

Sports

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Union golf has another strong outing at Tri-County Cup

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The Union County men's golf team is now 10-1-1 and the Lady Panther golf team sits at 5-2 following the Tri-County Cup last week at Old Union Golf Course.

The Panthers defeated Towns County and Hayesville, NC thanks to a season-low 41 from senior Grant Schuette and three 45's by sophomores Brady Lawn, Nathan South, and freshman Jeremy Herum.

The Lady Panthers fell by a stroke to Towns County and are now 3-2 on the year vs the Lady Indians.

The Tri-County match was stopped after 12 holes and Kacie Godwin fired a 67, Maddie Horinek shot a 69, Lydia Gray a 73, and Autumn Johnson a 78.

Other Tri-County scores for the Panther men were Brett Baker - 46, Colby Jones - 47, and Darian Colbroth - 48.

Last month the Panthers defeated Region 8-AA foe Riversiderside Military Academy at Butternut Creek Golf Course, led by Herum's team-best and season-best score of 40. Lawn fired a 43, Baker and Jones each tallied 44, a season low for Baker, and Schuette rounded out Union's top five with a 45.

At Old Union, the Lady Panthers took care of Rabun County by three strokes in their only 8-AA matchup thus far.

Horinek led the way with a 45, South shot a 50, Godwin a 57, and Johnson a 61.

Horinek's season low score of 42 came back in February at Butternut.

The rest of the teams' season lows came in a match with Hayesville, NC in mid-March at Butternut. Both Gray and Godwin shot a 49. Johnson posted a 57 and Emmeline Stuart a 70.

For the men, Lawn's personal best came in February when he shot a 39 at Butternut.

South shot a 43 in the same match for his lowest outing of 2014.

Jones has put up a season-best 43 twice this year. The first came in early March at Hayesville NC's Chatuge Shores. The second came at Old Union in the Panthers win over Gilmer County.



Grant Schuette stands over a putt at Old Union last week during the Tri-County Cup. Photo/Todd Forrest



Union senior Brett Baker putting at Old Union. Photo/Todd Forrest
Colbroth's season best Payton Brewer shot a 50 also came in the Gilmer match and Kyle Oliver a 55 at Butternut in February. Later, Jacob with a 44.



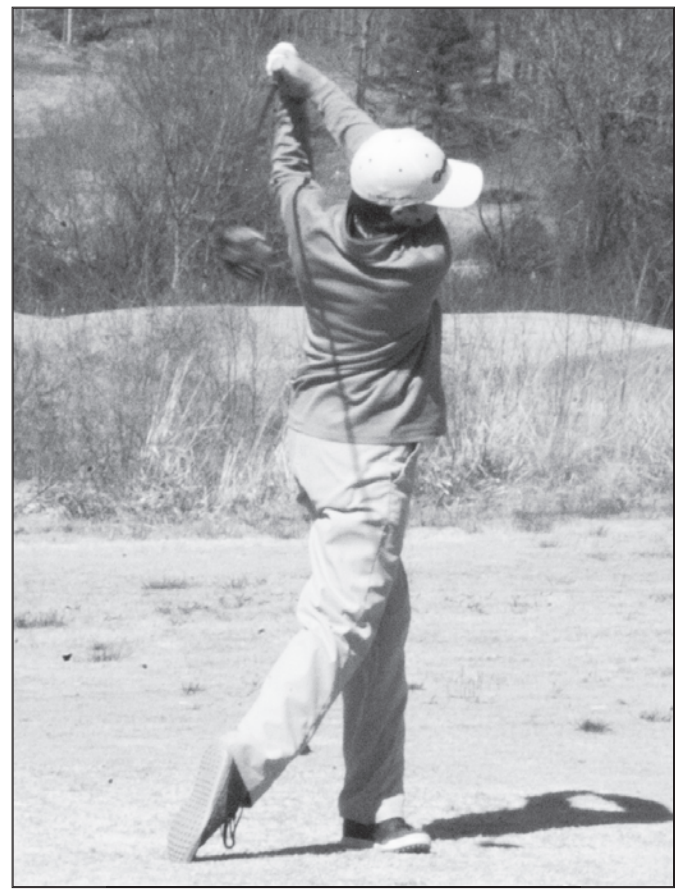
Freshman Maddie Horinek shows her finesse around the green at Old Union. Horinek has averaged a team-low score of 45 over 9 holes this season. Photo/Todd Forrest



Lydia Gray Mullis posted a 54 at Butternut in March.

Union County golf will get some time off during Spring Break but return to Old Union on Monday, Apr. 7 for a match with Hayesville, NC.

On Thursday, Apr. 10, Lumpkin County will visit Old Union before the Region Match takes place on Tuesday, April 15th at the Georgia Club located between Athens and Winder in Statham, Ga.



Jeremy Herum rips a tee-shot during the Tri-County Cup match with Towns County and Hayesville, NC. Photo/Todd Forrest

Panthers taking four game win streak to Rabun on Tuesday

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For the first time this season, Union County (12-4, 4-3) is above the .500 mark in Region 8-AA play after handing Riversiderside Military Academy a 10-1 beatdown.

Earlier in the week, the Panthers traveled to Robbinsville, NC and came away with a one-sided victory, 13-2.

Now the Panthers will revisit Rabun County looking to avenge a 4-2 loss last month and get back into the race for one of the top two spots in 8-AA, and home field advantage in the postseason.

On Friday, Union will host Social Circle in a 5 p.m. doubleheader before making the return trip to Jefferson next week.

The Panthers took a major step forward in the 8-AA playoff picture with a blowout at Riversiderside. Lane Everett picked up his fifth win of the year in a complete game, striking out 10 and allowing one earned run.

The Panthers got two in the second when Joseph Mancuso



Jackson Burks drove in three runs in two games. Photo/Todd Forrest
so singled and scored, then later, Jake Sisum was hit by a pitch and came around on an error.

An RBI triple by Mancuso and an RBI single by Jackson Burks made it 4-0 in the third.

The Panthers blew things open in the fourth with four runs, sparked by an RBI single from Hunter Hughes. Everett brought in two with a single and Garrett

Nix scored on a passed ball, making it 8-0.

The Eagles got one back in their half of the fourth but Union put things away with two in the fifth when Robert Prunier and Josh Daniel scored.

Everett finished 3-for-4 with 2 RBIs and Burks was 2-for-4 with 2 RBIs.

Mancuso and Prunier also had a multi-hit game for Union.

At Robbinsville, NC, Tyler Odom picked up his fourth win in five innings of work. The junior allowed four hits, one earned run, while fanning five.

Hughes finished 2-for-2 with a pair of RBIs, Mancuso went 2-for-4 with a double and an RBI, Prunier was 2-for-3 with an RBI. Burks and Lance Rich also recorded RBIs.

Daniel scored three times, and Sisum scored twice. Chase Barnett also scored for Union, who got a run in the first inning, five in the second, sixth in the fourth, and one in the fifth. Robbinsville got a run in the fourth and another in the sixth.

After the trip to Rabun and the doubleheader with Social Circle, Union will travel to Jefferson on Apr. 8th.

On Apr. 9th the Panthers will host Hayesville, NC to round out the 2014 non-region schedule, before hosting Riversiderside on Apr. 15. The season finale will be on Saturday, April 19th, a doubleheader at Washington-Wilkes.

Lady Panthers fall in penalty kicks as Jefferson sweeps Union

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The Union County Lady Panthers first loss of 2014 was about as painful as they come.

Union dropped a heartbreaker by penalty kicks after the Lady Panthers themselves were one PK away from knocking off the unbeaten Lady Dragons.

"I was very upset for the girls," Union Head Coach Tim Hunter said. "They played like champions and deserved to win the game, we just didn't make it happen in penalty kicks. I have won and lost championships that way as a coach, and honestly, there is no worse way to end a game - win or lose. I was very proud of our effort and our fight as we were the aggressors and didn't back down from anything."

After taking a 1-0 lead late in the first half, Jefferson connected on a perfectly placed goal from more than 30 yards out. The game remained tied at 1-1 through the end of regulation.

Jefferson took a 2-1 lead with 3:10 to play in the first overtime period but Coach Hunter was confident that his girls would tie it up.

"I told the girls in the break that if they would fight it out, the game would go to PKs," he said.

Union caught a lucky bounce with 11 seconds left when an Ema Herum throw-in deflected off the head of a Lady Dragon to knot the game up at 2-2.

In the penalty kick session, the teams were tied at 3-3 but Union's would-be game-winner missed high by inches. Jefferson nailed the next kick and Union's attempt sailed high again to seal the Lady Dragon win.

In the mens' game, Brett Dietz's first career goal gave Union an early lead but Jefferson scored the next four in a 4-1 contest.

"We were a little over-matched," Coach Hunter said. "They (Jefferson) were a very good team with speed and athleticism everywhere. We changed formations in the second half to try to equalize, but we couldn't keep them from scoring."

Despite the results, fan support was the highest its been all year, and that is much appreciated by Union's soccer teams.



Rachel Vester (No. 5) scored Union's one regulation goal in the 30th minute of the first half against Jefferson. Photo/Todd Forrest

"We would like to thank all the fans for coming out and supporting us," Coach Hunter said. "That makes all the difference."

Union's game at Rabun last Tuesday was postponed due to weather. No make-up date has been set as of press time. The next scheduled contest will be after Spring Break on Apr. 11 when Union hosts Social Circle at 5:30 and 7:30 p.m.