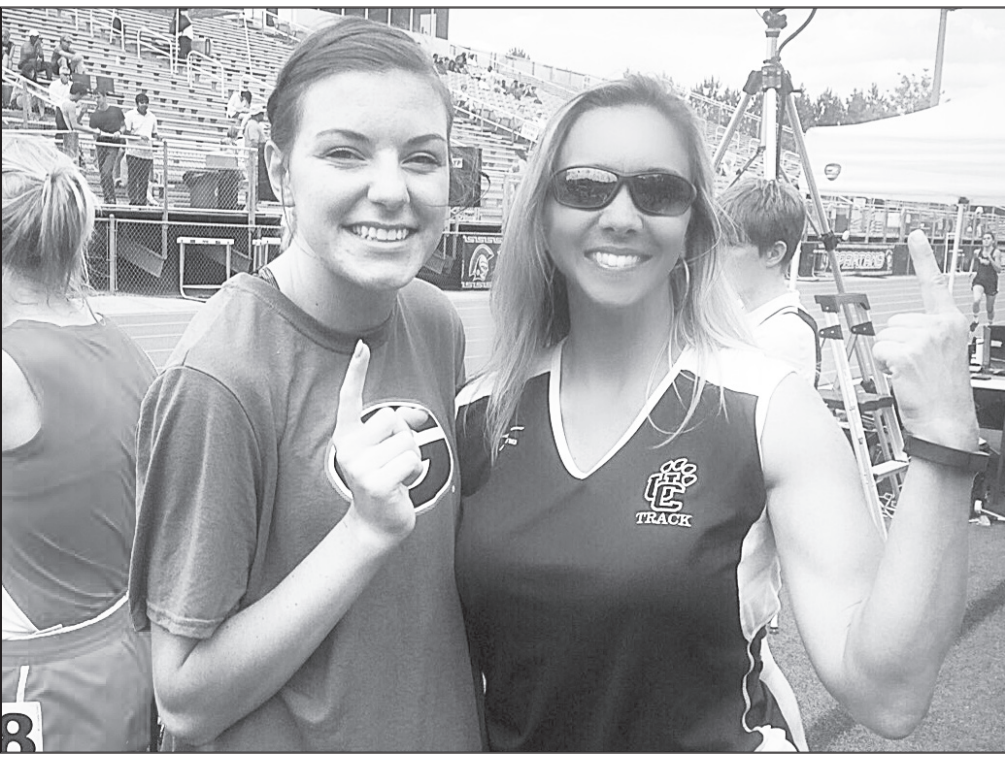


Garrison second at State



Senior Emma Garrison with Union County Track and Field coach Shawnetta Reece following the State Sectionals at GAC earlier this month. Photo/submitted

By Todd Forrest
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Albany - The highly decorated athletic career of Union County's Emma Garrison came to a close over the weekend at Albany High School where she placed second in the 800 Meter race.

Garrison, who entered as Class AA's No. 1 ranked runner in the 800M, fell to the defending State Champion, Bleckley County's Ellen Powell by less than two seconds.

"Emma ran a tight race with Powell and attempted a pass on the back stretch," Union County Track Coach Shawnetta Reece said. "Powell was able to hold her off into the final curve where her sprinting ability gained a step or two of distance away from Emma. Emma did not allow Powell to get too much distance from her and finished strong right behind her."

Garrison, a two-time Cross Country State Champion, also participated in the

1600M race where she posted a career-best time of 5 minutes, 17 seconds but it was only good enough for a fourth place finish.

The defending 1600M and Cross Country State Champion Serena Tripodi of Lovett finished first. Powell was second and Darlington's Stephanie Ward took third.

"Emma knew she would be challenged in the 1600M by Tripodi and Ward, running a 5:09 and 5:10, respectively at Sectionals," Reece said. "Her goal was to stay with that pack as long as possible and she accomplished her goal by finishing only two seconds behind the State Runner-Up and one second behind the third place finisher, Ward."

There is no doubt that Garrison will graduate as the most successful female runner in school history, and over the past 4 years, UCHS couldn't have been represented by a more remarkable young lady, or a better role model for young runners to look up to.

"Emma has been a very

coachable athlete who did exactly what was asked of her in practice and at meets," Reece said. "I have had the honor and privilege of coaching her for eight seasons, beginning in middle school. She has always shown a tremendous amount of work ethic, but in the weeks leading up to this year's Region meet, she pushed herself extremely hard to complete the workouts within her target time. Because of her perseverance and hard work, she set personal records in both the 800m and 1600m from meet-to-meet until she finished her final runs at the State Championship in Albany. She now holds the school record in the 3200M, 1600M, 800M, 300M intermediate hurdles and the 4x400 Relay she ran with the 2014 team including Amy Cummings, Kim Coyne and Allie Stroman."

The North Georgia News would like to congratulate Emma Garrison for all she has accomplished over her four years and wish her nothing but the best in the future.

Clay Dotson Golf Tournament coming Monday, May 16

The annual Clay Dotson Open golf tournament to benefit student scholarships at Young Harris College will be held on Monday, May 16, at Brasstown Valley Resort.

More than 90 percent of YHC students receive some form of financial assistance, and all proceeds from the Clay Dotson Open are used toward scholarships for Young Harris College students. Generous support of this annual event allows a new generation of students to achieve their academic pursuits and become part of a 130-year legacy.

"I love Young Harris College because it's more than just a school—it's a community," said freshman Sierra Nichols of Hiawassee, GA. "The students are more than just a number, and it's very easy to have a personal relationship with your professors. The administration is always extremely friendly and will help in any way they can. There's a friend around every corner, and the campus is beyond beautiful!"

"Young Harris College far surpassed all of my expectations upon my first visit," said junior Cierra Alston of Lawrenceville, GA. "I fell in love with the beauty



The annual Clay Dotson Open golf tournament to benefit student scholarships at Young Harris College.

of the campus and the close knit community. I'm forever changed by the experiences I've had and the family I've made here. I'm beyond thankful for the scholarships that have allowed me the opportunity to thrive and fulfill my career goals. I'm so proud to call myself a Mountain Lion now, and forever!"

Players will enjoy morning and afternoon flights, a complimentary continental breakfast, lunch and/or snack, an awards ceremony with prizes for low net in each flight, a putting contest with prizes and a complimentary team photograph. Mulligans will be available for purchase.

The tournament will also feature the annual Alumni Team

Challenge in which the team with the lowest score will win a special award. Teams of at least three YHC alumni will also receive a special discount rate.

Located in Young Harris, GA, Brasstown Valley Resort is home to a 7,000 yard, championship par-72 links-style golf course that is ranked by *Golf Digest* as one of the top 10 places to play in the state.

For player registration and sponsorship opportunities at this event, contact Director of Development and Corporate Relations Mark Dotson, '88, at (706) 379-5355 or mcdotson@yhc.edu. For more information about the Clay Dotson Open, visit yhc.edu/clay-dotsonopen.

Charity Golf Tournament to benefit Healing Hands Clinic

Healing Hands Community Clinic, a volunteer staffed, donation funded non-denominational healthcare ministry serving the uninsured of the mountain area, will host its annual golf tournament May 23, 2016 at Butternut Creek Golf Course. There will be a 1 p.m. Shotgun Start. Lunch will be served.

Sign up today to play or

sponsor by using our website, www.healinghandscommunityclinic.com or by contacting Nick George at ngeorge246@msn.com or calling 770-362-7374. Fees are \$65 per person or \$250 for teams. Sponsorships are available for \$35.

Join us for a swinging good time of fellowship and fun while helping to build a healthier community. NTMay11A2)SH

Mountain High Hikers Hiking Club

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.

Elite 8... continued from 2C

Other Lovett hitters who have played a major role during the postseason are David Easterling - .500 BA and 5 RBIs, Freddy Achecar - .333 BA and 2 RBIs, John Staton .300 BA and 4 RBIs, Austin Jeter - 3 RBIs.

Evan McKown (3 stolen bases) and Peyton Ringer (2 stolen bases) are tops in the steals department. Defensively the Lions have committed only two errors in 27 innings - both coming during their most recent game - a 3-0 victory at Metter.

The winner of the Lovett (No. 3 seed from Region 6 and ranked fourth in Class AA) at Union series will meet the winner of the GAC at Bowdon series on May 16th and 17th. GAC is the No. 2 seed from Region 6 and ranked second in

Class AA while Bowdon is the No. 1 seed from Region 5 and ranked third in Class AA.

Around the State - There are currently four public schools and four private schools remaining in the Elite 8 and each series will feature a public school vs private school.

On the other side of the bracket top ranked Wesleyan from Region 6 will host No. 9 Berrien (No. 1 seed from Region 1) and Heard County (No. 3 from Region 5) will host No. 5 Holy Innocents (No. 4 seed from Region 6).

Putnam pulls away from Union

By Todd Forrest
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Eatonton - While the Lady Panthers and Union baseball played at home last week, the Union County men (9-4-1) went on the road for the second round of the Class AA State Tournament and came up short at Putnam County, 3-1.

The eighth ranked Eagles (18-1-2) held a 1-0 lead at the intermission when senior Jake Waltz connected off a feed from fellow senior Matthew Van Pelt but it wasn't enough as Putnam scored twice during the final 40 minutes to advance to the Elite 8.

The Eagles would defeat 10th ranked Darlington 6-2 to advance to the Final Four where they will face the No. 1 seed from Region 6, Wesleyan.

If there is such a thing as moral victories, the Panthers can take solace in the fact that they've been the only team to present a challenge to Putnam during the State Tournament.

As for the other Region 8-AA teams to advance past the first round, Riverside Military Academy gave GAC all they could handle, and then some, but in the end, the Spartans prevailed 1-0.

Social Circle pulled an upset over Region 1-AA's No. 1 seed and seventh ranked Thomasville to advance to the Elite 8 where they ran into second ranked Wesleyan and fell 9-0.

Next season, Union County will join third ranked GAC as



Senior Jake Waltz scored Union's lone goal at Putnam. Photo/Todd Forrest

AA schools moving to Region 7-AAA.

When they arrive in 7-AAA they will join the top ranked team in AAA, the 20-1 East Hall Vikings, who are currently preparing for a final four game.

The Dawson County boys are currently ranked fourth in AAA and coming off a 1-0 loss to Oconee County in the Elite 8.

Lumpkin County (8-9-1) defeated Union 4-0 this season and will be on the Panthers' region schedule in 2017, along with North Hall (5-10) who is coming down from AAAA. But don't let their record fool you, they shared a region with Buford and unbeaten Johnson, who are squaring off Tuesday with a berth in the State title game on the line. Also in North Hall's region

were North Oconee and White County - both reached the second round of State in Class AAAA.

Fannin County was a play-off team from 7-AAA and the Panthers needed penalty kicks to take them down earlier in the year.

Union loses 10 seniors including 2015 Region Player of the Year Matthew Van Pelt and All Region keeper Justin Eigel, but the Panthers return its top three goal scorers in junior Parker McCombs, junior Sam Seiler, and freshman Brian Smith who each scored nine goals.

The top five in assists were underclassmen, as well: junior Lawson Baenninger (4), sophomore Lance Underwood (4), Seiler (3), Smith (2), and sophomore Sean Dobbins (2).



Trout stocking sites week of May 2-6, 2016

Fannin: Big Creek, Hemptown Creek, Hothouse Creek, Rock Creek, Toccoa River, and Toccoa River Tailwaters of Lake Blue Ridge

Lumpkin: Dockery Lake, Etowah River and Nimblewill Creek

Union: Cooper Creek, Toccoa River and Winfield Scott Lake

Note: Information is subject to change. Please call the hatchery at 706-838-4723 for questions. The hatchery also provides trout for the state. Please contact Georgia DNR for information on sites stocked by the state. NTMay11A5)CA