# **Cross Country: Union County** gets back on track at Murphy, NC

**By Todd Forrest** North Georgia News sports@nganews.com

Murphy, NC - Junior Lance Underwood returned to his winning ways at Murphy, NC last week with a first place finish. The boys as a team came in second.

Meanwhile freshman Zoe Sanchez led the girls to a first place team finish by coming in second individually.

Emmi Schakat, Lexie Ochoa, Sadie Underwood, and Kaitlyn Gallagher rounded out the girls' top five.

Tim Murphy, Adam Bachman, Colby Ives, and Will



Lance Underwood and Coach Paige Dyer. Photo/Jenni Dixon

Harkins round out the guys' top Up next for Union is five - who finished two points a race at Gilmer County on back of first place Murphy. Tuesday.

#### West Hall Invitational results

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BOYS INDIVIDUAL			GIRLS INDIVIDUAL		
1. Jacob Poston	Dawson Co.	15:59	1. Frankie Muldoon	Dawson Co.	20:04
2. Tommy Johnston	North Hall	16:04	2. Jaelen Alexander	White Co.	20:12
<ol><li>Jack Douglass</li></ol>	Pace Academy	16:19	3. Maggie Dyer	Jefferson	20:20
4. Devan Crow	North Hall	16:22	4. Payton Payne	Pace Academy	20:31
5. Ivan Martin	Chestatee	16:26	5. Marley Hamby	Dawson Co.	20:01
6. Issac Hernandez	Johnson	16:42	6. Julia Ross		21:02
7. Max Higgins	Jefferson	17:02		Pace Academy	
8. Christopher Shelp	Dawson Co.	17:08	7. Zoe Sanchez	Union Co.	21:21
9. Tristin Bertie	White Co.	17:09	8. Jayla Brown	Pace Academy	21:30
10. Addison Cochran	Jefferson	17:20	9. Veronica Sandoval	Pace Academy	21:34
15. Lance Underwood 65. Adam Bachman	Union Co.	17:30 19:03	<ol><li>Ellie Gearing</li></ol>	White Co.	21:35
65. Adam Bachman 66. Timothy Murphy		19:03	18. Emmi Schakat	Union Co.	22:44
93. Colby Ives	Union Co.	19:57	36. Lexie Ochoa	Union Co.	23:57
95. Cole Pavne	Union Co.	19:59	63. Sadie Underwood	Union Co.	25:38
97. Will Harkins	Union Co.	20:10	72. Kaitlyn Gallagher		26:19
98. Gehrig Patterson		20:11	73. Allison Vincent	Union Co.	26:19
	emon eou	20011	75. Jessie Holbrook	Union Co.	26:19
BOYS TEAM			/o. Jessie Holdrook	Union Co.	20:28
1. North Hall	78				
2. Jefferson	78		GIRLS TEAM:		
3. Chestatee	100		1. Pace Academy	39	
4. Dawson Co.	102		2. North Hall	101	
5. Pace Academy	129		3. White Co.	104	
6. Banks County	192		4. Chestatee	110	
7. Gainesville	211		5. Dawson Co.	122	
8. Buford	228		6. Jefferson	183	
9. North Forsyth	237		7. Union Co.	196	
10. Johnson	253		8. Johnson		
11. White Co.	282 296			198	
12. West Hall 13. Lakeview	324		9. Banks Co.	224	
<b>14. Union Co.</b>	324 334		10. Buford	248	
			<ol> <li>North Forsyth</li> </ol>	257	
15 Fact Hall	157				
15. East Hall 16 St. Francis	457 460		12. Lumpkin Co.	283	
16. St. Francis	460		12. Lumpkin Co. 13. Gainesville	283 310	
16. St. Francis 17. Lumpkin Co.	460 485				
16. St. Francis	460		13. Gainesville	310	

# Local senior softball league still accepting players

If you turn 58 before the end of the year and are looking to enjoy some fresh air, fellowship, while making new friends, and participating in a competitive softball league with games against other local seniors, then this could be right up your alley.

Games are held on Wednesdays and are usually doubleheaders, with practices on Friday mornings.

For more info you may call 828-837-4416 or 423-322-2870. If interested you may also show up to practice on Friday at 10 a.m.

Games run from April through October with players from Blairsville, Hiawassee, Blue Ridge, Murphy, NC and Hayesville, NC, making up the local team, called the "Tri State Pickups."



**Running Wild...** continued from 2B back Kyler McMichael (141 top 10. yards-per-game in 2016), and senior linebacker Devin Thomas

(21 tackles in four games). The Spartans only loss came on ESPNU on Sept. 9 when they lost 21-17 at Valor Christian (Colorado). They own wins over

Lovett (31-6) and the 2015 Class AAA State Champion, Westminister (19-16 OT). When asked if Union has

faced anyone that matches up well with GAC physically or athletically, Coach Allison compared them to Rabun County last season (beat Union 49-3), and the 2013 Lovett squad that went on to win State after defeating the Panthers 56-21 in the opening round.

The last meeting between the Union and GAC came in 2005 when No. 8 GAC defeated the Panthers 38-0.

Game notes: (Note - all rankings are based on the Atlanta Journal-Constitution weekly polls) Union and GAC have met eight times with the Spartans winning all eight. GAC was ranked in five of the meetings with their highest ranking coming in 2001 when they were No. 3 and knocked off an undefeated Panthers squad 56-35. The following year, the Spartans were ranked No. 6 and were victorious 49-21.

The closest game of the series came in 1999 when Union lost 24-10.

Historically, Union has not fared well against teams ranked in the top five. The Panthers lone win over a top five team came in 1976 when they stunned No. 4 Buford 8-6. In 1975, Union finished in a scoreless tie with No. 8 Buford dropping the Wolves out of the

Union's has faced the No. 1 team in the state on three occasions - most recently in 2004 when they lost 49-0 to Buford.

The other meetings came in 2003 vs Buford (L 49-10) and 1999 vs Commerce (L 48-14). In 2013 the Panthers fell at No. 2 Lovett, 56-21 in the state playoffs. They also lost to second ranked Buford in 2005 and 2002. In 1985, the Panthers fell at No. 2 Commerce after Union climbed as

high as No. 5 in the rankings. Union first tangled with a top two team in 1966 when they were routed 54-14 by Washington Wilkes. Finally, Union's highest AJC ranking came on Sept. 24, 1974 when they checked in at No. 3 in the polls.

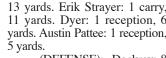
**Injury report:** According to Coach Allison, Banton suffered a neck injury at Banks County and is questionable for Friday. Meanwhile, senior linebacker Chris Thompson is questionable this week after missing the first four weeks of the season with an ankle injury.

Team stats: Union County: 486 yards of total offense. RUSH-ING: 50 carries for 427 yards. PASSING: 6-of-11 for 59 yards. Banks County: 394 yards

of total offense. RUSHING: 36 carries for 204 yards. PASSING: 10-of-36 for 190 yards.

Individual stats: (OF-FENSE)Wright: 6-for-11, 59 vards. 18 carries, 220 yards, 3 TD. Lynch: 27 carries, 189 yards, 2 TD. 1 reception, 2 yards. Dockrey: 2 carries, 6 yards. Rodriguez: 2 carries, 1 yard, 1 TD.

Thompson: 2 receptions, 33 yards. Dobbins: 1 reception,



(DEFENSE): Dockrey: 8 tackles. Stone: 7 tackles. Gilliam: 7 tackles, 1 sack. Micah Gilbert: 6 tackles. Luke Winkler: 6 tackles.

Banton: 5 tackles, 1 TFL, 1 INT. Chandler Day: 5 tackles, 1 TFL. English: 5 tackles. Tyler McConnell: 5 tackles. Ulises Montelongo: 3 tackles. Matthew Beise: 2 tackles, 1 TFL, 1 sack. Rodriguez: 2 tackles. Hemphill: 1 tackle, 1 INT.

Wright, Kyle Williams, William Lueckert, and Dawson Groves: 1 tackle each. (KICKING): Smith: 5-for-

5 PAT, 4 touchbacks.

Scoring summary: **1ST QUARTER:** 

BC - 16 plays, 80 yards in

5-yard TD pass.

UC - 10 plays, 64 yards in 4:55. Lynch 2-yard TD run. 2ND QUARTER:

UC - 3 plays, 21 yards in 1:04. Wright 8-yard TD run.

BC - 6 plays, 80 yards in 2:07. 11-yard TD run.

UČ – 13 plays, 80 yards in

3:34. Rodriguez 1-yard TD run. BC - 14 plays, 83 yards in

4:36. 18-yard TD run. 3RD QUARTER:

UC-11 plays, 75 yards in 4:01. Wright 11-yard TD run. 4TH QUÁRTER:

BC – 12 plays, 77 yards in 3:39. 1-yard TD run.

ÚC - 5 plays, 80 yards in 1:51. Lynch 28-yard TD run.

ÚC – 3 plays, 41 yards in

1:00. Wright 26-yard TD run.



The Union County defensive front limited Banks to just one second half touchdown, allowing the offense to pull away for the 14-point victory. Photo/Todd Forrest

# OASIS Pickleball graduates prepare for tournament



Disabilities are not an issue as players of all skill levels are needed. Some players are only used as runners, The Tri State Pickups swept a doubleheader from Lumpkin County last week at Meeks Park. Photo/Todd Forrest

some just hit, and other stick champion. to playing the field.

League standings are are currently in second place kept and a tournament is as of this writing. held in October to crown a

#### Upward Basketball and Cheerleading **Bowling scores**



On-line registration for Upward Basketball and Cheerleading will be open through October 22nd for boys and girls in grades Kindergarten through 8th Grade at www.hopb.org. Registration price to participate in basketball or cheerleading is \$60. If needed, payment plans are available. Practices will take place once a week and they begin the week of October 10th, while games will be held on consecutive Saturdays between October 29th and December 3rd (with the exception of the week of Thanksgiving).

Everyone is encouraged

be held on September 22nd on a drop-in basis, anytime between 5 and 7 PM at the House of Prayer Family Life Center.

Form and registration fees may also be dropped off, Monday through Friday, at the House of Prayer offices in the Family Life Center between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. For more information, contact the church office at HOP (706) 745-5925.

Upward Sports, the world's largest Christian sports program for children, was created with a vision to introduce kids and families to Jesus Christ and to provide a great sports experience for every child while ensuring equal playing time for all. Each year some 1 million people around the world play, coach, referee, or volunteer in Upward Sports leagues and camps hosted by more than 2,600 churches. All are welcome!

to attend the evaluation. It will

### Blairsville Kiwanis Club's 26th Annual Golf Tournament

Blairsville Kiwanis Club's 26th Annual Golf Tournament presented by Union General Hospital has been rescheduled for Friday, September 30th at the Old Union Golf Course, located off Hwy. 129 North in the Owen Glen Golf Community.

The Blairsville Kiwanis Club still has opening for anyone interested in playing. Please

contact Jimmy Nichols at 706-745-2151 or Mary Colwell at 706-745-4502 if you would like to play and did not register at the original date of the tournament.

This is the Kiwanis Club's major fund raiser of the year to support the many projects we fund for the youth of Union County. So please come join us for a fun day of golf and support these great kids!

## McCay Lodge Bass Tournament

The McCay Lodge Bass Tournament will be held on Saturday, September 24th at Lake Chatuge, Ledford Chapel Ramp, beginning at 7 a.m. until 4 p.m. 100% guaranteed based on 40 boat field. Entry fee is \$80 per boat.

First Place - \$1,000; Second Place - \$700; Third Place - \$500; Fourth Place - \$300; and

Fifth Place - \$100. Big Fish \$200 donated by Blue Ridge Insurance and Smallest Fish - Victory Custom Road donated by Interstate Battery. This is a fund raising project for two Masonic lodges, Young Cane and McCay. With the proceeds from this tournament, we help support the children's home and other projects.

Monday Night Ladies: Monita Rodgers 218, Rainy Hughes 178, 180, Nell Rice 176.

The Tri State Pick Ups

Monday Night Men's: Jim Kidder 213, Mel White 208, Bart Rodgers 222, Walter Carpenter 211, Derrick Rice 207, 246, Stanley Tyler 205, 217, 209, Ken Clark 209, Jay Burrell 200, Phil Rataj 210, Justin Miller 226, Ryan West 213, Jeb Plott 246, 238, 259, Series 743, Taz Matetzschk 223, 245.

Blairsville Youth Bowlers: Ben Love 93, Eric Fox 212, Allen Cooper 84, Nick Love 157, Rhianna Deaton 70, Lily Love 70, Ivy Robbins 154, Christian Theriot 160, Woo Wooten 80, Michaela 97, Jared Edwards 178, Joshua Collins 110, Michael Lierd 114, Kiley Hartness 98, Jaeden Love 144, Michael Fox 192, Noah Freven 41, Cooper Boyle 181, Sabrina Willis 147.

Young @ Heart Seniors: Pam Bierce 202, Bob Bischoff 201, 209, Bill Cox 227, Paul Napolitano 192, Ken Thigpen 191, 191, Stanley Tyler 247, 231, Claudia Harrison 196, 192, Bob Landis 255, 258, Series 712, Jim Kidder 213, Dewey Allen 201, Gene Clopton 221, 225, Gene Langford 191, 191, Mel White 202, Ron Wingate 213, Ernest Rice 229, Monita Rodgers 221.

Thursday Night Fun Mixed: Stanley Tyler 212, 246, 200, Tony Lynch 224, Dewey Allen 236, 223, Ray Everett 233, 248, Charles Reynor 201, 213, Shay Roberts 268, 249, Series 686, Doug Roberts 209, Brett Hogsed 230, 203, Branden Hartness 215, 216, Tee Turner 275, Bonnell Thomas 226, Justin Miller 204, Greg Whittenberg 214, 238, 202, Series 664, Tim McVay 201.

Front (L-R): Barbara Delli-Veneri, Nancy Gillis, Lavonia Blackford, Blairsville, GA; Lenda Mangham, Hiawassee; Vivienne Rimoldi, Lynn Laurenti, Blairsville; middle: Jim Shinholser, Blairsville; Marty Evans, Dave Evans, Morganton; Vic Henderson, Mike Mekas, Terry Korpinen, Sheila Garrison, Blairsville; back Charles McCorkle, Blairsville; Francis Mangham, Hiawassee; Jerry Hall, Bill Kolb, Blairsville

Tournament will be held Tuesday, September 27th, in the Methodist Activity Center (MAC) gym of the First United Methodist Church of Union County located on Hwy. 515.

Sixteen players will enjoy a "Round Robin" style of play, beginning at 1 PM. Funds raised by the entrance fees will be donated to the Methodist Church. Visitors are encouraged to attend the matches with no admission

A "Novice" Pickleball charge. Any donations will be Thursday mornings. gratefully accepted.

> learned to play the sport last winter and spring in the continuing education program (OASIS) of the church. During the summer, the MAC gym was open for practice on Tuesday afternoons. Many players joined the Blairsville Pickleball Club and had access to the old Middle School gym this summer, as well as Meeks Park on Tuesday and

The two current OASIS Most of the contestants classes are full, with a waiting list of 23 people. Pickleball is a fast growing sport, especially among older citizens, as it provides exercise with lessened risk of injury, and great fellowship.

The public is invited to come to Meeks Park on Tuesday and Thursday mornings to learn about the game, meet the BPC members, and play!

### National Hunting and Fishing Day

Each year, the fourth Sunday of September brings National Hunting and Fishing Day. On this day, celebrated Sept. 24 this year, everyone can enjoy any of 10 free scheduled celebratory events, according to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Division.

What is National Hunting and Fishing Day? The U.S. Congress and President Richard Nixon established this day in 1973 to recognize generations of hunters and anglers for the time and money they donate to wildlife conservation programs.

Events offered in Georgia include kids' fishing events and Outdoor Adventure Days. Activities will differ at each event - but some highlights include archery and air rifle shooting, trout fishing, snake shows, wildlife programs, exhibits and more. These events are spread out across the whole state - meaning that one is probably near you!

In addition to these events, a free fishing day is offered to all Georgia residents on Saturday, Sept. 24, 2016. On this day,

residents do not need a fishing license or a trout license to fish on any public waters in the state including lakes, streams, ponds and public fishing areas (PFA). In addition, residents do not need to obtain a wildlife management area (WMA) license to fish on a PFA, WMA or on Waters Creek on this day.

For more information on NHF Day in Georgia, including a complete listing of all events in the state, visit www.georgiawildlife.com/get-involved/nhfday.

\* \*\*\*\*\*\* **Run for Recovery! October 1, 2016** Benefit Run Meeks Park in Blairsville, GA Walk Registration @ 8:00 am & Race @ 9:00 am Online Registration through 9/24/16 at: \$25 www.ACTIVE.com Late Registration @ Meeks Park: 8:00 am \$35 For Information: 706-487-8100