

Sports

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Lady Panthers approach back-to-back Region titles

Union blanks Rabun County after shutout of Class AAAA Pickens

By Todd Forrest
North Georgia News
sports@nganews.com

Tiger – The Lady Panthers took almost an entire half to adjust to Rabun’s smaller-sized field, but managed to get on the board before halftime when Brenna Innis connected with less than five minutes before the break.

In the second half, Union sophomore goalkeeper Emmi Schakat denied the Lady Cats then junior Braedyn Robbins struck moments later when senior Rachel Vester’s shot struck the top of the goal and bounced to Robbins, whose shot provided the Lady Panthers’ a 2-nil advantage.

Six minutes later, Robbins found paydirt again - this time from just outside the box to give Union a firm 3-0 lead. Rabun was awarded a penalty kick in the 58th minute but the shot flew over the goal, keeping the shutout intact.

Vester made it a 4-0 game after working her way inside the box, then beat the Rabun keeper 1-on-1 in the 65th minute.

The Lady Panthers are now one win away from clinching back-to-back Region 8-AA titles. Friday’s game at Oglethorpe County was rescheduled for Apr. 21st. Union’s next Region 8-AA contest will be Apr. 15th vs Washington-Wilkes, which is also Senior Night.

Tuesday, the Lady Panthers shutout the Class AAAA Pickens County Lady Dragons 3-0.

Sophomore Layne Baenninger and senior Ansley Garrison each chipped in one assist.

Vester put Union on the board with an assist from Innis. Freshman Madison Yost increased the advantage thanks to assists from Garrison and Baenninger. Vester’s second goal, and her team’s third came on a pass from Baenninger.

Schakat recorded the shutout in both games at keeper.

Union County soccer is off this week for Spring Break.



The Lady Cats had no answer for Union County senior Rachel Vester (5) who scored twice in the 4-0 victory. Photo/Todd Forrest



Brenna Innis at Rabun County. During Union’s win over Pickens County, Innis assisted on her team’s first goal. Photo/Todd Forrest



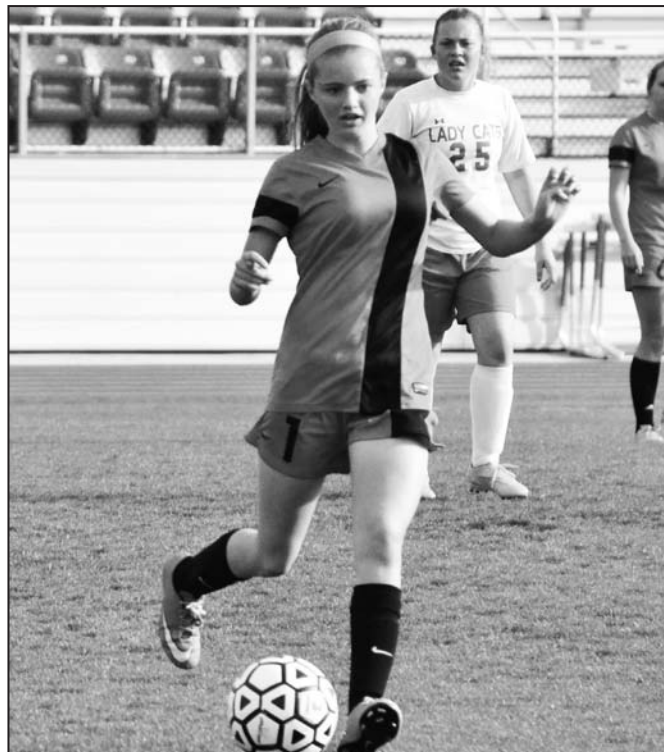
Joanna Irvin at Rabun



Madison Yost at Rabun



Braedyn Robbins scored twice during the second half in the Lady Panthers’ win at Rabun County. Photo/Todd Forrest



Layne Baenninger finished with 3 assists last week. Photo/Todd Forrest

8-AA Region standings

1. Union County 3-0
2. Social Circle 1-1
2. Oglethorpe Co. 2-2
4. Rabun County 1-2
4. Greene County 1-2
6. Wash Wilkes 0-2

Panthers edge Rabun County 4-2 in penalty kick shootout

Union downs Pickens County with three second half goals

By Todd Forrest
North Georgia News
sports@nganews.com

Tiger - Union County improved to a perfect 3-0 in overtime games with a thrilling penalty kick victory at Rabun County, despite surrendering the game-tying goal, and momentum, with just over four minutes to play in regulation.

Early in the first overtime session, the Panthers nearly took the lead on a shot by senior Jesus Mancillas but were denied and the second overtime began with the teams still tied at 1-1.

With a little more than two minutes to play in overtime period No. 2, Union senior Jake Waltz’ shot attempt sailed high, and when the horn sounded the contest remained tied.

In the penalty kick session, Panthers’ senior keeper Justin Eigel made a diving stop on Rabun’s first attempt and Mancillas connected to spot Union an early advantage.

The Wildcats’ second kick missed everything and junior Sam Seiler’s attempt was right on-the-money, putting Rabun in a 2-0 hole.

After the lead was trimmed to 2-1, senior Matthew Van Pelt kept the pressure on the home team when his kick was good for a 3-1 advantage. The Wildcats’ fourth attempt found the net just beyond the fingers of a diving Eigel, but junior Adam Bachman delivered the knockout blow – providing Union with an insurmountable 4-2 advantage with one kick remaining.

The Panthers got on the board in the first half when junior Lawson Baenninger found fellow-junior Parker McCombs for a goal inside the penalty box during the 19th minute. Over the final 21 minutes of the first half, Union out-shot the Wildcats 8-5 but the score remained 1-0 at the intermission.

The opening 36 minutes of the second half saw the Panthers continue to put the heat on the Wildcats with eight more shot attempts to three for Rabun, but their third, on a free kick, tied the game at 1-1.

On Tuesday, Union took care of Class AAAA’s Pickens County by a 3-0 score.

McCombs, freshman Ulises Montelongo, and junior



Union County’s Sam Seiler (right) and Justin Eigel (right) congratulate Adam Bachman (middle, #2) after he delivered the game-winning penalty kick at Rabun. Photo/Todd Forrest



Adam Bachman’s game-winning PK at Rabun keeps Union in the driver’s seat for home field advantage at State. Photo/Todd Forrest



Keeper Justin Eigel gets his mitts on Rabun’s first PK attempt to help Union take a quick 2-0 lead in the PK session. Photo/Todd Forrest



Junior Sam Seiler and senior Jesus Mancillas battle at Rabun County. Photo/Todd Forrest

Hayden Smith all scored unassisted goals in the second half following a scoreless tie at the break.

Keepers Eigel and junior Blaine Brown combined for the

shutout.

The Panthers game at Oglethorpe County on Friday was postponed until Apr. 21st. Union will face Washington Wilkes on Apr. 15th for Se-

nior Night. The contest with Oglethorpe County will likely determine second place in Region 8-AA.

The Panthers are off this week for Spring Break.



Jake Waltz at Rabun County

8-AA Region Standings

1. Riverside Military 5-0
2. Union County 3-1
3. Oglethorpe Co. 2-2
4. Social Circle 1-2
5. Rabun County 1-3
6. Wash Wilkes 0-2
6. Greene County 0-2

Union upcoming schedule

- Apr. 12 @ East Jackson
- Apr. 15 vs Wash Wilkes
- Apr. 19 @ Lumpkin Co.
- Apr. 21 @ Oglethorpe Co.
- Apr. 22 vs Towns County