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OCTOBER 22-28, 2008

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VOL 4 NO 6



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DEKALB: Chamblee, Columbia, Decatur, Druid Hills, Dunwoody, Lakeside, Marist, Miller Grove, M.L. King, Paideia, Redan, St. Pius X, Southwest DeKalb, Stephenson, Stone Mountain, Tucker
FULTON: Alpharetta, Blessed Trinity, Centennial, Chattahoochee, Douglass, Grady, Lovett, Mays, Milton, North Springs, Northview, Riverwood, Roswell, Tri-Cities, Westminster, Woodward Academy
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THE HIGH SCHOOL PLAYERS OF THE WEEK



WASHAUN EALEY

EMANUEL CO. INST.

Last Friday in a win over Johnson County, the senior running back scored three times to break the state career touchdown record, bringing his total to 113. Ealey, committed to the University of Georgia, broke the state single-season touchdown record last year with 58 scores. His efforts helped ECI win the Class A State Championship last season; the Bulldogs are undefeated (7-0) so far in 2008.



ANNE MARIE ARMSTRONG

WESLEYAN SCHOOL

Armstrong is looking to lead the Lady Wolves to their fifth straight Class AA/A state volleyball championship. They are certainly off on the right foot, as Armstrong was named the Area 7 tournament MVP after helping the team to another area championship. The senior is also a state-champion basketball player and high jumper. She will play basketball at the University of Georgia.

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MAKING NEWS ON THE PREP BEAT



SCORE FLETCHER PROCTOR

Rams on way to first Region 8-AAAAA crown after win over Brookwood

As the clock was ticking towards triple Azeros, the Grayson student body knew what was about to happen. Head football coach Mickey Conn knew what was about to happen. The players, though tired from a hard-fought game, knew what was about to happen.

The Brookwood Broncos' stranglehold on Region 8-AAAAA was coming to an end and the Rams were about to give Brookwood its first region loss since 2004, a streak of 29 straight region games. So please forgive the student body for getting a little premature in its celebration of arguably the school's biggest regular-season win in history. The Grayson Rams, after knocking off Brookwood 10-7 and Parkview 24-22, now have the inside track to the Region 8 title. Still, Conn is quick to point out that nothing has been won yet: "We're now getting everybody's best game." That may be true, but Conn's team is meeting all of the challenges and is led by two strong-willed offensive standouts.

LEADING THE WAY ...

Quarterback Tyler Horne had Conn excited entering the season, and the senior has done nothing to temper his enthusiasm thus far.

"Tyler's very capable and we have a quarterback that can win a game," Conn said.

Horne, noted mostly for his quick feet, was forced to pass in a game earlier this year against South Gwinnett and he shredded the Comets through the air en route to a 49-14 win.

"We're not going to change the way we prepare [for anyone]," Conn said. "We have

a balanced offense with Horne and [Ean] Pemberton, and we think we can win playing our style of football."

Horne has gotten a lot of help from Pemberton this season. The diminutive running back stands only 5-foot-4, but he plays much bigger with a huge heart. Conn says, "He's got tons of talent and he's going to make somebody a heck of a college player someday." In just the past three weeks, Pemberton has averaged 183 yards per game, and two touchdowns against Parkview helped knock off the Panthers. Pemberton toted the ball 39 times that game, but that doesn't seem to faze him.

"We completely controlled the line of scrimmage in the second half," Conn said. "We can do a bunch of things offensively, but we'd rather run the football [with Pemberton]."

As good as Grayson looked entering the Brookwood game, however, the Broncos were still the three-time defending region champs and head coach Mark Crews had his team clicking. The Broncos appeared to have gotten past the team's early losses and Brice Smith was leading a pumped-up offense.

But Grayson's defensive line allowed just seven points to the potent Bronco rushing attack – and Conn wasn't necessarily surprised.

"[The defensive line] has been the biggest surprise of the year," he said. "They play with a lot of heart."

A turnover on special teams allowed Horne to show his quick feet with a touchdown, and a field goal from Austin Clark iced the game for the Rams. Pemberton

became the first 100-yard rusher Brookwood had allowed all season; he finished with 140 yards on 27 carries, leading Conn to say, "This kid's unbelievable."

AIMING FOR NO. 1 ...

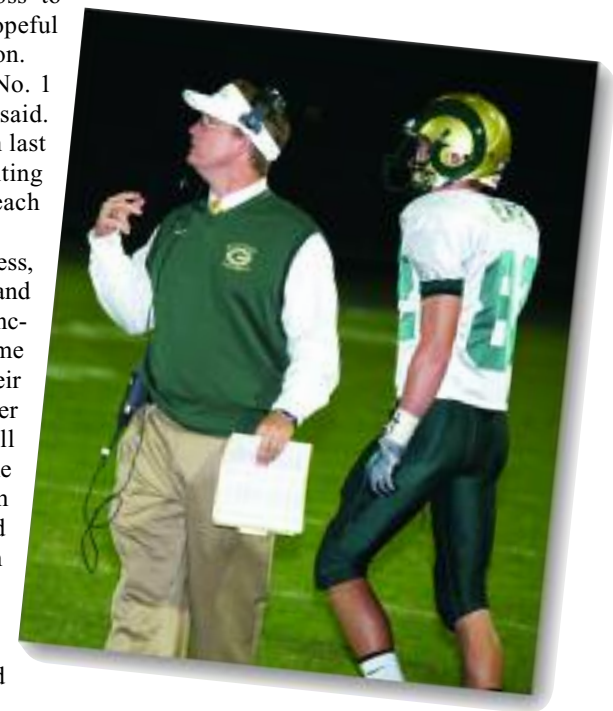
Grayson may be well on its way to a region title, and while the regular-season title is nice, the home-field advantage it brings delights Conn the most. Last season the Rams' hopes of a state title ended in South Georgia with a 22-7 loss to Camden County, but Conn is hopeful that won't be the case this season.

"We would like to be the No. 1 seed and not have to travel," he said. "We got into trouble at Camden last season. We will just keep fighting and scratching every game to reach the playoffs."

With the team's recent success, the playoffs are all but assured and now the team can focus on advancing back to the Georgia Dome where the Rams kicked off their season with a 31-21 victory over McEachern in the Corky Kell Classic. The key will be for the Rams to keep the momentum rolling with Meadowcreek and Central Gwinnett remaining on the schedule. Win those games, and the Rams will be able to celebrate a perfect region record and that No. 1 seed they wanted entering the season.

"It's been a great building process and we've got great kids," Conn said. "We've built this the right way and these kids play with such heart."

The cover photos (from left to right) of Grayson's Ean Pemberton and Tyler Horne are courtesy of Photographic Arts. The inside photo is of Grayson head coach Mickey Conn (courtesy of Grayson Touchdown Club). Proctor can be reached at fproctor@scoreatl.com.



HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

FRIDAY NIGHTS ON



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WELCOME TO PREPLAND



SCORE
ALEX EWALT

Ealey makes history, Harrison prevails and Tucker wins Region 6-AAAA battle

Washaun Ealey of Emanuel County Institute broke the state career touchdown record on Friday, scoring three times to bring his career total to 113. Ealey, a senior, broke the previous record of 111, which was held by Matt Dunham of Pacelli (2001-04), and brought his single-season touchdown total to 21 (last year he broke the state single-season record for touchdowns with 58). Ealey's scores not only put him alone atop the record books for touchdowns in a career, they helped ECI win a crucial Region 3-A game against then-undefeated Johnson County, 35-12. ECI, the top-ranked team in Class A and defending state champion, moves to 7-0 on the year.

FRIDAY NIGHT REVISITED ...

Undefeated East Paulding traveled to undefeated Harrison to try and score a pro-

gram-defining win and put itself in the driver's seat for the Region 5-AAAAA title. But Harrison (7-0, 6-0) reasserted its region dominance, downing the Raiders 28-16. Robbie Godhigh did it all for the Hoyas, returning a kickoff 92 yards for a score, rushing for 103 yards, and playing a solid defensive back. He had to leave the game in the fourth quarter, however, with a sprained ankle.

Tucker knocked off Chamblee last Friday, 20-13. The win puts the Tigers alone in third place in Region 6-AAAA behind Southwest DeKalb and Marist, and drops Chamblee into a four-way tie for fourth place. Incidentally, Chamblee will play the other three teams it is tied with (Forsyth Central, Stone Mountain and Miller Grove) in the last three weeks of the season. ... Stephenson defeated M.L. King 27-7 to move into second place in Region 2-AAAAA behind undefeated Union Grove. ...

Milton defeated Lassiter 21-10 to move to 5-2 overall and 4-2 in Region 6-AAAAA. Lassiter drops to 4-2 in the region, and for the moment, is out of the playoffs with three games remaining. ... Baneker upset our No. 2-ranked team in Class 4A, Mays, by the score of 18-14. ... St. Pius X picked up a Region 5-AAA win over Washington on Saturday at Grady Stadium, 35-25.

First-year head coach Chris Parker has achieved a remarkable turnaround at Chapel Hill, having already led the Panthers to a 6-1 record and a 5-1 mark in Region 4-AAAAA. The former Sequoyah assistant has already coached Chapel Hill to its most wins ever in a season, and upset East Coweta last Friday, 13-7.

LOOKING AHEAD ...

Our GPB/Score Atlanta Game of the

Week will be Pepperell at Coosa. Pepperell is ranked No. 3 in our GPB/Score Prep poll. The 790 The Zone Game of the Week is McEachern at No. 7 Harrison. ... Other big games are: Tift County at Northside-Warner Robins; Stephenson at Union Grove; Southwest DeKalb at Marist; Dalton at Rome; Walton at Lassiter; Sequoyah at Northwest Whitfield; Greater Atlanta Christian at Lovett; Blessed Trinity at Buford; and Roswell at Milton. ... The softball State Finals for all classifications will be held at the Columbus Softball Complex this Thursday through Saturday. Volleyball will hold the State Sectionals this Thursday and Saturday at sites throughout the state. Stay with Score Prep for all the latest postseason results!

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Indians aim to end Hoyas' undefeated streak

The Harrison Hoyas and McEachern Indians have split their previous two encounters, each in dominating fashion. The Hoyas won last year's game 40-6, while the Indians won the 2006 edition 35-13. Harrison (7-0 overall, 6-0 Region 5-A) is coming off a sound 28-16 victory over East Paulding, snapping the Raiders' 22-game regular-season win streak in the process. McEachern (3-4, 3-3) will be looking to rebound after a deflating loss against North Cobb where the Indians allowed two late touchdowns in a 21-14 loss last Friday.

The Hoyas lost two of their senior two-way players in the East Paulding tilt. Robbie Godhigh had an electrifying two-touchdown night against the Raiders prior to an ankle injury in the fourth quarter. Godhigh ran to his right on a toss and fell awkwardly after being tackled by the back of

his jersey. Brad Mears was injured late in the second quarter with a feared MCL tear. With Godhigh playing safety, tailback and kick returner, and Mears being the starter at right guard and linebacker, first-year head coach David Hines will have extra holes to fill. Still, the Hoyas control their own destiny in the region and are on their way to a No. 1 seed for the playoffs.

The Indians are looking to avenge last year's loss to the Hoyas and improve their overall record when they travel to Harrison. An upset against the region's top team on the road would help McEachern forget about last week's tough defeat. Raajan Bennett will need to have a game like he did against the Warriors, where he ran for one of the Indians' scores and threw a touchdown as well.

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Whitaker, No. 3 Dragons battle Coosa

The Pepperell versus Coosa series in Region 7-AA has been controlled by Pepperell as of late, as the Dragons have won the last two matchups and 17 of the last 20. Still, Pepperell only leads the overall series by one game, 23-22-1.

The No. 3-ranked Dragons are undefeated at 7-0 this season and it will be a tough task for the Eagles to deal them their first loss. Last week, Coosa edged Armuchee 7-6 to improve its record to 4-3 overall, but Pepperell defeated the same Armuchee team 42-15 on Oct. 3.

The Pepperell offense is led by running back Brandon Whitaker, who rushed for 1,576 yards and 21 touchdowns last season. Whitaker had four total touchdowns in the win over Rockmart. The defense is a 4-4 scheme, led by lineman Matthew Kelley and

defensive back Kendric Cheeks, that only allowed 17 yards against Temple on Oct. 10.

The Eagles' Wing T offense depends on two talented running backs: tailback Quentin High and fullback Lebron Neal. Neal had 1,015 yards last season and High rushed for 90 yards and two touchdowns against Model on Oct. 3. Coosa's 3-3 defense is led by lineman Blake Lambert and linebackers Fatir Pillow and David Masters. The defense has allowed an average of 11 points per game in the four wins, but nearly 40 points in their three losses to Rockmart, Central-Carroll and Calhoun. The Eagles will have to slow down Whitaker and most importantly keep him out of the end zone to have a chance at the upset.

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THRASHERS

BERKMAR PATRIOTS

The football team spoiled Homecoming for the Meadowcreek Mustangs, winning a tight contest 10-7 on Oct. 10. Michael Rosser scored Berkmar's only touchdown in the second quarter from eight yards out. Ben Wibonele added a 45-yard field goal in the third period to give Berkmar a lead. The Patriots caught a break late in the fourth quarter as Meadowcreek signal-caller Sean Frezell inexplicably spiked the ball on fourth down deep in Berkmar territory. The Patriots' inconsistent play continued against a red-hot and unbeaten Grayson team in a 28-7 loss Friday night. The offense was stifled most of the evening and was held to 18 yards of total offense. The game was within reach for the Patriots, however, until a second-quarter fumble resulted in a Rams touchdown and 14-0 lead. The lone highlight offensively was a 46-yard scoring strike from Xavier Briggs to Duchein Williams. Berkmar (3-4) will hope the seasonal trend of winning after each loss continues next Friday night when they pay a visit to the Black Knights of Central Gwinnett for a 7:30 p.m. showdown.

BROOKWOOD BRONCOS

After tasting defeat in region play for the first time in 29 games on Oct. 10, the football team welcomed Central Gwinnett as it tried to start a new streak. Just one week after allowing its first 100-yard rusher of the season, the Bronco defense allowed Diante Drake to scamper for 101 yards. But the Broncos, thanks to Brice Smith, still won the game 27-14. In the 10-7 loss to Grayson, a special teams breakdown led to the Rams' only touchdown. Senior Brice Smith continued his hot streak, scoring another touchdown. The team hits the road this Friday to take on Dacula. ... The softball team earned a trip to the state sectionals. The Lady Broncos met Mill Creek in the first round of the State Tournament and lost 2-0. In the loser's bracket, the Lady Broncos stayed alive after a 5-1 victory over Walton on Saturday morning. But hours later, Brookwood fell 2-1 to Kennesaw Mountain, effectively ending the team's season. Brookwood finished with a final record of 14-19-2.

BUFORD WOLVES

It was business as usual for the defending state football champs in their travels to face Cross Keys on Oct. 11, as the team earned a resounding 63-0 victory at Adams Stadium. The long list of players that scored for Buford include Cody Getz, Storm Johnson and Sterling Bell. On the road against Thomson last Friday, defense was the theme, as the Wolves kept the Bulldogs quiet and ineffective all night long in a gritty 29-0 win. This Friday the team hosts Blessed Trinity. ... The softball team claimed its second regional softball championship in school history, going 3-0 in the Region 6-AA tournament. Buford defeated Blessed Trinity 11-0 in five innings to advance to the title game behind Karli Fullem's two-hit, 10-strikeout performance. In the 9-1 title game victory over Greater Atlanta Christian, Fullem added a homer while Lexi Overstreet went 3-3 with three RBIs. Melissa Dickey shut the door on the Spartans, allowing one hit and one unearned run while racking up seven strikeouts. The team won its first two games of the sectionals against Crawford County (8-0) and Jefferson (4-0).

CENTRAL GWINETT BLACK KNIGHTS

Freshman quarterback Jordan Adams had a big game against Shiloh on Oct 10, leading the Black Knights to a 21-10 victory. Diante Drake was electric once again, piling up 218 yards rushing on 22 carries. Drake also hauled in two touchdowns from Adams in the win. Adams ended the night 9-for-12 passing for 109 yards and the two scoring tosses to Drake. Adams and the Black Knights didn't fare as well in their game with Brookwood last Friday, falling 27-17 to the Broncos. Central kept the game close behind a strong performance from Adams, who went 24 of 32 passing for 225 yards and two touchdowns. Adams also threw three interceptions, the second of which was returned for a touchdown to extend the Bronco lead to 27-14 in the fourth quarter. The Knights tried to muster a late rally, but an interception by Wade Brogdon with eight minutes remaining derailed the comeback effort. Impressively, Adams has completed 75 percent of his passes in two starts. The team's next game will be at home this Friday against the Patriots of Berkmar.

COLLINS HILL EAGLES

The football team defeated Duluth 23-3 on Oct. 10 to become 6-0 for the first time in school history. Quarterback Michael Box threw two touchdowns while running back Charles Perkins rushed for 81 yards and one touchdown. The Eagles suffered their first loss of the season last Friday to Peachtree Ridge 21-0. Perkins was held to 21 yards and Box was sacked four times. The team will face Mill Creek on the road this Friday. ... The softball team defeated Northview 1-0 in 11 innings last Wednesday in the first round of the Region 7-AAAAA tournament. On Thursday, they lost to North Gwinnett 2-1 in eight innings. Lauren Reader pitched all eight innings. ... The volleyball team lost to Norcross (15-25, 18-25) last Thursday in the opening round of the Area 7-AAAAA tournament. ... The boys cross country team finished fourth in the Great American Festival on Oct. 11 and first in the Reebok Coach Wood Invitational last Saturday. The girls team finished first in the Great American Festival and first in the Reebok Coach Wood Invitational.

DACULA FALCONS

The football team defeated Parkview for the first time in school history on Oct. 10 by a score of 21-0. Running back Aashad Holloway led the way with 142 yards and two third-quarter touchdowns, a 45-yard run and a 15-yard reception. The Falcons lost to Shiloh 24-22 last Friday. Holloway scored two touchdowns. The team hosts Brookwood this Friday. ... The softball team defeated Parkview 4-0 to win the Region 8-AAAAA tournament on Oct. 9. Allie Miles struck out 10 batters and allowed only two hits. The Falcons saw their season end with a 6-1 loss to Kennesaw Mountain in the fourth matchup of the North Sectional. ... The volleyball team defeated Milton and North Cobb on Oct. 9. Sara Beth White had 16 kills. The girls defeated North Gwinnett but lost to Milton on Senior Night on Oct. 14. The team defeated Shiloh and Brookwood last Thursday to advance to the semifinals of the Area 8-AAAAA tournament. The semifinals begin Saturday morning. ... The boys cross country team finished 13th in the Reebok Coach Wood Invitational last Saturday.

GRAYSON RAMS

"We're getting everybody's best game." That was what head football coach Mickey Connors said following the team's huge 10-7 win over region foe Brookwood on Oct. 10. The win gave Grayson victories over its top two opponents for the Region 8-AAAAA title. Running back Ean Pemberton became the first rusher to gain 100 yards against the Bronco defense this season, as he recorded 139 yards on 26 carries. Quarterback Tyler Horne had the lone Grayson touchdown and kicker Austin Clark's third-quarter field goal turned out to be the winning margin. The Rams avoided a letdown against Berkmar last Friday with a 28-7 win. The team welcomes Meadowcreek this Friday. ... The softball team fought hard but ultimately came up short in a bid for the state sectionals. The team watched Dacula lock up a bid to the sectionals, falling 2-0 to the Falcons. Hayley Downs and Ariel LaRocca had the only two hits for the Lady Rams, who, as a team, struck out 14 times in the loss. The team then rallied from a 10-2 deficit against South Gwinnett to tie the game before falling 11-10.

GREATER ATLANTA CHRISTIAN SPARTANS

Ken Robinson's football team won its second game of the season on Oct. 10, beating Decatur 35-18. After losing their first four games this year, the Spartans have opened their region campaign going 2-1. Quarterback Colton Chapple came through with his second straight solid performance, going 8-of-14 passing for 190 yards and one touchdown toss. Chapple seems to be benefiting from Robinson's decision to play Stephen Atwater (yes, he is Denver Bronco legend Steve Atwater's son) at running back in addition to his defensive back duties. The Spartans rode Chapple's arm and legs to victory again last Friday, defeating the Blue Devils of Avondale 34-21. Chapple threw two touchdowns on the evening, passing for 157 yards on eight completions. He also scored on an 81-yard run in the third quarter to end any comeback attempt. This Friday, the team travels to Lovett to face the Lions at 7:30 p.m. ... After making the 2008 state playoffs, the softball team defeated Heard County (13-0) and East Jackson (2-0) last Friday before losing to Blessed Trinity (6-3) and Lovett (4-3) on Saturday.



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MEADOWCREEK MUSTANGS

On Oct. 10 against the Berkmar Patriots, the football team fell just shy of doing something it hadn't done since 2001: win twice in one season. Hosting the Patriots on Homecoming night, the Mustangs were buoyed by the return of their senior quarterback Sean Frezell, who missed the previous game with an ankle injury. Frezell put the Mustangs on top 7-0 when he hooked up with Quenton Brown midway through second quarter on a 9-yard touchdown pass, but the Patriots shut the door on Meadowcreek soon after, scoring 10 unanswered points over the remainder of the game to win 10-7. Off last Friday, the Mustangs will travel this Friday to take on the undefeated Grayson Rams, ranked No. 6 in the GPB/Score Prep Top-10 Rankings, at 7:30 p.m. in the Rams' Senior Night game. ... The cross country team competed at the Gwinnett County Cross Country Championships. Top runners were Joshua Allensworth at 18:44.53 on the boys' side and Danielle Banks at 24:40.88 on the girls' side. ... Head coach Brian Williamson's volleyball team ended its year with a 7-22 regular-season record.

MILL CREEK HAWKS

The football team lost to Peachtree Ridge 17-9 on Oct. 10, but rebounded last Friday with a 41-20 win over Chattahoochee. Quarterback Ed Russ had 291 total yards and accounted for four touchdowns. The team hosts Collins Hill this Friday. ... The softball team defeated North Gwinnett 4-0 on Oct. 9. Morgan Bullock struck out 14 and gave up just two hits. The Hawks defeated Peachtree Ridge 2-1 in the first of two games against the Lions on Oct. 10. The second game went to Peachtree Ridge, 3-1, to make the Lions Region 7-A-A-A-A-A tournament champions. The Hawks defeated Brookwood 2-0 in the first round of the North Sectional last Friday and then beat Cherokee 1-0 and Parkview 3-0 on Saturday to advance to the state tournament. Bullock pitched a six-hit shutout on the mound while also doubling and scoring a run. The Elite Eight begins Thursday at 5:30 p.m. ... The volleyball team defeated Meadowcreek and Duluth, but lost to North Gwinnett in the opening round of the Area 7-A-A-A-A-A tournament last Thursday. Mo Simmons had 21 kills and eight blocks. ... The boys cross country team finished 14th and the girls finished 10th in the Reebok Coach Wood Invitational last Saturday.

NORCROSS BLUE DEVILS

The football team took care of Northview 45-0 on Oct. 10. Running back D.J. Adams exploded for four scores and 153 rushing yards while quarterback Charles King amassed 221 yards through the air on 10-of-15 passing to go along with one touchdown. Miami-bound receiver Prince Kent caught three balls for 113 yards. North Forsyth was the Blue Devils' Homecoming opponent last Friday, and the game was close at halftime with Norcross holding a 3-0 lead. Adams rushed for 137 yards but was kept out of the end zone in the team's 17-0 win. Norcross will face Duluth on the road this Friday. ... The volleyball team stumbled a bit down the stretch with three straight losses to Westminster, Northview and Chattahoochee. ... The softball team's season came to an unexpected and abrupt halt when it was upset by Duluth, 5-1, in the Region 7-A-A-A-A-A tournament. Samantha Findling scored the Lady Blue Devils' only run in the loss. The team had advanced thanks to a strong effort from Alexandra Foulke the day before. Foulke recorded a shutout on the mound and the game's only RBI at the plate in a 1-0 win over Northview.

NORTH GWINNETT BULLDOGS

The football team defeated Chattahoochee 28-13 on Oct. 10. Tyler Jarry had 105 total yards and two touchdowns. Robert Nelson returned an interception 79 yards for a touchdown in the first quarter. The Bulldogs defeated Northview 45-0 last Friday. Quarterback Mike Tamburo threw for 155 yards and two touchdowns and ran for 86 yards and a score. Raahmil Brantley rushed for 129 yards and one touchdown. Jarry caught 10 passes for 105 yards. The team hosts North Forsyth this Friday. ... The softball team defeated Duluth 4-0 but then lost to North Gwinnett by the same score on Oct. 9. Starting pitcher Alex McDavid struck out 10 against Duluth. The Lady Bulldogs lost to Parkview 4-0 in the first round of the North Sectionals last Friday. Their season ended on Saturday with a 4-1 loss to Dacula. ... The volleyball team lost to Parkview and GAC on Oct. 9. The girls rebounded last Thursday in the Area 7-A-A-A-A-A tournament by beating Peachtree Ridge and Mill Creek before losing to Norcross. Megan Carnell had 28 kills. ... The boys cross country team finished sixth and the girls finished second in the Reebok Coach Wood Invitational last Saturday.

*Corey Mitchell - Berkmar, Central Gwinnett, GAC, Buford • Fletcher Proctor - Brookwood, Grayson, Norcross, Parkview, South Gwinnett • Derek Wiley - Collins Hill, Mill Creek, North Gwinnett, Peachtree Ridge, Wesleyan, Dacula • Zander Lentz - Meadowcreek

PARKVIEW PANTHERS

The football team hosted South Gwinnett last Friday in an important Region 8-A-A-A-A-A game, one that might hold tiebreaker importance at the end of the regular season. For Parkview, the game was a must-win following its 21-0 loss to Dacula on Oct. 10. In that game, the Panthers were denied the ball for most of the second half in their first-ever loss to Kevin Maloof's Falcons. Against the Comets, Brandon Jacobs scored the game-winning touchdown, his third of the game, in triple overtime to give Parkview the 34-31 win. The team next faces Shiloh on Oct. 31. ... Boys cross country standout Brian Detweiler was recently named Runner of the Week by Gwinnett County coaches after he placed fourth in the Jesse Owens Invitational. The girls cross country team took home a win in the Alexander Asics Invitational after five runners finished in the top 20, including Julianne Kurke's fifth-place finish. The volleyball team had a great Saturday, defeating Grayson and Dacula on its way to capturing the Area 8-A-A-A-A-A Championship. The state playoffs begin next Thursday. ... The softball team defeated North Gwinnett and Kell before falling to Mill Creek last Saturday in the 2008 state playoffs.

PEACHTREE RIDGE LIONS

The football team defeated Mill Creek 17-9 on Oct. 10. The Lions' defense was strong all night, led by LSU commitment Kevin Minter, who had two sacks. On offense, Ronnie Smith carried the ball 22 times for 96 yards and quarterback Nick Lombardo had two rushing touchdowns. The Lions beat previously undefeated Collins Hill 21-0 last Friday. The defense held the Eagles to 109 total yards and sacked quarterback Michael Box four times. On offense, running back Ronnie Smith rushed for 92 yards and a touchdown. The team hosts South Forsyth this Friday. ... The softball team defeated Mill Creek 3-1 on Oct. 10 to win the Region 7-A-A-A-A-A tournament. Krysten Connelly was the winning pitcher and Gabby Bedard had three hits and scored two runs. The Lions defeated East Paulding 1-0 in the finals of the North Sectional last Saturday to advance to the Elite Eight. ... The boys and girls cross country teams each finished first in the Wesleyan Invitational last Saturday. Niall Longobardi led all boys with a time of 16:11 and Heather Morris led all girls with a time of 19:34.

SOUTH GWINNETT COMETS

The football team had not played since its crushing loss against Dacula on Oct. 3 when it traveled to Parkview last Friday to begin a crucial stretch of region games. Head coach John Small knew that the Comets would need to win at least two of their last four games to have a shot at returning to the playoffs. Quarterback Michael Polascik had three first-half interceptions, as Parkview jumped out to an early lead. Aaron Wimberly's 94 rushing yards kept the Comets close and the team forced three overtimes before falling 34-31. This Friday, the team welcomes Shiloh for Homecoming. ... The softball team qualified for the state sectionals with its 11-10 win over Grayson in the Region 8-A-A-A-A-A tournament. The Lady Comets jumped up early on the Rams with eight runs in the fourth inning, then had to plate one more to secure the win for head coach Rachel Ludick. Lizzy Perry was 3-for-4 with a run and an RBI in the win. The team went on to face Peachtree Ridge in the first round of the North Sectional last Friday, but the Lady Comets fell 9-1 and then lost 10-0 to Lassiter in the loser's bracket, ending the season.

WESLEYAN WOLVES

The football team clinched a berth in the Class A playoffs by shutting out Prince Avenue Christian 38-0 on Oct. 10. Kyle Karempelis rushed for 156 yards and four touchdowns. The Wolves defeated Commerce 33-7 last Friday. Karempelis had 178 total yards and two touchdowns. Quarterback Conor Welton passed for 176 yards and three touchdowns. The Wolves will travel to Athens Academy this Friday. ... The softball team advanced to the state tournament with three wins last Saturday in the North Sectionals. The Wolves defeated North Cobb Christian 5-2, Providence 8-2 and Trion 4-2. ... The volleyball team defeated Holy Innocents' on Oct. 9. Anne Marie Armstrong had 17 kills. The girls defeated St. Francis and Atlanta International School on Oct. 14 to advance to the Area 7 -A/AA finals on Thursday where they swept Blessed Trinity to win the Area 7 -A/AA championship. Armstrong was named the tournament MVP. ... The boys cross country team finished fourth in the Wesleyan Invitational last Saturday. The girls finished third. Erika Ramsey finished second overall with a time of 20:01.

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