

# Swimming: Williams places second in 200 IM at State Championships

Williams becomes UCHS' first All-State swimmer following runner-up performance

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Atlanta - Headlined by Brian Williams' second-place performance, the Union County Swim team qualified six swimmers during the preliminary races at the GHSA State Championships earlier this month at Georgia Tech.

Competing against schools from Class A to AAA, Williams posted a time of 1:58.00 in the 200-yard Individual Medley, which includes the 50-yard fly, 50-yard free, 50-yard backstroke and 50-yard breaststroke.

During the preliminaries on Friday, Feb. 7, Union County qualified six swimmers, including Williams, who qualified for the finals in the 200 IM and the 100-yard breaststroke.

Williams' Union County teammates that also advanced to Saturday's finals were Blake Caputi, Michael Leird, Hunter White, Alden Wilkes and Steven Williams.

Last week, the accolades continued to roll in for Brian Williams with the senior being selected for the Class A-AAA All-State Team, becoming the first UCHS swimmer to receive the nod.

In a field heavily loaded with private schools, Brian Williams was one of only two public school swimmers (Aaron Seymour - Savannah Arts) to pick up All-State recognition.

Additionally, Brian Williams was one of two All-State selections in the 200-yard Individual Medley event, joining State Champion Aiden Gaskill of Benedictine Military School.

The *North Georgia News* would like to congratulate Brian Williams on his groundbreaking achievement for the Union County swimming program.



The Union County High School Swim Team following its performance during the 2020 GHSA Class A-AAA State Championships at Georgia Tech

1-3A Boys All-State- 2020				
<b>1st Team</b>				
Huntington Stone	Westminster	200 MR 1:33.00	200 FR 1:25.86	
Saavan Shah	Westminster	200 MR 1:33.00	200 FR 1:25.86	
Daniel Barra	Westminster	200 MR 1:33.00	100 Fly 50.55	400 FR 3:10.05
Connor Hinkes	Westminster	200 MR 1:33.00	50 Free 20.36	400 FR 3:10.05
Ashwin Pillai	Westminster	200 FR 1:25.86		
Tobias Liu	Westminster	200 FR 1:25.86		
Miles Clayton	Westminster	400 FR 3:10.05		
Peter Bernot	Westminster	400 FR 3:10.05		
Evan Bell	Mt. Vernon	200 MR 1:37.21	200 FR 1:27.50	
Samuel Whiting	Mt. Vernon	200 MR 1:37.21	200 FR 1:27.50	
John Beamon	Mt. Vernon	200 MR 1:37.21	100 Free 46.15	200 FR 1:27.50
Michael Casey	Mt. Vernon	200 MR 1:37.21	200 FR 1:27.50	
Mitchell Norton	Mt. Paran	200 Free 1:37.71	100 Free 44.84	
Caleb Duval	Atl Inter	200 Free 1:41.22		
Aiden Gaskill	Benedictine	200 IM 1:51.53	100 Fly 49.81	
<b>Brian Williams</b>	<b>Union County</b>	<b>200 IM 1:58.00</b>		
Aaron Seymour	Savannah Arts	50 Free 20.73	100 Back 49.14	
Spencer Pearson	Holy Innocents	Diving 530.10		
Alex York	Westminster	Diving 497.80		
Trey Carter	GAC	500 Free 4:38.89		
Aiden Hintz	Savannah Arts	500 Free 4:46.28		
Eli Condle	Athens Academy	100 Back 53.43		
Charlie Stout	George Walton	100 Breast 56.55		
Alex Grand'Pierre	Walker	100 Breast 58.63		
Henry Wasmuth	Wesleyan	400 FR 3:15.71		
Jack Godfrey	Wesleyan	400 FR 3:15.71		
Colton Villa	Wesleyan	400 FR 3:15.71		
Christopher Harrell	Wesleyan	400 FR 3:15.71		



Brian Williams waves to his family after receiving his medal

# Soccer: Panthers fend off RMA, 4-3

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On a soggy evening in Blairsville, the Union County Panthers held off a furious rally from Riverside Military Academy to improve to 3-0 on the year.

Tied at 1-1 coming out of the intermission, Union County exploded for three goals in eight minutes. The outburst was ignited during the 44th minute by senior Kobi Robbins' second goal of the match.

Moments later, David Van Pelt found Robbins for his second hat trick of the season. Despite holding a 3-1 advantage, the Panthers weren't finished. Sophomore Kyler Robbins converted a free kick in the 48th minute to open up a 4-1 lead.

The three-goal lead would remain intact until the 67th minute when the Eagles pulled within two at 4-2. Less than a minute later, things got even tighter as Riverside scored again to make it a 4-3 contest.

The two quick goals made the final 12-plus minutes extremely tense, but Aaron Helton and the Union County defense settled down and kept Riverside off the board, preserving the 4-3 victory.

In the early going, Kobi Robbins broke the scoreless tie with a goal in the 21st minute off a feed from sophomore Dalton Allen.

Riverside needed less than a minute to find the equalizer, coming via penalty kick in the 22nd minute.



Junior Aaron Helton deflects a shot with his fingertips during pregame warmups vs RMA. Photo/Todd Forrest

With the win, Union County tallied its first victory over Riverside in more than a decade.

Both Union County teams were scheduled to face Banks County on Friday in the Region 8-AA opener, however, the match was postponed due to the threat of icy conditions that canceled school earlier in the day. A makeup date has been set for March 9 at 5 and 7 p.m.

This week, Union County will host Fannin County on Tuesday. The games have been moved up to 4 and 5:45 p.m. due to Union County hosting the Elite 8 basketball game at 7 p.m.

On Friday, Union County visits Putnam County at 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. to face last year's Region 8-AA boys champion.

On Saturday, Union County hosts Darlington in a non-region contest at 2 and 4 p.m.

## Lady Panthers... continued from 2C

Chattooga County, 64-45 in the Sweet 16. The 19-point victory was not indicative of how much of a rout the game actually was. Early County led 40-13 at half-time before putting it in cruise control in the second half.

Chattooga County suffered a 77-66 loss to Pickens County during the Gordon Lee Holiday Tournament. As for Pickens, they dropped two-of-three to Gilmer (both losses by double-digits) and fell 80-73 to Fannin County.

Four days before Union's 54-52 win over Gilmer, Pickens suffered an ugly 94-67 loss to those same Lady Bobcats.

Tuesday's tip-off is scheduled for 7 p.m. With a win, Union County would advance to the Final Four, held at Milledgeville's Georgia College on Saturday.

**News and Notes:** The Elite 8 berth is Union's first since 2001 and its second since 1994. Union's Sweet 16 victory on its homecourt is the first since the aforementioned 1994 squad that was led by Ava Hunter's mother, and Lady Panther assistant coach Mandy (Bradley) Hunter.

The victory also ends a two-game skid in the Sweet 16, following losses at the Region 4-AA Champion Putnam County

in 2016, and to GAC (the Region 6-AA Runner-Up) at home in 2009.

With the 23rd victory of the year, Union County ties the 2001 team for the second most wins in program history since girls began playing 5-on-5 in the mid-1970s. The 1987 and 1994 Lady Panther teams both recorded 24 wins.

Earlier this month, Beach became the seventh coach in UCHS history to lead a girls basketball team to the State Tournament, joining Tommy Wilson (1970-73), Mickey Birchfield (1974, 1976), Jim Hughes (1985, 1987, 1994, 2009, 2011), Robbie Stancil (2001), Mike West (2008) and David Tucker (2011-16).

This week's game marks the Lady Panthers' eighth quarterfinal appearance in program history (1970, 1972-1974, 1985, 1994, 2001). In State quarterfinal contests, Union County is currently sporting a 3-4 record with wins coming in 1972, 1974 and 2001.

After surpassing 800 career rebounds vs Therrell, McCarter reached 900 career points with 11 vs Butler. Entering Tuesday's contest vs Early County, McCarter has 908 career points.

## Coming up next week: College football signing and 1,000 points

Coming up in the March 4 edition of the North Georgia News: Three Union County Football players have signed to play at the college level.

Pierson Allison, John Mancuso and Kyle Morlock officially put pen to paper earlier this month at UCHS. Allison and Mancuso will attend Berry College, Morlock will attend Shorter.

The *North Georgia News* sat down with all three following their signing ceremony to

discuss their recruitments and more.

The *North Georgia News* also spoke with Sawyer Drake after the senior reached 1,000 career points for the hardwood Panthers.

Drake talked about his early-season injury and how reaching the milestone seemed out of the question in December. In addition, he discussed his hard work in adding the 3-point jump shot to his offensive repertoire.