

Sports

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Panther bats silenced by N. Murray at home; win 2-of-2 on the road

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Union County suffered its first loss of 2014 on Tuesday when North Murray put up six runs in the first inning, en route to a 9-2 win over the Panthers.

Union County (3-1) recovered by week's end and handed Gilmer County and Fannin County a loss in Ellijay on Saturday.

Senior hurler Lane Everett picked up his second win of the season, going the distance, also for the second time. Everett gave up 5 hits in 7 innings of work in a 7-1 Panther victory.

Sophomore Joseph Mancuso doubled in the first inning and led off the third with a solo homerun. Juniors Robert Prunier and Tyler Odom added an RBI double each.

Earlier in the day, Union County pounded Gilmer County with 15 runs on 15 hits.

Odom picked up the win from the mound, working three innings, allowing four walks and three hits. He surrendered three runs with one being earned, while fanning five.

Mancuso entered in the fourth and went three innings, with two earned runs, five walks, and five strikeouts. Sophomore Josh Daniel entered in the seventh and struck out the side.

Junior Jake Sisum drove in three runs on two hits, and Everett finished 3-for-4 with three RBIs.

Panthers 2 North Murray 9

Senior Garrett Nix was unable to get comfortable on the hill, allowing five straight walks after an infield single to start the game.

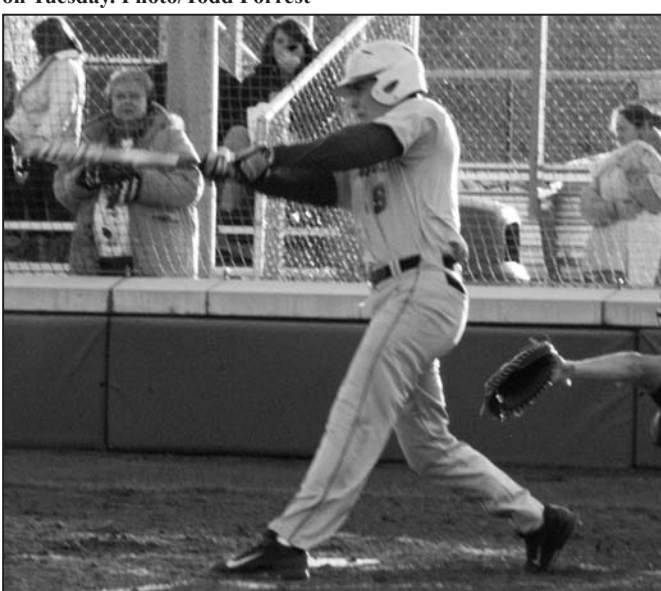
Mancuso entered with the bases loaded but gave up two more walks and a base hit. The Panthers finally got out of the inning after North Murray sent 12 hitters to the plate and held a 6-0 lead.

In the bottom half, junior Hunter Hughes reached on an error and Mancuso brought him in with an opposite field double.

Mancuso got out of trouble in the third and the Panthers



Flags were flying at half staff on the campus of Union County High School in honor of the late Ed Rorhbaugh. A moment of silence was observed in honor of Rorhbaugh before Union hosted North Murray on Tuesday. Photo/Todd Forrest



Sophomore Joseph Mancuso drives in a run with a double on Tuesday. He threw five innings in the contest and three more innings on Saturday and smacked a homer at the plate. Photo/Todd Forrest

tacked on another run thanks to a double from sophomore Jackson Burks and a sacrifice fly by junior Chase Barnett.

The Mountaineers added another run in the fourth and two in the fifth. Everett en-

tered in the sixth and shut down the visitors with no hits, three strikeouts, and a pair of walks.

Sisum, Hughes, and Barnett each recorded a base hit for the Panthers who were limited



Lane Everett checks his swing vs North Murray. He went on to toss two innings of no hit ball in Union's loss. He fired a complete game, five hitter in Saturday's win at Gilmer County. Photo/Todd Forrest



Junior Jackson Burks laces a double in the second inning of Tuesday's contest. He would later score in the inning on a Chase Barnett sacrifice fly. Photo/Todd Forrest

to just five hits on the night.

Panthers 15 Gilmer County 5

Ellijay - Hughes and Mancuso opened the top half of

the first with a pair of one-out singles to set the table for Everett, who brought both of them in on a single to left.

The Bobcats got one back in their half of the inning but Union opened the flood gates

in the third.

Daniel walked to lead off the inning, Hughes was hit by a pitch and Everett brought them in on an opposite field single. Sisum singled to center to bring in Everett and the Panthers led 5-1.

Gilmer got two more runs in the bottom of the third but Union put up four in the fourth.

Sophomore Sam Gilbert got things started with a one-out double to left. Mancuso brought him in on a grounder to short, Everett was intentionally walked, and Prunier followed with an infield single, bringing in another run. Sisum singled again to plate two more and the Panthers were in control at 9-3.

Daniel made it a 10-3 game with an RBI double in the fifth before Gilmer cut the lead in half at 10-5 after five.

Sophomore Andrew Brown stole home and Gilbert brought in Burks to make it a 12-5 contest. In the seventh, Mancuso scored on an error, Hughes scored on a throw, and Everett on a groundout.

Panthers 7 Fannin County 1

Ellijay - Lane Everett improved to 2-0 on the year as the Panther bats overpowered Fannin County.

Odom brought in Prunier and Barnett with a one-out double in the second inning. In the third, Mancuso sent a 2-0 pitch over the centerfield wall for the first homer of his varsity career. Later, Brown scored on an error and the Panthers were up 4-0 after three innings.

A leadoff triple got Fannin on the board in the fourth but three Union runs in the fifth put the Rebels away.

Burks brought in Mancuso on a fielder's choice, and Prunier laced a two-run double to left to cap off the scoring.

Mancuso finished 2-for-3 on the day with a walk and two runs to go along with his first inning double and third inning solo shot. Prunier was 2-for-3 with 2 RBIs and a run.

The Panthers will host Murphy, NC on Tuesday, March 4th at 5 p.m. Region 8-AA action will open on Friday when Oglethorpe County comes to town for a day-night double-header beginning at 5 p.m.

Lady Panthers tie Lumpkin Co.; Region opener at home on Friday

Panthers fall at Lumpkin; hope to be 100 percent for Washington Wilkes

By Todd Forrest
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Dahlonega - The Union County Lady Panthers fought Class AAAA's Lumpkin County to a 2-2 tie last Tuesday night.

Meanwhile, the boys' squad is still looking for its first win of 2014 after falling 3-0 to the Indians.

Both teams have another Class AAAA school in their way on Tuesday before Region play kicks off.

On Friday, Union will host Washington Wilkes beginning at 5:30 p.m. and according to Union County Head Soccer Coach Tim Hunter, Friday is when the real season begins.

"Region play is our main focus," Coach Hunter said. "Our team is very young but we play hard and we will be contenders as our Region schedule develops. We expect to be at full strength by Friday against Washington Wilkes. We usually play a pretty tough non-region schedule to get us ready for this."

Maddy (Morlock) got a concussion and she will be back, but probably not at full strength. "Our guys will finally be able to be looked at as a whole team in practice and we will be ready Friday."

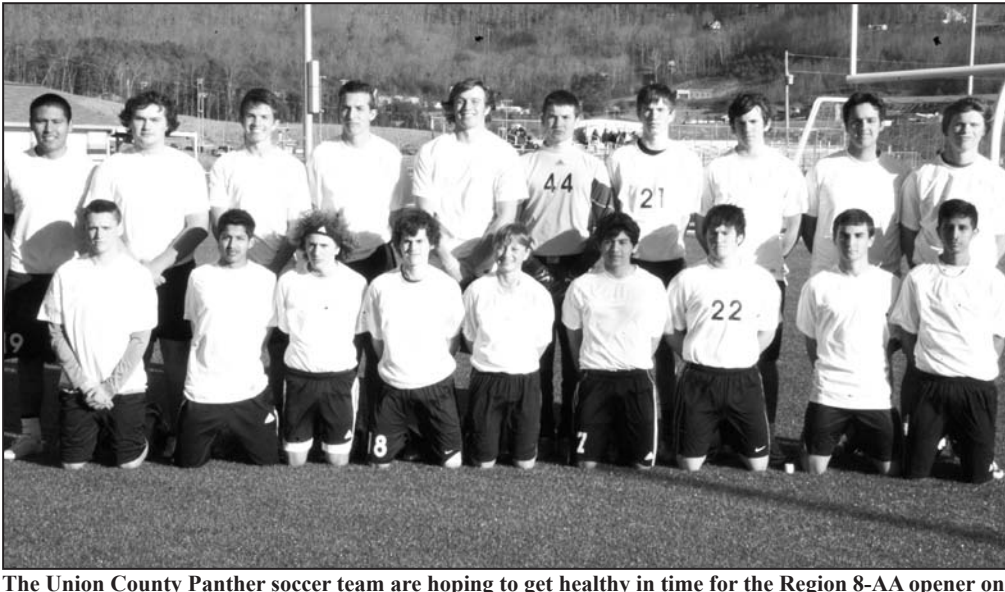
At Lumpkin County, the Lady Panthers got an unassisted goal from Camryn Carter, and later Rachel Vester assisted Maddy Morlock for Union's second goal.

"Camryn Carter scored our first goal unassisted on a great shot from outside the 18," Coach Hunter said. "Maddy scored on an assist from Rachel Vester, as Vester won a hustle play over the Lumpkin defender and the ball came loose and Maddy pounced on it to score the tying goal."

"(Lumpkin's) girls team was even better than last year and they are still a quality Class AAAA squad. Marissa Spaulding played very well on defense and Erin Innis did a great job



The Union County Lady Panthers look to get back to their winning ways following a loss at Lumpkin County. Union will visit Pickens on Tuesday and host Washington Wilkes on Friday. Photo/Todd Forrest



The Union County Panther soccer team are hoping to get healthy in time for the Region 8-AA opener on Friday. The Panthers will have a chance to break into the win column on Tuesday night at another Class AAAA foe, Pickens County. Not pictured: Kyle Hamby and Colton Stanley. Photo/Todd Forrest

very hard the entire game. We had a few scoring opportunities but their keeper made some good saves. This was our first game with our full roster however, our basketball players haven't even had a full practice yet.

"Jacob Rogers stepped up and played well defensively for us. Justin Eigel looked good in the goal but he faced a ton of tough shots throughout the game. We played a lot of kids

and we pressed as hard as we could the entire game, but they just had too much skill. They are a playoff level quad team so that makes it pretty tough."

Union County will play at 5:30 and 7:30 on Tuesday at Pickens County before hosting Wilkes on Friday, also at 5:30 and 7:30. The J.V. squads will be at home on Wednesday vs Pickens starting at 5:30 p.m. and on Thursday at 5 and 7 p.m. vs Rabun County.



Maddy Morlock (top) and Justin Eigel (bottom). Photos/courtesy of the Goal Keeper's Club.

3-on-3 basketball tournament

Union County will be hosting a 3-on-3 basketball tournament on March 14th.

The double elimination tournament is open to boys and girls ages 10 and under, 11-14, 15-18, and 18 and over.

No more than four players per team and there is a fee of \$45 per team. Pre-register by March 13th. For more information contact Casey Jones at (706) 897-4600 or cjones@ucschools.org.

