eyes off Daniel for a split second. He later stole second again in the fourth and sixth innings.

Woody Gap tennis refuses to back down; visit Towns on Thursday

By Todd Forrest
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Woody Gap tennis is looking to return to the postseason once again after reaching the Class A State Tournament in 2013.

Remarkably, Woody Gap, the smallest school in the state, isn't capable of hosting any matches and will go on the road 11 times between February 20th and the Area Tournament in Rome during the week of April 21st.

Currently, Woody Gap is coming off a successful February that saw the Falcons and Lady Falcons dominate Class AAA's Rabun County and pick up a doubles win at Class AAA's White County and a singles victory at Class AAAA's Gilmer. However in 2014, Woody Gap Tennis will host a match in Blairsville on Thursday, March 20th when Commerce High School travels to Union County to take on the Falcons and Lady Falcons at Meeks Park, beginning at 4 p.m.

This week, Woody Gap visited Lumpkin County on Monday before taking on fellow Class A foe, Towns County in Hiwassee on Thursday at 4 p.m.

Woody Gap @ Lakeview Gainesville - Last week.



Woody Gap traveled to Lakeview Academy where the Lady Falcons won two of their three singles matches. Woody Gap No. 2 Shelby Tumlin defeated Lakeview's Ava Lovell 9-7 despite trailing 7-4, and No. 3 Kaniasha Martin knocked off Nina Martin 8-6.

"(Tumlin) made a tremendous come back and (Martin) earned her first victory," Woody Gap Head Tennis Coach Glen Kough said.

Lady Falcon No. 1 April Turner suffered her first defeat of 2014 after an impressive February that saw her move from No. 3 up to No. 1. Meanwhile, Falcons' No. 1 Eli Gooch fell 8-3 and No. 2 Dakota Etheridge dropped his match 8-2. The No. 1 doubles team of Casey McKim and Konnor

Sosebee and No. 2 doubles Logan Wood and Austin Clark each fell victim at Lakeview.

The Lady Falcons also dropped both of their doubles matches with No. 1 Kianna Martin and Brooklyn Dockery going down 8-0 and No. 2 Nina Sattler and Haley Grizzle fell 8-2.

Woody Gap @ Rabun Co.

Tiger - On Feb. 26th Woody Gap's boys went undefeated at Rabun County and Turner, who was promoted to No. 1 before the match, stretched her win streak to three straight with an 8-6 win.

"April was playing for her first time at No. 1 singles and defeated Rabun's player to go 3-0," Coach Kough said.

Gooch won his match at No. 1 by an 8-3 score. No. 1 doubles McKim and Sosebee cruised to an 8-0 victory. No. 2 doubles Logan Wood and Austin Clark wrapped up the boys' unbeaten day, taking their match 8-3.

As for the rest of the Lady Falcons, No. 2 Tumlin fell 8-4, No. 3 Kaniasha Martin lost 8-1, No. 1 doubles Dockery and Kianna Martin dropped their match 8-3, and No. 2 doubles Sattler and Grizzle suffered an 8-0 defeat.

Woody Gap @ Gilmer

Ellijay - Turner won her second consecutive match, and her final match at No. 3 by an 8-3 score over Gilmer's Baylee Burnette.

Gooch fell 9-8 (7-4) in No. 1 singles action to Dusty Ray. The Lady Falcons' No. 2 Kaniasha Martin also dropped her match by tiebreaker to Ally Davier, 9-8 (7-4). No. 1 Tumlin suffered an 8-0 defeat at the hands of the Lady Bobcats' Anna Westmoreland.

In ladies doubles action, No. 1 Adams and Dockery fell 8-2 and No. 2 Sattler and Grizzle lost 8-0. For the Woody Gap men, No. 2 Sosebee was knocked off by Issac Hensley by an 8-0 score. The No. 1 doubles duo of Wood and Clark went down 8-1.

"Gooch and (Kaniasha)

Martin were both behind four games and came back to force tiebreakers in their matches," Coach Kough said. "Both of them lost the tiebreakers with identical scores (7-4) but I congratulate them for their great effort."

Woody Gap @ White Co.

Cleveland - No. 3 Turner and the No. 1 doubles team of McKim and Sosebee opened the season with wins at White County. Turner took down Sasha Swenson 8-3, while McKim and Sosebee knocked off Trace Carter and Austin Burns 8-3.

The mens No. 2 doubles, Wood and Clark fell in a tie-

breaker (7-5).

"We played White County with only a few days of practice because of the recent inclement weather," Coach Kough said. "Both teams played well and came away with one victory each. Wood and Clark made their first tennis outing memorable in a very close match."

The Lady Falcons' No. 1 Tumlin suffered an 8-2 defeat to Taylor Dockery, No. 2 Kaniasha Martin dropped her match, also 8-2. No. 1 doubles Adams and Dockery were knocked off 8-2 and No. 2 doubles Sattler and Grizzle lost 8-0. The Falcons' No. 1 Gooch fell 8-3 in singles action to the Warriors' Micah Houghton.



Date: Friday March 14
Time: 6:00
Place: Union County Middle School Gym
Entry Fee: \$45 per team
Age Groups: 9/10, 11/12, 13/14, 15-18, 18 +
Rules: 4 person max per team
Contact: Casey Jones @ 706-897-4600 - cjones@ucschools.org