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Sophomore Adeline Dockrey was named All Tournament after leading Union in scoring and was second in rebounds. Photo/Todd Forrest

McCarter. A Hokes Bluff try to open the second was answered by a mid-range jumper from Adeline Dockrey. She would later respond to a Lady Eagles lay-up with a 3 of her own to give Union an 11-9 advantage.

Five unanswered by Hokes Bluff put the Lady Panthers in a three-point hole but a put-back from Grace Wischmeyer and a driving lay-up by Daniel tied the game at 15-15 entering the break.

The third quarter got underway with a 9-2 Hokes Bluff run. Rogers was able to stop the bleeding for a moment with a put-back that pulled Union back within five at 24-19, but the final three minutes of the period were unkind to the Lady Panthers as the Lady Eagles scored the last six points of the third.

Trailing 30-19 to open the fourth, Hokes Bluff extended its run to 10-0 for a 34-19 advantage before another put-back from Rogers gave Union its first points in almost four minutes.

A Lady Eagles try extended their advantage to 16 at 37-21 with 4:25 remaining.

Daniel drove into the paint and banked in a runner before she connected on her only 3-point basket of the evening, making it a 37-26 game at the 3:01 mark.

A Hokes Bluff basket with 1:15 remaining made it a 13-point contest - putting Union away.

Like the first quarter, the third quarter belonged to the Lady Panthers, who outscored Towns 18-2, led by five points from both Hill and Adeline Dockrey.

With a 51-13 score after three, the fourth quarter was shortened to six minutes and freshman Megan Bright opened the period with a pair of free throws.

Sophomore Brianna Hemphill completed an old-fashioned 3-point play off a steal and lay-up.

Brooke Dockrey hit two at the line, Bright scored on a put-back, and senior Bailey Thornton crashed the offensive boards for Union's final points of the night.

Daniel led the way with 11 points, 1 assist, and 1 steal. Adeline Dockrey scored 10 points with 5 boards and 2 assists. Fair went for 6 points and 8 rebounds.

McCarter, Bright and Stuart each finished with 5 points and 5 rebounds, Hill had 5 points, 1 assist, and 1 block, meanwhile Grace Wischmeyer added 3 points, 2 steals, and 1 assist.

Rogers scored 4 points with 2 steals, Hemphill had 3 points and a steal, Brooke Dockrey finished with 2 points, 1 assist, and 1 steal, while Thornton had 2 points and 3 boards.

The Lady Panthers leap back into region play this week with a match-up at East Hall on Tuesday at 6 p.m. before traveling to Lumpkin County for a 7 p.m. tip on Friday.

With Dawson County coming to Blairsville, next Tuesday, Union County should have a pretty good idea where they stand in Region 7-AAA by the middle of next week.

As for Union County Head Coach David Tucker's thoughts on his young squad at the midway point of the season, he continues to see nothing but improvement each time the Lady Panthers take the floor.

"We're getting better and better," he said. "All of them know where they need to be (on the floor) and what to do. Our shooting is getting better, they enjoy being around each other, they like to play, and we have great support from our fans."

"And we're going to keep on getting better because we're going to keep on working and when you feel good about yourself, it's not work, it's just basketball."

A McCarter free throw with 1:03 to play would be the Lady Panthers' final point of the game.

Adeline Dockrey led Union with 9 points while her 5 rebounds matched a team-high.

Daniel finished with 7 points, 2 assists, and 2 steals, while McCarter added 5 points and 5 boards.

Rogers had 4 points, 4 rebounds, and 2 steals. Brooke Dockrey finished with 3 steals and one blocked shot. Fair grabbed 5 boards to go with 2 steals.

Lady Panthers 62, Towns County 16 - Union County took out its frustrations on rival Towns County after being denied a trip to the finals on the second day of the tournament.

The Lady Panthers stormed out to a 17-2 lead and never looked back, en route to a 62-16 blowout victory over the Lady Indians.

Trailing 22-4 after one, Towns County appeared to have weathered the storm in the second period as the two squads played almost even until a late McCarter basket gave Union an 11-7 advantage in the period and a 33-11 lead at the break.

Despite struggling in her first game back from battling an illness, Daniel returned to form in the first half with 11 points on two treys and 3-of-4 shooting at the line.

McCarter and Stuart also chipped in 5 points each in the first half



The freshman trio of Kait McCarter (30), Andelin Hill (14) and Brooke Dockrey (right) combined for 34 points in Union County's win over Swain County in the first game of the BOTS.



Sophomore Jordan Rogers (left) and senior Ashley Fair (right) battle for the loose ball vs Hokes Bluff, AL on day two of the BOTS Christmas Tournament.

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County, TN 70 - In the finale, both squads were seemed too exhausted to play much defense as both teams scored at will for much of the final three quarters.

The first quarter belonged to Union 15-13, but the remainder of the game was a shootout.

The second period belonged to Polk County 26-21 and the Wildcats led 39-36 at the break.

Drake led Union with 13 points at the half and Baenninger and Candler Colwell each poured in 8 first half points.

Both teams traded baskets to open the third before Polk used a 3-point play to pull ahead by seven at 49-42 with 5:31 left in the quarter.

It would be all Union for the remainder of the third.

The Panthers tore off a 17-0 run that turned a seven-point deficit into a 10-point advantage entering the fourth.

The run opened with baskets by Crawford and Candler Colwell, then Davis knocked down a trey from the corner to tie the game at 49-49.

Drake hit two at the line, Crawford Colwell drove inside for two, Drake nailed a 3-ball from the wing, and Davis connected on his second corner-trey to give Union a 59-49 lead after three.

The two teams exchanged free throws early in the fourth then swapped baskets with a lay-in by

freshman Pierson Allison keeping the Panthers ahead by 10 with 4:54 to play.

A steal by Crawford Colwell led to a lay-up and a 12-point Union cushion, 10 seconds later.

Polk County went inside for a deuce and Crawford Colwell hit 1-of-2 at the charity stripe - keeping the Panthers in front by 11 as the clock ticked under four minutes.

However, the next seven points belonged to the Wildcats as they pulled within four at 66-62 with 2:37 remaining.

With Union shooting 1-and-1, Baenninger went to the line and sank two clutch free throws with just over two minutes to play.

A lay-up by Laughlin, then two Polk County free throws made it a 68-66 game with 82 seconds left.

Baenninger, with his team still in the 1-and-1, came through at the line once again to put Union back up by four, but the Panthers had no answer for Laughlin who powered his way to the rim for two more.

With 19 seconds remaining, and Union now in the double-bonus, Baenninger delivered once again - making it 72-68.

The Wildcats missed the front-end of a 1-and-1 with 15 seconds left but Laughlin converted the offensive rebound and with 8 seconds left, Crawford Colwell hit 1-of-2 at the line.

Trailing by three, Polk

was unable to get off a shot as they were called for traveling with less than one second remaining.

Polk County's Coach Tucker tossed his whiteboard into the air and was hit with a technical foul.

Baenninger sank 1-of-2 free throws to seal the W.

Davis finished with 6 points while Banton and Allison had two each.

"We were able to hit some free throws down the stretch today, which has been our Achilles heel of late," Jones said after the game. "But we did what we needed to do and are pleased to finish (the tournament) 2-1."

Union will go on the road this week as region play resumes at East Hall on Tuesday.

On Friday, the Panthers will visit the Battle of the States' back-to-back boys champions Lumpkin County.

"We've got East Hall on Tuesday and obviously they are one of the front runners in the region so we'll have our hands full down there, and then we go to Lumpkin County on Friday," Jones said. "We'll be back in the gym on Monday getting prepared to go down there Tuesday and play hard. I told the guys that we can't beat ourselves and when you miss free throws and two-footers, like we have been, that's beating yourself. So if we can go down there and not do that, then we'll be fine."



Junior Cole Davis fires a three with a Hokes Bluff defender in his face. Davis and the Panthers connected on five first half treys in their win over the Eagles on day two. Photo/Todd Forrest



Junior guard Cole Wright goes up for two vs Polk County, TN on the third day of the Battle of the States Christmas Tournament at Towns County.



Junior Candler Colwell goes up for two during Union's win over Gilmer County prior to the Battle of the States. Photo/Todd Forrest