

Sports

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Union County 12&U softball places second; 10&U third at State Tourney

By Todd Forrest
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Cartersville - Two Union County youth all-star softball teams reached the final day of their respective state tournaments over the weekend with the 12&U softball team placing second - two wins short, and the 10&U girls coming up three wins shy of a state title.

The Lady Panthers 12&U team reached the finals of the Dizzy Dean State Tournament but were unable to come away with a victory over the host team, Bartow Blue.

Union County defeated Bartow White in the opening round before scoring a victory over Barrow County, who received a bye into the second round.

In the third round, the Lady Panthers fell to Bartow Blue for the first time, who had also received a bye.

Bartow Blue was granted a free pass into the third round after knocking off Gordon County in round one.

The loss forced Union into the losers bracket on Sunday morning where they took care of Bartow White in a rematch at 10:45 a.m.

The Lady Panthers were victorious over Villa Rica at 12:30 p.m. to earn another shot at Bartow Blue in the finals, scheduled for 2:15 p.m.

Following a rain delay of nearly three hours, Bartow came out on top 2-0 to take the State Championship.

The Lady Panthers 10&U softball team was one game away from reaching the finals but fell to Douglas.

Following wins over Gordon County (10-3) and Bremen (14-4), Union met Barrow County, the eventual State Champion and fell 9-6.

After the loss to Barrow at 9 a.m. Sunday, the Lady Panthers were forced to play a double-header, where they were upended by Douglas, 9-3.

The Union County 10&U team would like to thank the following sponsors: Curtis Colwell, James and Doris Bridges, Lamar Paris, Greg and Judy Odom, Leon's Floor, Rick's Rental, Union Realty, Alexander's, United Community Bank, Nelson's Tractor, Thomas Tire, Gooch Trucking, Home Depot, Food City, Ingles, Myra Williamson, Cabin Coffee, Chick-fil-a, Premier Eye Care, Blairsville Paving, Brett Owenby Grading, Union County Rec. Dept, Save-a-Lot, Dr. John Kelley, Dr. Katie Blocker, Physicians Assistant Jim Portwood, Cook's.



Top Left to Bottom Right: Assistant Coach Tim Tracy, Rebekah Chambers, Anna Ruryk, Delana Stephens Head Coach George Burnette, Trinity Queen, Allie Brey, Assistant Coach Holly Chambers, Kaylee Helton, Tori Tracy, Caley Davis, Ansley Collins, Adaley Burnette, Jessica Lara.



Top (L-R): Kyla Mullanack, Sierra Burnette, Jaycee Seabolt, Reese Kelley, Jewel Massey, Addison Kennedy. Bottom (L-R) Elyssa Whicker, Georgia Patton, Chloe Potts, Noelle Rudd, Ila Bragg. Coaches (top row L-R): Holly Mullanack, Jason Seabolt, Head Coach Shane Mullanack, Keith Potts, Joy Patton, Robert Burnette, Gary Blasingame (kneeling)

Three Lady Panthers and coach selected for DiVarsity All-Star game

Ansley Garrison named DiVarsity Class AA Student-Athlete of the Year

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Marietta - Three members of the Union County Lady Panthers soccer team and its head coach participated in the DiVarsity All-Star soccer game last month at Sprayberry High School in Marietta.

Seniors Ansley Garrison and Rachel Vester, sophomore Layne Baenninger, and Head Coach Tim Hunter represented Union County in the 18th edition of the DiVarsity All-Star game that highlights Georgia soccer talent with two boys and two girls games.

Garrison and Baenninger accounted for two of the five midfielders for the White Team and Vester was one of the four forwards that took part in the game as members of Team White.

Hunter was one of two White Team coaches.

Calvary Day (3) tied Union County as the school with the most players on the White squad but only one Calvary Day player took part in the game.

Dublin had the second most with two players that participated. Houston County also had three players participate on the Blue Team, who went on to win 4-3.

The Union County Lady Panthers soccer team is coming off back-to-back Region 8-AA titles and trips to the State Elite 8.

Vester was second on the team in goals scored with 20 and Baenninger led the Lady Panthers with 17 assists in 2016.

Garrison was fourth with 21 points thanks to 11



Left to right: Seniors Ansley Garrison, Rachel Vester, Coach Tim Hunter, and sophomore Layne Baenninger at the DiVarsity All Star game in Marietta

assists - good enough for second on the team. She was also tied for fifth with 5 goals.

Garrison also received the Class AA DiVarsity Student-Athlete of the Year. Her honors/awards include: Purple Heart Award - varsity cross country, Most Improved Award - varsity swimming, Honorable Mention All

Region - varsity soccer, 1st Team All Region (three times) - varsity soccer, Coach's Award - varsity soccer, Best Defense Award - varsity soccer, Best Midfielder Award - varsity soccer, varsity soccer Team Captain 2015-16, first place for First Aid/CPR for SkillsUSA Region, Susan B. Anthony Award, Academic

Excellence in AP US History, Academic Excellence in Healthcare, National Beta Honors Award, and UCHS Class Favorite 2016.

Club/Organization Involvement include: Member of First Baptist Youth Group - four years, On the Leadership Committee, United Community Bank Junior Board of

Directors, Chair for multiple committees that are all community service centered, Family Career and Community Leaders of America - four years, Vice President of STAR Events, STAR Event competitor, BETA - three years, Fellowship of Christian Athletes - four years, with a leadership position of

two years, InterAct (Junior Rotary Community Service) - two years, SkillsUSA - one year, competed in First Aid/CPR, won 1st place in Region. Union County Outdoor Club - one year, Official Special Olympics Georgia Partner - four years, Spanish Club - one year, active volunteer for SAFE Shelter

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