

# Softball: Union County Head Coach Jessica Stewart resigns after 12 seasons

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Union County Head Softball Coach Jessica Stewart announced her resignation last week following 12 seasons at the helm.

The decision comes after the Lady Panthers failed to reach the postseason for just the second time during her tenure and first time since 2008.

"I appreciate all the support in the community that I have had over these past 12 seasons," Stewart said in a statement to the *North Georgia News*. "I've made many friendships and memories coaching and I feel very blessed for that. Softball is something I'm passionate about and I've been doing it since I was 9 years old.

"I will still be involved with softball in some form I'm sure. I'm most thankful for the relationships and program I have built for these girls at Union County and future Lady Panther Softball players. I'll definitely be in the bleachers cheering the girls on in the fall."

During her time at Union County, Stewart compiled a win-loss record of 268-145-2. She had 19 players sign college scholarships and reached the State Elite 8 on four separate occasions - most recently in 2015.

In 2010 and 2011, Stewart led Union County to back-to-back Region 8-AA titles while finishing second to Buford in 2010.



Jessica Stewart

During the 2009 season, Union County placed fourth in Class AA after being eliminated by Buford - who won every State Championship between 2007-2016.

Had Union not shared a classification with Buford, (who's now in AAAAA) it's safe to say Stewart would have at least one, maybe two state titles on her resume.

In her first season at UCHS, Stewart led the Lady Panthers to the 2006 Class AA Elite 8.

They returned to state in 2007 but failed to qualify in 2008. The following year, Union County overcame a slow start to come within a run of knocking off Buford during the 2009 final four.

In 2010 they dominated Region 8-AA en route to another clash with Buford, this time in the finals.

Coming off a runner-up finish, they won their second straight region title in 2011 before getting upset in the first

round of state.

Union placed second in Region 8-AA in 2012 and third in 2013. In 2014, they placed second in region, then came within a game of returning to the Elite 8 but fell short at Wesleyan in the Sweet 16.

The following year, they returned to Columbus but an injury to pitcher Laken Chambers in the first inning of game one quickly derailed their chances of advancing.

Last season Union made the jump to AAA and reached the Sweet 16 where they lost two extra inning games at SE Bulloch in Statesboro.

The 2017 season was a struggle from the start with season-ending injuries to two different starters. When it was all said and done, the Lady Panthers finished with a losing record for the first time under Stewart.

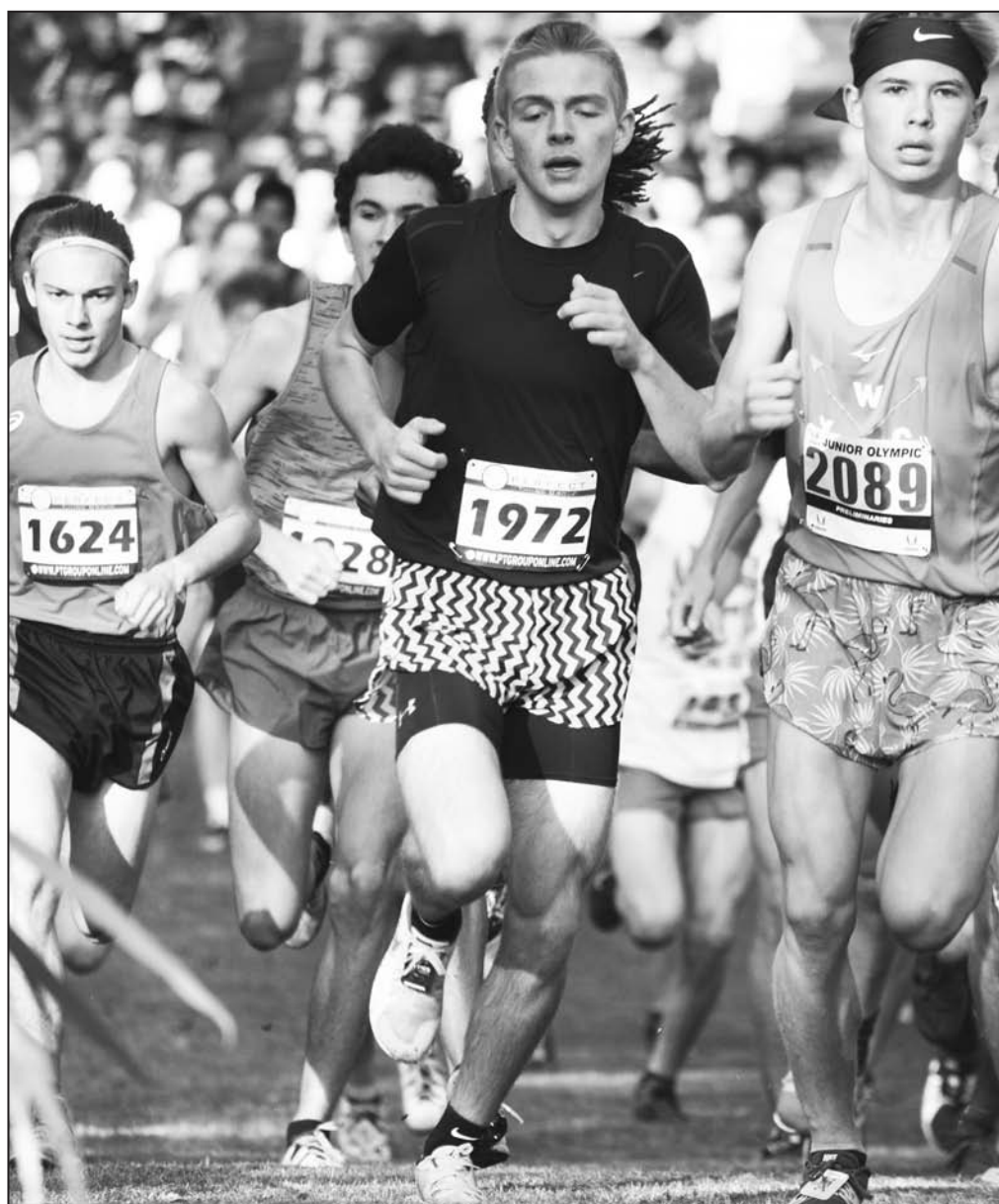
Stewart is a graduate of NW Whitefield High School in Dalton and the University of West Georgia.

Be sure to check out the *North Georgia News* each week for more details whenever they are available.

## Benton MacKaye Trail group hike

Benton MacKaye Trail group hike, Saturday, December 2nd. Raven Cliff Falls - the falls shoot through a cliff and the water falls 170 feet. Moderate hike, 6 miles, in and out. Register with Hike Leader Larry Dumas: ledumas@hotmail.com; www.bmta.org.

# XC: Underwood goes out in style



Union County senior Lance Underwood wrapped up a successful high school cross country career this past weekend at the Nike Cross National Southeast Regional in Cary, NC. With a time of 15:58, he became the only UCHS runner to ever complete a cross country 5K in under 16 minutes. His accomplishments this season include a second place finish in Region 7-AAA, fifth place finish in State Class AAA, an invitation to compete in the Georgia Meet of Champions, and recently being named the Blitz Runner of the Year for Northeast Georgia.

# Union County Middle/High Swim Team results

**Nov. 15 at Riverside Military Academy** - Hunter White set a new Middle School record in the 50 Yard Breaststroke.

200 Yard Medley Relay - fourth place HS: Brian Williams, Luke Gambrell, Alden Wilkes, Aidan Francis.

Sixth Place HS: Kindle Kolb, Leilani Schroeder, Kaiya Wilkes, and Grace Weldon.

Third Place MS: Liam Smith, Hunter White, Preston Perren, and Michael Leird.

200 Yard Individual Medley - seventh place HS: Grace Weldon.

100 Yard Individual Medley - 1st Place MS: Hunter White. Third Place MS: Michael Leird. Fourth Place MS: Liam Smith. Second Place MS: Courtney Foster.

50 Yard Freestyle - fifth Place HS: Aidan Francis. Seventh Place HS: Brian Williams. Ninth Place MS: Liam Smith.

First Place HS: Kaiya Wilkes. Sixth Place HS: Grace Weldon. 10th Place MS: Ryan Barnett.

100 Yard Butterfly - Fifth Place HS: Aidan Wilkes.

100 Yard Freestyle - Fifth Place MS: Preston Perren. Fifth Place MS: Ryan Barnett.

200 Yard Freestyle Relay - Second Place HS: Grayson Blocker, Steven Williams, Brian Williams, Aidan Francis. Seventh Place HS: Alden Wilkes, Tyler Harkins, Luke Gambrell, Ean Harkins. Second Place MS: Michael Leird, Liam Smith, Preston Perren, and Hunter White. Fifth Place HS: Leilani Schroeder, Kindle Kolb, Grace Weldon, and Kaiya Wilkes.

100 Yard Backstroke - Fourth Place HS: Brian Williams. Fifth Place HS: Steven Williams. Sixth Place HS: Luke Gambrell. Ninth Place HS: Kindle Kolb.

50 Yard Backstroke - Fifth Place MS: Preston Perren. Sixth Place MS: Graden Cobb. Sixth Place MS: Jewell Massey. Seventh Place MS: Scarlett Murphy. Eighth Place MS: Dakota Stanger.

100 Yard Breaststroke - Ninth Place HS: Luke Gambrell.

50 Yard Breaststroke - First Place MS: Hunter White (MS Record). Third Place MS: Michael Leird. Second Place MS: Courtney Foster.

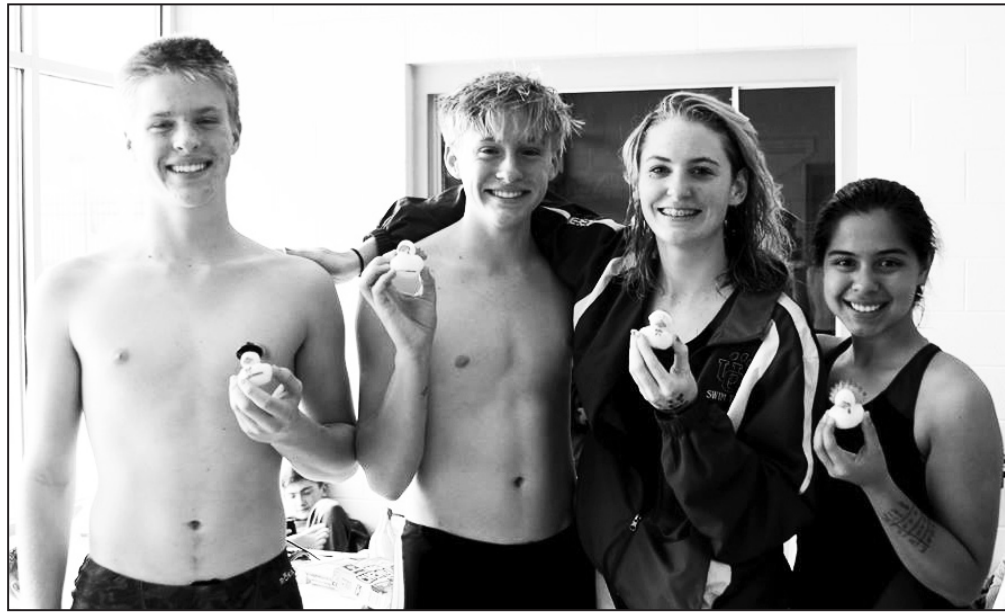
**Nov. 18 at Frances Meadows Aquatic Center in Gainesville** - Boys 4th overall; girls 8th overall.

200 Yard Medley Relay - Fourth Place HS: Brian Williams, Luke Gambrell, Alden Wilkes, and Aidan Francis (1:56.14). Eighth Place HS: Kindle Kolb, Leilani Schroeder, Kaiya Wilkes, and Grace Weldon (2:19.77).

50 Yard Freestyle - Fifth Place HS: Aidan Francis (24.11). Seventh Place HS: Brian Williams (25.19).

10th Place HS: Steven Williams (26.02). Fourth Place HS: Kaiya Wilkes (26.99).

100 Yard Freestyle - Eighth Place HS: Ean Harkins (1:02.00).



lay - Fourth Place HS: Luke Gambrell, Steven Williams, Brian Williams, and Aidan Francis (1:42.95). Seventh Place HS: Alden Wilkes, Tyler Harkins, Grayson Blocker, and Ean Harkins (1:49.24). Fourth Place

HS: Leilani Schroeder, Kindle Kolb, Grace Weldon, and Kaiya Wilkes (1:59.38).

100 Yard Backstroke - Fourth Place HS: Grace Weldon (1:10.97). Eighth Place HS: Kaiya Wilkes (1:15.26). Sixth

Place HS: Steven Williams (1:08.34).

100 Yard Breaststroke - Fourth Place HS: Brian Williams (1:13.19). Eighth Place HS: Luke Gambrell (1:18.23).

## UCHS Wrestling schedule 2017-18

11/11 Saturday: Jackson County Scramble  
11/14 Tuesday: @ Habersham High School  
11/18 Saturday: UNION SCRAMBLE  
11/21 Tuesday: Franklin County Duals  
11/22 Wednesday: Monroe Area Duals  
11/28 Tuesday: @ Fannin County

12/1 Friday: King of the Mountain (KOM) Towns County  
12/2 Saturday: KOM  
12/5 Tuesday: @ East Hall w/ Stephens County  
12/8 FRIDAY NIGHT FIGHTS Union County  
12/12 Tuesday: @ Andrews  
12/15 Friday: @GAC  
12/16 Saturday: UNION INVITATIONAL  
12/19 Tuesday: East Hall Invitational  
12/22- 23 Friday-Saturday: Swain County NC Duals  
12/29 Friday: Amicalola Classic @ Dawson County  
12/30 Saturday: Amicalola Classic @ Dawson County

1/5 Friday: Area Duals @ Jackson Co.  
1/6 Saturday: Area Duals  
1/9 Tuesday: @ Murphy High NC  
1/12 Friday: @ Towns with Hayesville  
1/13 Saturday: @ GAC for GAC Scramble  
1/16 Tuesday: @ Rabun County  
1/19 Friday: @ Stephens Duals  
1/20 Saturday: @ Rabun Gap Tournament  
1/22 MONDAY: LAST WRESTLE OFF OF THE SEASON  
1/23 Tuesday: SENIOR NIGHT w/ Fannin, Hart, Rabun Gap  
1/26 Friday: Traditional Area @ Morgan Co.  
1/27 Saturday: Traditional Area  
2/2 Friday: Sectionals @ GAC  
2/3 Saturday: Sectionals  
2/8-2/11 STATE

## 2017-2018 Basketball Schedule

Day	Date	Opponent	Location	Varsity	JV
Friday	Nov. 17	Gilmer	Home	7:00/8:30	
Tuesday	Nov. 21	Towns	Away	7:00/8:30	4:00/5:30
Tuesday	Nov. 28	Rabun	Away	6:00/7:30	4:15 Boys
Saturday	Dec. 2	Towns	Home	6:00/7:30	3:00/4:30
Tuesday	Dec. 5	Fannin	Away	6:00/7:30	4:15 Girls
Friday	Dec. 8	Rabun	Home	7:00/8:30	4:00/5:30
Friday	Dec. 15	N Hall	Away	7:00/8:30	4:00/5:30
Monday	Dec. 18	Andrews	Home	6:00/7:30	4:15 Boys
Tuesday	Dec. 19	Gilmer	Away	6:00/7:30	4:15 Boys
Thursday	Dec. 21	Pickens	Home	7:00/8:30	4:00/5:30
Wednesday	Dec. 27	TBD	Towns	TBD	
Thursday	Dec. 28	TBD	Towns	TBD	
Friday	Dec. 29	TBD	Towns	TBD	
Tuesday	Jan. 2	E Hall	Home	6:00/7:30	4:15 Girls
Friday	Jan. 5	Lumpkin	Home	7:00/8:30	4:00/5:30
Saturday	Jan. 6	Andrews	Away	2:00/3:30	12:00 Boys
Tuesday	Jan. 9	Dawson	Away	6:00/7:30	4:15 Boys
Friday	Jan. 12	Fannin	Home	7:00/8:30	4:00/5:30
Saturday	Jan. 13	GAC	Home	6:00/7:30	3:00/4:30
Tuesday	Jan. 16	Pickens	Away	6:00/7:30	4:30 Girls
Thursday	Jan. 18	White	Home	6:00 JV Boys	
Friday	Jan. 19	GAC	Away	7:00/8:30	4:00/5:30
Tuesday	Jan. 23	N Hall	Home	6:00/7:30	4:15 Boys
Friday	Jan. 26	E Hall	Away	7:00/8:30	4:00/5:30
Tuesday	Jan. 30	Lumpkin	Away	6:00/7:30	4:15 Girls
Friday	Feb. 2	Dawson	Home	7:00/8:30	4:00/5:30