

Sports

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Soccer: Lady Panthers record shutouts vs Fannin, Gilmer

Towns County knocks off Union 5-1 behind 2 goals each from Barrett and Neumyer

By Todd Forrest
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After recording a key region victory on Monday with a 1-0 shutout of Fannin County to improve to 2-3 in 7-AAA, the Lady Panthers finished off the week by splitting a pair of non-region contests on the road.

The loss came on Thursday when Union traveled to Hiawassee, looking to reverse its fortunes vs the rival Lady Indians but came up on the wrong end of a 5-1 score.

The Lady Panthers have lost four straight vs Towns with the last non-loss coming in 2014 in the form of a 2-2 tie.

Union's last win vs the Lady Indians came in February of 2013 but since that 2-1 victory, they have gone 0-6-1 vs TCHS.

When the two rivals met earlier this season it appeared to be an evenly matched battle for most of the contest until a late goal allowed Towns to escape with a 1-0 victory.

This time around, the Lady Indians jumped out to a 2-0 advantage and were never threatened after halftime.

With 26:59 remaining, Towns stretched its lead to 3-0 before a Brooke Barrett penalty kick at the 15:38 mark made it a 4-0 game. Their fifth and final goal came with 7:19 to play.

Union's Layne Baenninger prevented the shutout by drilling a shot past the keeper with under 2 minutes to play.

The exact time is unknown due to a clock malfunction in the final minutes.

The next day Union was forced to regroup at Class AAAA Gilmer County where they got off to a sluggish start offensively but closed with a fury in a 5-0 win.

With the defense clamping down on the Lady Bobcats, Braedyn Robbins broke the scoreless tie in the 19th minute to give her team a 1-0 advantage at the intermission.

The Lady Panthers would blow things open in the second half beginning at the 35:00 mark when Madison Yost got the scoring surge underway off an assist from Anzly Sherman - who would have her name called a few



Union's Layne Baenninger (right) battles with Towns County's Brooke Barrett (18). Baenninger scored the only goal of the game for the Lady Panthers with under 2 minutes to play. Photo/Todd Forrest



Braedyn Robbins scored Union's first goal of the game during its 5-0 victory at Gilmer County. Photo/Todd Forrest

more times before the game was finished.

Still leading 2-0 with 17:18 remaining, Baenninger found Yost for her second goal of the game to stretch the Union advantage to 3-0.

Fourteen seconds later, Sherman finished off the home team with a goal via a Brenna Innis assist.

Sherman added one more goal for good measure with 12:01 to play - this one coming off Baenninger's second assist of the game.

The Lady Panthers finished the contest with 24 shots to just three for Gilmer County.

The shutout was senior keeper Emmi Schakat's second in three games after allowing a goal in each of the first seven games.

Union County will host Rabun County on Tuesday with the Lady Panthers getting underway at 5 p.m.

Union's lone remaining region contest will be on April

20th when they host No. 3 Dawson County (11-2).

Currently, the Lady Panthers are in fifth place in Region 7-AAA and will need some help if they want to reach the State Tournament for a fifth consecutive year.

In order to have a shot, Union needs Lumpkin to knock off Dawson County on Apr. 14th. But if Dawson wins, the Lady Panthers are eliminated due to Lumpkin owning the tiebreaker over Union.

Then the Lady Panthers must defeat third ranked Dawson on Apr. 20th and root for GAC to take care of business vs North Hall on the 21st.

If all of those chips fall into place, Dawson, North Hall, and Union would find themselves in a 3-way tie for the fourth and final playoff spot.

North Hall already holds the head-to-head tiebreaker over Union thanks to a 1-0 victory over the Lady Panthers last month.



Madison Yost looks for room to get off a shot at Towns County. Earlier in the week she scored the game winning goal in Union's 1-0 victory over another rival school, Fannin County. Photo/Todd Forrest

Soccer: Panthers rebound from Fannin loss with wins at Towns and Gilmer

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The Panthers suffered a heartbreaking 2-1 loss to Fannin County on Monday to drop to 1-4 in region play and deliver a devastating blow to Union's playoff hopes.

Like the girls, the Panthers will need some help if they want to reach the postseason for the fifth consecutive year.

First and foremost, Union will need to take down North Hall when that game is resumed on Apr. 17th. They will also need for Lumpkin County - who is winless in region play - to upset Fannin County.

Then, if everything falls into place, the Panthers could play themselves into State when they host Dawson County (who is currently unbeaten and ranked 16th in AAA) on Apr. 20th.

A loss to Dawson and the best Union can hope for is a 3-way tie for fourth with North Hall and Fannin.

Although the Panthers did appear to get back on track by ending a four-game skid with wins at Towns and Gilmer as senior Parker McCombs returned to action after missing the previous two contests.

At Towns, McCombs



Sam Seiler (left, No. 4) and Parker McCombs (right, No. 7) combined for two goals and two assists in Union County's 3-0 victory at Towns County. Photos/Todd Forrest

showed no signs of rust as he assisted Sam Seiler during the 13th minute for a 1-0 UC lead.

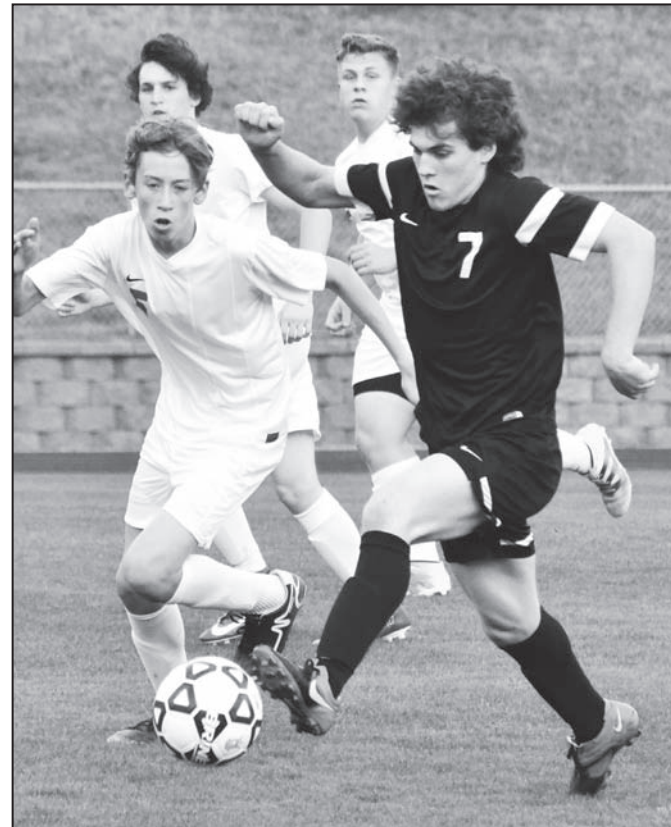
A little over seven minutes later, McCombs scored off a Seiler assist to make it a 2-0 game at the half.

Two minutes into the second half, Brian Smith set up Sean Dobbins for the goal to extend the Union advantage to 3-0.

Senior keeper Nick Rodriguez kept the Indians off the

board for the entire 80 minutes and the Panthers overcame a lackluster offensive performance to win 3-0.

On Friday, Union County edged Gilmer County 3-2 to improve to 4-6 overall thanks



to goals from Dobbins, Smith, and McCombs.

The assists belonged to Ulises Montelongo, Seiler, and Smith.

Smith was also responsible for Union's only goal in

the 2-1 loss to Fannin County earlier in the week.

The Panthers will return to action on Tuesday when they host former region-rival Rabun County beginning with the girls at 5 p.m.

New Liberty Baptist Church 4th Annual Heavenbound Bass Tournament

Saturday April 8th 2017
7:30 am Til 4:00 pm

Lake Chatuge
Georgia Mountain Fair Ground Boat Ramp

Entry Fee \$50.00 Per Boat
60% Payback

Come Out And Help Support Our Sportsmen's Ministry

For More Information Contact:
Stevie Abercrombie @ 706-781-4914
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Union County Recreation Department's

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Date: April 8th Time: 11am

Location:

In the event of rain, it will be held April 15

Meeks Park, Upper Baseball Fields

Ages: Toddler to 12

4000 eggs

Raffle for each age group.

