

Sports

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Baseball: Union 10U wins three at state; falls one game shy of final four

By Todd Forrest
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CANTON - The Union County Recreation Department's 10U Baseball team saw its season come to a close in game five of the Dizzy Dean State Tournament last week.

The Panthers were eliminated 13-7 by Murphey-Candler Gold of Brookhaven on Monday, July 2.

Union would open the tournament with a 6-4 win over Druid Hills on Friday, June 29 before dropping a heartbreaker to Cedartown the following day. The loss sent the Panthers into the loser's bracket where they survived a pair of nail-biters that sent them into Monday's showdown with MC Gold.

MC Gold 13, UC 7 - Union County was unable to overcome early deficits of 5-0 and 9-3 as the eventual tournament runner-up, MC Gold held on for the six-run victory.

Eli Gwynn accounted for two of the Panthers' four hits with a 2-for-2, two-RBI performance that included a double and a run.

Gunnar Akins finished 1-for-3 with a walk and a run; Bo Brown also walked while going 1-for-2 at the plate; Cade Dockrey walked, scored, and drove in a run. A.J. Rice knocked in a run and Maddox Patton walked for Union County.

Others scoring runs for the Panthers were Jaxon Totherow, Trenton Beavers, and Hudson McCarty.

Five different pitchers saw action for Union County with Totherow getting the start and working 2.2 innings. Beavers threw one inning, Gwynn saw two innings of action, and McCarty tossed the final third of an inning.

UC 8, Canton Noles 5 - The Panthers survived and advanced with their second win of the day on Sunday afternoon.

Battling the opposition and the Georgia heat, Union County used a five-run second to grab a 6-0 advantage before



Bo Brown (right) congratulates Maddox Patton following Patton's game-tying, 3-run inside-the-park home run in the bottom of the fifth inning vs Cedartown in round two. Photo/Todd Forrest

Canton stormed back with one in the third and four in the fourth.

Clinging to a 6-5 lead, the Panthers secured the victory with one run in the bottom half of the fourth and another in the fifth.

Caden Gilliam nailed down the save, allowing just one hit over the final 1.1 innings. Brodie Elrod also kept the Noles in check before handing the ball over to Gilliam.

Elrod provided 1.1 hitless innings while striking out a pair to secure Union's one-run advantage.

At the dish, Akins went 2-for-3 with 2 RBIs and a triple. Dockrey also finished 2-for-3 with two runs and an inside-the-park homer.

Rice scored, drove in one, and was hit by a pitch. Patton went 1-for-3 with a run and was hit by a pitch as well. Matt Davis Jr. knocked in a run and reached on a fielder's choice.

McCarty scored once

during a 1-for-2 performance, while Elrod added a run for the Panthers.

On the mound, Akins got the start and went two innings; McCarty worked one inning and Beavers threw a third of an inning.

UC 5, Acworth 4 - Union County outlasted Acworth in a back-and-forth affair on Sunday morning thanks to six hits, four runs, and three RBIs from the top-half of the lineup.

The Panthers' bullpen also silenced the Acworth bats, allowing just one hit while striking out five over the final two innings.

Patton worked the first 3.2 innings for Union County before giving way to Gilliam, who recorded a strikeout in one-third of an inning.

Following Gilliam was Totherow, who fanned three hitters over 1.1 innings. Akins and Beavers finished off Acworth, recording one out apiece.

Totherow knocked in

two and scored twice during a 1-for-4 day at the plate. Akins finished 2-for-3 with an RBI and a stolen base. Patton, Davis, and Rice each singled and scored with Patton and Davis adding a walk.

Beavers knocked in a run and Gwynn was issued a base on balls. Dockrey, Elrod, and Brown would all reach on an error.

Cedartown 17, UC 12 - The Panthers were unable to hold on to a pair of leads before Cedartown blew open a 12-12 tie with five runs in the sixth.

Rice pitched a scoreless first allowing Union to grab an early lead with two runs in the bottom half of the inning.

With the score still 2-0 after two innings, Cedartown posted four runs in the third as the Panthers faced their first deficit of this postseason.

Trailing 4-2, Union got one in the third but Cedartown answered with two runs of its own in the fourth.

Entering the Union half of the fourth, the Panthers found themselves in a 6-3 hole. Refusing to panic, Union responded with six runs to regain control at 9-6 through four innings.

Cedartown wasn't finished, however, answering with six runs to grab a 12-9 lead in the fifth.

Three Panther runs in the bottom of the fifth sent the game into the final inning all even at 12-12.

Cedartown took advantage of two Union errors, sparking a five-run sixth that put them on-top for good.

From the leadoff spot, Patton drove in four and scored three times during a 2-for-4 day, highlighted by a 3-run, inside-the-park homer that tied the game at 12-12 in the fifth.

Totherow also drove in four runs, two coming off a two-out triple in the first inning.

Rice went 2-for-3 with three runs, an RBI, and a stolen base. Akins was 1-for-4 with a

run and a steal; Gwynn walked twice and scored twice; Gilliam and Brown each walked and scored; McCarty reached on an error and scored; Davis drew a walk.

Eight different pitchers saw action for Union County. Rice started and went 1.1 innings - recording all four outs via strikeout.

Patton fanned two in one inning of work; Beavers and Akins each tossed a third of an inning; Totherow struck out two in 1.1 innings; Gilliam pitched two-tenths of an inning and Dockrey went one inning. Davis faced four batters in the fifth.

UC 6, Druid Hills 4 - Union County picked up an opening round victory despite a late Druid Hills rally that all but erased a commanding Panther lead.

One in the first, two in the second, and two more in the fourth had Union County in control at 5-0, just six outs away from victory.

Druid Hills, however, would not go down without a fight.

Trailing 5-0 in the top half of the fifth, Druid Hills used two hits, two walks, a hit-by-pitch and one Union error to pull within a run at 5-4.

In the bottom half of the fifth, Akins led off with a single and eventually scored on a passed ball to tack on an insurance run heading into the sixth.

Leading 6-4 with two down and the tying run on first, Akins caught the final out looking at strike three to end the game.

Akins went 2-for-3 at the dish with a run and an RBI. Rice also finished 2-for-3 with one run and one RBI. Patton turned in another 2-for-3 performance while scoring twice and driving in one on an inside-the-park home run.

Davis, Totherow, and Dockrey each finished 1-for-3 as Davis drove in one and Dockrey swiped a bag and scored.

McCarty singled and scored while Gwynn knocked in a run.



Lefty Gunnar Akins nails down the save in Union's victory over Druid Hills. Photo/Todd Forrest



Coach Justin Gwynn gives the defense a pep talk during a pitching change. Photo/Todd Forrest

Tri-County Racing report

By Blake Lynch
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North Georgia News

BRASSTOWN, NC - Tri-County Race Track hosted its Independence Day event on Monday July 2 followed by fireworks. There was plenty of explosive action on the track also; here are the top five results from each class.

Street Stock - Coming in first place was No. 43 Michael Harper. Finishing second was No. 14 Charles Devine Jr. Finishing in third place was No. 67 Sam Jones. Coming in fourth was No. 9 Jim Twiggs. Finishing fifth was No. J69 Jim Weller.

Modified Street - Coming in first place was No. 45 Brandon Elliott. Finishing second was No. 74 Joey McCoy. Coming in third place was No. 88 Ricky Smith. The fourth place car was No. 88 John Howard. Finishing in fifth was No. 34 Greg Sudderth.

Pony - Finishing in first place was No. 47 JJ Garrett. Coming in second was No. H3 Harley Holden. Finishing third was No. 32 Franklin Burk. Coming in fourth place was No. 15 Ryan Crawford.

Finishing fifth was No. 43 Tain Ross.

Limited - Coming in first place was No. D5 Drew Collins. Coming in second place was No. 16 Wesley English. Coming in third was #12 Daniel Wilson. Finishing fourth was No. 55 Kip Cochran. Coming in fifth place was No. 102 Clayton Turner.

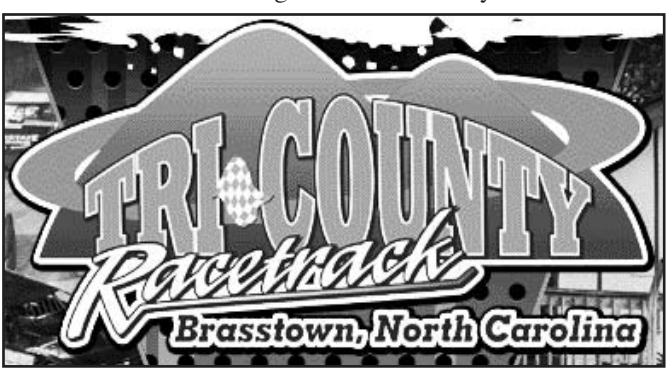
Crate - Coming in first was No. 24 Seth Wimpey. Coming in second place was No. 29 Jason Welshan. Finishing in third was No. 200 Jacob Anderson. Coming in fourth place was No. 27 Brian Kinnersley. Coming in fifth was No. 17 Brett Shook.

FWD - Coming in first was No. 05 Hunter Hughes. Coming in second was No. 32 Jim Exum. Finishing in

third was No. 141 Ryan Crowder. Fourth was #104 James Queen. Coming in fifth was No. 30 Maddox Hughes.

Super Late Models - Coming in first place was No. 38 Jamey Oliver. Coming in second was No. 1c Kenny Collins. Finishing in third place was No. 8 David Payne. Coming in fourth was No. 4H Levi Hicks. Coming in fifth place was No. 12 Galen Robinson.

Beginner 602 - Coming in first place was No. 56J Jason Berrong. Coming in second was No. 99 Reese Stillwell. Coming in third place was No. 41 Jeff Holloway. Finishing fourth was No. 56C Colton Berrong. Finishing fifth was No. 25 Jacob Hamby.



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