

# Union County Wrestling recognizes alumni on Senior Night

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Union County Wrestling hosted eight teams for last week's Friday Night Fights at the Union County Elementary School gym, aka "The Pit."

The Panthers also hosted Senior Night festivities as four wrestlers and a manager were recognized.

Manager Emma Stevens, along with wrestlers Alex Barrett, Chad Buzzard, Isaac Tritt and Logan Tritt were all acknowledged for their hard work and dedication over the last four years.

Alumni from the previous seven seasons of UCHS wrestling were also honored alongside the current seniors.

"I felt that our first ever 'Alumni Night' was a great success," Union County coach Justin Byers said. "It was great to honor coaches and wrestlers that started this program."

On the mat, Union County placed fourth in the pool play format after narrowly dropping its opening round matchup to Area foe Banks County.

"We had victories over Hart and Chattooga and came up short at the end (vs Banks) but this gives us a good indicator as we head into the Team Area (championships) after Christmas," Byers said.

The Panthers bounced back with victories over Hart County and Chattooga County while also scoring a forfeit win over Fannin County, who was unable to compete in the final round of the evening.



The Union County Wrestling team's seniors and coaches are joined by UCHS wrestling alumni and family at last Friday's Senior/Alumni Night presentation. Photo/Todd Forrest

Picking up individual victories for Union County was Alex Barrett, Isaac Tritt, Logan Tritt, Cristian Martinez, Brady Guild, Austin Sterna, Sean Phillips, Chad Buzzard, JJ Littles and Eli Smith-Foot.

"This team is definitely anchored by Issac and Logan Tritt, Barrett, and Martinez," Byers said. "We will be busy for the rest of the month -- traveling several times in North Carolina. This is all in preparation for the Team Area meet."

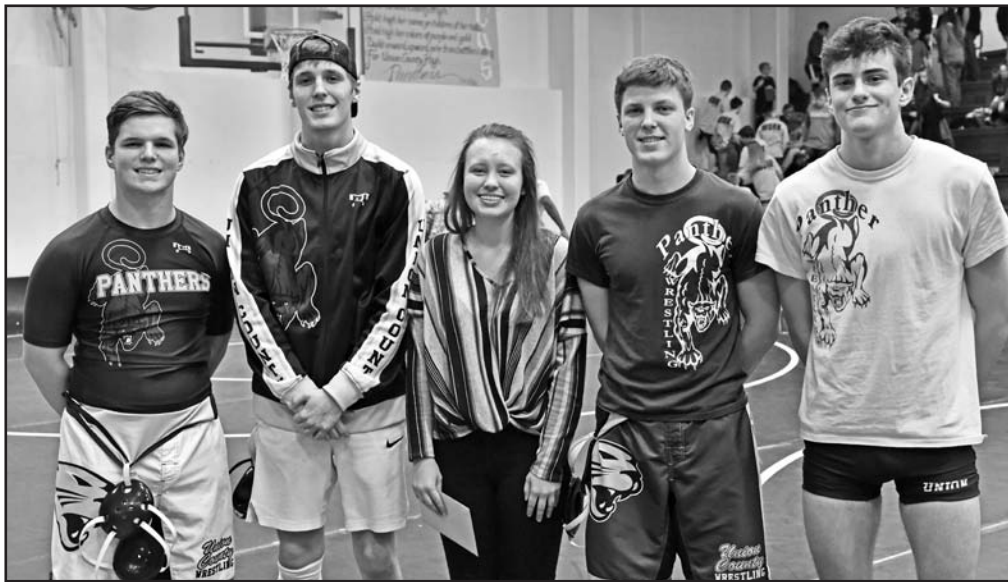
Joining Union County last Friday night at The Pit were Swain County, NC, Banks County, Dawson County, Fan-

nin County, Hart County, Chattooga County, Andrews, NC and Murphy, NC.

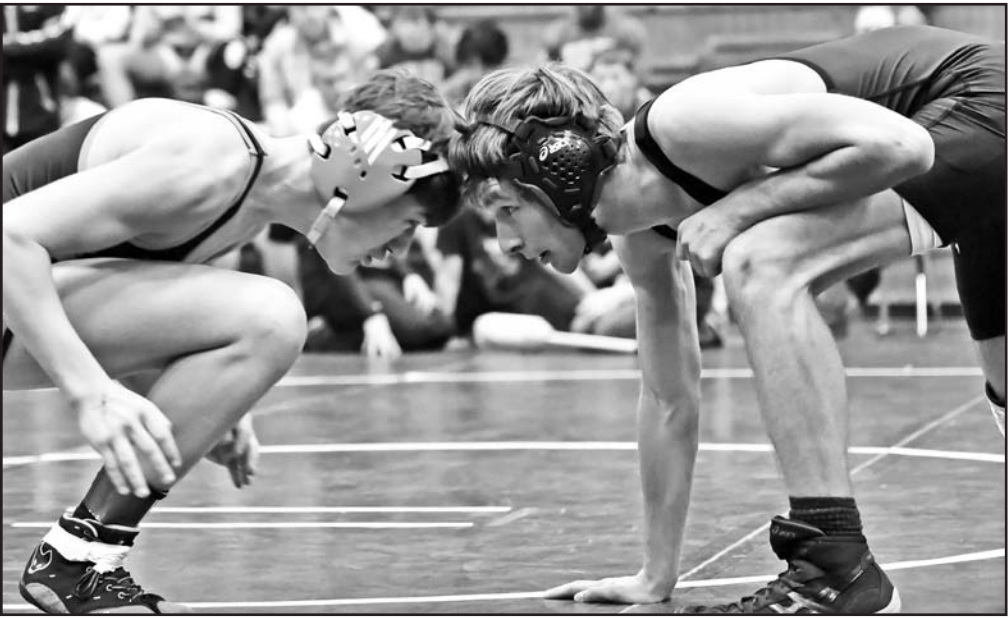
On Dec. 15, the Panthers will visit Robbinsville, NC before traveling to Banks County on Dec. 18 and East Hall on Dec. 20.

Union County returns to the Tarheel State for the Swain County Duals on Dec. 22 before wrapping up the month at Gilmer on Dec. 29.

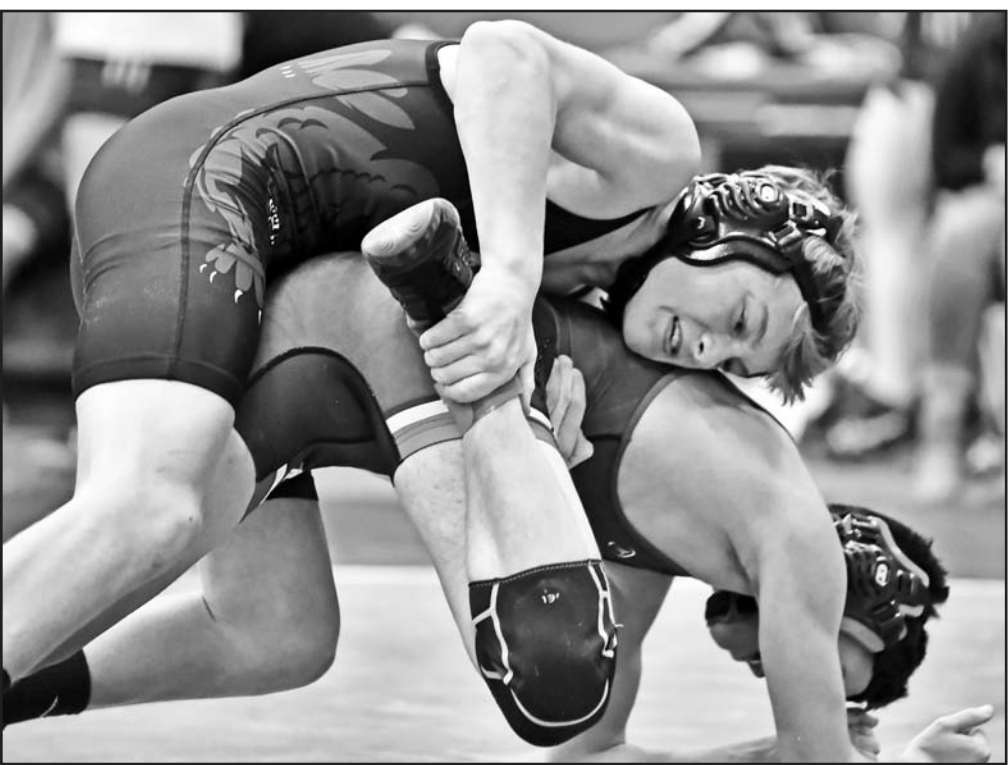
As mentioned earlier, Area Duals will take place on Jan. 11 and 12 at Monticello. Traditional Area will be Feb. 1-2 at Elbert County



Union County senior wrestlers and manager. Photo/Todd Forrest



Union Wrestling in action at home on Dec. 7 vs Banks, Hart, and Chattooga Counties. Photos by Todd Forrest



## Reeves selected for All-State Jazz Ensemble

Union County High School's Eli Reeves is accomplishing amazing things.

Reeves recently made the Georgia Music Educator's All-State Jazz Ensemble. He is fourth chair in the state of Georgia in Jazz Trumpet.

He is truly one of the most elite trumpet players in the state. This accomplishment adds to his already strong list of accomplishments as a musician.

He also has made one of the top chairs in Georgia Music Educator's Association's All-State Concert Band for the past three years.

In addition, he made Governor's Honors Program for Music in 2017.



Eli Reeves

## USA Olympic Swim Coach David Marsh and family train locally over Thanksgiving holidays

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Current University of California-San Diego and former US Olympic Swim Coach David Marsh and daughter Alyssa visited the Union General Wellness Center last month to train during the holidays.

Alyssa Marsh, a junior swimmer at Duke University needed a place to workout while on break for Thanksgiving. That led them to the Wellness Center pool.

"(Alyssa) needed to train and since there is no indoor pool in Blue Ridge, this is the closest place," David Marsh said. "We actually did a pretty extensive search and it was Cherokee County (Ga) or here. This is a great facility and it's really nice to have access to a place like this."

At the time, David and Alyssa Marsh were in Fannin County visiting family, and it only took a brief chat to realize how dear the North Georgia Mountains are to the nationally renowned coach.

"We've been coming here since we were children to a little area called 'Dew' which is off Aska Rd.," he said. "I don't have a memory of not coming to the North Georgia mountains since I was born."



L-R: David Marsh with his mother Susan and daughter Alyssa at the Union General Wellness Center last month. Photo/Todd Forrest

"My dad is a firefighter and his father bought a place up here in the 1950s and it been my family's beloved place ever since. But it almost seems like home now. All of my family is up here. My father, Bill, is the captain of Fire Station 13 and heads up the Children's Theater in town. My mom is very active in the North Georgia mountains and is involved in Al-Anon."

"My sister just bought a place up here and her husband is an ER doctor, so as the family continues to move up here, I'm sure we'll be spending more-and-more time here. My wife and I have thought about moving up here, but of course, I would have to have a pool."

Upon returning to Duke after visiting North Georgia, Alyssa Marsh's first swim meet was a successful one. She was victorious in the 100-yard backstroke at the Tennessee Invitational in Knoxville with a time of 52.27. She also set a personal record with a 22.12 in the 50-yard freestyle.

Born in Miami, FL, David Marsh was previously the swim coach at Auburn where he won 12 national championships. His youngest daughter, Maddie, currently swims at Auburn. His son Aaron is at Queens University in Charlotte, NC as track and field distance runner.

## Union County Swimming results: Dec. 1st

**CLARKSVILLE** - On Saturday, Dec. 1, the Union County High and Middle School swimming teams participated in a meet at the Ruby Fulbright Aquatic Center in Habersham County.

Here are Union County's top 10 finishers in each event.

**200 Yard Medley Relay**  
5th Place HS: Riley Howse, Hunter White, Alden Wilkes, Luke Gambrell  
4th Place MS: Grayden Cobb, Eli Gwynn, Nicholas Nushtayev, Liam Smith  
4th Place MS: Grace Cook, Lily Helton, Courtney Foster, Anniston Howse

**100 Yard Individual Medley**  
5th Place MS Eli Gwynn

**50 Yard Freestyle**  
6th Place HS Luke Gambrell  
8th Place HS Alden Wilkes  
10th Place HS Hunter White  
2nd Place HS Kaiya Wilkes  
2nd Place HS Grace Weldon  
4th Place MS Nicholas Nushtayev  
9th Place MS Grace Cook

**100 Yard Butterfly**  
4th Place HS Alden Wilkes

**50 Yard Butterfly**  
4th Place MS Lily Helton

**100 Yard Freestyle**  
7th Place HS Hunter White  
3rd Place MS Liam Smith  
5th Place MS Grayden Cobb  
6th Place MS Daniel Herrera

4th Place MS Lily Helton  
5th Place MS Courtney Foster  
6th Place MS Anniston Howse

**500 Yard Freestyle**  
5th Place HS Tyler Harkins

**200 Yard Freestyle Relay**  
4th Place HS: Luke Gambrell., Hunter White, Riley Howse, Alden Wilkes  
4th Place HS: Hannah Sheffield, Rachel Reid, Olivia Blocker, Grace Weldon  
4th Place MS: Grayden Cobb, Daniel Herrera, Nicholas Nushtayev, Liam Smith  
2nd Place MS: Lily Helton, Olivia Loyd, Grace Cook, Courtney Foster  
7th Place MS: Lilly Collins, Olivia Loyd, Ari Protsman, Cheyenne Doche

**100 Yard Backstroke**  
2nd Place HS Grace Weldon  
6th Place HS Olivia Blocker  
8th Place HS Hannah Sheffield

**50 Yard Backstroke**  
6th Place MS Grayden Cobb  
1st Place MS Courtney Foster  
5th Place MS Anniston Howse  
7th Place MS Grace Cook

**100 Yard Breaststroke**  
2nd Place HS Hunter White  
10th Place HS Rachel Reid

**50 Yard Breaststroke**  
4th Place MS Liam Smith  
5th Place MS Nicholas Nushtayev  
9th Place MS Eli Gwynn