

Track: Gregory's season-best 800M time highlights Union's day at Yonah Invitational

By Todd Forrest
Sports Editor
sports@nganews.com

Union County Track and Field took home 16 top-three finishes at White County's Mt. Yonah Invitational on Friday, April 2.

Headlining the Panthers' evening were first-place performances by Hana Gregory in the girls' 800-meter and the boys' 4x800 relay team.

Gregory paced the field in the 800M race with a time of 2 minutes, 36.79 seconds - a season-best finish. The boys' 4x800 relay team clocked in with a time of 9:22.46.

Coming in second for Union County were the girls' 4x400 and 4x800 relay teams. The 4x400 finished in 4:45.22, the 4x800 crossed the line at 11:53.65.

Hunter Hartzog was second in the boys' 800M and 1600M at 2:05.34 and 4:44.19, respectively. Luke Gambrell turned in a season-best 10:27.96 to place second in the 3200M.

The boys' 4x400 relay team just missed another first-place relay performance with a second-place time of 3:37.77.

Lexi Sisum was third in the girls' 100M with a time of



Hana Gregory at White County's Mt. Yonah Invitational. Photo/UCHS

13.73. Gregory was third in the 400M at 1:05.70. Natalie Payne took home the bronze in the 3200M, clocking in at 14:27.78. The girls 4x100 relay team was also third at 53:45.

Riley Allison placed third in the girls' high jump at 4-feet, 8 inches. Elliot Stepps came in third in the boys' 100M dash with a time of 11.75. The boys' 4x100 relay team was also third, crossing the finish

line at 46.01.

Noah Underwood's 115-8 in the discus rounded out Union County's top-three finishes on Friday.

Fourth-place finishers for UCHS were Zander Rotko in the boys' 400M, Hannah Long in the girls' 400M, Underwood in the shot put, Stepps in the 200M, Allison in the triple jump, Payne in the 1600M and Sisum in the 200M.

Baseball... continued from 2B

Towe walked and drove home one; Brown went 1 for 2 with a run and an RBI.

Sweat finished 1 for 2; Anderson and Fleming scored a run.

Panthers 15, Riverside 0 (five innings) - Mullanack threw a one-hit shutout and Swartz ended the contest with a walk-off grand slam in the fifth.

Swartz finished with a career-high 6 RBIs during a 2-for-4 day. Dyer scored a career-best 4 runs, going 2 for 3 with an RBI and a walk. Hughes scored three times while finishing 3 for 4 at the plate.

Hughes sparked a 4-run first that saw the first four hitters reach, and Mullanack, Swartz, Damien Chitwood and Tyler Loyd record RBI singles.

Union added six in the second with Dyer kicking things off with an RBI single. Shields made it 7-0 with a two-run double, then came around to make it 8-0 on an RMA error. Base hits by Chitwood and Towe opened up a 10-0 advantage after two innings.

Dyer singled and scored in the fourth, and Swartz's grand slam in the fifth ended the game at 15-0.

Mullanack walked three times to finish 1 for 1 with a run and a ribby. Shields scored twice and plated another run during a 1-for-2 day. Chitwood went 2 for 3 with 2 RBIs; Christopher Flechter added a pinch-hit single.

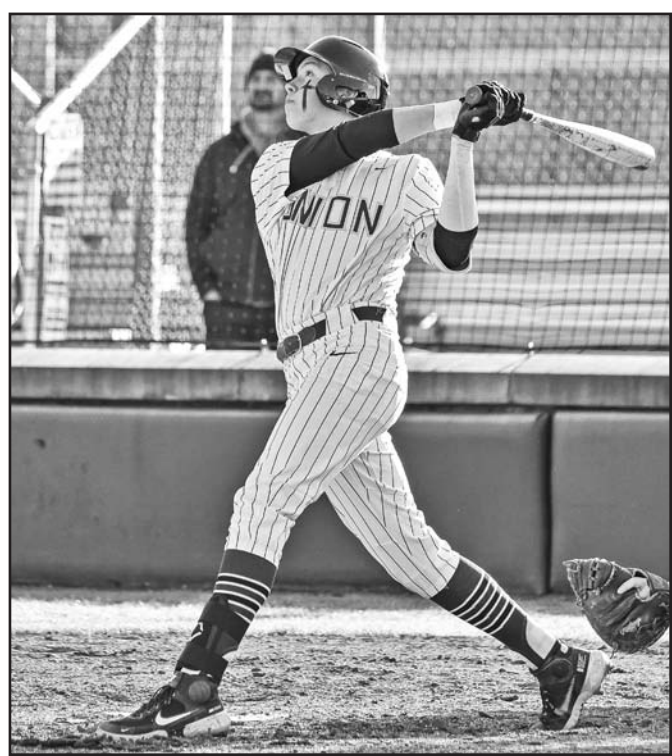
Tyler Loyd and Towe each recorded an RBI single, Anderson walked and scored, and Fleming added two runs. Mullanack struck out four and didn't issue a walk during the shutout. His 4 Ks were the most since Feb. 27 vs. Heard County.

Panthers 5, Towns County 7 - Visiting Union County out-hit Towns County 9-5 but left 11 runners on base in its seventh-straight loss.

Hughes went 2 for 4 and drove in 3 runs but it wasn't enough as the Panthers watched a 4-1 advantage evaporate into a 7-4 deficit.

Trailing 1-0 after an inning, Union put up a 3-spot in the second. Shields singled, Tyler Loyd reached on an error and Brown walked to load the bases with two down. A Hughes double put the Panthers out front and Brown scored on a passed ball for a 3-1 lead.

Union stretched the margin to 4-1 in the third when Mullanack led off with a single and later scored on a base hit from Chitwood. They would go on to load the bases with one out but a force at home and a strikeout retired the side.



While his bat is often overshadowed by his pitching prowess, senior Zeke Swartz is quietly turning in one of the best offensive seasons in recent UCHS history with 27 RBIs and a .433 average. Recently, he is hitting .583 with 16 RBIs over his last six region games. Photo/Todd Forrest

Towns got two back in the bottom of the inning when a single and error cut the lead in half, then a sac fly made it 4-3 after three. Hughes led off the fourth with a single but was stranded at second following a sac bunt.

A dropped third strike, a hit batter and a walk set the stage for a 4-run Towns County fourth. After a single tied the game, another hit batter, this time with the bases loaded, followed by a wild pitch built a 6-4 Indians' lead. An RBI ground-out made it 7-4 before a tapper to first ended the inning.

Four-straight two-out walks in the fifth added a Union run, then the Panthers stranded two in the sixth following a Swartz double and a Sweat walk.

After Dyer pitched around two hit batters in the seventh, Union County went down 1-2-3 against senior reliever Aidan Berrong.

Chitwood finished 2 for 3 with an RBI; Shields was 2 for 3 with a run. Mullanack singled and scored during a 1-for-3 game. Tyler Loyd went 1 for 2 with a run; Brown walked twice and scored; Fleming walked and scored. Swartz finished 1 for 4 with a double.

Tyler Loyd got the start and went 3 innings, allowing 4 hits, 7 runs (four earned) and 3 walks. He also hit two batters.

Dyer worked the final 3 innings, giving up a hit, 3 walks and 3 hit batters.

For Towns County, Crowder fanned 8 Panthers and walked five in 4 2/3 innings. Berrong allowed just one hit and 2 bases on balls while striking out two over the

Soccer photos: Rabun County at Union County

Photos by Todd Forrest



Zach Jackson (8) dishes to Nolan Bachman (22) for a tap-in goal during the first half of Tuesday's 9-1 win over Rabun.



Kaylee Helton



Zuriel Mancillas



Freshman goalkeeper Kyra McKechnie and a young Lady Panthers' squad will receive a taste of postseason action later this month.



Freshman Maggie Delatte advances the ball during the second half.



Freshman Benton Gregory celebrates one of his two goals.



Katie Baumeister



Senior Reid Baumeister (21) scored his first career goal during the win.



Senior shortstop/pitcher Isaaq Mullanack capped off an 8-for-8 series at the plate vs. Riverside Military Academy with a 5-inning, one-hit shutout in game three. Photo/Todd Forrest



In four games last week, junior infielder Conner Shields reached safely in 10 of his 13 plate appearances, finishing the week with a .500 batting average, a 1.205 OPS, 7 runs and 4 RBIs. Photo/Todd Forrest