Winter sports off an running at Union County, Woody Gap

By Todd Forrest North Georgia News sports@nganews.com

We all know that life doesn't get any better than living in the North Georgia Mountains in autumn, but that chill in the air is beginning to bite a little too hard, so it's time to move indoors. Our reward? A full plate

of indoor sports in Blairsville and Suches. At Union County High

School, basketball season got underway with a scrimmage contest at Hayesville, NC last Both the Panthers and

Lady Panthers got a chance to shake off the rust as their coaches got a look at how they stack up against someone other than themselves. The guys were still with-

out its football players but with the Panthers' season ending last Friday, the multi-sport athletes will make the jump from the gridiron to the hardwood this

Union County will dive into action immediately when both teams host Class AAAA's Gilmer County on Tuesday night. Following a 6-day break. they will host Dawson County on Monday the 23rd. The ladies varsity will get underway at 6 p.m. on both nights, with the guys to follow.

JV will begin at 3:45 and 4:45, also both nights.

As for the Woody Gap Falcons and Lady Falcons, their seasons tipped off on Nov. 3rd at North Georgia Christian

Nov. 10th saw the Woody Gap home opener vs War Hill Academy. On Nov. 13th they would host Tallulah Falls. Both high school teams as well as the middle school teams were in action during the home

Up next is a trip to Talluby a visit to Faith Christian Academy in Mt. Airy on Dec.

The next time they will see action in Suches is Jan. 6th against Atlanta Jewish Academy, then on Jan. 8 vs

Nov. 10

Nov. 24

Dec. 11

Dec. 15

Dec. 18

Dec. 22

Dec. 28

Dec. 29

Dec. 30

Jan. 5

Jan. 8

Jan. 9

Jan. 12

Jan. 16

Jan. 19

Jan. 22

Jan. 23

Jan. 26

Jan. 29

Jan. 30

Feb. 5

Day

Tuesday

Tuesday

Monday

Tuesday

Tuesday

Friday

Friday

Tuesday

Friday

Tuesday

Monday

Tuesday

Tuesday

Friday

Saturday

Tuesday

Saturday

Tuesday

Friday

Saturday

Tuesday

Friday

Saturday

Friday

Wednesday

UCHS 2015-16 basketball schedule

Opponent

Hayesville

Lumpkin

Lakeview

Towns

Oglethorpe

Greene

TBD

TBD

TBD

Riverside

Rabun

Wilkes

Social Circle

Dawson

Oglethorpe

Riverside

Wilkes

Social Circle

High School Wrestling Schedule 2015-16

Monday Oct. 26th wrestling begins

Sat. Oct. 31st NGC Weight Assessment

Tues. Nov. 10th NGC Weight Assessment

Sat. Nov. 21st Union Invitational @ the Pit 8am weigh-in 9am start

Tues. Nov. 24th Home @ THE PIT w/ Fannin start 5pm

Wed. Nov. 25th @ St. Pius 8am weigh-in 9am start

Fri/Sat Dec. 4-5 @ Towns for King of the Mountain weigh-in 4pm start

5pm

Friday Dec. 11th @ Towns

Sat. Dec. 12th @ Rabun Gap 8/9 am

Tues. Dec. 15th @ Towns Co. Start 5pm

Friday Dec. 18th Friday Night Fights at Union County 4/5

Fri/Sat Dec. 21-22 Amicolola Falls Classic at Dawson County

Tuesday Dec. 29th Stephens County Rumble

Wednesday Dec. 30th @ Wesleyan w/ Rabun Co.

Wed. Jan. 6th @ Pickens County

Fri/Sat Jan. 8-9th Area Duals @ Rabun County High School

Tuesday Jan. 12th SENIOR NIGHT w/ Dawson and Rabun Gap @ THE PIT

Fri/Sat Jan. 14-15th STATEDUALS at Macon Coliseum

Fri/Sat Jan. 22-23 Burnt Mountain Classic @ Pickens County

Tuesday Jan 26th @ Hayesville w/ Swain

Fri/Sat Jan. 29-30th AREA TOURNAMENT @ Social Circle High

Fri/Sat Feb. 5-6 th SECTIONALS @ GAC

Thu/Fri/Sat Feb. 11-13th STATETOURNAMENT @ GWINNETT ARENA

Location

Away

Away

Away

Away

Away

Towns

Towns

Away

Away

Away

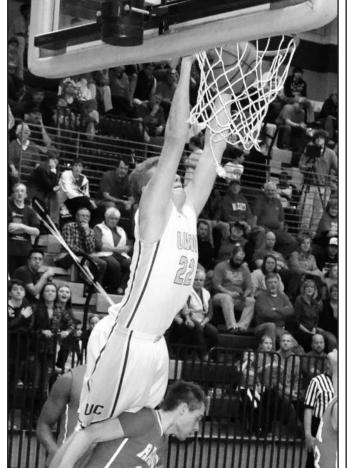
Home

Away

Home

Away

Away



Union County's 6-8 center Chase Shook with a dunk vs Rabun County last winter. Shook looks to lead the Panthers to their third straight trip to the Class AA Playoffs in February. Photo/Todd Forrest Murphy, NC.

string of 8-straight home games before they head back on the road, but not until the calendar turns to February.

The fastest growing sport in Union County is wrestling. Under the direction of Coach Michael Smith-Foot, the Panthers wrestling program is no longer in its infancy stages and is ready to compete with the

This weekend, the old high school gym (The Pit) will play host to the Union Invita-

The grapplers will hit lah Falls on Dec. 4th, followed the mats at 9 a.m. so be there on Union County's winter early to cheer on our upstart wrestling program.

The middle school wrestling program is also busy this week with a competition at Pickens County on Tuesday and at Towns County on Saturday.

Varsity

5:30/7:00

6:00/7:30

7:00/8:30

6:00/7:30

7:00/8:30

6:00/7:30

5:00/6:30

5:00/6:30

TBD

TBD

TBD

6:00 Boys

7:00/8:30

2:00/3:30

6:00/7:30

2:00/3:30

6:00/7:30

5:00/6:30

2:00/3:30

6:00 Boys

7:00/8:30

2:00/3:30

6:00/7:30

3:45/4:45

3:45/4:45

3:45/4:45

4:00/5:30

4:15 Girls

4:15 Boys

4:00/5:30

4:15 Boys

4:15 Girls

4:15 Boys

4:00/5:30

The wrestling program is Those two will begin a another sport that won't reach full strength until the conclusion of the football season.

If none of those sports pique your interest, the Union County Swim Team has also gotten underway at both the high school, and middle school

Earlier this month, both UCHS and UCMS traveled to Clarkesville for a swim meet. The teams combined for

20 Top 10 finishes, including UCMS' Grace Weldon's first place performance in the 50yard freestyle.

For further information sports, check next week's North Georgia News sports section for basketball previews and results, as well as a wrap up and pictures from the weekend wrestling tournament, the Union Invitational, and more.

Shootout... continued from 14A

In the second half, as Mancuso was handing off to Lynch with the game on the line, it was almost as if Joe was passing the proverbial torch on to Bo, who will be joined by Cole Dockrey and Chad Buzzard in what should be one of the deepest and most talented Union backfields in a very long time.

"We're going to have some options next year at running back," Coach Allison said. 'We've got some spots to fill on the offensive line and I think if we can fill those we can be successful next year."

In the unofficial (Todd's tally) stats, Union's offense finished with approximately 470 yards (251 passing and 219 rushing).

Bowdon totaled 663 yards with 654 coming on the ground and 397 of those rushing yards came in the first half (again, unofficially).

Bowling scores

Monday Night Men: Ken Clark 245, Jay Burrell 220, 252, 204, Series 681, Ray Everett 214, 238, Michael Whitehead 206, Taz Matetzschk 233, 204, 248, Series 685, BJ Gilbert 211, Jason Swanson 202, 269, Series 629, Greg Whittenburg 206, 222, 203, Series 631, Max Puett 210, Doug Tanner 224, 203, Ernest Rice 222, Mickey Whatley 210, Richard Tanner 211, Derick Rice 247, 218, 211, Series 676.

Youth League: Savanna Karisny 177, Emma Hambrick 123, Nick Love 146, DJ Robbins 149, Eric Fox 101, Michael Fox 216, Dalton Averr

Tuesday Night Church League: Wanda Fiumano 132, Daniel Fiumano 203, Curtis Brown 163, Judy Ozark 124, Charlie Reynor 153, John Ozark 159, Joe Rumfelt 176, Sarah Pawli 146, Rob Pawli 179, Carol Hall 142, Frank

Galloway 155, Cliff Hall 181. Young at Heart: Ron Gaucher 214, 216, Del Neiffer 205, 213, Julia Whitt 177, Ken Thigpen 202, Bob Landis 258, 216, Series 658, Barry Rice 203, Bart Rodgers 202, 231, Sewey Allen 213, 202, 234,

Series 651. Thursday Night Fun League: Doug Roberts 210, 210, 604 Series, Stanley Tyler 211, Roy Johnson 201, Jackie

Moller 188. N(Nov18,A1)SH

Benton MacKaye Trail celebrates 35th Anniversary



On November 7th, the BMTA's Annual Meeting not only celebrated the 35th year of the Benton MacKaye Trail, but it also honored 51 Trail Maintainers, who gave generously of their time and talent by working on the Benton MacKaye Trail a combined total of 4,674 hours in GA/ TN/& NC (including travel & work hours). Red maintainer shirts were given to all volunteers with 30+ hours on the trail. The Top Ten Maintainers, with the most number of hours, were also awarded re-

tired BMT trail signs

BMTA's Trail Worker of the Year for 2015 was awarded to Ralph Heller. He received the association's special Pulaski (trail tool) which he keeps until next year's meeting. The Pulaski holds engraved names of present and past Trail Workers of the Year.

The BMTA can always use more maintainers to help with trail work. For more information on how to participate in the BMTA, on and off the trail, group hikes etc. go to www. bmta.org and/or Facebook.



Ralph Heller

NASCAR 2015

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

Luck and rain favors Earnhardt at Phoenix

PHOENIX, Ariz. -- Dale Earnhardt Jr. was the winner of Sunday's rain-delayed Sprint

The race was delayed for over six hours, getting the command to start engines at 9 p.m. ET and taking the green flag at 9:27. During a late race caution on lap 195, it started raining again, just after NASCAR red flagged the event at 11:30 on lap 219, the rain came down hard. With more rain in the forecast, NASCAR decided to call it and made it official.

We had an idea that the rain was in the area, but all the circumstances that played out at the end are just kind of luck, I think," Earnhardt said. "I think the reason why we won this race is because of the way we qualified to give ourselves a position to be up front all night. When something like this quirky happens, we were able to capitalize.

Kevin Harvick led 143 laps, but had to settle for second. "It's kind of bittersweet for

me," Harvick said. "The caution came out at the wrong time and we didn't get to make up ground under green. Sometimes you win some of those things, sometimes you don't. But the big picture is what it's all about.'

Joey Logano, Kyle Busch, Jimmie Johnson, Jeff Gordon, Kurt Busch, Denny Hamlin, Brad Keselowski and Aric Almirola were the remaining top-10.

The four drivers advancing to the Championship Round of The Chase at Homestead-Miami Speedway are: Kevin Harvick, Jeff Gordon, Kyle Busch, and Martin Truex Jr.

"We're excited about the opportunity to go down there," my final race. I can't think of anything sweeter than just having that opportunity to go down there and battle for the championship and seeing what happens.'

No matter what happens at Homestead, it has been a fantastic year for Kyle Busch. After missing several races due to a leg injury prior to the Daytona 500, NASCAR made an exception. which allowed him to be Chase eligible.

Despite a 14th place finish Truex was able to land the fourth and last spot in the Chase.

"What can I say about the whole team and everybody at Furniture Row Racing and everybody back at the shop in Denver?" Truex said, "It's just a dream come true for us. I'm just really proud of what we've accomplished this year. Cole Pearn (crew chief) and everybody there just really proud of them, and really excited to have this.

"I'm excited about next week and the opportunity to do something special. This is the kind of thing that you dream about since you were a little kid. Having a shot to win a Sprint Cup Series championship is just awesome and I'm looking forward to the opportunity.

Kurt Busch, who started on the outside front row next to pole-sitter Jimmie Johnson, was penalized for jumping the start. Forced to make a drive-through lap on pit road on Lap 8, he fell to 41st, likely costing him an opportunity to make the final Chase Joey Logano needed to win and his third-place finish was

not good enough to put him in the Carl Edwards the last Chase contender finished 12th,

but came up shy. All the cards are on the table. Each of the four drivers has

equal points. Whoever finishes the highest at Homestead will be the 2015 Sprint Cup Champion. "Rowdy" Kyle

Dominates Xfinity Race "Rowdy" Kyle Busch led

190 laps on the way to victory in the 200 lap Xfinity Series race Saturday at Phoenix.

Top-10 finishers: 1. Busch, 2. Brad Keselowski, 3. Eric Jones, 4. Daniel Suarez, 5. Ty Dillon, 6. Regan Smith, 7. Chase Elliott, 8. Darrell Wallace Jr., 9. Elliott Sadler, 10. Kasey Kahne.

Top-10 points leaders with one race remaining: 1. C. Buescher-1157, 2. Elliott-1139, 3. T. Dillon-1135, 4. Smith-1133, 5. Sadler-1044, 6. Suareaz-1044, 7. Gaughan-971, 10. Reed-875.

Peters Gets Texas Truck Race

Timothy Peters won Friday night's truck race at Texas by .30 seconds ahead of John Nemechek. The win was his second of the season and 10th of his career.

John Wesley Townley was third, followed by Daniel Suarez, Tyler Reddick, Spencer Gallagher, J. J. Haley, Matt Tifft, Erik Jones, and Mason Mingus.

Top-10 leaders with one race remaining. Jones-861, 2. 3. Crafton-829, Reddick-842, 3. Crafton-829, 4. Sauter-772, 5. Peters-765, 6. Hayley-731, 7. Hemric-697, 8. Townley-695, 9. Kennedy-650, 10. Gallagher-644.

Erik Jones Is On The Move

At 19-years of age, young Erik Jones has everything going for him. His latest accomplishments came at Texas and Phoenix after he was pegged to drive the No. 20 Joe Gibbs Toyota, normally driven by Matt Kenseth, who was suspended for two races for taking out Joey Logano at Martinsville.

He also subbed for Denny Hamlin at Bristol in April when Hamlin was bothered by neck spasms, and for Kyle Busch at Kansas when Busch was injured in February.

While he didn't win either of the races, he turned in a credible performance that will insure him a permanent Cup ride in the

Jones main racing role this

season has been in the trucks. He leads the truck championship with three victories and has two wins in the Xfinity Series. "It's a good thing for me

that I can get in the seat and get experience in the Cup Series," Jones said. "The hard part of that is I don't get to do it every week... It's still a tough deal whenever you hop into that situation and don't know everybody well and you don't really have a lot of experience in that series and that car either."

In March 2013, Kyle Busch Motorsports signed the young Byron, Mich. native to drive in five Camping World Truck Series races in the team's

No. 51 Toyota Tundra. He returned in 2014, driving in 12 truck events, and three races with the team's No. 20 in the Xfinity Series. He won three truck races that season.

Meanwhile, Joe Gibbs Racing has been busy mapping out a future that will take Jones full time into Xfinity next season and presumably to Cup full time in 2017. It is rumored that Matt Kenseth may call it quits after the 2016 season, and that would put Jones in the No. 20 on a full-time

"Two years ago, I would never have imagined this," Jones continued.

Weekend Racing: It's the season finale at the 1.5-mile Miami-Homestead track in Homestead, Florida, featuring all three

of NASCAR major series'. Fri., Nov. 20; Truck Series race 23 of 23; Starting time: 8 p.m. ET; TV: Foxsports1.

Sat., Nov. 21; Xfinity Series race 33 of 33; Starting time: 2:45 p.m. ET; TV: NBC

Sun., Nov. 22; Sprint Cup Series race 36 of 36; Starting time: 3 p.m. ET; TV: NBC.

Racing Trivia Question: Who will Chase Elliott be racing for in 2016?

Last Week's Question: Who is Joey Logano's teammate at Penske Racing? Answer. It is

Brad Keselowski. You may contact the Racing Reporter by e-mail at: hodges@race500.com. NT(Nov18,A4)CA

SPORTS On-line registration is now open for Upward Indoor Soccer for boys and girls in grades Kindergarten through 8th Grade at www.hopb.org or

at www.fumcunioncounty.org.

The registration price to participate is \$60, through December 10, 2015, and an additional \$10 will be applied thereafter. Payment plans are available, if needed. Convenient weekly practices commence January 11, 2016, while games will be held every Saturday between January 30 and March 5, 2016.

Registrants should attend the evaluation that will be held on Thursday, December 10, 2015 on a drop-in basis between the hours of 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. at the House of Prayer Family Life Center located behind the sanctuary.

For more information regarding registration, contact (706) 745-5925. Information regarding Upward Sports can be found online at www.upward.org. N(Nov18,A1)SH

Skatehealthy and Boards for the Lord Skate Competition

December 12, 2015, 11 a.m., local skaters will take to Meeks Park for the Second Semi-Annual Skatehealthy and Boards for the Lord Skate Competition. The first skate competition was a huge success with skaters from the tristate area in attendance; this skate competition is expecting to be no different. Skaters of all levels are invited! There will be a beginner, intermediate, and advanced division. This advent is absolutely free to enter! If you want to sign up,

have any questions or would like to sponsor the next event, please call Skip Larson (706) 455-2087 or Ben Newell (706) 994-1656. N(Nov18,Z7)CA

Ben Newell