



**GET ALL-ACCESS THIS WEEKEND! SEE BACK PAGE**



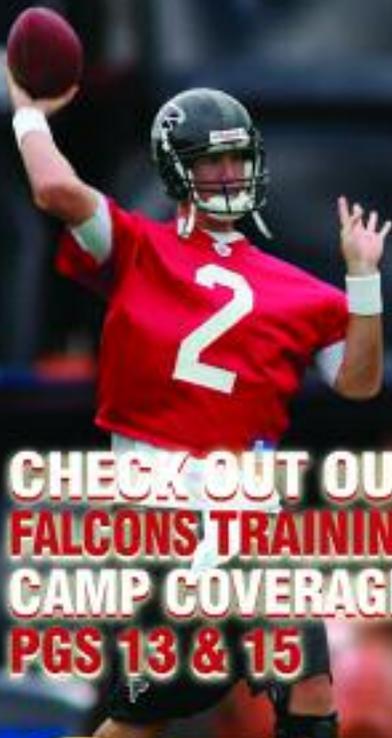
JUL 30 - AUG 5, 2008

ATLANTA'S WEEKLY SPORTS TALK NEWSPAPER

VOL 4 NO 31

# SCORE

atlanta



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PGS 13 & 15**

# GREEK TRAGEDY

Childress STUNS Hawks by signing with Olympiacos



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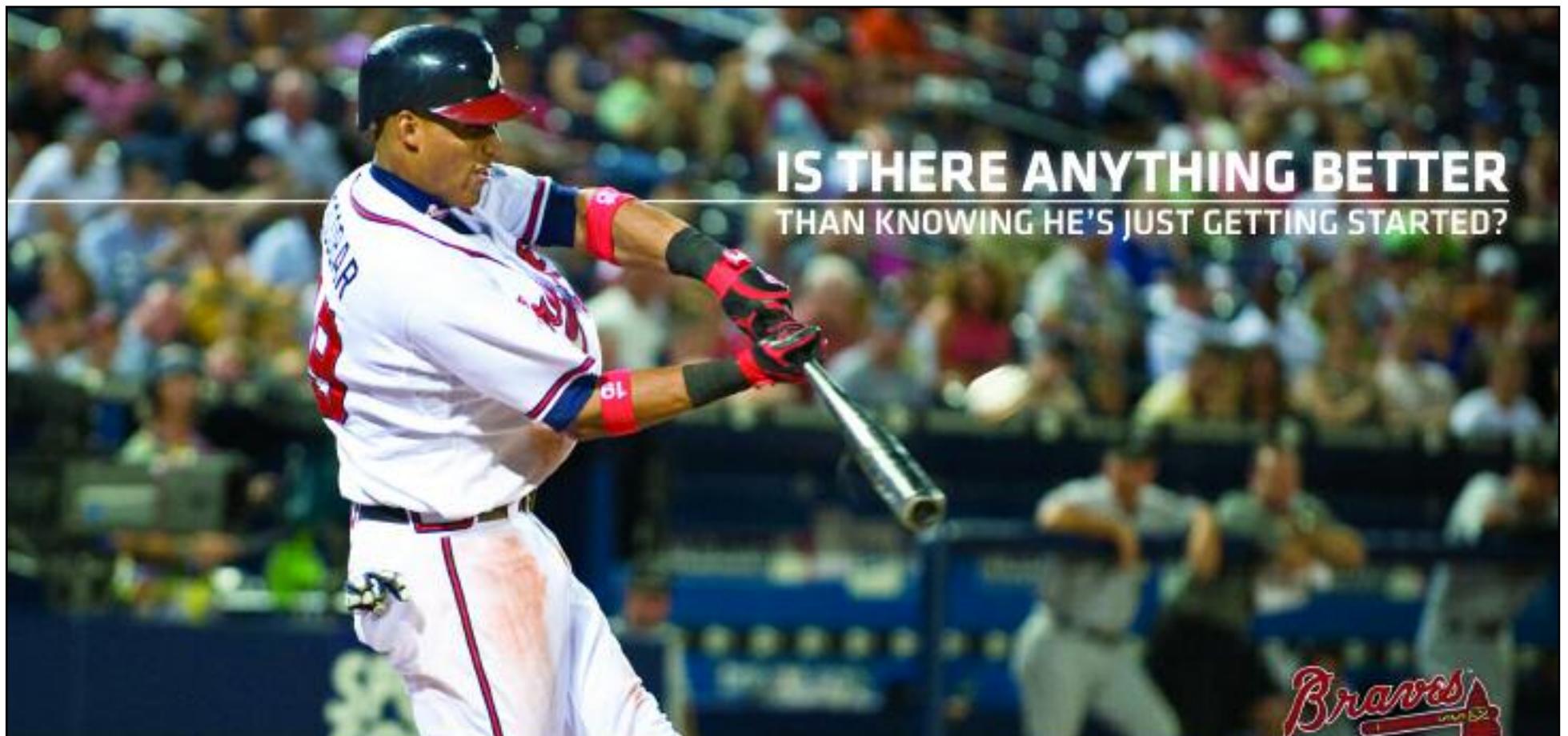
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<b>AUGUST 1</b> MILWAUKEE FRIDAY 7:30 PM <b>Publix Friday Night Fireworks</b> Spectacular post-game fireworks display	<b>AUGUST 2</b> MILWAUKEE SATURDAY 3:55 PM <b>Braves Rally Flag Giveaway</b> Presented by NAPA to the first 45,000 fans	<b>AUGUST 3</b> MILWAUKEE SUNDAY 1:30 PM <b>All-Star Sunday</b> Kids get to run the bases after the last out <b>Meet and Greet with Albert Hall</b>
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AUG 1	MIL	2	MIL	3	MIL	4	OSF	5	OSF	6	OSF	7	ORL	8	ORL	9	ORL	10	ORL	11		12	CHI	13	CHI	14	CHI	15	SF	16	SF	17	SF	18	SF
7:30pm	7:30pm	1:30pm		1:00pm																															
FRI	PTV	SAT	FOX	SUN	SS	MON	SS	TUE	SS	WED	FSN	THU	SS	FRI	SS	SAT	FX	SUN	SS	MON		TUE	PTV	WED	FSN	THU	FOX	FRI	PTV	SAT	PTV	SUN	SS	MON	SS

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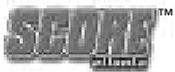


James Blake

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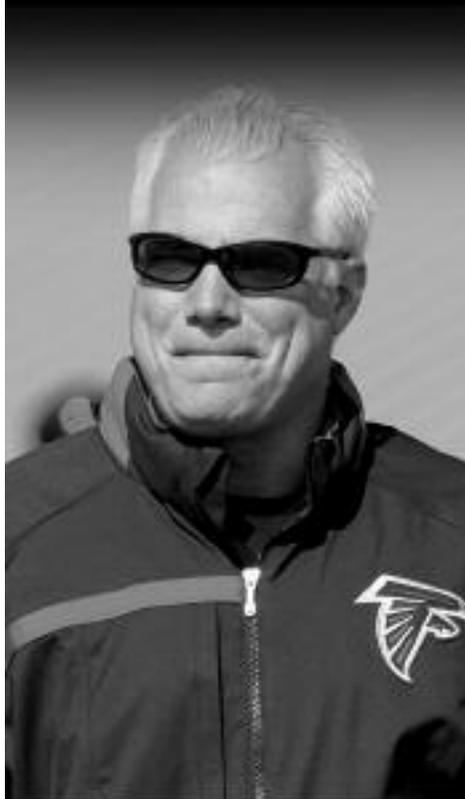
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**IN YOUR FACE...**

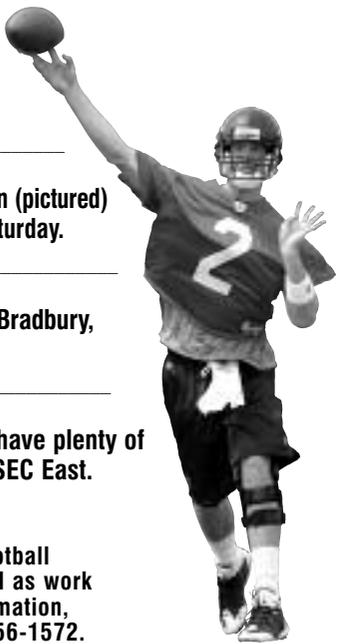


**BACK IN ACTION:** New head coach Mike Smith and the Falcons opened training camp last weekend, giving fans their first taste of the 2008 season. It only gets better this week, as the Falcons are holding Allstate All-Access Weekend at Mill Creek High School (Friday) and the Georgia Dome (Saturday). Photo courtesy of Jimmy Cribb/Atlanta Falcons.

**WHAT'S ON THE INSIDE**

[WWW.SCOREATL.COM](http://WWW.SCOREATL.COM)

- 5** Hawks beat writer Scott Janovitz explains why the Atlanta Spirit Group, and not new GM Rick Sund, mismanaged the Josh Childress situation.
- 13** Falcons beat writer Erik Horne watched quarterback Matt Ryan (pictured) and the Birds take the field to kick off training camp last Saturday.
- 19** Stephen Black had a chance to speak to Dr. John-Charles Bradbury, author of *The Baseball Economist* and baseball blogger.
- 22** Georgia beat writer James Butler believes the Bulldogs have plenty of motivation after being predicted to finish second in the SEC East.



**A SCORE UPDATE:**

Score is looking for graphics interns for the upcoming football season to help design and lay out the publications as well as work on the Web site. Get college intern credit. For more information, contact David Gaudio at [dgaudio@scoreatl.com](mailto:dgaudio@scoreatl.com) or 404-256-1572.

**TEAM PAGES | COLUMNS**

COVER DESIGN BY DAVID GAUDIO; COVER PHOTO COURTESY OF SCOTT CUNNINGHAM.

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## The best of the not-quite Hall of Famers

Baseball vs. Football. Baseball had its Hall of Fame induction ceremonies this past weekend in Cooperstown and the NFL will have its own ceremony this weekend in Canton. Perhaps just as impressive is the list of candidates for both sports that didn't make it into the hallowed halls. Among all the candidates who fell short this year, who do the fans think deserve to have the moniker of "Hall of Famer" added to their names? Check out this week's online auction report for the results.

- Dale Murphy Autographed Baseball
- Andre Dawson Autographed Baseball
- Billy Martin Autographed Baseball
- Ken Stabler Autographed Football
- Cris Carter Autographed Football

And the fan's choice is ... Billy Martin. His autographed baseball was top of the charts, grabbing \$850. Billy does have one thing on the others in the poll: he's not longer signing, as he died in a car crash in 1989. Still, if the fans did not think he was worthy of Hall of Fame status they certainly would not shell out this type of money for a "regular guy." Hard to believe Ken Stabler hasn't made the Hall, but his autographed football pulled in \$225, followed by one of the top receivers in the game Cris Carter whose signed football grabbed \$180. Atlanta Braves

legend Dale Murphy hits \$100 for his autographed baseball. Rounding out this week's top five is Andre Dawson, whose signed baseball brought in \$90.

John Smoltz will be signing autographs at Turner Field for the Atlanta Food Bank on Saturday, Aug. 2 from 2-3 p.m. in Monument Grove. Bring 25 canned food items and the autograph is free (25 cans or \$25 for one autograph, 50 cans or \$50 for two autographs; maximum two autographs per person).

### FROM THE MAILBAG ...

*Dear Dean: I have a small white statue of Willie Mays that I've had since I was a kid in the 1950s. It's about two inches tall. Do you know anything about this statue?*

Dear Say Hey: Sounds like you have a 1955 Robert Gould All-Star Statue. There were 28 different baseball statues issued. The statues sold for about a quarter and also came with a baseball card which was rubber-banded to the statue. Willie Mays was the biggest name in this set and the statue is worth \$200. The baseball cards that came with the statue are much tougher to find. If you happen to have the Willie Mays card, it can be worth as much as \$600 depending upon its condition.

*Want to know what your item is worth or have a question about a particular sports item? E-mail me, Dean Zindler, at dzindler@scoreatl.com.*

# REMEMBER WHEN...

## HEAVY HITTER:

We're only weeks away from the start of the NFL season, and the New York Giants will be aiming to repeat as Super Bowl champions. In the 80s and 90s, it was legendary linebacker Lawrence Taylor who was leading the Giants to wins at Super Bowls XXI and XXV. The Hall of Famer was a 10-time Pro-Bowl selection. Photo courtesy of Scott Cunningham.



## Next Event! AUG 29-31



The ongoing, emotionally charged battle between Rockstar Makita Yoshimura Suzuki teammates Ben Spies and Mat Mladin for the AMA Superbike championship could be decided at Road Atlanta. The Suzuki Superbike Showdown presented by Rockstar will feature championship points-paying Superbike races both Saturday and Sunday.

This is the 10th Encore of Superbike racing at Road Atlanta, home of the original doubleheader format, and all three podium positions in each of the six races should be wide open, full throttle battles among representatives from Honda, Yamaha, Kawasaki, Ducati and Suzuki.

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## Hawks suffer tough loss in Childress; can new signee Evans fill void?

As the dust from the Josh Childress sweepstakes finally begins to settle, now seems as good a time as any to explore exactly what happened and, more importantly, how the Hawks let it happen. For those of you who don't already know the details, last week Josh Childress elected to bring his 'fro and game to Greece to play for Olympiacos Piraeus. The deal is for three years and worth an estimated \$32.5 million. In addition, the Greek club has agreed to pay for all his accommodations, including a car and driver and a maid service, and has given him the option to opt out of the contract at any time.

The loss of Childress for the Hawks is no doubt meaningful; he scored 11.8 points per game and played great defense on his way to becoming one of the league's best sixth men last season. And while Hawks management has taken nearly all the blame, perhaps new GM Rick Sund, specifically, should be granted a pass on this one. According to Sund, no team in the NBA pursued Childress as aggressively as the Hawks, as their \$33 million offer over five years was apparently more than anything else proposed by an American team. And, up until now, isn't that really who Sund competes against?

"He started to go to Greece after we had made our proposal and no, we did not [raise our offer]," said the Hawks GM. "My feeling was that we have to be competitive within the NBA and if someone takes us beyond that competition and it's going to hurt our club in the long run, I don't think we can do that. So market value for me has got to be within the league I play."

The fact is, had the Hawks matched the offer from Greece, I would instead be using this space to try and explain the terrible decision, to try and understand why the team would pay such an outlandish number for a sixth man. Don't forget, even with Childress last year, the Hawks had only 37 wins and were eight games below .500. Signing Childress to such a lucrative deal would have put the team over the luxury tax, a status that would be hard to rationalize for a team that's been so mired in mediocrity.

As Sund explains, "We wanted to send a message that if someone was going to sign him to an offer sheet and we felt it made sense and that's what market value was, we would match it and go over the luxury tax. Going over the luxury tax with a team that is under .500 is probably premature; going over the luxury tax if you are championship caliber, I think you're going to have to do that."

And to be sure, in the end, the decision to move abroad was indeed all about money for Childress.

"I can honestly say I was disappointed [with the way negotiations in Atlanta were handled]," he said Monday from his Atlanta home. "I really enjoyed Atlanta and felt like it was someplace I could see myself playing for the long haul. I was just disappointed in how things were handled. But Rick Sund had a tough job ... In the end, I just wanted to make sure I was able to get what I wanted out of the [free-agency] process."

### SPIRITED MISMANAGEMENT ...

So if Sund isn't to blame, then who is? Simply put, an ownership group (the Atlanta Spirit) that decided to make Josh Childress a priority only once it was already too late. They thought they were smart by allowing their free agents to play the market, thinking they would simply match any reasonable offer sheets. Yet this decision and delay offended their free agent and ultimately pushed him overseas; Josh Childress would never have been fielding calls from Greece if a deal with the Hawks had already been in place.

new Athens star would love to someday return.

"No question [I would come back]," Childress said. "It is definitely an option I plan on keeping open. Like I've said, I love Atlanta. But I think in my situation I have to continue to do what's best for me and, if that means playing in Greece or coming back to Atlanta, that's fine."

### LOOKING AHEAD ...

Either way, the team has lost a valuable asset and suffered a PR hit on the heels of final-



**THAT ONE'S GONE:** Mark Kotsay does his best Spider-Man impression on the wall at Turner Field but can only watch as the fans reach out for the home run. The bad luck continues to pile on for the Braves this year: Chipper Jones missed the weekend series with an injury and Mike Hampton's return was soured when the Braves gave up a 9-3 lead to fall 10-9 to Philadelphia on Saturday. Can the season be salvaged? Photo courtesy of Paul Abell/Atlanta Braves.

**SPORTS RADIO 790 WABZ** **CATCH I.J. ON SUNDAYS**

**'[The Hawks] have lost a valuable asset and suffered a PR hit ... And with [Josh] Childress on the way out, one has to wonder if Greece's newest, finest basketball player is merely an aberration or a trendsetter.'**

"[Olympiacos calling] wasn't something that I was expecting," Childress explained. "Once I wasn't really satisfied with how things were going with negotiations [in the NBA] I decided to look into that further."

The fact is, if management knew they wanted to keep Childress, they needed to make him a priority by locking him up immediately after the signing period began, or even as early as last summer, before he ever even had the opportunity to explore the free-agent market.

Still, despite the fallout between the two parties, the Hawks still have J-Chill under NBA contract for the next two years and, surprisingly, the

ly galvanizing their fan base after an exciting first-round exit from the playoffs last year. And with Childress on the way out, one has to wonder if Greece's newest, finest basketball player is merely an aberration or a trendsetter.

Apparently, Sund is every bit as interested and confused by the ordeal: "History has pretty much shown that, for the most part, the best players in the world prefer to play in the NBA. In the last year and a half, there have been some pretty aggressive efforts with teams in Europe, particularly in Russia, to sign players. Most of them have been European players,

**ON THE COVER**

The Hawks knew they might have to deal with 29 other NBA teams while trying to keep restricted free agent Josh Childress ... but little did they know they would have to compete against a Greek team as well. Olympiacos of the Euroleague shocked the basketball world by signing Childress to a three-year deal, stripping the Hawks of one of the most talented sixth men in the NBA. Will other American-born players follow suit down the road? The above photo and cover shot are each courtesy of Scott Cunningham.

but I think it is going to be interesting to see how it plays out in the future with everybody."

To lighten the blow, management agreed to terms with former Orlando Magic shooting guard Maurice Evans last Friday to a three-year deal worth about \$7.5 million. Evans does a quality job defending smaller guards, is a good 3-point shooter, and is also a superb athlete. His addition could also help improve what has recently become a weak Hawks bench, especially if he can win the starting two-guard spot, pushing Joe Johnson to the small forward position, as Marvin Williams would become the team's sixth man.

At best, Hawks brass has learned an important lesson on what can happen when you are not proactive, especially with a player who is valuable on and off the court. And it's a lesson that comes at a very meaningful time; hopefully the team's loss of one Josh will help prevent the loss of another (Smith).

*I.J. Rosenberg was so distraught by Childress's decision that he could not write this week, so we had Hawks beat writer Scott Janovitz take his place. Janovitz can be reached at [sjanovitz@scoreatl.com](mailto:sjanovitz@scoreatl.com), and Rosenberg's "Sitting In The Cheap Seats" column will return next week.*

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# SCORE LIST

BY TAD ARAPOGLOU

- 1 **LONG ROAD TRIP:** I swear, I had no idea my distant relatives were trying to recruit Josh Childress to come to Greece. I wonder if J-Chill likes feta cheese and ouzo – with that new contract, he will be able to buy a LOT of it.
- 2 **FINALLY HEALTHY:** Even with the loss, it was great seeing Mike Hampton pitch again last week. The Braves are now counting on Hampton to be healthy and effective, especially since they sent Charlie Morton back down to the minors.
- 3 **ALL SET:** The Falcons came up big by signing Sam Baker and Curtis Lofton before training camp started, meaning all 11 draft picks are now signed. Holdouts are never a good thing, so kudos to the Birds for avoiding unneeded distractions.
- 4 **THE CHAMPS:** Valdosta was chosen as ESPN's "TitleTown USA" last Monday. Valdosta and Lowndes High Schools have a combined 210 titles, while VSU has another 40. Maybe this will shut those Boston fans up for, oh, 10 seconds.
- 5 **TIME OFF:** With a 3-24 record, the Dream take a much-needed one-month break for the Olympics. Maybe they will be able to right some of their wrongs in that time. I wish I could take a one-month break sometimes ... oops, don't fire me, I.J.
- 6 **LOCKED UP:** That clip of the minor league pitcher hurling a ball toward the opposing dugout – and hitting a fan – during a brawl was sickening. He was arrested and faces eight years for felonious assault; he needs to be banned from baseball.
- 7 **STUCK AT TWO:** At SEC Media Days, it was announced that Florida is the pick to win the SEC East, with Georgia placing second. The Dawgs are sure to head into the Nov. 1 battle with a chip on their shoulders, but will that be enough?
- 8 **NEW PRINCE:** As a Miami graduate, I just became a big Norcross fan. Prince Kent, who had 59 tackles and five pass break-ups last year, verbally committed to play for the Hurricanes last week. Read more on Kent and other recruits on page 19.
- 9 **HERE'S A TIP:** At a Philadelphia restaurant, Charles Barkley gave busboy Christian Abate a pretty good tip last week: he offered to pay for his entire college tuition. Say what you want about Chuck's past antics, but that was a real class act.
- 10 **BARING IT ALL:** Professional tennis player Ashley Harkleroad, a Rossville, Ga., native, graces the cover of Playboy's August issue. I highly recommend you check it out – there are some really great articles to read this month ... I think ...

# DUE UP

HOTTEST THINGS TO SEE AND DO OVER THE NEXT SEVEN DAYS

BY JOSH BAGRIANSKY

- WEDNESDAY 30** **Braves vs. St. Louis. 640 AM/94.9 The Bull. FSN South.**  
The Cardinals come to town in the middle of a three-team race for the NL Central crown. The Braves will have to win soon if they want to get back into the hunt for the NL East title. First pitch is at 7 p.m.
- THURSDAY 31** **USA Basketball vs. Turkey. ESPN2.**  
Check out the USA Olympic Team as they tune up for Beijing against Turkey, the home of NBA players such as Hedo Turkoglu and Mehmet Okur. Live coverage starts at 8 a.m., with a replay in primetime at 8 p.m.
- FRIDAY 1** **Falcons Friday Night Lights.**  
Get your first look at this year's Falcons team at Mill Creek High School. Atlanta will conduct a live scrimmage featuring offense vs. defense. The game starts at 7:15 p.m., and the players will be signing autographs afterwards.
- SATURDAY 2** **Roam The Dome.**  
Falcons fans, make sure to get to the Georgia Dome to experience a simulated game including a performance of the National Anthem, a coin toss and player introductions! Players will sign autographs following the noon game.
- SUNDAY 3** **NFL Hall of Fame Game. NBC.**  
Kick off the NFL season with the annual preseason opener between the 2007 NFL Champion Indianapolis Colts and the new-look Washington Redskins. Enjoy all the coverage when the NFL finally returns at 8 p.m.
- MONDAY 4** **Braves at San Francisco. 640 AM/94.9 The Bull. SportSouth.**  
The Braves travel to the west coast to face off against the lowly Giants. The game starts late (10:15 p.m.) but if you are a REAL fan, you will support the team no matter how tired you are at work the next day.
- TUESDAY 5** **WWE Friday Night Smackdown.**  
Wrestling fans can catch the WWE spectacle three nights before they show it on TV. Catch superstars such as Edge, HHH, Big Show and, of course, the beautiful WWE Divas when they visit Philips Arena starting at 7:30 p.m.

## WHO'S HOT

THUMBS UP TO COMING BACK



### Mike Hampton

For the first time in almost three years, Hampton took the mound in a Major League game last Saturday. His final stats were not great, but this was a big step for the oft-injured starter. Can he stay off the disabled list for good?

### Valdosta

The entire town gets a "thumbs up" after ESPN and voters across the nation selected it as "TitleTown USA." And why not – among other reasons, Valdosta High football is the nation's all-time winningest program and has 23 state titles.

### Maurice Evans

The Hawks landed a crucial pickup in Evans, who averaged 9.3 points and 3.1 rebounds last season. Evans is a fantastic perimeter defender and will be a great asset off the bench, especially now that you-know-who has bolted for Europe.

### Bobby Petrino

At SEC media days, Petrino said he resigned as Falcons coach because of his "love of college football." He MUST love college football – why else would he have coached at nine schools in 25 years? Ah, loyalty is a beautiful thing.

### Hutchins out

The Falcons already had question marks in their secondary and the group took a hit when it was announced Von Hutchins will miss the entire 2008 season. He injured his left foot on Saturday and underwent season-ending surgery on Monday.

### Childress to Greece

Who could have expected this? Forward Josh Childress, one of the best sixth men in the NBA, decided to sign with Olympiacos in Greece rather than re-sign with the Hawks. The question now is, will other NBA players follow suit?



## WHO'S NOT

THUMBS DOWN TO GOING OVERSEAS

## CRUNCHING THE NUMBERS

**4.63** Mike Hampton's career ERA before joining the Braves in 2005 (10 seasons)

**3.96** Hampton's ERA since joining the Braves (3.50 ERA in last healthy season)

**2** Hampton's team rank in yearly salary (\$15,000,000; second behind Tim Hudson)

## KIM FALLS; WIE IS BACK

Anthony Kim's collapse in the final round of last week's RBC Canadian Open was surprising. The kid has looked like a closer this year. Maybe I am looking a little harder than normal with Tiger Woods out for the year but this young player looks special.

Speaking of young players, Michelle Wie will try again to make a cut on the PGATOUR this week at the Reno-Tahoe Open. I am very surprised that the PGATOUR hasn't put some restrictions on sponsor's exemptions yet. Maybe this will be the last straw. I would say that we all know how this ends, but we really



don't. Of course she will not make it past the second round but it could be another disqualification, wrist "injury," her agent stepping in and pulling her off the course, heat exhaustion, or just a regular old missed cut. Perhaps she goes off the board and gives us another entry into the Wie Hall of Shame.

It will be interesting. But it will not be good for the game. Shame on the Reno-Tahoe Open.  
Brian Katrek can be heard on 790 The Zone's "On The Green with Brian Katrek" Sundays from 8-9 a.m. and can be reached at [bkatrek@790thezone.com](mailto:bkatrek@790thezone.com).

## SANITY AT LAST

*"I've talked to a few guys, and it could become a trend. I'm not so sure it won't. It's different. We thought out of the box a little on this one."*

- Josh Childress on American-born basketball players leaving for Euroleague

# THE SPIN

NEWS - NOTES - QUOTES  
FROM THE ATLANTA SPORTS BEATS BOTH ON & OFF THE FIELD

SCORE

## SEC media votes, Dickey to play in Ukraine and Stokan a top innovator

### NOTHING TO DISCUSS

A lot of things happened in the world of sports over the past week, but I don't really want to talk about any of it. I really don't want to talk about Josh Childress shunning the Atlanta Hawks and the NBA to go play in Greece for three years, unless he decides he doesn't like it. He has an opt-out clause at the end of every year, not to mention he's going to be making way more money than the Hawks wanted to pay him. I won't even mention the fact that the Hawks get no compensation in return, but they'll still take a salary cap hit. I just don't want to talk about the fact that everyone thinks Josh is taking a step backwards by going overseas and they are conveniently forgetting that Team USA has been getting its behind kicked in international play for the past few years. They're also forgetting that in the last Olympics we won the Bronze medal, not the Gold one. I won't even bother to tell you that I think this is a good move for Josh and I wish him well.

I really don't want to talk about the fact that Josh Smith still isn't re-signed.

I certainly don't want to talk about the Brett Favre wanting to un-retire thing. No seriously, I don't want to talk about this at all and I wish ESPN didn't want to talk about it so much.

I don't want to talk about the fact that had there not been a brawl in the WNBA, the league would not have gotten any publicity this past week. Supposedly all publicity is good publicity, but when you struggle to appeal to the masses as the WNBA does, you don't need this kind of negativity.

I definitely don't want to talk about the Braves' pitching against the Phillies this past weekend. That is something we'd all like to pretend never happened.

I guess since I don't want to talk about anything from the past week, I don't have anything to write about either.

C.C. can be reached at [cfelicec@yahoo.com](mailto:cfelicec@yahoo.com).



**WATCH OUT:** Tech senior Michael Johnson was recently named to the watch list for the Ted Hendricks Award, given to the nation's top defensive end. In 13 games last season, Johnson led the Jackets with four QB hurries and two blocked kicks, and also posted 21 tackles, four sacks and three forced fumbles. Johnson is also on the watch list for the Maxwell Club's Chuck Bednarik Award (for best defensive player), as is teammate Vance Walker. Photos courtesy of Georgia Tech.

### CHECK THIS OUT!

With racing season heating up, the Dale Jarrett Driving Adventures school gives you a chance to get into the action yourself and get behind the wheel ... and it's visiting the Atlanta Motor Speedway this Saturday and Sunday! With the chance to drive a variety of cars, it's sure to be a blast for a fan of any type of racing. The driving school offers an opportunity to learn how to drive Corvette Racecars, Cobra Replacers, or even Racing Karts. Or you can also ride alongside an instructor for five laps as he races around the track at high speeds! You won't want to pass up an opportunity to race or ride in one of these racecars on the AMS Track, so get your purchase your passes today by visiting [www.racingadventures.com](http://www.racingadventures.com). And for more great events at AMS, be sure to check out [www.atlantamotorspeedway.com](http://www.atlantamotorspeedway.com).

## HERE'S THE SCOOP ...

Compiled by Scott Janovitz

Last week, the SEC media gathered, asked questions and made preseason predictions for the upcoming college football season. Out of 70 media representatives, 45 picked the Florida Gators to win the SEC East while 23 writers picked the Georgia Bulldogs. The remaining two votes went to the Tennessee Volunteers. Out of the West, 48 writers chose the Auburn Tigers to win the division. Florida led all schools with 36 votes to win the SEC Championship, while Georgia (18) barely edged out Auburn (13) for the second most votes. As for the media's votes with concern to individual accolades, Georgia placed five players on the First- and Second-Team All-SEC lists, including Knowshon Moreno, Dannell Ellerbe, Mohamed Massaquoi, Matthew Stafford and Asher Allen. There were no unanimous players chosen, as Florida Gator Percy Harvin joined Knowshon Moreno as the leading vote getter with 68.

In other SEC football news, Conference Commissioner Mike Slive announced that the league has postponed its decision on television and multimedia rights until this fall. TV deals with CBS, ESPN, Raycom Sports and FSN South run out at the end of the academic year and Slive has hinted at the possibility of an SEC Network similar to those started by the Mountain West and Big Ten conferences as well as by the NFL. Slive's main goals are to provide the conference with national

exposure and to air events in sports other than football and basketball.

### ARENA FOOTBALL NEWS ...

In last Sunday's AFL ArenaBowl, the Philadelphia Soul held onto a 59-56 lead to defeat the defending champion San Jose SaberCats. Trying to become the first team since the 1995-96 Tampa Bay Storm to win consecutive AFL titles, San Jose lost for the first time in four Arena Bowl appearances.

In related news, AFL Commissioner David Baker surprisingly resigned just two days before the ArenaBowl. At 55 years of age, Baker spent the last 12 years as League Commissioner. Under Baker's watchful eyes, the AFL has become a profitable league with attendance, TV ratings and merchandise sales all increasing over the last year. Ed Policy, his former Deputy Commissioner, will assume the Commissioner's role while a committee seeks a permanent successor.

### DANCING IN 2008 ...

The Thrashers and Hawks recently selected members for the Blue Crew and A-Town Dancers for the upcoming season, and we couldn't be more relieved; we've been waiting to check out the new talent all summer long. Out of 43 finalists, the Hawks selected a lucky 17 to make up the 2008-09 A-Town Dancers while the Thrashers chose 19 for this year's Blue Crew. Go to [AtlantaHawks.com](http://AtlantaHawks.com) and

[AtlantaThrashers.com](http://AtlantaThrashers.com) - you will be impressed.

Georgia Tech center Ra'Sean Dickey recently became yet another in a growing list of American basketball players who have decided to take their games abroad. Dickey joins high school point guard and California native Brandon Jennings overseas as well as former Hawk Josh Childress. Dickey will be giving up his senior season to play professionally in the Ukraine. While European teams have yet to steal a player at the elite level away from American basketball, there is no doubt a new standard has been set for fringe players to traverse national borders in hopes of more money or better opportunity to showcase their skills.

In exciting news, Gary Stokan, President of the Atlanta Sports Council, was recently named one of the top 25 Innovators and Influencers in Sports Events Magazine's July issue. The honor was given to 25 people who have excelled, in one way or another, in the sports community throughout their professional careers. Joining Stokan were other Sports Commissions Presidents, such as Don Shumacher, the head of the National Association of Sports Commissions, and Tom Jerstedt of the NCAA. Also on the list were nationally renowned sports figures, including Peter Ueberroth (USOC), Billie Jean King and former Nebraska football head coach Tom Osborne.



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# ON THE GREEN



## COURTNEY CAPPS

### Three weeks left before PGA Tour playoffs

The end of the PGA Tour's regular season is just three weeks and four tournaments away. There are two big events and two smaller tournaments left to play before the playoffs start. This week, the big guns will be in Akron, Ohio, for the WGC Bridgestone, while the second tier will be teeing it up at the Legends Reno-Tahoe Open. Next week is the final major of the year, The PGA Championship, at Oakland Hills CC, and finally, the Wyndham Championship in Greensboro, N.C. Let the scrambling begin.

The top 144 point-earners will move from the regular season into the first playoff tournament, The Barclays, being played this year at The Ridgewood Country Club in Paramus, N.J. As things stand after The Canadian Open, Brett Rumford is No. 144 on the points list, surrounded by Glen Day at 145 and, believe it or not, Greg Norman in the 143rd position (he will likely not play anymore PGA Tour events to keep his position).

Here's where it gets interesting. While the top 84 are battling it out for a slice of the 26,500 FedExCup points available at The WGC Bridgestone Invitational, the next 129 (we're just not going to count Michelle Wie) will try to cash in on the 12,500 points available at The Legends Reno-Tahoe Open. With the winners getting 10 percent of the available points at a tournament, a win by a low-ranked player can bring a big jump in standings. Chez Reavie jumped from 128 to 29 with his Canadian Open win last week.

Before Reno-Tahoe, there are just 500 points separating the 134th player (Roland Thatcher) and the 154th player (J.P. Hayes). While these aren't the most recognizable names on Tour, this is the area where the most movement on the list is likely to happen.

#### LEGENDS RENO-TAHOE OPEN ...

Here we go again. While the FedExCup points-hungry men of the PGA Tour battle for position and a shot at the playoff dollars, most of the media attention this week will be focused on Michelle Wie. Now 18, Wie has managed one good result in two years, and that ended in last week's DQ after not signing her second-round scorecard. Knowing this, the organizers of the Legends Reno-Tahoe Open figured she was a natural fit for their tournament. Never mind that she is on a string of last-place finishes with the men; she will bring attention, no matter how undeserved, to the tournament.

Jay Williamson thought someone was making a joke when he heard that Wie was going to be in the field. When Wie heard of Williamson's reaction, she said that she didn't even know who Williamson was. Maybe not, Ms. Wie, but Jay Williamson was in a playoff on the PGA Tour, and to be in a playoff, you have to at least make the cut.

For those of you who were wondering if you should bet this month's mortgage payment on Michelle Wie, here are the odds on her from SkyBet. She is 1:16 to miss the cut. You bet 16, you make 1 if she misses the cut. Not a great bet. She is 7:1 to make the cut, 66:1 to make the top 10, and 150:1 to make the top five. Remember, there are only 130 players in the field. The odds against her shooting a round of par or better are 13:2. Not very good odds on a 7,472-yard layout, even at altitude.

Good luck to Wie, but don't bet the house on her. I predict another missed cut and a very low finish.

Capps can be reached at [onthegreen@scoreatl.com](mailto:onthegreen@scoreatl.com).



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# ON THESE DAYS IN ATLANTA SPORTS



Compiled by Erik Horne

**2007** – The Braves made their biggest transaction of the season on July 31, trading five young prospects, including the highly rated Jared Saltalamacchia and Elvis Andrus, to the Texas Rangers for pitcher Ron Mahay and former Georgia Tech standout Mark Teixeira. The move signaled the Braves' intentions in the playoff race, and it nearly paid off, as Teixeira hit .317 with 17 home runs and 56 RBIs after the deal.



**GOING DEEP:** Since being traded to the Braves on July 31 of last year, first baseman Mark Teixeira has hit a total of 37 home runs and over 130 RBIs.

Photo courtesy of Scott Cunningham.

son in a 6-4 win over the Los Angeles Dodgers on Aug. 2. Smoltz's league-leading 43rd save was made easier by a critical three-run triple from Chipper Jones. To that point, it would be one of only two triples for Jones that season.

**1998** – The Braves added another bat to the lineup in Greg Colbrunn on July 30. The 28-year-old outfielder was acquired from the Colorado Rockies in a deal that sent Braves minor leaguers David Cortez and Mike Porzio to Denver. The lifetime .289 hitter would rake .295 down the stretch for the first-place Braves as the No. 1 pinch-hitting option off the bench.

**1983** – Dale Murphy was dropped down in the batting order, but it didn't matter in the Braves' 8-1 win over the San Francisco Giants on Aug. 4. Murphy was bumped down from his usual No. 3 spot to sixth, and the All-Star responded with three RBIs and his 23rd home run of the season after going 0-for-5 the previous night. Murphy would eventually finish second in the league in homers.

**1958** – On July 30, Milwaukee Braves pitcher Warren Spahn beat the Brooklyn Dodgers for the first time in seven years. The Hall-of-Famer out-pitched Sandy Koufax 4-3 on the day, tossing a complete game and striking out seven. With the win, the



**SEVENTH HEAVEN:** In 1958, Milwaukee Braves legend Warren Spahn picked up his first win over the Brooklyn Dodgers in almost seven years.

Photo courtesy of the Atlanta Braves.

Braves regained first place over the San Francisco Giants and Spahn recorded his first win over the Dodgers since Sept. 25, 1951.

**1938** – On Aug. 1, Brooklyn Dodgers general manager Larry MacPhail had game balls dyed yellow for Game 1 of a doubleheader against the St. Louis Cardinals at Ebbets Field. The Cardinals' Johnny Mize smoked a knuckleball off of Brooklyn's Freddie Fitzsimmons, but the Dodgers would prevail 6-2. Despite the loss, Mize, a Demorest, Ga., native and Hall of Famer, hit the first "yellow" home run in MLB history.



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## Surprise, surprise: Maryland readies for another season with QB questions

In the seven years Ralph Friedgen has been the head Terp, plenty of unexpected things have happened to Maryland football. Taking home the ACC title in his debut year in 2001, not supposed to happen. Winning 30 games over his first three seasons, not supposed to happen. But a particularly unexpected event seems to have become an annual affair and it's one that Friedgen and his staff would rather do without: in 2008, Maryland yet again enters fall practice with no clear idea of who its starting quarterback will be.

There are candidates, but each of these dogs has fleas. First up is Jordan Steffy, a senior by class, but one of those guys that seems to be in his 11th year in the program. He played some in 2004, but then ripped his knee. Along the way there's also been a car accident and, last season in week five vs.

Rutgers, a concussion. Unfortunately for Maryland fans, there's been very little quality football played. The 6-foot-1, 205-pound senior has one more shot at it and this time it will be in a spread system that is potentially a good fit for Steffy's willingness to play conservative and check down to shorter routes.

James Franklin, late of Kansas State, has the keys to the playbook as the new offensive coordinator for The Fridge. And while Franklin's Xs and Os seem to favor Steffy, it's junior Chris Turner that has much more big-play ability, as well as the confidence and respect of his teammates. Turner's about three inches taller and nearly 10 pounds heavier than Steffy, but is plenty mobile to run Franklin's version of the spread. He came off the bench in the Rutgers game and led the Terps to an upset of the 10th-ranked Scarlet Knights, assuming

the duties for the rest of the season afterward. In those final seven games, Turner threw for more than 200 yards six times. That'd be six more times than Steffy's done in three years, for those scoring at home.

### AND AT NUMBER 3 ...

The wildcard here is Josh Portis, a junior who transferred from Florida after the 2005 season with plenty of advance hype but has yet to do anything ... literally ... on the field in College Park. He sat out a transfer year in 2006, was supposed to be in the mix last season, but wound up suspended for the entire year for allegedly cheating on a test during summer school. Can he be a difference-maker at this level? Most agree he can, but half his eligibility is gone and the only time he's ever stepped foot on a college field

has been during the past two Spring games with Maryland. He's extremely quick, is the same size as Turner, and has a slingshot arm that is more accurate than you'd think. And he's been a general dunce since leaving high school, something that will never endear you to Ralph Friedgen.

My guess is Turner gets the job, with Portis as the main backup and Steffy as the guy who gets a pat on the back and another stripe on the letter jacket. That, combined with a schedule that gets tougher seemingly every week you get deeper into it, has Maryland looking at a repeat of last year's six wins and most likely being home for the holidays.

*Oliver can be heard on 790 The Zone's "Afternoon Saloon" weekdays from 4-7 p.m. and can be reached at king@790thezone.com.*

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# TRIDENT LACROSSE LAX REPORT



ALAN VAZQUEZ

## Finally, summer lacrosse becoming popular in Atlanta – not just up north

Summertime has always been quiet when it comes to lacrosse in Georgia. Growing up in the north, summer ball was always the most fun while also a time for expanding and improving your skills. Summer lacrosse in Atlanta had been primarily limited to camps and a couple of high school travel teams. Competitive gameplay was found elsewhere, usually in the Mid-Atlantic or Northeast. Travel teams were formed as the only way to get good competition was to head north. But the landscape is changing.

The game has become very popular here in Georgia, and Atlanta deserves to take its place as a regional lacrosse center. A few years ago, a small group of strategic thinkers in the Atlanta lacrosse community got together with Trident Lacrosse to collaborate on how to give our kids the best long-term shot at lacrosse excellence. We needed to

attack the problem from two distinct points: a) Simultaneously lift and broaden the skill level of our tremendous base of athletes; b) Build a summer high school tournament infrastructure of our own.

Both points are vital because we have to gradually become self-sufficient. Our players need to be exposed to top programs so they can experience what it takes to play high school lacrosse at a nationally recognized level. However, the sheer economics of hauling more and more kids far away to play is not scalable. The gap would remain wide until someone invested in our lacrosse community by broadening and lifting the skill base and driving excellence across a larger demographic.

### HERE'S THE POINT ...

To address the aforementioned point A, Trident put together a completely different

type of summer travel team. This team has open tryouts (to make sure it's not limited to only the traditional powerhouse programs) and emphasizes skill development. Team Trident reaches out to all kids who have talent and want to improve, but also emphasizes the responsibility of each player to make his/her high school team better too. Moreover, Trident is built on something which is vital to sustained success with kids – FUN.

To address point B, Trident invested in two events. First, we established our own tournament (The TILT). This tournament focuses on high school and U15 boys and girls, and grew to 24 teams this past June. Competition was outstanding, with teams from North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee joining us. Second, Trident invested in the Georgia Games (state-wide youth Olympic games) to resurrect the youth

lacrosse competition. Three years ago there were barely enough teams to have a contest, and this year we had nearly 20 teams (including two from Tampa, Fla.) representing both the north and south of Atlanta.

So, summer lacrosse is flourishing here in greater Atlanta. We have broadened the base, increased skills across the board, excelled against the best programs from up north, and developed some outstanding high school and youth events for our kids to enjoy for years to come. Support these events because their success will ultimately help your child's success. But don't forget – the secret is FUN.

*Alan Vazquez is the co-owner of Trident Lacrosse and can be reached at [alanvazquez@tridentlacrosse.com](mailto:alanvazquez@tridentlacrosse.com). For more information about Trident Lacrosse, visit [tridentlacrosse.com](http://tridentlacrosse.com).*



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## DeSouza returns and Dream take one-month break for Olympic Games

After winning two games during the longest road trip of the season, the Dream were hoping to snatch more wins when they returned home last week. Instead they were winless during that homestand to lower their record to 3-23.

Friday's narrow loss to the Washington Mystics was an especially tough one to swallow. The Dream trailed by just three at the half, and quickly went on a run to go up 53-49 with 6:34 to go.

"There were spurts where we played really well," said head coach Marynell Meadors after the game.

Unfortunately, it was a spurt of bad play in the rest of the quarter that cost the Dream the game. Washington took the lead back just over a minute later, and the quarter

ended with the Dream trailing 70-59.

If not for the poor close to the third, Atlanta may have won. An Ivory Latta 3-pointer pulled the Dream within 76-75 with 3:47 to go. But on Atlanta's next three possessions, Latta missed a 3-point attempt and turned the ball over twice.

"She just turned the ball over," Meadors said. "She made some bad decisions."

The final score was 81-75. Iziane Castro-Marques led the way with 23 points and six rebounds.

Meanwhile, Betty Lennox, the team's season-leading scorer, played just 12 minutes. She wasn't happy about it, either.

"You can't pull me out like I'm a rookie when I make a mistake or miss a shot," she said afterwards.

Lennox started Sunday's 86-76 loss to the New York Liberty on the bench. The Dream closed out the weekend with their fifth straight loss to the New York Liberty. Atlanta trailed just 57-56 after the third. Lennox played 28 minutes and led the team in scoring with 18 points.

### DESOUZA RETURNS ...

Last week also featured the return of Erika DeSouza, who was a strong force in the low post before being hurt in just the third game of the season. She finished with six points and four rebounds in 12-plus minutes of play on Friday against Washington. She led the team in minutes on Sunday, scoring nine points and grabbing 11 rebounds.

"She's wonderful," Meadors said. "If Erika had been playing [throughout the season] I think we would have won a lot more games."

### OLYMPIC BREAK BEGINS ...

The Dream now join the WNBA in a month-long hiatus for the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing. They return to the court at the end of August with a home game against the Connecticut Sun on Aug. 29 and a trip to Indiana to face the Fever on Aug. 30.

"Each player is going to get six days off, and when we come back together at the end of August we'll work on team things," Meadors said.

Bagriansky can be reached at [jbagriansky@scoreatl.com](mailto:jbagriansky@scoreatl.com).

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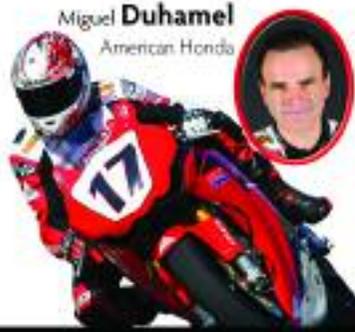
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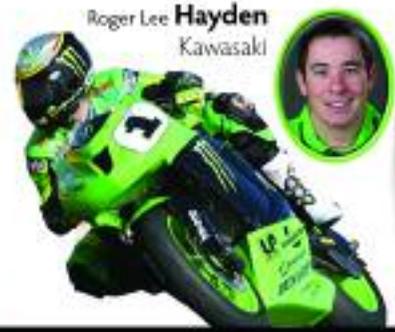
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## New faces and on-field action: all part of the Flowery Branch experience

I couldn't sleep. As I tossed and turned the night before my first venture to Flowery Branch, I couldn't help but be excited. What was even more exciting was thinking about what the players and coaches were going through. Like me, there were plenty of other first-timers, from Mike Smith as a head coach to Matt Ryan as an NFL quarterback. Flowery Branch would be my introduction to the Atlanta Falcons experience.

### SIGHTS AND SOUNDS ...

The first thing you notice when you get to the Falcons' sprawling campus in Flowery Branch is its pristine condition and the professionalism with which it is run. Coming around the corner of the practice facility, I looked across the immaculate green of the two occupied fields to see the player dormitory in the distance, with a Falcons' symbol smack dab in the middle. After passing the promotional tents in the parking lot, it's a stark transformation: from carnival buzz to football, football, football.

The scene is reminiscent of high school two-a-days, except this year's camp is surprisingly low key. As a prep schooler in Louisiana, I was a soccer player, but I remembered the horror stories of two-a-days: stifling heat, coaches yelling constantly, and countless tall tales from my dad's prep days at Murphy High in Atlanta (how his coach would make his team run up a steep bank as

punishment). Not at Falcons camp. Last season's No. 7 media monstrosity was apparently punishment enough.

There is a relaxed feel to this camp, from the easy access to players and personnel to the player's family members standing right alongside the media. The most startling sounds are whistles blowing for drill changes; that passionate, yelling Falcons fan that knows an unhealthy amount of player bios and statistics; and enthusiastic defensive coordinator Brian VanGorder. The real kicker, however, was my proximity to the action. I was giddy with excitement when Joe Horn passed literally inches from my face while changing fields, I was in awe of how much zip Joey Harrington puts on his passes (what an arm!), and I was pleased to see Falcons owner Arthur Blank chumming it up with what seemed like every single person on the sidelines. Besides the occasional brushback from a Falcons' personnel member (stay behind the coolers), you are almost standing on the field of play. You can easily be mistaken for a coach if you were wearing some Falcons apparel (I was not), know some football terminology (I do) and have a football player's build (sadly, I do not). I would, however, recommend bringing a visor or hat, because the sun can get annoying when trying to make eye contact with Michael Koenen.

### THE CAMP EXPERIENCE ...

By far, the most exhilarating part of camp is the 7-on-7 and 11-on-11 drills at the end of the session. Exhilarating may seem like a strong word for training camp, but it's spot-on for watching the NFL game at field level, which nearly every fan at camp gets to do. My top moments:

- When franchise future-holder Matt Ryan threw an out route to Adam Jennings. With the ball a little out of his reach and heading out of bounds, Jennings turned on the jets to make the diving catch ... about 10 feet away from me. "What a grab," I said aloud. That's right, I said it out loud.
- When new signing Erik Coleman picked off Joey Harrington, as Coleman seemingly floated for five seconds to pull down the pass over the middle with one hand.
- Any time Jerious Norwood touched the ball. Fast is not comprehended until you are on the same eye level as the person running. One of the fastest humans I have ever seen.

All of the things I saw were probably small potatoes compared to the experiences of the fans and the kids at Flowery Branch. As sweat dripped into my eyes while I was taking notes, I happened to hear a father telling his son to come look at the linebackers practice.

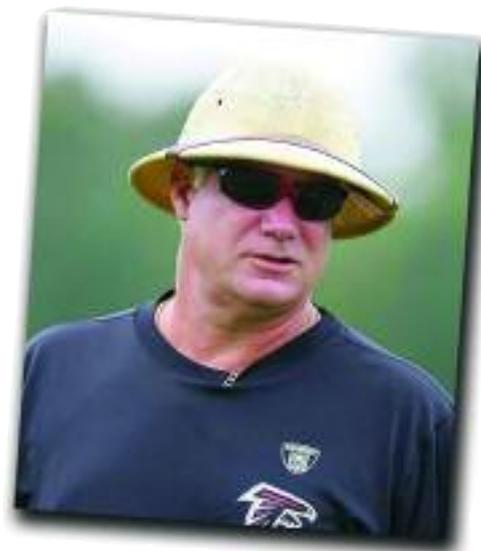
"Watch them, this is your position," the father told his boy.

For all the war stories from the players,

the holdouts and contract issues (none for the Falcons this year, thank goodness), and the blistering sun, training camp is essentially a chance for fans to get closer to the players they view as mythological, as larger than life.

Flowery Branch: it's something every Falcons fan should experience.

Horne can be reached at [ehorne@scoreatl.com](mailto:ehorne@scoreatl.com).



**TAKE A LOOK:** New head coach Mike Smith had to have liked what he saw when training camp opened last Saturday. Both sides of the ball showed flashes of brilliance and the fans had plenty of reasons to enjoy the atmosphere. Photo courtesy of Jimmy Cribb/Atlanta Falcons.

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# NEWS FROM THE FALCONS




**ERIK HORNE**

## Falcons open camp with new perspective; Baker and Lofton sign contracts

### OFF THE FIELD

On the eve of Saturday, two rookies remained unsigned in first-round offensive tackle Sam Baker and second-round linebacker Curtis Lofton. Luckily, the two were signed late Friday, meaning all 11 draft picks were signed before camp started. Baker had to sit out the first portion of the practice as his contract was finalized on Saturday, however. "I went through all of the physicals but it was just all the language of the contract," Baker said. "I had to wait upstairs until it got done. I was going to come out, but I didn't know you couldn't without a contract."

Before Monday's morning practice, center Todd McClure was carted off the field after injuring his lower back while warming up. At press time the specifics were unknown, but head coach Mike Smith said that he did not believe the injury was serious. McClure has started in 96 consecutive games at center, having not missed a game for six straight seasons.

This weekend will be the inaugural Falcons Allstate All-Access Weekend. The team will play in a scrimmage at Mill Creek High School on Friday at 7:15 p.m., appropriately themed "Friday Night Lights." On Saturday, the Falcons will have their "Roam the Dome" event at the Georgia Dome, where the team will play a mock game. Both events are open to the public.



**AT CAMP:** Emmitt Thomas gives some pointers to wide receiver Roddy White during the Falcons' first day of training camp last Saturday. Fans will be able to watch D.J. Shockley and the rest of the QBs take snaps during Allstate All-Access Weekend, starting Friday. Photos courtesy of Jimmy Cribb/Atlanta Falcons.

### THE SCHEDULE

- Fri. at All-Access Weekend, 7:15 p.m. (Mill Creek High)
- Sat. at All-Access Weekend, Noon (Ga. Dome)
- Aug. 9 at Jacksonville, 7:30 p.m. (Preseason)

Training camp at Flowery Branch will continue until Aug. 15. Log onto [www.atlantafalcons.com](http://www.atlantafalcons.com) for details.

### PLAYER TO WATCH

The Oklahoma product could break the starting lineup at MLB. At 6-feet, 248 pounds, the second-round pick (37th overall) recorded 192 stops (17.5 for loss) in three NCAA seasons.



**CURTIS LOFTON LB**

### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*"I'm excited about training camp; as a coach you have to be. It's not necessarily fun all the time going through two-a-days for players, coaches or the media. It's a grind, but we're excited about getting started."*

- Head coach Mike Smith

### THE TWO-MINUTE WARNING ...

On the field, the Falcons probably could not have been more pleased with the activity and lack of injuries on the first day. There was barely a hitch or hiccup in the on-field proceedings. The only injury news came from defensive back Von Hutchins, who tweaked his ankle in 7-on-7 competition.

The team started the day with position-specific workouts. On offense, Chris Redman led the quarterbacks in drills, with Joey Harrington and No. 3 overall pick Matt Ryan and D.J. Shockley following suit.

On defense, the surprise of the day was the emergence of former free agent Brent Grimes as starting cornerback opposite Chris Houston. The 5-foot-10, 185-pounder worked exclusively with the first team. The starting secondary was comprised of Houston and Grimes on the corners with Lawyer Milloy and free-agent signing Erik Coleman at the safety spots. Unfortunately, not all news was good news as cornerback Von Hutchins injured his left foot and after foot surgery on

Monday, it was announced that he will miss the entire 2008 season.

#### RECEIVING ATTENTION ...

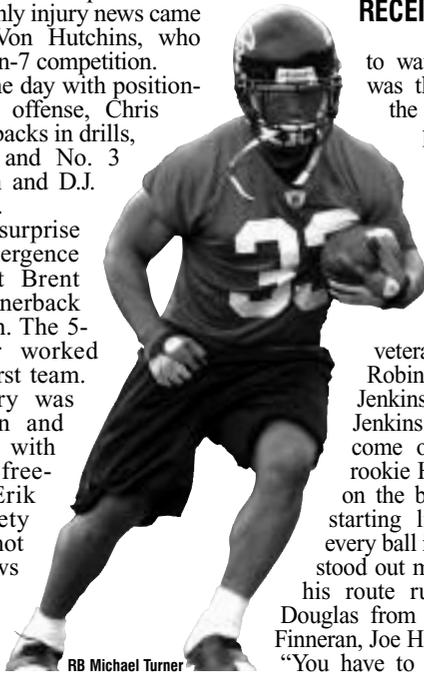
The most intriguing group to watch during position drills was the wide receivers, where the Falcons have their deepest position battle on offense. Roddy White has come a long way in four NFL seasons, and looks primed for a repeat from last season's 1,202-yard breakthrough. White was the most consistent of the veteran receivers, while Laurent Robinson and a solid Michael Jenkins rounded out the top three. Jenkins could be on the fringe come opening day, however, as rookie Harry Douglas looks to be on the brink of breaking into the starting lineup. Douglas snagged every ball in sight on Day 1, but what stood out most was the conviction of his route running, which separated Douglas from his competition in Brian Finneran, Joe Horn and Adam Jennings. "You have to take pride in your route

running," Douglas said. "If you can't get out of your breaks fast, especially at this level, you're not going to get open."

"You never know what can happen," the Jonesboro native said of his chances of starting. "But you have to have expectations for yourself. I just stay humble and do everything coach [Smith] asks me to do."

#### HARRINGTON KEEPS IT REAL ...

The highlight of practice was the 7-on-7 and 11-on-11 scrimmages: Offense vs. Defense. Standout plays included a nice one-handed interception from Erik Coleman on a Joey Harrington pass and a diving sideline catch by Adam Jennings, courtesy of a Matt Ryan toss. Everyone paid extra attention, however, when Ryan took center, with the 6-foot-4, 220-pounder showing a significantly quicker release than the other signal callers, hitting receivers early out of their breaks. Each quarterback was solid, especially Harrington, who had some serious velocity on his throws. The seven-year vet was candid after practice about this season and last year's media mess. "You had to be a little prepared for what happened last year, but that's done," Harrington stated. "We've moved on beyond that. This year, I don't want to say is back to normal, but is as normal as it can be. There's not a whole lot different this year from any other year ... and it's kind of nice."



RB Michael Turner



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# ON THE BRAVES BEAT



**FLETCHER PROCTOR**

## Road trip gives Braves answers, Hampton returns and trade deadline Thursday

### OFF THE FIELD

The Atlanta Braves hosted Nuestro Camp earlier this month, giving kids from the Latin American Association batting, fielding, pitching and base-running instruction from current and former Braves. Mike Gonzalez, Jorge Campillo, Omar Infante and Eddie Perez all pitched in at the event, which was held at the Atlanta Braves Academy.

Despite a stretch of 7-for-12 with four extra-base hits, five RBIs and three straight multi-hit games while filling in at shortstop for the injured Yunel Escobar, Brent Lillibridge was optioned to Triple-A Richmond to make room for the return of Omar Infante from the disabled list. Infante had been out with an injured right hamstring and Escobar was out with a shoulder injury. Lillibridge has played in 16 games this year and is hitting .208.

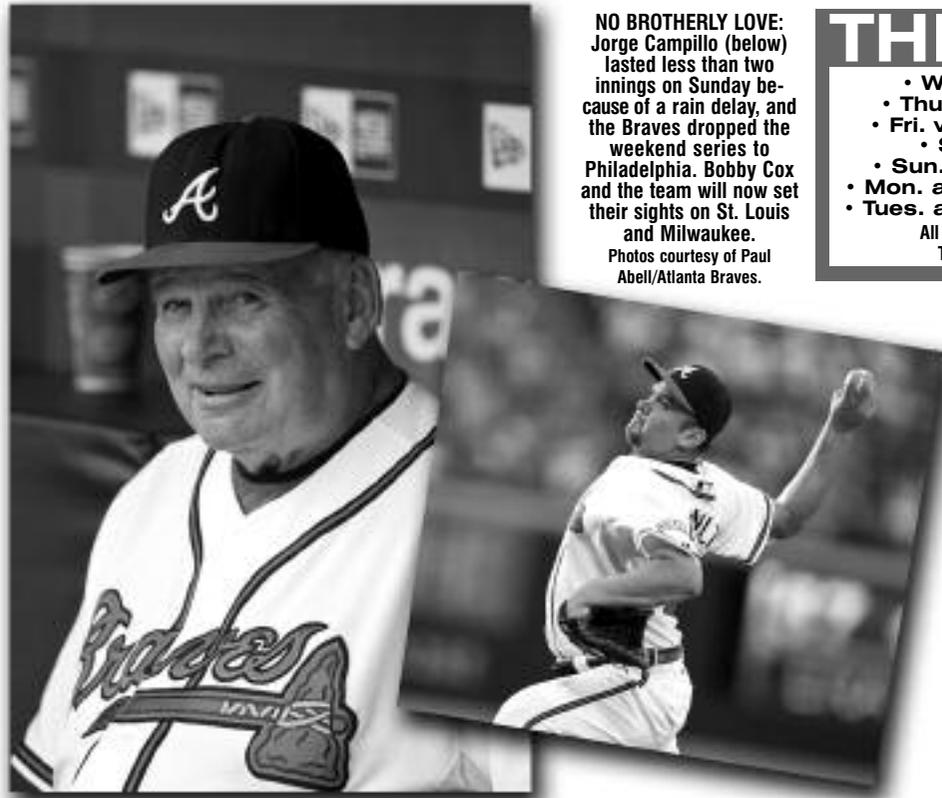
For the second time this year, a Braves farmhand has tossed a no-hitter. After Double-A Mississippi's Tommy Hanson accomplished the feat, 20-year-old David Francis of the rookie-level Danville Braves struck out 16 in six innings of no-hit ball before reaching his pitch count number and turning the game over to Matthew Small. Rain ended last week's game after seven for the 1-0 win. Francis was a 12th-round pick (No. 370 overall) in June's draft out of Walters State (Tenn.) Community College. Francis is now 3-1 with a 1.52 ERA this season. "I'm still kind of in awe," said Francis, who has 35 strikeouts in just 23.2 innings.

### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*"I talk to clubs daily and will continue to talk to them ... We've all exchanged names and know where we stand."*

- GM Frank Wren on the trade deadline (July 31)

**790 THE ZONE** Tune in to Fletcher Proctor's post-game Extra Innings Show after each Braves weekday game on 790 The Zone.



**NO BROTHERLY LOVE:** Jorge Campillo (below) lasted less than two innings on Sunday because of a rain delay, and the Braves dropped the weekend series to Philadelphia. Bobby Cox and the team will now set their sights on St. Louis and Milwaukee.  
Photos courtesy of Paul Abell/Atlanta Braves.

### THE SCHEDULE

- Wed. vs. St. Louis, 7 p.m. *FSN South*.
- Thurs. vs. St. Louis, 7 p.m. *Peachtree TV*.
- Fri. vs. Milwaukee, 7:30 p.m. *Peachtree TV*.
- Sat. vs. Milwaukee, 3:55 p.m. *FOX*.
- Sun. vs. Milwaukee, 1:30 p.m. *SportSouth*.
- Mon. at San Francisco, 10:15 p.m. *SportSouth*.
- Tues. at San Francisco, 10:15 p.m. *SportSouth*.

All games will be broadcast on 640 AM and 94.9 The Bull. Tickets can be purchased at [www.atlantabraves.com](http://www.atlantabraves.com).

### PLAYER OF THE WEEK

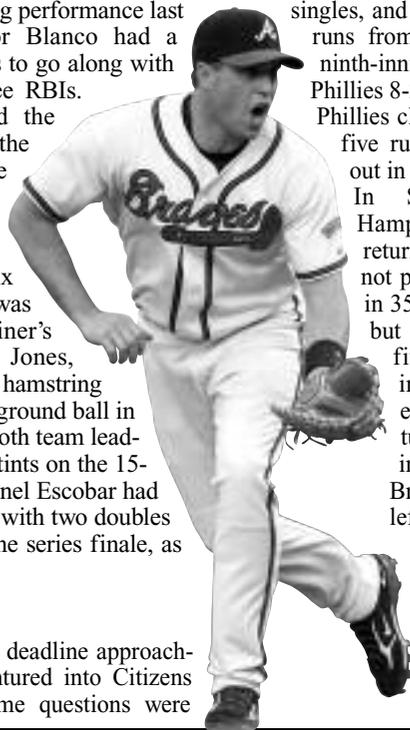
**4 GAMES**  
**5 HITS**  
**2 HRS**  
**7 RBIS**  
**1 SB**



**BRIAN McCANN C**

### THE SEVENTH-INNING STRETCH ...

After splitting the first two games of an important road series in Florida, the team needed a strong performance last Wednesday. Gregor Blanco had a career-best four hits to go along with three runs and three RBIs. The Braves scored the first nine runs of the game before the bullpen was called into action, as Tim Hudson left with a sore elbow after six innings. Hudson was joined in the trainer's room by Chipper Jones, who hurt his left hamstring trying to beat out a ground ball in the fourth inning. Both team leaders are headed for stints on the 15-day disabled list. Yunel Escobar had a triumphant return with two doubles and three RBIs in the series finale, as Atlanta won 9-4.



#### UP IN PHILLY ...

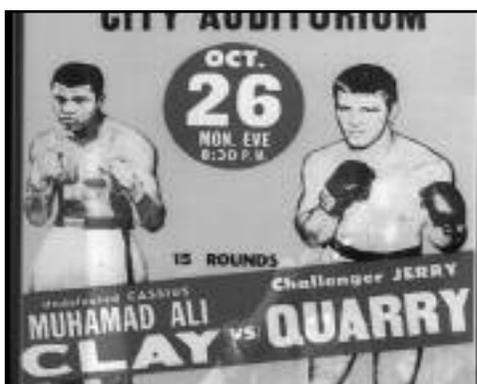
With the trade deadline approaching, the Braves ventured into Citizens Bank Park and some questions were

answered. In Friday's game, Jairo Jurrjens went eight strong innings allowing only three singles, and the Braves received two home runs from Brian McCann, including a ninth-inning grand slam to crush the Phillies 8-2. McCann's long ball came off Phillies closer Brad Lidge, who gave up five runs without recording a single out in his worst outing of the year. ... In Saturday's matinee, Mike Hampton made his long-awaited return to the mound. The lefty had not pitched in a major league game in 35 months and he started out hot but ran into some trouble in the fifth. His final line was four-plus innings, eight hits and six earned runs. Mark Teixeira (pictured) hit a three-run home run in the fourth inning and the Braves led 9-6 when Hampton left, but Royce Ring and Blaine Boyer gave the lead back in the bottom of the fifth. After leading 9-3 at one point, Atlanta ended up losing 10-9, its 25th-straight loss in a one-run road decision. ... In Sunday's finale, rain chased

both starters from the game and a five-run fourth helped the Phillies rally from down 5-0 early. Things went from bad to worse, as McCann left the game following a scary collision at home plate. The Braves' bullpen was also scary, allowing seven runs as the Braves squandered another huge lead in a 12-10 loss.

#### IN OTHER NEWS ...

Manager Bobby Cox missed the July 22 game against the Marlins, as he was suspended for "inappropriate conduct and comments" stemming from his argument with umpire Chris Guccione during a 15-6 loss against Washington on July 20. Cox extended his league record to 141 career ejections. The manager has been suspended three times before for incidents in 1980, 1999 and 2003. ... Injured left-hander Tom Glavine has thrown several bullpen sessions and is encouraged by the progress. After throwing 40 pitches at 60 percent last week, he took to the mound in Florida and tossed 45 pitches at 75-80 percent. He told reporters that he felt better following the second session, noting he "had a little bit more arm strength." Glavine has not pitched since leaving mid-game in Chicago on June 10 with a small tear in the flexor tendon.



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## Childress to Greece; Law named All-Revue

The offseason stove heated up in a hurry for the Hawks last week, as the team lost a significant player, signed a significant player and finished out their summer-league play. On Wednesday, sixth man Josh Childress could be found feeling to Greece, as the restricted free agent signed the most lucrative deal in European basketball history to play for Olympiacos.

"I don't think it was a situation that happened because of the Hawks," Hawks GM Rick Sund explained over phone from Vegas on Wednesday. "Our situation is that we felt pretty comfortable that if [Josh Childress] was going to play in the United States and in the NBA that we were going to have the best offer, which we did. This is kind of a unique situation in that it's Europe and their rules are different from ours, so we don't have the matching rights."

Meanwhile, two days after the Childress defection, the Hawks went back to the drawing table, quickly finding their replacement in 6-foot-5, 220-pound shooting guard Maurice Evans. Though Evans is somewhat of a journeyman—he has played for six teams in as many years in the league—he can be an extremely valuable asset for a Hawks team that, until the Evans signing, had only eight players under contract. At 29 years of age, the former Texas Longhorn is a good athlete, can play tough defense against smaller guards, and is a consistent 3-point shooter, especially from the corners. Spending the majority of last year in Orlando, Evans started 47 games for the Magic, averaging 9.3 points per game on 48.9 percent shooting to

go along with 3.1 rebounds. His contract is for three years and worth about \$7.5 million.

### REVIEWING THE REVUE ...

Friday marked the end of summer-league play for the Hawks, as the final 2008 Rocky Mountain Revue games concluded. Since then, the 2008 All-Revue Team has been released and Hawks fans will be happy to learn that second-year point guard Acie Law IV made the squad.

In six games, Law led the Hawks to four wins, averaging 16.2 points, 3.6 assists and 2.2 rebounds. Law ranked sixth in the league in both scoring and assists. Joining him on the team was Anthony Morrow (Golden State), Morris Almond (Utah Jazz), Gerald Green (Dallas Mavericks) and Anthony Randolph (Golden State). Morrow, a recent Georgia Tech graduate who went undrafted in 2008, earned MVP honors, averaging a league-high 21 points per game on 49.3 percent from the field.

Jeremy Richardson and Othello Hunter also looked impressive for the Hawks, as both received votes for the All-Revue squad. Notably, former lottery pick Luke Jackson also looked promising for Atlanta, scoring 11.2 points per game while going 11-for-26 from 3-point range. After going 10th overall to the Cleveland Cavs in the 2004 draft, Jackson's career was temporarily derailed when he suffered a serious back injury. In addition to the Hawks, the Memphis Grizzlies and Dallas Mavericks have shown interest in signing Jackson to a deal.

Janovitz can be reached at [sjanovitz@scoreatl.com](mailto:sjanovitz@scoreatl.com).



## Thrashers finalize Anderson's first staff

In the last few days the Thrashers put the finishing touches on the suits sitting behind the bench for the 2008-09 season. New head coach John Anderson added former Rochester Americans head coach Randy Cunneynworth and former Anderson assistant Todd Nelson as assistant coaches on Thursday.

Cunneynworth, 47, just completed his eighth season with Rochester before being hired to join Anderson's staff. He played 20 seasons in professional hockey, spending 16 of those 20 at the NHL level. He earned a reputation as a tough and gritty player, a characteristic represented by his 1,341 career penalty minutes. In his final year as a player, Cunneynworth served as a player/assistant coach before being given the reigns as the head coach during the off-season. From that day until his most recent hiring, Cunneynworth spent his entire coaching career as the head coach of the Americans, compiling a 306-267-67 record in eight full seasons. During his time in Rochester, he ranked second among franchise coaches in victories and games coached. In the 2004-05 season, Rochester earned the league's regular-season point title, while Cunneynworth won the Louis A.R. Pieri Memorial Award as the league's most outstanding coach.

### A LITTLE LIKE HOME ...

Anderson made another hire in hopes of making Atlanta feel akin to "The Second City." Along with Cunneynworth, Anderson hired his assistant of two years with the Chicago Wolves in Nelson. Nelson played 12 seasons of professional hockey, which included a combined three games in the

NHL for the Pittsburgh Penguins and Washington Capitals. Nelson began his coaching career on a similar road to Cunneynworth's, starting as a player/assistant coach for the Muskegon Fury of what is now the United Hockey League. After one season as an assistant coach in the AHL, everything came full circle for Nelson who earned a head coaching position with the Fury in 2003. After leading the team to back-to-back league championships, Anderson hired Nelson to join his staff in Chicago.

The rest of the coaching staff was made official with the announcement that both Steve Weeks and Tony Borgford would remain with the team in their current positions. Weeks will begin his seventh season with Atlanta, serving as both an assistant coach and goaltending specialist, while Borgford will enter his second decade of work with the team and his third as the video coach for the Thrashers.

### THORBURN GIVES BACK ...

On Monday Chris Thorburn made an appearance at Philips Arena, but it wasn't to prepare for the upcoming season or to pick out the location of his new season tickets. Instead, Thorburn was on hand for the Children's Healthcare of Atlanta "Rehab Summer Games." The "Rehab Summer Games" allow more than 350 area children to compete in various athletic events as a part of their therapy to recover from various ailments. Thorburn was on hand to speak with the children and their families, and took part in some of the games and signed autographs.

Boral can be reached at [jboral@scoreatl.com](mailto:jboral@scoreatl.com).



## Men fall to Miami; women's season ends

The Atlanta Silverbacks dropped a road game to the Miami FC Blues Sunday night 3-0 in a game that was headlined by the USL's most prolific goal-scorer. Miami forward Alex Afonso terrorized Atlanta all night and also scored the first goal for the Blues (5-7-8), increasing his goals-scored to nine and total points to 21.

The eighth-place Silverbacks (5-5-6) were kept off the scoreboard for the fifth time in league play and the second time by Miami. The Blues needed only six minutes to get on the board, as Afonso connected on a blast from just outside the penalty area. The team scored a second goal just a few minutes later, as Leo Inacio put away a breakaway opportunity to make the score 2-0 in the 28th minute. The second half brought more opportunities for Miami, as Afonso came dangerously close to scoring again with a header that banged off the cross bar in the 54th minute. However, in the 64th minute, the Blues connected on a nicely executed give-and-go by Sean Fraser and Walter Ramirez. Fraser netted the third and final goal of the game.

The Silverbacks will return home looking forward to August, a month in which they will play 11 league games. The team's next game is at home against league-leading Charleston on Friday night at 7:55 p.m. The Silverbacks will then travel to Rochester for a 6 p.m. fixture versus the Rhinos on Sunday night.

### SEASON ENDS ...

The Washington Freedom (13-1-2) scored in the 118th minute to defeat the Silverbacks Women 2-1 in Saturday's Eastern

Conference championship. Washington dominated possession throughout the game and outshot the Silverbacks 28-11. The loss was the first of the season for Atlanta (14-1-1), who ended another season at the hands of the club from the nation's capital. Last season, the Freedom beat the Silverbacks in the W-League final by a score of 3-1.

Silverbacks goalkeeper Ashley Phillips made six crucial saves in the first half to keep the game scoreless amid constant pressure from the Freedom. Despite being dominated in possession time, the Silverbacks took an early lead on a 23rd-minute goal by Christine Latham. The action picked up in the second half with the Freedom drawing a yellow card and penalty kick from Phillips, who took down striker Christine Welsh inside the penalty box. Phillips was able to make up for her error by saving the try by Rebecca Moros and preserving the 1-0 lead.

The relief for the Silverbacks was short-lived, however, as the Freedom evened things up in the 77th minute on a goal by Christine Welsh. The game would go into overtime despite the Freedom dominating nearly every statistical category with the exception of saves. Despite a near-miss by Latham and several chances by Washington, the tie would not be broken until the game-winner by Ali Andrzejewski.

The Silverbacks made the conference final by edging the Long Island Roughriders 1-0 on Friday. Latham provided the only goal off a cross by Melanie Schneider in the 51st minute.

Black can be reached at [sblack@scoreatl.com](mailto:sblack@scoreatl.com).

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## Media picks Florida over Georgia in East

The SEC Media Days took place last week in Birmingham, Ala., as all 12 SEC head coaches and two players from each team made appearances. The media also made their preseason picks and the Florida Gators were the pick to win both the SEC East and SEC. Florida was voted the No. 1 team in the East on 45 out of 70 ballots, while Georgia received 23 first-place votes. Tennessee picked up the remaining two votes. The Gators also topped 36 out of 70 ballots in being selected to win the SEC outright. Once again, the Bulldogs followed as 18 media members picked them to win the conference. Auburn was picked to win the SEC West.

Georgia fared equally as well as Florida when it came to players being voted onto the Preseason All-Conference Teams. Both schools had five selections. The Bulldogs placed running back Knowshon Moreno and linebacker Dannel Ellerbe on the First Team. Quarterback Matthew Stafford, wide receiver Mohamed Massaquoi and cornerback Asher Allen were all named to the Second Team. All five of Florida's players were on the First Team, including quarterback Tim Tebow, wide receiver Percy Harvin and linebacker Brandon Spikes. Auburn led the way with nine players named Preseason All-SEC and LSU followed closely with eight. South Carolina and Alabama tied Florida and Georgia with five. Moreno and Harvin tied for the most votes out of all the players as they both were named on 68 ballots.

### MORE PIGSKIN NOTES ...

Wide receiver Mohamed Massaquoi and defensive tackle Jeff Owens represented Georgia in Birmingham along with head coach Mark Richt. They answered questions that ranged from the possibility of playing for a national championship this season to the remarkable turnaround last season's team showed. Richt also commented that true freshman placekicker Blair Walsh has been looking good in summer workouts. Walsh has been working out with punter Brian Mimbs and apparently Mimbs is high on the Fort Lauderdale, Fla., native. ... Also, word came last week that offensive linemen Trinton Sturdivant and Justin Anderson will not be suspended for their role in a June 27 incident that led to the two being charged with simple battery. The Bulldogs will discipline the two in-house.

### GET SET ...

Former Georgia shot putter and reigning world champion Reese Hoffa won the shot put at the Aviva London Grand Prix with a throw of 21.13 to edge fellow American Adam Nelson. He now readies himself for the Olympic shot put, which is scheduled for Aug. 15-16. Hoffa is one of many former Bulldog track and field athletes to earn a spot in the Summer Games. Diver Chris Colwill and swimmers Allison Schmitt, Gil Stovall, Kara Lynn Joyce, Neil Versfeld, Sebastien Rouault, Wendy Trott and Troyden Prinsloo are all former, current or future Bulldogs scheduled to swim at the Beijing Olympics.

Butler can be reached at [jbutler@scoreatl.com](mailto:jbutler@scoreatl.com).



## Three named to preseason All-ACC Team

The voting media at the annual ACC Football Kickoff tabbed Tech seniors Andrew Gardner, Michael Johnson and Vance Walker to be among the ACC's best. The Yellow Jacket trio was voted to the Atlantic Coast Conference Preseason All-Conference Team last week. Last season, Gardner was a First-Team All-ACC performer at offensive tackle and will be the anchor of a line that will give protection for new head coach Paul Johnson's offensive gameplan. Michael Johnson was a stat-stuffer in 2007 with three forced fumbles, 20 tackles (including 10 solos and six for loss) and four sacks. Walker had 8.5 sacks, 14 tackles for loss, three forced fumbles and two fumble recoveries.

As a team, however, Tech did not receive the same love from the ACC media: the Jackets were predicted to finish fourth in the ACC Coastal Division.

### PARTNERING UP ...

The women's basketball squad will team up with the Women's Sports Foundation's GoGirlGo! Atlanta for the inaugural MaChelle Joseph Golf Classic. The event is scheduled for Sept. 25 at the Smoke Rise Golf & Country Club in Stone Mountain, Ga., and will include a post-tournament reception, a silent auction and raffle, as well as longest drive and closest to the pin competitions. A portion of the tournament's proceeds will help benefit GoGirlGo! Atlanta. GoGirlGo! educates and encourages girls to

play fun sports and games as a means to safeguard their health, boost their confidence, build character and teamwork.

Aces and straight A's. It could be a motto for Kristi Miller, whose many accolades now include ACC Women's Tennis Scholar-Athlete of the Year. Miller recently graduated with a degree from the History, Technology & Society program and earned All-America honors on five occasions (three times in singles, twice in doubles), as well as the 2006 Honda Award for women's tennis. She also holds school records for singles wins (114) and winning percentage (.803).

### BLAIR'S THE MAN ...

This is the first of a four-part series previewing Tech's 2008 football team and season. With the Paul Johnson era kicking off on Aug. 28 at home against Jacksonville State, we will start with, well, the kicking game. With the departures of Durant Brooks and Travis Bell, Tech will lean on Scott Blair, a walk-on kicker and punter from last season. Currently, he is listed on depth charts as the starting field goal and kickoff specialist and punter. While at Calhoun High School, he won a national competition in kick-offs at the Kicking.com combine. This speaks to his length as a kicker, but his accuracy and ability to perform under pressure will be challenged by the likes of Virginia Tech over the course of the season.

Crosskey can be reached at [jcrosskey@scoreatl.com](mailto:jcrosskey@scoreatl.com).



## Curry hires coordinators; Van Houten, McCuen land head coaching jobs

Head football coach Bill Curry announced the first three members of his coaching staff with the hiring of John Bond as offensive coordinator, John Thompson as defensive coordinator and George Pugh as assistant head coach and recruiting coordinator.

Bond spent the last 11 seasons as an offensive coordinator at Georgia Tech, Northern Illinois, Army and Illinois State. While at Northern Illinois, he helped lead the Huskies to two Mid-American Conference Western Division titles and two bowl games, highlighted by a 9-4 record in 2004, when the Huskies ranked 11th in the nation in rushing, 14th in scoring and 14th in total offense. Thompson comes to Atlanta after spending last season as defensive coordinator at Ole Miss. He's also worked as a defensive coordinator or co-coordinator at SEC outposts Mississippi, Florida, Arkansas

and South Carolina, as well as at Memphis, Southern Mississippi, Louisiana Tech and Northwestern State. Thompson was the defensive coordinator at Florida in 2002, when the Gators' pass defense was ranked seventh in the nation. He served as head coach at East Carolina in 2003-04. No stranger to recruiting Atlanta is George Pugh. In 25 years in college coaching, Pugh has strong ties to the Atlanta area after serving as the head coach at Columbia High School (1978) and Meadowcreek High School (2003-04). Curry also likes the fact that Pugh was on the staff at Alabama-Birmingham during early stages of the Blazers program. In 2007, Pugh served as receivers coach at Houston.

"I was very pleasantly surprised to be able to attract three men with the experience and success of John Bond, John Thompson and

George Pugh," Curry said. "I'm thrilled to be able to get those types of coaches to come to Georgia State and be excited about being here."

Also announced was the hiring of Mike Riddle as the Director of Football Operations. Riddle played for Curry at Kentucky (1995-98) and most recently served on the coaching staff at Riverside Military Academy in Gainesville, Ga.

### IN OTHER NEWS ...

Kelly Van Houten, a member of the Georgia State softball coaching staff the last three seasons, has been named the head softball coach at UNC Wilmington. Van Houten served this past season as associate head coach under Panthers head coach Bob Heck. She originally came to Georgia State in 2006 and served two years as assistant coach. She follows former golf coach Matt Clark, who was named UNC Wilmington's golf coach

earlier this month. ... Congratulations to Chuck McCuen, who has been named men's tennis head coach at Clemson after serving as an assistant there the past six seasons. McCuen replaces Chuck Kriese who retired in May, after 33 years as the head coach of the Tiger tennis program. McCuen, 47, was the Tennis Director at Georgia State for 19 years (1983-2002) prior to coming to Clemson. McCuen was named conference coach of the year five times and propelled Georgia State into a top-70 nationally ranked tennis program. ... Follow the Panthers online at [www.georgiastatesports.com](http://www.georgiastatesports.com). For basketball and football ticket information, call 1-866-GA-STATE.

Dave Cohen is in his 25th season as the "Voice of Georgia State Basketball and Baseball" on WRAS-FM (88.5) and works on the football radio crew at Furman University in Greenville, S.C.

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# OUR MAN ON RECRUITING



SCORE  
SCOTT JANOVITZ

## Love chooses UGA, Huzzie heading to Kentucky and Kent picks Miami

The Georgia Bulldogs, who started the recruiting season with a blitz before going months without a new commitment, got back in the game two weeks ago, picking up a verbal from Glen Allen, Va., cornerback Jordan Love. Love chose a career in Athens over offers from Louisville, Florida, Penn State, South Carolina and Tennessee, among others.

In the end, it really became a three-team race for Love's services between the Dawgs, Florida and Penn State. According to his interview with UGASports.com, Love's visit to Athens made the difference: "When I went down to Georgia for the visit, I did not really know a lot about them, but I just fell in love with them during the visit. The campus was nice, the people were nice, the academics were great, and me and my family felt really good about everything after the visit."

At 6-foot, 185 pounds, Love is an extremely physical corner who displays exceptional quickness and great body control. He is a three-star recruit according to Rivals.com.

Not to be outdone by their in-state rivals, Georgia Tech did some big-time recruiting of their own, earning a commitment last weekend



**BIG CATCH:** WR/DB Prince Kent verbally committed to Miami last week; his list of interested schools also included Georgia and Georgia Tech, among others. Photo courtesy of Norcross High School.

from Knoxville, Tenn, guard Will Jackson. The three-star recruit chose Tech over offers from Kentucky, Mississippi, N.C. State, Stanford and West Virginia, among others.

On film, the 6-foot-4, 280-pound Jackson displays impressive power to go along with quick feet and good agility. Right now, he is better in the run game than he is as a pass blocker.

### PEACHES GROWING ELSEWHERE ...

A whole hoard of Georgia recruits have recently decided to move their games across state lines, beginning on July 21, when three recruits alone committed to out-of-state schools. First, LaGrange outside linebacker Qua Huzzie dropped off the market, deciding to commit to the Wildcats of Kentucky. The 5-foot-11, 205-pound athlete chose the 'Cats over

offers from Memphis, Mississippi, South Carolina, and Oklahoma State. On the field, Huzzie displays amazing closing speed and is highly aggressive for a player of his stature.

The next recruit to fall was Norcross athlete Prince Kent, who gave the Miami Hurricanes his verbal commitment. Kent, a big 6-foot-3, 195-pound cornerback, chose the 'Canes over an endless list of schools, including Clemson, Georgia, Georgia Tech, South Carolina and Alabama. On the field, the four-star recruit can line up anywhere in the secondary, as he utilizes his great size and good speed to make plays. Most noticeably, Kent loves to hit and has exceptional recognition skills, closing on the ball like a missile.

The last recruit to fall on the 21st was yet another Norcross athlete, this time running back D.J. Adams. Adams, 5-foot-10, 210-pound running back chose the Terps over prestigious schools such as Notre Dame, Oregon, Arkansas, and Clemson. According to Rivals.com, Adams is a three-star recruit and the 32nd-ranked running back in the country. On the field, Adams is a downfield runner with good toughness and vision. Most importantly, he hits the hole with uncanny explosion and power, a skill that, combined with his ability to break tackles, makes him nearly impossible to contain.

### KNIGHTS AND CARDINALS ...

Two days after the aforementioned Georgia trio decided to leave the state, Cedar Grove offensive tackle Samuel Johnson committed to UCF. Johnson also had offers from Marshall, South Florida, Mississippi and East Carolina, but chose the Knights because he liked what he "heard about UCF's campus and the team," according to UCFSports.com. Though Johnson is not rated by either Rivals or Scout.com, UCF sees the 6-foot-5, 245-pound tackle as more of a project, though one with great upside. He will certainly need to gain some weight before contributing at the next level.

Finally, to conclude what became a flurry of commitments in the last week, Riverdale standout Hakeem Smith took his name off the list of uncommitted Georgia football players. Smith, a 6-foot-1, 170-pound safety, chose to accept an offer from Louisville, becoming the third defensive player to commit to the Cardinals in this recruiting cycle. In addition to the coaches, Smith was most impressed by the luxuries offered at Louisville: "[I liked] the facilities, the weight room, the stadium - I love the stadium," Smith told CardinalSports.com. Former Michigan defensive coordinator Ron English was in charge of Smith's recruitment for Louisville.

Janovitz can be reached at [sjanovitz@scoreatl.com](mailto:sjanovitz@scoreatl.com).

## BREAKING DOWN THE GAME



SCORE  
STEPHEN BLACK

### Bradbury explores baseball, economics bond

Kennesaw State University professor John-Charles Bradbury enjoys two passions in life: baseball and economics. Dr. Bradbury studied the latter in college and pursued the subject with enough persistence to earn a doctorate in the field. The other subject, baseball, was simply something he followed when not working or studying. The good professor eventually realized that he tended to think of one while observing another.

"As an economist, I began seeing things in the game and thinking about what an economist would do in each situation," he said. "I was thinking about the trade-offs that managers and general managers would need to make and also the trade-offs players need to make on the field, like 'should I steal this base?' or 'should I not steal this base?' So I decided to write a book on the subject covering many of those topics."

Dr. Bradbury then wrote the insightful and informative book, *The Baseball Economist*. Some of the topics he covers in the book include the effect of steroids on the game, why there are more hit batters in the American League, the best and worst managed organizations in baseball, and how good of a pitching coach Leo Mazzone is.

Especially interesting is Bradbury's unique and refreshing perspective on the effect steroids have had on baseball.

"I consider myself much more of a steroid skeptic on this issue ... I think there are a lot of alternate explanations (that) explain why the game has changed in terms of higher offense that have nothing to do with steroids. (Steroid testing) was implemented in 2005 and we really didn't see too much of a drop-off in offense after that."

Dr. Bradbury went on to explain that the

expansion of the league in 1993 affected offensive output much more than anything else, as the league's run totals and home run totals exploded that season.

### ON THE WEB ...

In addition to the book, Bradbury also has a blog that discusses his thoughts on current issues in baseball and also his own way of measuring player performance, called "Sabernomics." Recent articles on the site include thoughts on Jeff Francoeur's struggles at the plate, decisions General Managers make this time of year, Braves players possibly on the trading block, and a breakdown of which players are under-performing and over-performing according to his measurements.

One of Dr. Bradbury's statistics is called "PrOPS," which stands for Predicted OPS. PrOPS consists of a several variables, such as line drives per batted ball, ground-ball-to-flyball ratio, hit-by-pitch rate, walk rate, strikeout rate, home-run rate, and home park of the player. These variables help determine PrOPS and can explain why certain players seem to be "lucky" or "unlucky" in the batter's box.

Some players whose OPS currently exceeds their PrOPS are Lance Berkman, Ian Kinsler, and Fred Lewis. Bradbury expects the performance of these players to decline. Players whose performance should improve according to their current OPS versus their PrOPS are Freddy Sanchez, Jack Cust and Adam Dunn.

The Baseball Economist can be purchased at most national bookstores. Dr. Bradbury's blog can be found at [www.sabermetrics.com](http://www.sabermetrics.com). Black can be reached at [sblack@scoreatl.com](mailto:sblack@scoreatl.com).

## HERE'S WHAT I THINK



SCORE  
KEVIN DANKOSKY

### More on Childress's big fat Greek contract

My first reaction to Josh Childress's bolt to Greece was one of pure rage. How could the Hawks have let him go? Good thing I'm not President or I would have started World War III by firing missiles at the Acropolis (not that any further damage to the ruins would be noticeable). To say I was mad would be an understatement.

As a basketball coach, one of the first things I was taught by my mentor was to implement a 24-hour rule before responding to a crisis. Granted Childress's departure was not a crisis to me personally, but I felt the Hawks fans (of which I consider myself a member) were let down. Wasn't signing both Joshes an offseason priority mentioned by Mike Woodson, the Atlanta Spirit Group and new GM Rick Sund? However, instead of tossing my No. 1 Hawks' jersey in the fire pit, I decided to put my 24-hour rule into effect.

### UPON FURTHER REVIEW ...

Everyone is talking about the money. Sure, the \$33 million offered by the Hawks would be subject to taxes and therefore wasn't as much as the \$20 million offered by Olympiacos. So if Childress's motives for playing are purely financial, you can't blame him. Obviously the same wasn't true for James Posey, who turned down the same contract from the Greek team and took less money to play for New Orleans.

The next subject is the "fringe benefits." Childress will receive a free house, a driver, a maid, living expenses and all the ouzo he can drink. Compared to the occasional massage offered by Hawks trainer Wally Blasé, an endless supply of Gatorade and free tickets to concerts at Philips Arena, Childress comes out better in Athens.

But I think there is more to the story than what most people are looking at. I think Josh Childress was worn out. He wanted the quality of life that comes with playing in the Euroleague.

### MORE PAY, LESS WORK ...

When you look at the difference between the NBA season and the Euroleague season, you can't fault Childress for the decision. The Hawks played 82 games last season before the playoffs began. In the upcoming Euroleague season, he'll play 21 games at the most if Olympiacos makes it to the championship game. Playing one game a week versus three or four means a great increase in quality of life. Childress has basically turned his job into a vacation. I know Europeans get more vacation time than we do, but one day a week of work? You have to be kidding me.

Even in high school, Josh played more games than he will next season. I'm sure the Greek team will have rigorous practices, but as a player, it's the games that take the toll on your body. Maybe the NBA would improve its product if the players had more time to rest between games. Again, you can't blame Childress if you'd take a one-day work week, no taxes, a pay raise and all the baklava you can eat.

I still have to think that all this could have been avoided had we not stolen David Beckham from Europe. His signing by Major League Soccer just opened the door for sports espionage. First Josh Childress, next Brett Favre. Let's just hope that Childress enjoys his time in Greece - I doubt we'll see him back in an NBA uniform.

But that's just my opinion. Dankosky can be reached at [kdankosky@scoreatl.com](mailto:kdankosky@scoreatl.com).



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**BASKETBALL**

**Dream.** August 29 vs. Connecticut 7:30 PM. August 30 at Indiana 7 PM. September 2 vs. Seattle 7 PM.

**Top of the Key.** Ongoing. Personal basketball lessons with Olympian Debbie Miller-Palmore, boys and girls ages 8-18. For information call 770-465-1502.

**Southern Xposure.** Ongoing. Cobb County Christian School - Marietta. AAU and YBOA tryouts for 9-and-under and 8-and-under teams. For information call 404-447-3992 or email pharper333@yahoo.com.

**Peach State Basketball.** Ongoing. Basketball skill development training for college caliber high school players throughout the off-season. Players can use these sessions to continue improving all year long. Contact Brandon Clay at 404-422-3946 or visit www.peachstatehoops.com for more information.

**Suwanee Sports Academy.** Ongoing. Basketball training and development for boy and girls grades K-12. Rising Stars, Future Stars, Suwanee Basketball League, On Court Player Development, nationally-recognized year-round comprehensive player development program. For more information contact Mike Brown at 678-541-0176 or visit www.ssasports.com.

**Mark Price Shooting Lab.** Ongoing: Personalized professional shooting instruction through one-on-one coaching and state-of-the-art technology at Suwanee Sports Academy. For more information, contact Mike Brown at 678-541-0176 or visit www.ssasports.com.

**SSA's On Court.** Check out Suwanee Sports Academy's On Court, the nation's premier off-season development program at the nation's premier basketball training facility right here in Gwinnett County! For more information, contact Michael Brown at 678-541-0176 or visit www.ssasports.com.

**Open Recreational Basketball.** GSL -- Georgia Sports Leagues. Georgia's Best Sports Leagues. Registration ongoing. We offer "Top Gun," "B," "C" and Co-Ed styles of play around Atlanta. We play ALL year round. For more information please contact (678)799-0159 or email mark@georgiasportleagues.org. Visit www.georgiasportleagues.org.

**Just Skills Of Atlanta.** 8-week basketball fundamentals program for boys and girls ages 5 to 17 at Bogan Park in Buford and Lenora Park in Snellville. Spring programs start the week of March 24th, Summer programs start the week of June 3rd, Fall programs start the week of August 11th. Please visit www.justskillsofatlanta.com for more information or call 770-296-2580. Sessions are filling up now for spring, summer and fall. Ask about our free introduction day to see what Just Skills Of Atlanta is all about.

**BASEBALL**

**Braves.** July 30 vs. St. Louis 7:10 PM. July 31 vs. St. Louis 7:10 PM. August 1 vs. Milwaukee 7:35 M. August 2 vs. Milwaukee 3:55 PM. August 3 vs. Milwaukee 1:30 PM. August 4 at San Francisco 10:15 PM. August 5 at San Francisco 10:15 PM. August 6 at Francisco 3:45 PM. August 7 at Arizona 9:40 PM. August 8 at Arizona 9:40 PM. August 9 at Arizona 8:10 PM. August 10 Arizona 4:10 PM. August 12 vs. Chicago 7 PM. August 13 vs. Chicago.

**Prospect Watch.** Ongoing - Buckhead. Baseball pitching and hitting lessons by a former college and minor league coach. For information call 404-869-7966 or visit www.eteamz.com/tryouts.

**Adult Baseball League Metro Atlanta.** Ongoing. MSBL 18+, 28+, 38+, and 48+. Sunday League contact info is 770.785.2588, e-mail info@AtlantaMSBL.com. MSBL 18+ Saturday League contact info is 770-436-8114, e-mail AtlantaMABL@aol.com. MSBL 18+ Midweek Wood bat league contact info is 770-436-8114, e-mail AtlantaMABL@aol.com. MSBL 18+ Fall League contact info is 770-436-8114, e-mail AtlantaMABL@aol.com. For more information about our Atlanta Adult Baseball League, please visit our website at www.AtlantaMSBL.com.

**TNT Sports.** Ongoing. Baseball pitching and hitting lessons by Rob Blair, former college coach, Snellville. To set up a free pitching or hitting analysis call 678-344-5876.

**Jack City Baseball.** Ongoing. Baseball pitching and hitting. Instruction with former pro Keith Whitner. 18-y looking for high school players. The new location is inside Velocity Sports in North Gwinnett. For more information call 770-633-0948 or visit jackcity.net.

**FOOTBALL**

**Collins Hill Athletic Association.** Ongoing. Accepting applications for qualified coaches in all age groups. For information email Craig Deneau at deneauc@charter.net.

**Grayson Athletic Association.** Ongoing. Football coaches needed for eighth grade and all age groups. For information call Duane Davis at 678-300-0282 or visit www.gaasports.org.

**Flag Football.** GSL -- Georgia Sports Leagues. Georgia's Largest Flag League. Registration ongoing. We offer 7-Man, 8-man, Youth and Co-Ed styles of play around Atlanta. We play ALL year round. For information please contact (678)799-0159 or email mark@georgiasportleagues.org. Visit www.georgiasportleagues.org.

**Georgia Force Home School High School Football Program.** If you are a home school student or a student that attends a Christian school in the Gwinnett or Hall county region and would like to participate in high school football, please contact Scott Willis at 770-531-1499 ext 401 or email at appstmtn@aol.com. The Georgia Force High School football program participates in the GFL (Georgia Football League) and is accepting players from the ages of 13-18 years old. We currently offer a JV and Varsity program. For more information, please go to our web site at www.forcehighschoolfootball.com.



**TOUGH DAWG:** Georgia linebacker Dannell Elerbe has received plenty of preseason attention: he was named to the watch list for the FWAA's Bronco Nagurski Trophy (for best defensive player) and was also selected to the Coaches' All-SEC First Team. Sophomore running back Knowshon Moreno also earned a spot on the First Team, and five Bulldogs were named All-SEC overall. Photo courtesy of Radi Nabulsi/UGA.

**Arena Indoor Football.** Ongoing. Youth and Adult Leagues. Youth 7 vs. 7; Adult 6 vs. 6. For information, call 678-714-7454 or e-mail info.indoor@atlantasilverbacks.com. www.atlantasilverbacks.com/indoor.

**Capitol City Officials Association.** CCOA is accepting ongoing registration for the upcoming GHSA High School season in football. We hold weekly training meetings. For more information, contact Irvin Seabrook at 404-957-3331 or e-mail Irv\_Seabrook@yahoo.com.

**HOCKEY**

**Peachtree Booster Club.** Ongoing - Pickneyville Roller Hockey Rink. Fees: \$95 for 12-game season, \$30 out-of-county fee. For information visit www.pbc sports.org.

**SOCCER**

**Silverbacks.** August 1 vs. Charleston 7:55 PM. August 3 at Rochester 6 PM. August 5 vs. Vancouver.

**Silverbacks Women.** Second Round Playoffs.

**Challenged Soccer.** Ongoing. For mentally and physically

disabled youngsters. For information call Ken Higgins at 770-985-0434.

**Fair Play Sports Center.** Ongoing on Saturdays. Indoor soccer for ages 4-7. 30- to 60-minute classes. For information call 770-831-3210.

**Hall of Fame soccer clinics.** Ongoing on Fridays - Clarkston Community Center. For under-6 through under-12 players. Fees: Free. For information call 404-508-1050 or visit www.clarkstoncommunitycenter.org. 5:30-7 PM.

**Competitive Amateur Soccer in Atlanta** For more information, visit www.majesticssoccer.com.

**TENNIS**

**Technique Clinics.** Ongoing - Bitsy Grant Tennis Center. Tuesdays (serve/volley) and Saturdays (forehand/backhand). Fees: \$18. For information call 404-790-4772 or email jimhines01@yahoo.com. 2 PM on Saturdays, 6:30 PM on Tuesdays.

**Tennis camps for kids.** Ongoing weekly. Lost Mountain Tennis Center. For information call 770-528-8525.

**LACROSSE**

**Lacrosse.** Ongoing. Registration for 1st-8th grades. For information call 404-216-5870, email jasona@bagatawaylacrosse.com or visit www.bagatawaylacrosse.com.

**PlayLaxGwinnett.** Ongoing. Players, coaches, referees needed for play at Gwinnett Sports Center. For information call Chris Chico at 678-429-0094 or email chris@kicks-sticks.com.

**Double Stixx Lacrosse.** Ongoing - Leagues, Travel Teams and Tournaments for youth, high school and adult's boys and girls. More information about the best lacrosse programs in Georgia can be found at www.doublestixxlacrosse.com or by contacting Chris Smith at chris@doublestixxlacrosse.com or 404-550-5322.

**RUNNING**

**Woodstock YMCA MainStreet Mile.** Aug. 2. Woodstock, 8 AM. 770-591-5820.

**Old Soldiers Day 5K/10K.** Aug. 2. Alpharetta, 7 AM. 678-297-6150.

**Bowdon Founder's Day 5K/Mile.** Aug. 2. Bowdon 8 AM. 678-333-5439

**Young Harris 5K Trail Run & Mile Fun Run.** Aug. 2. Young Harris, 9 AM. 706-781-4096.

**Camelia City Run 5K/Mile.** Aug. 2. Quitman, 7 AM. 229-232-9106.

**CAMPS**

**Nike Basketball Camps.** Camps located in Snellville, Roswell, Kennesaw, Oxford and Jonesboro. For more information or a free brochure, visit 1-800-645-3226 or visit www.usportscamps.com.

**Georgia Tech MaChelle Joseph Basketball Camp.** Ages range from 7-17. Day camps, overnight camps and team camps available. Visit www.ramblinwreck.com or call 404-894-4297 to find out which dates suit your campers best.

**Harlem Legends.** The Harlem Legends have scheduled their 2008 Shoot for the Stars Basketball & Physical Fitness Camps. The "Shoot for the Stars Youth Basketball Camps and Clinics" are a unique form of learning experiences geared towards young basketball players of all skill levels. There are two Gwinnett County camps this year. Please visit our website (www.harlemlegends.com) or call 404-837-6719 for additional camps.

**Emory Volleyball Camp.** Individual Skills Camp - June 16-19; Youth Day Camp - June 23-26; Middle School Day Camp - June 23-26; Individual Skills Camp - July 14-17. Please visit us online at www.evbcvolleyball.com for details and registration!

**VOLLEYBALL**

**Gwinnett Sports Center.** Registration ongoing. For information call Jerry Robison at 678-491-0203 or visit www.gsfun.com.

**Suwanee Sports Academy.** Ongoing. Volleyball training and development for boys and girls grades 3-12. VolleySkills, VolleyStars, VolleyTraining, and On Court Player Development, a year-round comprehensive player development program. For more information, contact Mary Carnell at 770-614-6686 x108 or visit www.ssasports.com.

**VolleyStars.** Beginning February 7 @ Suwanee Sports Academy for girls & boys grades 6-8 teaches individ

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**High School Volleyball League.** Beginning February 7 @ Suwanee Sports Academy for girls grades 9-12. This league is designed for athletes who want to get in the gym but don't want to commit to club volleyball. For more information, contact Christy Howard at 770-614-6686 x106 or visit [www.ssasports.com](http://www.ssasports.com).

## SWIMMING & DIVING

**Swimming lessons.** Ongoing - Alpharetta City Pool - Alpharetta, Ga. - 1825 Old Milton Parkway. For information call 678-297-6107.

**Gwinnett Aquatics.** Ongoing - 2800 Quinberry Drive and Bethany Church Road. For ages 5-18. Swim team and lessons available. For information call 770-972-4055.

**Senior Water-Exercise class.** Ongoing - Mountain Park pool - Lilburn, Ga. Fees: \$1 per class. For information call 770-546-4650. 10-10:50 AM.

**SwimAtlanta Sugarloaf at Kid's Village.** Ongoing. Swim team, lessons, lap swimming, master's program, water aerobics and scuba available. For information call 678-442-7946.

## YOUTH REGISTRATION

**Soccer - Soccer Alley.** Ongoing - 3265 Roswell Road - Atlanta. For information call 404-266-0762 or visit [www.starsoccerclub.com](http://www.starsoccerclub.com).

**Tucker Youth Soccer.** Ongoing - 2803 Henderson Road - Tucker, Ga. For information call 770-414-0538 or visit [www.tysa.com](http://www.tysa.com).

**Track and Field - Peachtree City Flash Youth Track Team registration.** Ongoing - Riley Field - Peachtree City, Ga. For ages 6-14. For information call 770-631-3552 or email [ptcf@bellsouth.net](mailto:ptcf@bellsouth.net).

**Gymnastics - Georgia Gymnastics Academy.** Ongoing. For registration in Lawrenceville call 770-962-5867; in Suwanee call 770-945-3424.

**Gym Elite.** Ongoing. Registration for ages 2 and older. Cheerleading for ages 6 and older. For information call 770-242-0678.

**Youth Soccer Training.** Ongoing. Start age 3 and up. For information, call 678-714-7454 or e-mail [info.indoor@atlantasilverbacks.com](mailto:info.indoor@atlantasilverbacks.com). [www.atlantasilverbacks.com/indoor](http://www.atlantasilverbacks.com/indoor).

**Flag Football.** GSL -- Georgia Sports Leagues. Georgia's Best Sports Leagues. Registration ongoing. We offer Youth Flag Football for ages (6-8) and (9-12) year olds for both Boys & Girls. Games are played in the Chamblee, Doraville, Dunwoody area. Next season starts in February. For more information please contact (678)799-0159 or email [mark@georgiasportsleagues.org](mailto:mark@georgiasportsleagues.org). Visit [www.georgiasportsleagues.org](http://www.georgiasportsleagues.org).

**Atlanta Junior Golf.** Boys and girls, ages 7-18, can enjoy summer and fall tournaments throughout Metro Atlanta and Middle and North Georgia (from Dalton to Macon and from Carrollton to Athens) in one of the nation's premier junior golf associations. All skill levels are welcome, from beginner to experienced players, with more than 8,000 rounds of golf available during the summer program alone. For more information, log on to [www.atlantajuniorgolf.org](http://www.atlantajuniorgolf.org) or call 770.850.9040.

## SOFTBALL

**AYSA Spring Season.** Ongoing - North Park - Cogburn and Bethany - Alpharetta. Fees: If Alpharetta Residential Property Tax IS NOT PAID at the primary residence of the player, then the Non-City Resident Fee must be paid. After Jan. 13, \$10 late fee is charged.

**Senior Softball League.** Ongoing - Best Friend Park, Jimmy Carter Blvd., Norcross, GA. All Skill levels welcomed. Men age 45+ and women age 40+. Open practice on Saturdays and games on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays. For information call Gary Mastrodonato at 770-266-7042 or visit [www.atlantaseniorsoftball.com](http://www.atlantaseniorsoftball.com).

**Open Recreational Softball.** GSL -- Georgia Sports Leagues. Georgia's Best Sports Leagues. Registration ongoing. We offer "Men's" and "Co-Ed" styles of play in Doraville/Dunwoody area. Monday, Wednesday & Sunday league play available. Next season starts in February. We play ALL year round. For more information please contact (678)799-0159 or email [mark@georgiasportsleagues.org](mailto:mark@georgiasportsleagues.org). Visit [www.georgiasportsleagues.org](http://www.georgiasportsleagues.org).

**Capitol City Officials Association.** CCOA is accepting ongoing registration for the upcoming GHSA High School season in fast-pitch softball. We hold weekly training meetings. For more information, contact Irvin Seabrook at 404-957-3331 or e-mail [lrv\\_seabrook@yahoo.com](mailto:lrv_seabrook@yahoo.com).

## GYMNASTICS

**Gymnastics Classes at Gymnastics Academy of Atlanta.** Ongoing - 3126 Cobb Parkway Kennesaw, Ga. For information call 770-975-8337 or visit [www.gymnasticsacademyofatlanta.com](http://www.gymnasticsacademyofatlanta.com).

**Gymnastics Classes at Gwinnett Gymnastics Center.** Ongoing - 927 Killian Hill Road Lilburn, Ga. For information call 770-921-5630.

**Atlanta School of Gymnastics in Lawrenceville.** Ongoing. Classes for tots through teens. Cheerleading classes for ages 5 and older. For information call 770-277-9434.

**The Little Gym of Snellville.** Ongoing. Noncompetitive gymnastics and motor-skills development classes and camps. For ages 10 months-12 years. For information call 770-982-0901 or visit [www.tlgsnellville.ga.com](http://www.tlgsnellville.ga.com).



**DOING IT ALL:** With a career record of 37-17 and four consecutive playoff appearances, Doug Plank has had his fair share of success as head coach of the Georgia Force. Obviously the Falcons have been paying attention, as they added him to the coaching staff (as a seasonal coaching assistant) last week. But don't worry, AFL fans: Plank will still remain head coach with the Force as well. Photo courtesy of Jimmy Cribb/Georgia Force.

## RACING

**Thursday Thunder Racing Series.** July 31 at Atlanta Motor Speedway.

**Friday Night Drags and Show-N-Shine Car Show.** August 1 at Atlanta Motor Speedway.

**19th Annual NOPI Nationals.** September 20-21 at Atlanta Motor Speedway.

**Suzuki Superbike Showdown.** August 29-31 at Road Atlanta.

## OFFICIATING

**Basketball - Duluth basketball association.** Ongoing. Looking for youth officials with training provided. For information call Barry Sullivan at 770-623-1750.

**Football - Lanier Football Officials Association.** Ongoing. GHSA member accepting applications with weekly training meetings. For information call Tom Tipton at 770-967-3197, ext. 239 or visit [www.lanierofficials.org](http://www.lanierofficials.org).

**Metro Atlanta Wrestling Officials Association.** Ongoing. Needs officials. For information call Bud Hennebaul at 770-338-0705 or email [BudHen27@aol.com](mailto:BudHen27@aol.com).

**9RCorp Sports Officials.** Ongoing. Provider of sports officials for multiple sports including basketball, flag football, & softball. Looking for additional officials.

For information call Dennis Reagan at 404-213-0588 or email [9rcorp@150mail.com](mailto:9rcorp@150mail.com).

**Georgia Lacrosse Officials Association.** Needs youth and High School officials for 2007-2008 season. Training and mentoring provided for free. Great way to earn some extra money and get some fun aerobic exercise. For more information, visit [www.GALAXREF.com](http://www.GALAXREF.com) or call Jim Westbrook at 770-753-9059.

## ATLANTA SPORTS COUNCIL

**Chick-Fil-A Bowl.** Dec. 31, 2008. Georgia Dome. For tickets, call 404-444-4444.

To reach the Atlanta Sports Council call 404-586-8510 or visit [www.atlantasportscouncil.com](http://www.atlantasportscouncil.com).

## MISC

**Senior Horseshoe Pitching League.** Ongoing - Gwinnett Senior Center - Bethesda Park. Includes instructional coaching. Games will be played under NHPA rules. For men and women seniors. Meets Tuesdays. For information call 770-972-2434. 10 AM.

**Pool Tournament.** Every Monday - Ongoing - Motorheads Bar 'n' Grill - Henry County. Cost: No cover. For information call 770-898-0008 or visit [www.motorheadsbarandgrill.com](http://www.motorheadsbarandgrill.com). 7 p.m.

**Pool Tournament.** Nightly - Ongoing - Sean Patrick's Bar & Grill - Buckhead. Fees: No cover. For information call 770-650-5723. 8 PM.

**East Cobb Bass Club.** Ongoing - Ryan's Family Steakhouse - Canton Road - Marietta, Ga. Boaters and nonboaters welcome. Meets the first Tuesday of each month. For information call 770-364-3036 or email [noeyf@aol.com](mailto:noeyf@aol.com). 7 PM.

**Cohutta chapter of Trout Unlimited.** Ongoing - Delkwood Bar and Grill. Meets the fourth Thursday of each month. For information call 770-425-5364 or email [sonnysjm@cs.com](mailto:sonnysjm@cs.com). 6:30 PM.

**GEORGIA BIKES! Membership.** Ongoing. The effectiveness of GEORGIA BIKES! is dependent on volunteers, supporters, and members, like you, who are willing to make a and Club/Small Business: \$100.

**Condor Handball Organization.** The Condors feature current Men's National Team members and past National Team members and Olympians as well as the greatest American to ever play the sport, Darrick Heath. We have weekly leagues and training opportunities for men, women, and youth. For more information, contact Jeb Bell at [handball@equipmentcontrols.com](mailto:handball@equipmentcontrols.com).

**Performance Training Inc. at Suwanee Sports Academy.** Ongoing. Offers speed, agility, and quickness training for athletes across multiple sports. For more information, contact Dustin Wolf at 770-614-6686 x121 or visit [www.ssasports.com](http://www.ssasports.com).

**Suwanee Sports Academy.** Pre-K Athletics for 2, 3 and 4 year-olds introduces the basic skills needed to play basketball, soccer, and t-ball. Also, there is a unique after school program that provides students with a weekly sports curriculum along with the after school classroom setting. For more information, call 770-614-6686 or visit [www.ssasports.com](http://www.ssasports.com).

**Club Sport.** Club Sport opens registration for summer leagues on May 1st with league play beginning in June. Club Sport is Atlanta's recreational sports and social group with over 10,000 participants each year on 1200 teams in 120 leagues. Each season Club Sport offers leagues in flag football, softball, soccer, sand and indoor volleyball, basketball and more. Club Sport is where Atlanta comes to play! For more information about Club Sport, upcoming events, photos or interviews with the owner, please contact Rich Alvarez at 678-994-0793 ext. 818 or visit [www.usclubsport.com](http://www.usclubsport.com).

**Stout Irish Sports Pub Events and Specials.** Monday: Dart League and Free Pool from 11 p.m.-close; Tuesday: Texas Hold 'em; Wednesday: Trivia Night and Free Pool from 11pm-close; Thursday: College Night with DJ All Night; Friday: Happy Hour Food Specials; Saturday: Game Day all day long on Stout's big screen plasma TVs; Sunday: Game Day all day long on Stout's big screen plasma TVs. Miller High Life Beers are always \$1. Beer Club: Guests join for \$120 and receive a prestigious Stout Club Mug engraved with their name on it. Each visit over the course of the year, members enjoy their first beer of choice on the house. For more, call 404.869.1151 or email [www.stoutirishpub.com](mailto:www.stoutirishpub.com).



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# BETWEEN THE HEDGES



JAMES BUTLER

## Georgia has own motivation for 2008

Head coach Mark Richt and his Bulldogs are heading into arguably the team's most anticipated season since the Herschel Walker years. With the Bulldog Nation stoked getting ready for this year, some of their rivals are still thinking about last year.

"Their team embarrassed us," said Auburn defensive end Sen'Derrick Marks fielding question at last week's SEC Media Days. "They've beaten us two years in a row, but last year they went 'black out.' They danced on us, the mascot danced on us, the ball boy danced on us and the commentator even did the Soulja Boy on us."

And of course there's Florida, victims to the Bulldogs between the goallines as well as in the end zone a year ago. Georgia's 42-30 victory over Florida is often overshadowed by a celebration that saw the entire Bulldog team pour into the end zone after their opening score. Gator head coach Urban Meyer's disagreement with the Bulldogs' spectacular touchdown celebration has been well publicized and last week quarterback Tim Tebow shared his thoughts on Georgia's exuberance.

"That did nothing for me but just fire me up," Tebow said. "Whether it was right or wrong, it's not for me to say. But it definitely did give them some energy and a spark. That's good for them."

Nearly a full nine months later and it is obvious that the celebration might not be the best icebreaker when encountering the reigning Heisman Trophy winner. While, the memory of the Tigers and Gators will not score any points against the Bulldogs or any other team this year, it is certainly being used as motivation this offseason. It is not far-fetched to envision Tiger players yelling "black out" and Gator players yelling "celebrate" after every pushup and sit-up. It is also easy to imagine Auburn and Florida repeating those words when faced with adversity this season. If those two teams could only beat one foe this year, Georgia is their likely choice.

### GETTING UP ...

Opponents might have their sights set on the Bulldogs, but Richt's team certainly has some aiming of its own to do, starting with Florida. The Gators were the runaway choice by the media to win the SEC East as well as the SEC. That prediction is meaningless and has no impact on who will play for the BCS national title, but it has to smart

that a team that many are picking to be No. 1 in the country was predicted to finish second in their division. An early Las Vegas line also established the Gators as the favorite over the Dawgs in their Nov. 1 meeting and those in Florida Country point to the fact that Tebow was not 100 percent as the reason why Georgia defeated them last season. If presented with the opportunity, a rallying cry for Georgia might be to defeat the Gators with a healthy Tebow.

Florida is not the only team that will get Georgia's full attention. South Carolina and Tennessee were the only ones to beat the Bulldogs a year ago, with the Volunteers owning two consecutive victories over Georgia and outscoring them 86-47 in those games. Richt has repeatedly stated how disappointed he was after last year's loss. The South Carolina game will likewise serve as a chance for redemption. A young Georgia offense squandered many chances to overtake the Gamecocks in their 16-12 defeat. To make matters worse, archenemy and Bulldog hater Steve Spurrier made himself relevant to Georgia again. "It wasn't like they were some big, powerful team," he quipped, having already left Athens with his first post-Florida victory over Georgia in hand.

Georgia players might only have heard stories of how troublesome Spurrier could be, but now they know firsthand on what losing to him feels like. There are other matchups on the Bulldogs' schedule that provides one team with a little extra incentive. The Arizona State contest, just for the anticipation of the trip, should be one in which the Bulldogs bring their A-Game. Also, contrary to popular belief, Georgia will very much be looking forward to traveling to Kentucky, as they lost the last time they were in Lexington.

Conversely, Alabama will be looking for payback after dropping a heartbreaker at home last season to Georgia. Georgia Tech, with new head coach Paul Johnson, will be looking to stop their seven-game losing streak to the Bulldogs. The Vanderbilt game offers motivation for both teams, as Georgia stole last year's game away from the Commodores, but lost to them after a last-second field goal on homecoming back in 2006. Vanderbilt is the homecoming opponent once again this year.

Butler can be reached at [jbutler@scoreatl.com](mailto:jbutler@scoreatl.com).

### SAID ON THE AIR

*"Every indication is that the Braves have at least touched base with the Rays, Red Sox, Dodgers, Angels and Yankees on [Mark] Teixeira. But Arizona appears to be the team to watch. The Diamondbacks quietly made a big run at Teixeira last July, and they're in just as serious need of some major thump now."*

- ESPN writer Jayson Stark on the Braves and their chances of moving Teixeira before Thursday's trade deadline

### KEEPIN' AN EYE ON

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

On Sunday, Terence Moore wrote, "You can run through the whole list in your spare time. Earl Weaver. Sparky Anderson. Leo Durocher. Joe McCarthy. Connie Mack ... If those guys were in their prime, none would do better than [Bobby] Cox at handling a Braves team full of aches, pains and inconsistency." Moore goes on to say that Cox cannot be blamed for the plethora of Braves injuries this year. Like Moore, we love Cox - but does he deserve a pass for the team's 6-23 record in one-run games this year?

"No protesters. No pickets. No dogs, no aircraft, no media circus. It might have seemed slightly muted for opening day of an NFL training camp. But the Falcons will take it." That's what columnist Jeff Schultz wrote on Saturday, advising fans to embrace the quiet at Flowery Branch. And he couldn't be more right. This team doesn't need to win 10 games this year. Fans will appreciate good, solid play and a team that stays out of trouble, all while getting a glimpse of the future and what this team is building for the years to come.

### MEDIA HALL OF FAME

"A team source confirmed the Pistons did approach the Atlanta Hawks weeks ago about a possible sign-and-trade deal involving restricted free agent small forward Josh Smith, but said Sunday that the two teams haven't talked in weeks." This came from the *Detroit Free Press* on Monday morning. Reports have also been circling that a Western Conference power is interested in working a sign-and-trade with the Hawks for Smith. Either way, it's nice to see the situation actually progressing for now.



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[www.davidbyrne.com](http://www.davidbyrne.com)  
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## Allstate Weekend Coming Up

### FALCONS FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS

**Aug. 1 at Mill Creek High School, 6:30 p.m.**  
Will feature a live scrimmage between the Falcons offense and defense. Head coach Mike Smith has developed a scoring system to allow the defense to tally points in a game atmosphere. The team has added other special features to allow fans to feel and hear the scrimmage including field microphones to record the action; microphones inside offensive and defensive players' helmets; and coach microphones. The scrimmage will begin around 7:15 p.m., followed by a 15-minute autograph session and a fireworks display from the baseball fields at Mill Creek High School.

### ROAM THE DOME

**Aug. 2 at the Georgia Dome, noon**  
Fans will experience a simulated game including a performance of the National Anthem, a coin toss and player introductions at the newly renovated Georgia Dome. An autograph session with the entire roster will take place at the conclusion of the simulated game, and fans can also participate in skills games on the field with players.

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