

Sports

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Football: Panthers to host a pair of scrimmage games in August

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With the same 10 teams on Union County football's 2015 regular season slate, the addition of a second scrimmage game in early August will be the only new addition to the schedule.

The Panthers will once again face Sonoraville in a pre-season contest on Friday, Aug. 14th. The scrimmage is scheduled for a 7 p.m. kickoff at Mike Colwell Memorial Stadium.

But Panther fans won't have to wait until mid-August to see the Purple and Gold to suit up.

Union County football is barely 7 weeks away from taking the field as Region 6-AA's Holy Innocents is set to pay a visit to Blairsville on Aug. 7 at 6:30 p.m. in the first of the Panthers' two scrimmages.

In years past, only one scrimmage was the norm, but recent rule changes by the Georgia High School Association allow for a second pre-season game.

The regular season opens on Aug. 28th when Towns County pays the Panthers a visit in a rivalry showdown at 7:30 p.m.

The Indians' lone victory over Union came in Blairsville back in 1993 by a score of 27-17. The Panthers, who are 28-1 all-time vs their arch rival from Hiawassee, routed the Indians in the last two meetings by scores of 41-14 in 2013 and 57-14 in 2014.

Last year's win marked the fifth time Union has put up 50-plus points on Towns.

On Sept. 4th, Union hosts Lumpkin County for the 38th gridiron meeting between the two schools that share a border and school colors. In the prior 37 contests, the Panthers own a 21-15-1 record against the Indians.

Last season, the Indians fell 28-7 after allowing three second-half touchdowns to the visiting Panthers.



At 8:30 a.m. Coach Robby Roxbury (left) and Coach Neil Setzer (right) and the Panther players are on the field training and preparing for the upcoming season. Photos/Todd Forrest



Head Coach Brian Allison accomplished since 1975-78.

The 21-point win was Union's largest margin-of-victory over Lumpkin since 1991 when the Panthers shutout the Indians 21-0 in Dahlonega.

In 1983, Union blasted Lumpkin County 41-10 at home. On Sept. 11, a trip to North Carolina awaits the Panthers as they visit Andrews, NC for the second time in three years.

Union's only loss to the Wildcats came at home by a score of 21-6 in 1981. In 1969, the two teams tied 6-6 in Andrews. The other 13 games in the series belong to the Panthers, who are 13-1-1 vs the Wildcats.

Since the loss to Andrews back in '81, Union has flat-out owned the Wildcats in the five meetings since, outscoring them 206-53.

Last September, the Panthers' offense sliced and diced the Wildcats' defense for 42 points in the first half, en route to a 49-20 win.

On Sept. 18th, the Panthers will visit Blue Ridge seeking back-to-back wins over the Rebels in front of a spirited Fannin County

crowd that want nothing more than to see their boys in blue stick it to the rival Panthers, and reclaim the "King of the Mountain" jug that Coach Allison and company claimed last season after their 35-8 blowout victory.

Union shredded the Rebels' defense with 28 points in the opening frame. They would tack on another score in the third quarter, making it 35-0.

Entering this year's contest, Union holds a slim 24-23 advantage in the all-time series vs Fannin, but the Rebels will be chomping at the bit to get another crack at the Panthers and even the series back up, just as they did in 2013.

Region 8-AA action begins on Sept. 25th when Union visits Social Circle. The two teams have only met five times (Union is 3-2) with the Panthers easily taking the last three contests by an average score of 42-8.

In last year's meeting, Union laid 52 points on the Redskins during a 52-19 beating where the Panthers took a 38-6 lead into halftime.

Oglethorpe County comes calling on Oct. 2nd as Union County will honor its Middle School and Recreation Department players prior to the game.

The Patriots and Panthers are knotted at 6-6 in the all-time series despite Union winning the last five. Last season the Panthers took care of business on the road in a 46-0 win at Oglethorpe.

During Union's five game win streak, the offense has produced 40-plus points in four of those games. Although, the Purple Swarm defense was the star back in 2012 when the Panthers won 21-14. The Union D stuffed the Patriots four times while facing a 1st-and-goal in the final minutes.

Following Oglethorpe County, business begins to pick up for the Panthers in Region 8-AA with Greene County coming to town on Oct. 9th for Homecoming looking to end a two-game skid to Union.

Greene County has reached the playoffs in two of its last three seasons despite Union hanging 42 points on the Tigers in each of the last two meetings. The Pan-

thers are 2-1 all-time vs Greene County with the loss coming in Greensboro in 2012 by a score of 37-19.

It's very likely that October 16th will be circled on the calendar by the Union County players and coaches.

The Panthers will travel to Rabun County for the first time since 2012 where they lost 38-10, snapping their five-game winning streak over the Wildcats.

Union is 16-34 all-time vs the Wildcats but things have been slightly more even after the Panthers lost 18 of its first 22 meetings with Rabun. The 50 meetings between Union and Rabun is the most for both teams. From 1958 through 1989 the teams played every year, and twice a year in 1978. Between 1990-99 they only played twice, but have met every year since 2000.

However, the Wildcats currently own a three-game winning streak over Union, scoring 38, 42, and 45 in the three wins. Rabun will be looking to beat the Panthers in four consecutive seasons, something they haven't

accomplished since 1975-78. After the bye week, Union will host Riverside Military Academy (RMA) for Senior Night on Oct. 30th. Under Head Coach Brian Allison, the Panthers are 8-5 coming off a bye week. Union is also 5-2 vs RMA with the losses coming in 2008 and 2009.

Since the Eagles rejoined 8-AA in 2012, the Panthers of course has put up 41, 40, and 42 points in its wins over RMA.

Prior to 2008, the teams met twice when they were members of Region 8-A. In 1998, Union routed RMA 49-12 at home and in 1999 they smacked the Eagles around 42-0 in a Saturday afternoon game before RMA's field was equipped lights.

The regular season finale will be at Washington-Wilkes on Nov. 6th and the Tigers will be looking for revenge after Union handed Wilkes its first loss in four prior meetings with the Panthers.

The two teams first met in 1966 where the Tigers easily took down Union 54-14 in the Region Championship game. In 2012, Wilkes shutout the Panthers 36-0 in Blairsville, then handed Union a 41-10 defeat in Washington the following year.

Last year the Panthers hosted Wilkes for Senior Night and held off the Tigers 35-34 to claim the No. 2 spot in Region 8-AA.

Jonathan Davenport sweeps Dream Weekend

Rosburg Ohio - Scott Bloomquist took the checkered flag, but couldn't get past the post-race weight scale and was disqualified during Saturday night's Dirt Late Model Dream XXI presented by Ferris Commercial Mowers.

Jonathan Davenport, who led from lap 61 until a lap 91 restart, took the victory after Bloomquist took his car to the scale and it was 25 pounds light. Thus he was disqualified and posted 28th.

Bloomquist went to the scale and the green light did not appear. He backed up and tried one more time, but officials found his car to be under the 2,300 pound minimum post-race weight requirement.

Davenport, from Williamston, South Carolina, won the A-Features on Friday and Saturday night, so he brought out the broom as he swept the weekend and collected \$100,000 as the victor.

"I thought we had second-place to Scott (Bloomquist)," Davenport said. "And then he gets over there and he's light. This is definitely not the way I want to win my first crown jewel. I wanted to actually beat that guy. He's so hard to beat. He's so good around here. He's good everywhere."

A winning car has never been light before in the previous 20 Dreams. In the 2005 World 100, Shannon Babb won the race, but was light at the scales and Dale McDowell was scored as the winner.

Bloomquist did not comment after the race.

"All those heartaches we've had, all the bad luck, all the little bitty stuff that has happened here or at other places,



all went out the window," Davenport said. "It's a breath of fresh air."

Dennis Erb Jr., from Carpentersville, Illinois, was third, while 2014 Dream winner McDowell was fourth. Shane Clanton was fifth. Don O'Neal from Martinsville, Indiana, started on the pole and led the first lap before being passed by Jared Landers from Batesville, Ark. Landers led laps two and three before Clanton got by him.

Clanton, from Zebulon, Georgia led until lap 61 before Davenport tracked him down.

It appeared the race would go green all the way, but on lap 89, there was debris in turns two and four. Davenport was leading with Bloomquist behind him and on the restart Davenport pulled away. But a caution on lap 91 involving Matt Westfall and Gregg Satterlee setup another double-file restart, and Bloomquist bested Davenport in Turn 1 sliding in front of him to



take away his preferred high line as they rocketed off Turn 2.

Davenport said, "I survived one more shot as the leaders took the white flag, but the lapped car of Jimmy Owens got in his way as he attempted to pass Bloomquist and he looked like he was going to be second.

"The second yellow I thought 'Oh no, not again,'" Davenport said. "I survived one, but Scott is so good on those restarts especially in the slick. And I tried to do the same thing and I spun the tires at the flagstand. I could hear him and I'm like 'Oh no, here we go.' I probably should have gone down a lane and tried to block him a bit, but I tried to roll the

top and I thought if he slid me, I could get him back under him. I got a little aero loose when he went by and he got away from me a bit.

"I got back to him at the white flag, there was Jimmy. I thought 'Man, I just lost my chance.' Jimmy was out there and he went to the outside and I tried to fit between them, but that didn't work and I thought it was over."

It was not over as while Bloomquist took the checkered flag, he was light on the scales and Davenport won the \$100,000. It's another race that builds on the legend that is Eldora.

Sierra Club Committee meets

The North Georgia Sierra Wildlands Committee will meet in Blairsville, on Tuesday, June 23rd at 7 p.m. The meeting will be held at the United Community Bank's community room (125 Highway 515).

The meeting is planned to update information on the Chattahoochee National Forest and other public land issues of interest to this Sierra Club group and other residents of the north Georgia mountains.

Updates will include logging and burning proposals in the Cooper Creek Watershed and a congressional bill introduced by Congressman Doug Collins. Collins' proposal would allow the sale or exchange of Forest Service land located with our 9th Congressional District.

Representatives of Georgia Forestwatch will be on hand to answer questions on these and other National Forest matters in the area. Continuing actions at the federal level that could result in the loss of large sections of NFS lands in this area will be discussed.

Light refreshments will be served. All interested people are welcome to attend this meeting.

Men's Senior Softball League

Wanted! Men's Senior Softball players for an established league on Sunday afternoons at Meeks Park. Call Ray at 706-994-4014. 50 years and over. N(Jun17,21)CA

Trout stocking sites week of June 8-12, 2015

Fannin: Rock Creek, Toccoa River, and Toccoa River Tailwaters (below Lake Blue Ridge Dam)
Lumpkin: Dockery Lake, Etowah River, and Niblewill Creek

Murray: Holly Creek
Union: Cooper Creek
Note: Information is subject to change. Please call the hatchery at 706-838-4723 for questions. The hatchery also provides trout for the state. Please contact Georgia DNR for information on sites stocked by the state. N(Jun17,28)CA

Express Baseball World Series Fund Teaming Up with Papa's Pizza To-Go!

Coaches, Team Members, Family & Friends...

Mark Your Calendar for: Papa's Pizza Express Baseball World Series Fund Day!!

***** Blairsville, GA Location Only! *****

Thursday, June 18th

A portion of the daily proceeds will go directly to sending our team to the World Series!!

Bring in this flyer & support your team!!

Local 12U Travel Baseball Team playing in World Series

Express Baseball, a local 12 & under travel baseball team, coached by Joe Colwell, Shane Mullanack, and Derek Davis, will be travelling to either Cullman, AL or Kingsport, TN later this month for a USSSA World Series.

Thanks to the generous contributions of many local businesses and private citizens, the

team will participate in a tournament comprised of teams from states all over the country.

The team's roster has players hailing from Union County, Fannin County, and Copperhill, TN. At the Georgia USSSA State Tournament earlier this month, the team battled through a tough loser's bracket gauntlet to finish

Mountain United Soccer Association Est. 1988

FALL SOCCER REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!!

Age Groups U6-U16

Register online at www.mountainssoccer.org

Registration forms are also available to print from the website. Forms can be mailed to P.O. Box 1862, Blairsville, GA 30514.

Deadline to register is July 18, 2015.

For additional information please check our website at www.mountainssoccer.org or email us at musa.soccer@gmail.com.

UCHS Basketball Camp June 22-25

Union County High School is hosting a basketball skills camp for boys and girls K-12th grade. The camp will begin daily at 8:30 a.m. and end at 11:30 a.m. Every camper will receive a camp t-shirt. There will be an awards ceremony on Thursday at 11 a.m. The cost for each camper will be \$60. You may bring this form and money on June 22nd, or mail this form and money to David Tucker at 106 Sherwood Ave., Box 26, Calhoun, TN 37309, for more information call (423) 336-3045.

Instructors are: David Tucker - Union County Panthers Head Girls Coach; Junior Tucker - Walker Valley High School; Mindy Cox - Niota Elementary School; Jon Tucker - Polk County High School; Brooke Maddox - UCHS graduate; and Ray Stone - Tennessee Wesleyan Basketball.

Activities will include: ball handling drills, dribbling drills, shooting drills, offense and defense instruction, contests, 5 on 5 play, 3 on 3 play, and one on one play. N(Jun17,22)CA

Camper's Name _____

Grade _____ Shirt Size _____

Do you have health insurance on this child? Yes _____ No _____

Emergency Contact _____

Phone # _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____