

Sports

AT&T gives Tour a boost

Company becomes major sponsor with \$500,000 contribution

Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue announced that AT&T will contribute \$500,000 to become a major sponsor of the 2007 Tour de Georgia, which will be held the week of April 16-22. Although the route detours Blairsville this year, Stage 5 of the race will still cross through parts of Union County on April 20, en route to a finish atop Brasstown Bald Mtn.

"I am very pleased that our newest corporate citizen is continuing the long legacy of civic participation established by BellSouth and Cingular Wireless," Governor Perdue said. "I have met with representatives from the new AT&T and remain convinced that the company will continue to have a tremendous impact on our state's economy for decades to come."

Tour de Georgia organizers had been seeking another major sponsor since Ford dropped its sponsorship of the race following the 2006 event. Organizers previously acknowledged that the Tour was in financial peril this year, needing approximately \$1 million in additional funding. AT&T's sponsorship cuts that figure in half. The company will now be a Founding Partner of the Tour.

"It is an honor to make this contribution to the Tour de Georgia, one of the greatest international cycling events," said AT&T President Sylvia Anderson. "AT&T is committed to the state of Georgia and our communities. I believe this event with further showcase the rest of the world our great state, people, and culture. I want to thank Governor Perdue and the General Assembly for their leadership and commitment to economic development and tourism, which this great event will certainly contribute."



Sentinel photo/Jared Putnam

Senior Jordan West pushes the ball up the field against Hebron.

Lady Panthers wrapping up season

Seven seniors honored during final home game

By JARED PUTNAM
Union Sentinel Editor

The Lady Panthers won their final home game of the season, shutting out the Hebron Christian Academy Lady Lions in a 4-0 win. "It ended up being a great night," Lady Panthers Head Coach Tim Hunter said. "We had two senior mid-fielders score goals late, so that was pretty big."

The team rebounded with the win after a 7-3 loss at Athens Academy. "It really wasn't as lopsided as the score [indicates]," Coach Hunter said. "They got up on us 2-0 and we fought back to get it to 2-2. They scored a couple of goals at the end of the first half and that really took a lot out of our girls." Kellie Higgins scored the

team's first goal and Malory O'Steen added the final two.

The Lady Panthers have been eliminated from the possibility of competing in the state tournament, but still have one final game remaining, next Monday, April 16 at Lakeview Academy.

The junior varsity team already wrapped up its season, winning the final game 4-0 over Murphy. Jessie Payne and Lindsey Irvin each scored while Erin Poteete had her first two goals of her career. "They played really well and really hard," Coach Hunter said.

The team only lost one game during the season.

Senior bios

Taylor DeBell is the daughter

of Tom and Jackie DeBell. Her future plans are to go to the wonderful Young Harris College, make a lot of money and marry Channing Tatum.

Her favorite memory is winning region her freshman year and the bus rides with Leila. She would like to thank her family, teammates, her friend Courtney, and Cody too. And Coach Hunter is ok, she guesses.

Crystal Mayfield is the daughter of Dorothy Mayfield. Crystal plans to attend college, become a teacher, and marry the man of her dreams.

Her favorite memory is winning the region her freshman year. She would like to thank her mom for always being there for her and

allowing her to play, Coach Hunter for being a great coach, teaching her new things every year and pushing her to be a better player.

Leila Partin is the daughter of Eddy and Shelia Partin. She plans to attend Young Harris College in the fall. Her favorite memories are winning the region in 2004 and bus rides with Taylor and Ian. Leila would like to thank her mom for never missing a game.

Bonnie Ann Sarrell is the daughter of Rick and Daphne Sarrell. Bonnie Ann plans to attend Georgia Tech and major in a science. Her favorite memory is starting in and winning the region championship game her freshman

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Union County Diamond Club Homerun Derby

April 21st, 2007

Time: 10:30 a.m. Place: Meeks Park
Entry fee: \$10.00

10 and under	18 and under
14 and under	18 and over
Senior 50+	

Trophies and prizes for winners of all age groups

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Sentinel photo/Jared Putnam

Jake Levens sinks the putt.

Upset

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Levens had five pars. "Jake was not happy with his round, but he shot a very consistent 41," Coach Hughes said. "Jake is never happy unless he is the low man, but that's what I like," Coach Hughes said jokingly.

Jake Farner rounded out the Panthers top four scores with a 46. "Jake struggled but still put together a pretty good

round," Coach Hughes said.

In the girls matchup, Morgan Bentley finished second with a 60. "She really had one bad hole that cost her," Coach Hughes said. "Hole one really hurt her, but all in all, as a freshman I'll take her scores, and she will only keep getting better."

This was the last of the Panthers 9-hole matches this season. When the team comes

back from spring break they will begin 18-hole match play, including a hectic schedule that puts them in four matches in as many days.

"I try to do that [scheduling] to try to get them as ready for Region as possible," Coach Hughes said. "During that time we try to play as many holes as we can to get them used to that grind."