

Sports

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Union Co. football returns with Friday scrimmage

By Todd Forrest
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The conclusion of the 2014 football season was a bitter pill to swallow for Union County football, but the Panthers will be back on the field this Friday when they host Holy Innocents Episcopal School in a scrimmage contest.

Full-contact practice with pads began on Monday for Union County, and the week will conclude with the chance to hit someone other than a fellow teammate.

When asked what Panther fans can expect on Friday night, Union County Head Coach Brian Allison made it clear that it will be a very controlled scrimmage.

"We want to put 11 players out there on the field and see how it goes," Coach Allison said. "We've got some time before we play a game that counts, and since we didn't have spring practice, we just want to see where we're at and make corrections."

According to Georgia High School Association rules, by not holding spring practice, the Panthers were allowed to add another preseason scrimmage.

"We're going to be very careful (to avoid injury) and keep the play calling pretty basic on both sides of the ball," Allison added.

Despite going into the game with only four days of practice, one area Coach Allison isn't concerned about is the quarterback position.

Union County returns a First Team All-State selection in senior Joseph Mancuso. Although, the Panthers' field general will be throwing to some new targets this year after three of Union's top four pass catchers graduated.

However, the lone returning starter at the receiver position is a good one.

Senior Sam Gilbert was named First Team All-Region as a junior after hauling in 45 catches for 732 yards, and 8 scores - third most on the team in all three categories.

After Gilbert, the only returning receivers that caught



An experienced Union County secondary, led by senior Andrew Brown (25), junior Zach Stone (7), and senior Josh Daniel (20) is expected to be one of the strengths on this year's squad. Photo/Todd Forrest

a pass in 2014 are senior Knox Kiernan and sophomore Austin Pattee - each caught one pass last year.

Luckily, Gilbert won't be asked to do it all thanks to the development of a converted quarterback, sophomore wide out Cole Wright.

"He (Wright) has had a great summer and we're really excited about him," Coach Allison said. "We've got Gilbert back and Knox Kiernan has done a nice job."

The Panthers offensive line and running game have improved and that should also take some of the pressure off of Mancuso.

"We feel pretty good about the offensive and defensive lines," Coach Allison said. "At running back, Bo (Lynch) will be the starter, but we've got some guys like Nick Rodriguez and Cole Dockrey that we also feel comfortable with."

Scoring points hasn't been a problem for the Panthers, but keeping the other team out of the endzone was an issue late in the year.

At the conclusion of last season, Coach Allison made it clear that the defense is one area that would be addressed during the offseason.

An improved defensive

line and an experienced secondary are expected to provide the defense with an early boost, but as the season progresses, Coach Allison is hoping that playing time will help mold a green linebacker unit.

"With Andrew Brown, Josh Daniel, and Zach Stone back (in the secondary), that will make a big difference," Coach Allison said. "The secondary has a chance to become the strength of the defense, but the defensive line should continue to get better and better. But we have some experience issues at linebacker that we're concerned about a little bit."

Game time for Friday night's scrimmage is 6:30 p.m. with an admission of \$3.

Next week's scrimmage with Sonorville will begin at 7 p.m. with a \$5 admission.

Holy Innocents info



Location: Atlanta
Nickname: Golden Bears
Head Coach: Ryan Livezey
2014 record: 2-8
Region: 6-AA
Last Region title: 2009 (5-A)
State Tourney Appearances: 7
Last State appearance: 2013
Players to watch: OL #56 Jay Rolander 6-3 227, DL #77 Edward Verdree 6-1 240, DB #28 Reed Wilson 5-11 166



Junior defensive lineman Chandler Day. Photo/Todd Forrest



Senior receiver Sam Gilbert



Senior lineman Parker Daniel



Much of Union County's success is going to be riding on the backfield duo of senior quarterback Joseph Mancuso (9) and junior running back Bo Lynch (5). Photo/Todd Forrest

Union County softball Lanier Point Schedule

Friday, Aug. 7th: North Forsyth at 5:50 p.m.
Saturday, Aug. 8th: Dawson County at 10:30 a.m.
Saturday, Aug. 8th: Commerce at 12:15 p.m.
Saturday, Aug. 8th: Pepperell at 6 p.m.
Saturday, Aug. 8th: Gainesville at 8 p.m.

Union County 2015 softball schedule

Date	Location	Opponent	JV	Varsity
AUG. 7/8	AWAY	LANIER POINT TOURNAMENT	N/A	TBA
AUG. 11	HOME	FANNIN	4:30	6:00
AUG. 12	HOME	HABERSHAM	N/A	5:00
AUG. 20	AWAY	RABUN	N/A	5:00
AUG. 22	YHC	APALACHEE	N/A	10:00
AUG. 22	YHC	GILMER	N/A	12:00
AUG. 25	HOME	WHITE COUNTY	4:30	6:00
AUG. 27	HOME	GREENE CO.(DOUBLEHEADER)	N/A	4:00/6:00
AUG. 29	AWAY	OGLETHORPE (DOUBLEHEADER)	N/A	1:00/3:00
AUG. 31	AWAY	HABERSHAM	N/A	5:00
SEPT. 3	HOME	RABUN	N/A	5:00
SEPT.8	AWAY	SOCIAL CIRCLE (DOUBLEHEADER)	N/A	4:00/6:00
SEPT. 11/12	AWAY	CHEROKEE INVITATIONAL	TBA	TBA
SEPT. 14	AWAY	GILMER (DOUBLEHEADER)	4:00/6:00	N/A
SEPT. 22	HOME	WASHINGTON WILKES (DH)	N/A	4:00/6:00
SEPT. 23	AWAY	WHITE	4:30	6:00
SEPT. 26	PICKENS	FANNIN	N/A	12:00
SEPT. 26	PICKENS	PICKENS	N/A	2:00
SEPT. 28	HOME	PICKENS (DOUBLEHEADER)	4:30/6:00	N/A
SEPT. 29/30	TBA	1ST ROUND REGION TOURNEY	N/A	TBA
OCT. 6/7	TBA	2ND ROUND REGION TOURNEY	N/A	TBA
OCT. 10	TBA	REGION CHAMPIONSHIP	N/A	TBA
OCT. 14/15	TBA	1ST ROUND STATE TOURNEY	N/A	TBA
OCT. 21/22	TBA	2ND ROUND STATE TOURNEY	N/A	TBA
OCT. 29-31	COLUMBUS	ELITE 8 STATE TOURNEY	N/A	TBA

HEAD COACH: JESSICA STEWART

Union County Football

2015 VARSITY FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

August 7	H	Holy Innocents (Scrimmage)	6:30
August 14	H	Sonorville (Scrimmage)	7:00
August 28	H	Towns County	7:30
September 4	H	Lumpkin County	7:30
September 11	@	Andrews NC	7:30
September 18	@	Fannin County (Rec. Night)	7:30
September 25	@	Social Circle	7:30
October 2	H	Oglethorpe County (MS/Rec)	7:30
October 9	H	Greene County (Homecoming)	7:30
October 16	@	Rabun County	7:30
October 23		OPEN	
October 30	H	Riverside Military (Senior)	7:30
November 6	@	Washington-Wilkes	7:30

Junior Varsity Schedule

September 3	H	Gilmer County	5:30
September 10		OPEN	
September 17	H	Lumpkin County	5:30
September 24	@	Pickens County	5:30
October 1	H	Dawson County	5:30
October 8	@	Fannin County	5:30
October 15	@	White County	5:30
October 29	H	Rabun County	5:30

North Georgia RAPIDS swim club attend Habersham Championship Swim meet



The North Georgia RAPIDS Swim Club

On Friday, July 10th and Saturday, July 11th, the North Georgia RAPIDS swim club attended the Habersham Championship Swim meet and represented our small community quite well.

Meet results: 8 & Under Girls Division: Lily Helton placed 1st overall; 8 & Under Boys Division: Cole Orlando placed 3rd overall, Wyatt Nichols placed 5th overall, Eli Gwynn placed 11th overall; 10 & Under Girls Division: Courtney Foster placed 9th overall; 10 & Under Boys Division: Lucas Whitaker placed

19th overall; 12 & Under Boys Division: Luke Gambrell finished 2nd overall, Hunter White finished 4th overall, Alden Wilkes finished 14th overall; 14 & Under Girls Division: Gracie Weldon finished 6th overall, Kaiya Wickes finished 12th overall; 16 & Under Girls Division: Leannah Gambrell finished 13th overall; and 18 & Under Boys Division: Brenner Wickes finished 7th overall.

As seen from the results above, the NGR Swim Club is thriving and being very competitive at each and every

meet. On average, each division had 30+ participants and were required to "qualify" for this Championship meet by competing at one or both of the pre-requisite events in June, of which many other accolades were obtained.

We practice every Mon/Wed/Fri at the Union County Wellness Center from 5 - 6:30 PM year round. If you would like to see your child thrive in a competitive environment and earn character-building awards, come see Coach Barry Gay and join us in the water!

Gray Awarded Tri-County Junior Golf Scholarship



Gray accepting her check from Matt Liss of Chateau Shores Golf Course in Hayesville, NC

Lydia Gray - a 2015 Union County Highschool graduate received a \$500.00 scholarship from Tri-County Junior Golf.

This scholarship was established by Mr. and Mrs. Brouise and TCJGA to help TCJGA members reach their

goals. Each applicant had to write an essay on Why they felt they deserved the scholarship and what golf has meant to them.

Gray has played golf with the TCJGA for the past four years as well as for the Union County High school girls

golf team and the Atlanta Junior Golf tour.

Gray will be attending Truett McConnell College this fall. If anyone is interested in playing in the TCJGA you may contact Matt Liss at Chateau Shores Golf Course in Hayesville, NC.