

# Sports

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## Dawson County sweeps Union on Tuesday; weekend games postponed

By Todd Forrest  
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Last weekend's Region 8-AA contests with Greene County and Oglethorpe County were canceled due to winter weather and will be made up next month.

The Panthers did see action on Tuesday but dropped all three games in Dawsonville with the boys varsity being the only team to come within single digits of the Class AAA Tigers, by a score of 45-38.

The Lady Panthers (11-7, 4-1) and the Lady Panthers JV squad were both soundly defeated by Dawson County.

The varsity fell 64-37 and the JV lost 58-28.

This week the guys will host Riverside on Tuesday, looking to avenge a 41-30 loss to the Eagles in Gainesville, where Union was held to its lowest scoring output of the season in the first game following the Christmas break.

Riverside sits in a tie for third place in 8-AA with Oglethorpe County. Both currently own three losses. Tip-off is scheduled for 6 p.m.

On Friday, both Union teams will visit Rabun County, where a pair of first place teams reside.

The Lady Cats are unbeaten in Region 8-AA while Union has one loss. The girls squad that finishes first will award their school with the right to host the Region Tournament.

In the last meeting, Rabun pulled away in the second half



Junior Logan Colwell hit a pair of treys at Dawson. Photo/Todd Forrest

when foul trouble began to mount for Union and the Lady Cats' depth took over.

The Rabun boys and Union boys (9-10, 4-2) are currently even atop the standings with two losses each.

The Panthers won a barnburner when the two teams met in Blairsville. Junior Lawson Baenninger connected on a 16-footer to give Union the win. The tip-offs at Rabun are scheduled for 7 and 8:30 p.m.

Washington Wilkes pays Union County a visit on Saturday with the Lady Panthers tipping at 2 p.m.

The Tigers are 2-4 in Re-

gion play while the Lady Tigers sit at 1-4.

The Lady Panthers defeated Wilkes 41-26 and the Panthers won 64-51 in Washington.

The guys could put the Region in a stranglehold with a perfect week. Meanwhile, the ladies would be tied first with Rabun and hosting the Region Tournament would become a very real possibility.

**Panthers 38  
Dawson County 45**

**Dawsonville** - Baenninger was the only Panther to score in



Senior guard Matthew Rich launches a 3-pointer. Photo/Todd Forrest

double-digits (13) as Dawson's matchup-zone limited Union to 12 combined points in the first and fourth quarters.

Baenninger and sophomores Candler and Crawford Colwell got on the board in the first frame but the Tigers led 8-5 following a low-scoring quarter.

In the second, Baenninger and senior Chase Shook combined for nine of the team's 12 points and Dawson maintained a slim four-point advantage, 21-17 at the break.

The third saw Union's highest point total of the game with 14 as senior Matthew Rich

and Baenninger knocked down treys. Senior Andrew Brown, Shook, and Candler Colwell also recorded buckets in the quarter.

Trailing 37-31 with eight minutes to play, the Panthers were held to 7 points. Candler Colwell hit from downtown, Baenninger scored a deuce, and Shook went 2-of-2 at the line.

Free throws were a factor once again as Union finished 5-of-10 overall and Dawson made 8-of-10 in the fourth quarter alone.

Baenninger scored 13, Shook had 7 points, Matthew Rich and Candler Colwell finished with 6 points each. Brown,

Patrick Baggett, and Crawford Colwell each chipped in 2 points.

**Lady Panthers 37  
Dawson County 64**

**Dawsonville** - After opening the season 17-0, Dawson entered last Tuesday's game with Union at 17-2, and they proved early on that they wouldn't be losing three-in-a-row.

The Lady Tigers surged to a 23-10 start and extended their advantage to 39-16 at the half.

Sophomore Bailey Daniel hit a pair of treys in the first quarter but in the second frame, two 3's was all the offense Union could muster. Juniors Logan Colwell and Ashley Fair each connected from long distance in the quarter.

A basket from senior Kim Coyne was the Lady Panthers' only field goal of the third. She also hit a free throw and Daniel hit a pair at the line.

Daniel hit two treys in the fourth with Logan Colwell and senior Layne Colwell adding one trey each. Coyne and sophomore Jillian Lawn also scored in the final frame.

Daniel was the game's high scorer with 15. Coyne and Logan Colwell added 6 points each, Fair scored 5 points, Layne Colwell had 3 points, and Lawn had 2 points.

In the JV game, Brianna Hemphill hit three treys in the fourth as she scored 11 of her team-high 13 points in the quarter. Maddie Sutton and Logan Colwell both scored 5 points, Brittany Thornton had 3 points, and Adeline Dockrey had two.

## UCHS basketball players giving back to their peers and community

By Todd Forrest  
North Georgia News  
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When most teenagers would still be in bed at 9 a.m. on a Saturday morning, members of the Union County High School basketball teams were spending their morning with the Shooting Stars program.

The Shooting Stars consist of 16 special-needs students within the Union County School System. They meet on Saturday mornings to play and practice basketball.

Union County High School Assistant Athletic Director Michael Ross and Union County Schools Social Worker Amy Rogers came up with the idea of getting the basketball players involved with the Shooting Stars.

"We want to see our students become more active in the community," Ross said. "When we became aware of the Shooting Stars organization we thought it would be the perfect opportunity for our basketball players to give back, not only their peers, but the community as a whole."

On Saturday, Jan. 16th, several UCHS basketball players from both teams, met at the high school gym to have a great time with the Shooting Stars.

The group split up into teams to play various shooting games, along with other team, and individual activities.

Whenever it was time for one of the teams to sit out, they would take to the bleachers and provide each team its own cheering section, or "Pit Crew."

"It was great to see both groups having fun and interacting with one another," Ross said. "Players not in the current games and drills would fill the stands and get their chance to be a part of the "Pit Crew," cheering on the contestants. We are proud of our student athletes and want to promote their good character on and off the court, along with the great young men and women who are in the Shooting Stars organization."

"We were impressed with



their shooting and thankful to spend a fun morning with them doing something we all enjoy," Ross added. "We would like to thank Amy Rogers and Becky Tracy for allowing us to take part in all of their fun. We also want to thank Shooting Stars' coaches Sondra George and Mandi Taylor."

### Bowling scores

Monday Night Ladies:  
Monita Rodgers 212.

Monday Night Men:  
Michael Whitehead 212, Taz Matetzschk 200, 204, Chris Ellinwood 215, Bill Smith 206, Bonnell Thomas 200, Ranny Jones 225, Ken Clark 209, Jay Burrell 225, 275, Steve Whittenburg 210, Greg Whittenburg 206, 236, 236, Mike Newsome 225, Mickey Whatley 211, Del Neiffer 222, Derrick Rice 219.

Young @ Heart: Ken Thigpen 200, Martha Sissum 213, Barry Rice 204, Paul Napolitano 202, 216, Dewey Allen 216, Monita Rodgers 202, Bart Rodgers 213, Del Neiffer 213, 202, Sarah Chumbley 206.

Thursday Night Fun Mixed: Stanley Tyler 232, Tony Lynch 245, 206, 223, Bonnell Thomas 242, 202, Roy Johnson 212, Joe Chubberly 208, Tom Coy 233, Chuck Reeves 265, 200, Bob Bischoff 208, Mike Arnold 206. NJan27,22,CA



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](http://www.mountainhighhikers.org) for schedule and contact numbers.

2016 Baseball & Softball Registration  
Will Be Open at the  
Union County Recreation Office  
January 11<sup>th</sup>-February 12<sup>th</sup>!



DON'T BE LEFT OUT!  
Register in the

Recreation Office (310 Wellborn St.)

OR

Online at [meekspark.com](http://meekspark.com) before February 12<sup>th</sup>

Age Groups:

- |                         |                       |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 3-4 CoEd- Smart Start   | 11-12 Boys- Baseball  |
| 5-6 CoEd- TBALL         | 11-12 Girls- Softball |
| 7-8 Boys- Machine Pitch | 13-14 Boys- Baseball  |
| 7-8 Girls-Machine Pitch | 13-14 Girls- Softball |
| 9-10 Boy's-Baseball     |                       |
| 9-10 Girls- Softball    |                       |



SPRING SOCCER REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!!

Age Groups U6-U16

Register online at [www.mountainsoccer.org](http://www.mountainsoccer.org)

Registration forms are also available to print from the website. Forms can be mailed to P.O. Box 1862, Blairsville, GA 30514.

Deadline to register is January 31, 2016.

For additional information please check out our website at [www.mountainsoccer.org](http://www.mountainsoccer.org) or email us at [musa.soccer@gmail.com](mailto:musa.soccer@gmail.com).

Union County Recreation Department Presents  
*The Annual  
Daddy/Daughter Dance*  
**Saturday,  
February 6, 2016  
6 - 9 PM**  
**North Georgia  
Technical College  
\$50 Per Couple\***  
Includes dinner  
and Limo ride.

*A semi-formal evening full of music,  
dancing, photos, dinner, and a limo ride!*

Purchase your tickets now in the  
Recreation Office (310 Wellborn Street)  
before they are gone!

\*After the first child an additional \$20  
will be charged for each additional child.

TICKETS ARE ONLY AVAILABLE  
TO THE FIRST 50 COUPLES