

# Sports

Covering Kickoff to the Final Out in Clinch County Athletics



Panther catcher Weston Bennett makes the tag at home plate against Irwin County Wednesday at Cecil Barber Field – Photo by Joy Sumner Photography.

## Panthers sweep week's slate heading into final week of regular season

By Len Robbins  
Publisher

Going into their final week of the regular season, the Clinch County Panthers are on a roll.

Last week, Lee Douglas' squad won all three of their games - blanking Telfair County Monday, 10-0; ripping Echols County 18-9 Tuesday; and defeating Irwin County Wednesday at home, 8-4.

The Panthers are now 18-7 overall and are third in the Region 2-A, DII standings.

Against Telfair Monday at Cecil Barber Field, the game was close until a seven-run rally in the fifth by the hosts. That reached the 10-run rule to give the Panthers victory.

Clinch scattered seven hits during the game - from Jake King, Sage Delk, Dane Brown, Tate Denmark, Weston Bennett, Remington Wheeler, and Braden Herlocker.

Joshua Delk got the win on the mound, striking out 10 and allowing just four hits and walking only one.

The hits kept coming the next day in Statesville, as Clinch pounded out 17 hits for the game.

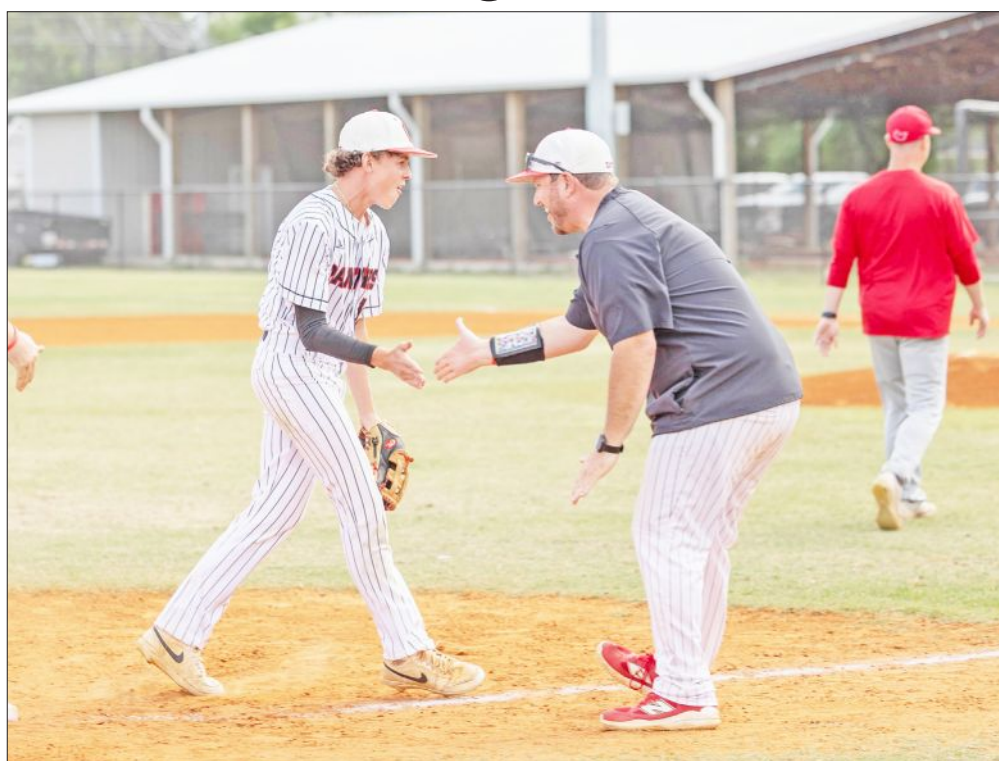
Echols, though, took the early lead, up 7-3 after on inning. The game was tied 8-8 going into the fifth - when Clinch exploded for a five-run burst. Clinch then added five more runs in the final two innings.

Leading the Panther bats was King (3-for-4 with a double); Sage Delk (two hits); Dane Brown (2-for-4 with a homer); Denmark (2-for-4, 4 RBI, double); Wheeler (two hits), and Rayce Godfrey (2-for-5, double). Others with hits were Bennett, Herlocker, Joshua Delk, and Landyn Pittman (double).

Bennett started on the hill, relieved by Wheeler, who pitched the rest of the game (6 2/3 innings). He whiffed nine and gave up just two hits and no earned runs.

The Panthers basically wrapped up the third spot in the region with a home win over Irwin County Wednesday.

Clinch took an early lead, scoring four in the second to lead 5-2. They



Clinch County head baseball coach Lee Douglas celebrates a play in the field Wednesday vs. Irwin County – Photo by Joy Sumner Photography.

added a run in the third inning and two more in the sixth. The Panthers were very efficient offensively, scoring eight runs on six hits.

Godfrey went 2-for-4 at the plate, while the Panthers also got hits from Sage Delk, Denmark, Wheeler and Her-

locker.

Dane Brown started on the mound, going three innings. He struck out six and allowed two hits. King relieved him and finished the game, striking out two and allowing three hits over four innings.

The Panthers will

finish out their regular season schedule this week with a trip to Lanier County Tuesday (6 p.m.), then visiting Telfair County Wednesday (5:30 p.m.), Turner County Thursday (6 p.m.), and at Pierce County Friday (6 p.m.).



Clinch's Jake King takes a swing Wednesday against Irwin County at Cecil Barber Field - Photo by Joy Sumner Photography.

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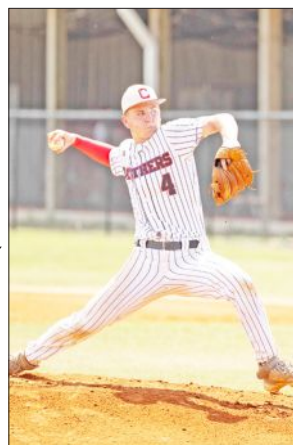
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