

Sanchez and Underwood lead Union Cross Country into State Meet

By Todd Forrest
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Robertstown - Union County Cross Country may have joined one of the most difficult regions in the state but history still repeated itself as both squads are returning to Carrollton for the State Meet on Saturday morning.

In a region that has seen four different teams (including Union) in both the boys and girls Class AAA top-10 during the course of the year, the Region 7-AAA Championships, held at Unicoi State Park, were dominated by those four schools.

Dawson County, North Hall, Union County, and Greater Atlanta Christian took home all four trophies and 13-of-14 individual medals.

The 7-AAA girls race was held first and freshman Zoe Sanchez immediately found herself in the top-10, less than a half-mile into the race.

As she neared the one-mile mark, Sanchez moved into sixth place and that's where she stayed for the remainder of the race.

"It was a bit scary at first but once I got into my steady I was pretty good," Sanchez said. "I knew I could have done better once I started into my steady but I didn't get enough momentum to go faster."

She would cross the finish line sixth with a time of 20:43, nearly 40 seconds better than seventh place, and four seconds back of fifth place.

Despite losing its No. 2 runner to injury in September, Union still managed to place four girls in the top 25 and come in third place overall - punching their ticket to State.

When asked what goals she has in mind for her very first State Meet in Carrollton, Sanchez answered with one simple goal.

"Not die," she said with a laugh.

On the boys side, Union County was led by a runner with tons of Region and State experience, junior Lance Underwood.

And despite battling a hamstring injury earlier in the week, he still managed to pull off a top-five finish and lead his team to fourth overall.

"(The hamstring) is doing



Left: The top-seven girls in Region 7-AAA, Sanchez is second from the right. Right: The top-seven boys in Region 7-AAA, Underwood is third from the right. Photos/Todd Forrest



Freshman Zoe Sanchez 1/2 mile into the race. Photo/Todd Forrest



Junior Lance Underwood enters the final mile. Photo/Todd Forrest



The boys cross country team and the girls cross country team at the starting line of the Region 7-AAA Championships. Photos/Todd Forrest

good," Underwood said after the race. "Alan Lee at Benchmark (Physical Therapy) did a good job and I felt real good."

Unlike Sanchez, Underwood had company on the course for most of the race. However, he was unable to overtake the fourth place runner and finished fifth in 16:57 - three seconds behind fourth place Christopher Shelp

of Dawson County. "My goal was to come in fourth or fifth and I ran with (Shelp), who I've been running with all season," Underwood said.

Dawson County's boys edged North Hall to sweep the Region 7-AAA Championships, while Union finished fourth after GAC held off the Panthers by

five points. Dawson's Jacob Poston came in first with a new course record of 15:32.

Union freshman Will Harkins placed 18th with a time of 18:21. Senior Adam Bachman was 22nd with a time of 18:31.

Juniors Timothy Murphy and Gehrig Patterson came in 25th and 26th with times of 18:43

and 18:45, respectively. Sophomore Milo Bauman placed 29th - clocking in at 19:19 and Cole Payne rounded out Union's top-seven with a 35th place finish in 20:04.

The team standings went Dawson with 36, North Hall 37, GAC 89, and Union County 94.

East Hall (140), Lumpkin County (153), and Fannin County

(180) rounded out the remainder of the squads that saw their seasons come to an end.

For the girls, Dawson placed first with 37, North Hall had 40, Union tallied 92, and GAC had 96.

Lumpkin came in fifth at 125 and Fannin was sixth at 133. East Hall didn't have enough runners to qualify for the team championship.

Individually, Union County freshman Lexie Ochoa took home 17th with a time of 23:07.

Freshman Sadie Underwood was 19th at 23:58, and another 9th grader, Allison Vincent was 24th and crossed the finish line in 24:44.

Sophomore Destiny Orelana came in 26th with a time of 24:51, senior Kaitlyn Gallagher placed 27th at 24:59, and freshman Jessie Holbrook was 34th with a time of 26:22.

Union County Head Cross Country Coach Paige Dyer now becomes the first coach not named Jackie Hughes to take UCHS Cross Country to State.

As for the State Meet, it will be held on Saturday at Carrollton High School. Unfortunately, Class AAA will get underway bright and early on Saturday morning with the girls race beginning at 8 a.m.

The boys race will follow at 8:45 a.m. Should any Union County teams or individuals place, the awards ceremony will be held across the street from the course at the Carrollton High School baseball field.

"This year my goals for the State Meet are probably going to be a little bit different since we jumped to (Class AAA), but I still hope to finish in the top 15," Underwood said.

One more win... continued from page 2B

(56-17) FC - 4 plays, 52 yards in 1:47. Earls 47-yard TD pass from Davis. (56-23)

4TH QUARTER (Running clock) FC - 13 plays, 43 yards. Davis 1-yard TD run. (56-31)

UC - 3 plays, 69 yards. Wright 63-yard TD run. (63-31)

FC - 6 plays, 60 yards. Earls 54-yard TD pass from Davis. (63-39)

*Game notes: With 171 yards at Fannin, Lynch now has 743 on the year, making him the first Union running back since Matthew West (2000-03) to run for 500-plus yards in three straight seasons and 700-plus yards in consecutive seasons. He also went over the 2,000 yard mark for his career - joining West and Gabe

Montovani (1997-00) as the last two running backs to accomplish that feat.

Lynch is also four yards away from setting a new career high in rushing yards - surpassing his total of 746 last season.

The Panthers will be looking to become the first Union football team to win 12-straight regular season home games after winning a program-best 11-straight earlier this season vs North Hall.

The seniors can also become the first class to average 8 wins per season by picking up their 32nd victory on Friday. They would also become the first class to reach State in all four years.

The win over Fannin County was the third straight win over the Rebels - something Union has never accomplished. Their second

straight victory in Blue Ridge is something the Panthers haven't done since East and West Fannin were consolidated into one school during the mid 1970's.

The 49 points in a half sets a new scoring record for points in a half. The old mark was believed to have been set back in 2001 when Union led Towns County 48-0 at halftime.



Mountain High Hikers schedule two hikes every Tuesday, one long and one shorter, as well as occasional specialty hikes. Weekly trail maintenance trips are scheduled every Thursday.

Come enjoy the beautiful mountains and waterfalls we have here. Check the website www.mountainhighhikers.org for schedule and contact numbers.

Bowling scores

Monday Night Ladies - Monita Rodgers 220, Joyce Trenton 202.

Monday Night Men - Randy Jones 204, Joe Teague 204, 217, Derrick Rice 202, 237, Mel White 255, Richard Tanner 204, 221, Bart Rodgers 223, 205, 278, Series 706, Doug Tanner 202, 202, 233, John Delphino 213, Branden Hartness 221, Stanley Tyler 227, Jay Burrell 237, BJ Gilbert 237, Dewey Allen 212, Bonnell Thomas 208, Tim McVey 208, Taz Matetzschk 212, 247, 202, Series 661, Jeremiah Plott 246, 214, 212, Series 672, Justin Miller 205, Ron Wingate 232, 204, Greg Wittenberg 208.

Young at Heart Seniors - Stanley Tyler 211, Claudia Harrison 212, Series 590, Bob Landis 258, 204, 202, Series 664, Bart Rodgers 224, Gordon Stanton 207, Sarah Chumbley 194, Bob Bischoff 218, Mel White 213, 201, John Delphino 223, Series 604, Del Neiffer 201, Ron Wepplemer 205, Ron Wingate 207, Bruce Burnett 206.

Thursday Night Mixed - Justin Miller 204, Curtis Corn 220, 224, Bonnell Thomas 223, Doug Roberts 213, Brett Hogstedt 224, 201, 222, Shay Roberts 236, 256, Ray Everett 203, 243, 245, Series 691, Branden Hartness 226, 212, Tony Lynch 223, 226, Stanley Tyler 243.

Thursday Night Fun - Shay Roberts - Series 684.

Ford Model T Huckster up for grabs in raffle

The Union County chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes is selling tickets for a chance to win a restored 1927 Ford Model T Huckster truck. The proceeds collected from the raffle will be used to cover the cost of a mission trip to Japan next summer.

FCA Area Director Matt Queen said the vintage vehicle was donated by a local family to help send 12 to 17 coaches and athletes on the mission trip.

He said 500 tickets will be sold at \$100 each with the drawing scheduled December 17, during a special FCA all-star football game involving seniors from Fannin, Gilmer, Pickens, Towns and Union



Ken Stuart prepares to drive this 1927 Ford Model T Huckster truck

counties. The game will be played in Blairsville. Queen said the old truck runs well and had been in a downtown Blue Ridge location for a number of years before being restored.

Tickets are available from Noelle Kiernan at 706-781-9885 and Casey Jones at 706-897-4600. NOV2Z15CA

Blairsville Kiwanis 26th Annual Golf Tournament presented by Union General Hospital a big success

The Blairsville Kiwanis Club held its annual golf tournament on September 30 at Old Union Golf Course. It was a beautiful day with good food, serious golf, and great fellowship.

Cash prizes were awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place teams in two flights and to six contest hole winners. 1st Flight, 1st place: Buddy Linderman, Derek Rogers, Stephen Nazarine and Brandon Bradburn. 2nd place: Trint Rich, Beck Burnette, Derrick Stephens and Levi Kendrick. 3rd place: Jackie Sexton, JoAnn Setliffe, Karen Ballew and Jinna Wheeler. 2nd Flight, 1st place: Randy Vaughn, Matt Cable, Rick Curtis and Rob Rollins. 2nd place: Mark Beckham, John Cone, Jim Brown and Michael Stewart. 3rd place: Ricky Tanner, Greg Blocker, Matt Liss and Shannon Rankin.

The Kiwanis Club greatly appreciates all the support received from the community. We are so thankful we were able to join forces with Union General Hospital to raise money for the youth in Union County. There are so many needy children in our area and the Kiwanis Club appreciates the leaders in our county supporting the various civic organizations, assuring that all children in our community have a chance for a better life. Thanks to all the players, sponsors, and also those who provided door prizes. The tournament was a great success because of all these supporters and every cent raised will be used to support our many projects for the youth in Union County. Below is a list of all sponsors.

Presenting Sponsor: Union General Hospital

Platinum Sponsors: United Community Bank, Blue Ridge Mountain EMC, Young Harris College, Rick's Rental, Cone & Associates, CPAs, LLC

Gold Sponsors: Jerry Henderson, State Farm Insurance;

Southern Bank & Trust, Cary Cox, Union County Magistrate Judge Silver Sponsors: Colditz Trucking & Paving, Inc., Robbie E. Colwell, PC, King Ford, Lence Law Firm, Jack Lance, Head-Westgate Corporation, Colwell Construction Company, Dr. and Mrs. Jay Benton

Hole Sponsors: Advanced Digital Cable, AFLAC Insurance, Mark Cargill, Agent; Akins & Davenport, Attorneys at Law; Allstate Insurance, Tommy Drake, Agent; Alexander's Store, Asia-no's Restaurant, Bellview Home Furnishings, Blairsville Animal Hospital, Blairsville Realty, Blue Ridge Mountain Surveying, Amy Rollins, 2nd place: Mark Beckham, John Cone, Jim Brown and Michael Stewart. 3rd place: Ricky Tanner, Greg Blocker, Matt Liss and Shannon Rankin.

Turnpike Mill, Louise McTaggart & Associates, Lovely Nails of Blairsville, Lucretia Collins, Re/Max Town & Country; McClure Trucking, Mike's Seafood Restaurant, Mountain Periodontics, Gregg Codelli, DDS; Mountain View Funeral Home, Natural Treatment for Brain & Body, Nelson Tractor Company, North GA Plastics, Edwin C Pound, III, MD; Odom Springs Vineyards, O'Reilly Auto Parts, Park Sterling Bank, Proflame Gas, Ricky Rich Backhoe & Grading, Scott Carter Insurance & Investments, Seasons Inn, Shook's Automotive/Darrell Shook, Owner; Southeast Geothermal, Inc., Southeast Spray Foam, Steve Foster Properties, Inc., Stewart Heating & Air, Subway Restaurants of Blairsville, Take-A-Break Portables, Technical Ink, LLC, John Ripma; Chad Lariscy, The Mountain Life Team with Keller Williams, The Sawmill Place Restaurant, Tevald-Hill Winery, Total Recover Paint & Body Shop, Tractor Supply Company, Union Realty Company, Paul Thompson, Broker; Ware Chevrolet, Barbara Williams in Memory of Doug Williams.

Donations and gifts: We are unable to list all the door prizes for failure of missing someone, but please know the players who received your gift knew where it came from and the Kiwanis Club greatly appreciates your donation. We do however want to thank Brasstown Valley Resort & Spa, Buttumut Creek Golf Course, Old Union Golf Course and Unicoi State Park for their donations, their gifts were deserving of a hole sponsor or more credit, but was not given a tee sign.

We also want to give a huge thanks to *North Georgia News* for always giving us great coverage of our events!

Please accept our apology if we accidentally left someone out

Jacksons win First Place at Calhoun



Bob and Billie Jackson and their dog "Puppy" of Blairsville, GA are shown accepting the award for First Place at Paradise Dragway in Calhoun, GA on October 16, 2016. Their '91 Mustang has been a winner over the last five years in the "Footbrake" class. NOV2Z16Jgg

#239 TURKEY TROT

5K & PRAYER WALK
Saturday, November 19, 2016 - Meeks Park

Time: 8:00 a.m. Registration Opens - Pre-Register at Active.com
9:00 a.m. Run & Prayer Walk begins

Place: 490 Meeks Park Road, Blairsville, GA 30512

Cost: \$25 pre-registration (Active.com) - T-shirt included
\$30 Race Day - T-shirt available while supplies last

Awards: Top overall male & female runners. Top three runners in each age group: 10-under, 11-14, 15-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-over

All Proceeds to benefit Deputy Mitchell Henderson