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NOVEMBER 5-11, 2008

ATLANTA'S WEEKLY SPORTS TALK NEWSPAPER

VOL 4 NO 45

# SCORE



**SSYS**  
SANDY SPRINGS YOUTH SPORTS  
**COACHES NEEDED!**  
**SEE PAGE 5**

# FLYING HIGH!

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**IN YOUR FACE...**



**WILD RIDE:** Georgia has its share of intense fans but there was little cheering in Jacksonville last Saturday, as the Bulldogs lost 49-10 to Florida. Gators head coach Urban Meyer even called two timeouts in the final minute to rub it in – but most of the UGA fans had left by then anyway. Still, would you want to run into this fan on the street when he's angry? Photo courtesy of Rob Saye.

**WHAT'S ON THE INSIDE**

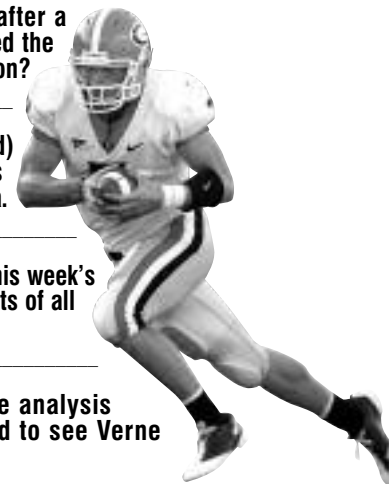
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**5** I.J. Rosenberg gives credit to the Falcons after a 24-0 win in Oakland. Who would have guessed the Birds would be 5-3 halfway through the season?

**12** James Butler says Matthew Stafford (pictured) and the Bulldogs suffered from a lack of focus and preparation against both Alabama and Florida.

**13** Alex Ewalt, the "Mayor of Prepland," unveils this week's top 10 prep football rankings and has the results of all five volleyball state championships.

**22** Jeff Batten praises SportsNite's pre-game analysis of the Georgia-Florida game and was glad to see Verne Lundquist back to his old self in the booth.



**A SCORE UPDATE:**

For you high school football fans, make sure to check out [www.gpb.org/football/watch](http://www.gpb.org/football/watch) throughout the postseason, as *Score Atlanta* teams up with GPB to webcast playoff games on Friday nights all the way to the state championships. And don't forget to visit [Scoreatl.com](http://Scoreatl.com) on Friday nights for live score updates on our flash scoreboard!

**TEAM PAGES | COLUMNS**

COVER DESIGN BY DAVID GAUDIO; COVER PHOTO COURTESY OF JIMMY CRIBB/ATLANTA FALCONS.

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## Falcons defying critics at midseason point and thoughts on the Bulldogs

After a week on the bench (I couldn't get Chuck Oliver to stop from crying on my shoulder), there's a lot to talk about. Let's start with the good ...

### THE BIRDS ARE FLYING ...

There's no better story in the NFL right now than the Falcons. Not Tennessee's undefeated record and not the sudden problems in Dallas. The Falcons come into the midseason point at 5-3, with more wins than any of the national so-called "experts" thought they would have in all 16 games, and four more than that Sporting News scribe predicted. He must have Atlanta and Detroit mixed up. (That's sort of hard to do if you have ever been to Motown.)

I spent some time at the Falcons' offices in Flowery Branch on Friday and took in some of the practice. Despite coming off a loss to the Eagles, the team was incredibly energetic and crisp before getting on the plane to go to Oakland. The win in the Bay was the team's easiest of the season and, as a result, the Falcons remain right in the middle of the playoff hunt. Who would have ever thought that was possible?

I felt this team could win eight games and now I am revising it to 11. Here's how it will happen: The second-half schedule turns in the team's favor. The next three games are at home, where the team is 3-0, and I see two straight wins coming, beginning Sunday against New Orleans and then on Nov. 16 against Denver.

With that comes the game of the season: A 7-3 Falcons team against an 8-2 Carolina squad. I think this will be the Falcons' only home loss of the season. After the Giants, I feel the Panthers (now 6-2 with games coming up against Oakland and Detroit) are the next-best team in the conference and will slip by Atlanta on a field goal late in the fourth quarter.

At 7-4, the Falcons will split their next two games, losing in San Diego before coming back and knocking off the Saints in New Orleans. Then comes Tampa Bay (6-3 right now), a game the Falcons will have to win to grab a wild card spot. It happens, and then the Falcons go to Minnesota and win before ending the regular season by whipping St. Louis.

Will 11-5 be enough to take a wild card spot? In most years it would be, but this year likely will be different. The problem lies in the NFC East which, going into Monday, was home to a 7-1 Giants team, the Redskins (6-2), the Eagles (5-3), and the Cowboys (5-4). The key will be how those teams do outside the division. The good news for Atlanta is that several of those NFC East teams have games left against clubs like Baltimore and Pittsburgh.

What's exciting, however, is that we are at the midseason point and the Falcons are in the playoff hunt and on our cover. Last year at this time we were still talking Michael Vick and pit bulls. Today, we're talking Mike Smith, Matt Ryan and the playoffs. Unbelievable.

### WHAT HAPPENED TO THE DOGS? ...

I am not quite sure why everyone was surprised with the outcome Saturday in Jacksonville. While I didn't write last week, I told everyone in this office that the game

the NFL. Also, as good as he may be advertised and despite the fact that he likely will be a very good NFL quarterback, Mathew Stafford is no D.J. Shockley or Eric Zeier and will leave Athens without an appearance in the SEC Championship Game. As for Georgia fans and that preseason No. 1 ranking, you need to look at it this way: Clemson went into the season ranked ninth while Auburn was No. 10 and the teams are now 4-4 and 4-5, respectively. So it could be much worse. The Bulldogs, meanwhile, still have a chance to go to a New Year's Day bowl, finish with an 11-2



**LEADING THE WAY:** With Matt Ryan at the helm, the Falcons have been poised, composed and focused throughout the season. Ryan has only committed a turnover in three games this year and has thrown just five interceptions. And in last Sunday's win over Oakland, Ryan finished with a QB rating of 138.4. Does that sound like the work of a rookie to you? Photo courtesy of Jimmy Cribb/Atlanta Falcons.



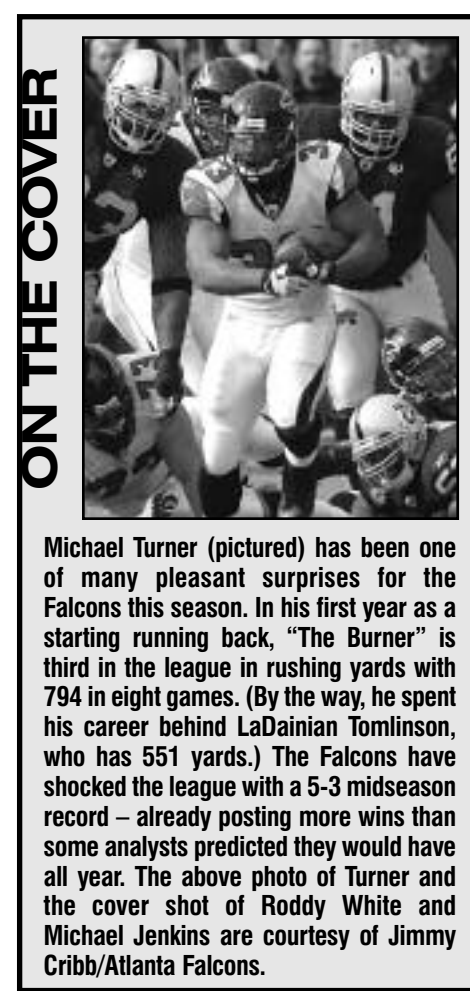
**'The win [at Oakland] was the Falcons' easiest of the season and, as a result, the Birds remain right in the middle of the playoff hunt. Who would have ever thought that was possible?'**

would be a blowout. Once Georgia lost its top players on both lines, they became only an above-average team. You can't sustain those types of injuries and expect to play with teams like the Gators or even what has been a surprising Alabama team. Throw in the fact that Mark Richt and his staff didn't have one of their better games, and I can't understand why Knowshon Moreno keeps taking himself out of games. This was a kid that used to spring back to the huddle and I keep hearing this rumbling that he is trying to save himself for

record and a top 10 ranking. That's not worth throwing yourself off a bridge.

### WHY DID OLIVER LEAVE 790? ...

I have never made it a secret that we are in bed with 790. What they have done over there while being handcuffed with a low-strength signal is incredible, more than doubling the revenue that 680 The Fan brings in. They are one of our strongest partners. Chuck Oliver shocked everyone at the Zone when, last Monday, he just dropped in and



**Michael Turner (pictured) has been one of many pleasant surprises for the Falcons this season. In his first year as a starting running back, "The Burner" is third in the league in rushing yards with 794 in eight games. (By the way, he spent his career behind LaDainian Tomlinson, who has 551 yards.) The Falcons have shocked the league with a 5-3 midseason record – already posting more wins than some analysts predicted they would have all year. The above photo of Turner and the cover shot of Roddy White and Michael Jenkins are courtesy of Jimmy Cribb/Atlanta Falcons.**

quit. The station wanted to keep Chuck but he wanted his own show and jumped ship to the station's hated rival. This did not sit well with 790's management. This was different than the Matt Chernoff situation, where Matt was let go by the Zone and then hired by 680. Oliver will have his own show at 680, going from 1-3 p.m. in the afternoon. I am a fan of Chuck's, as he has written for us since we opened our doors at *Score*. But I hope Chuck didn't cut off his nose to spite his face. The Zone is a marketing machine and most on-air talent that goes over there gets that type of a boost when they are on the station. The Fan doesn't have the same push and probably never will because, for the most part, their on-air talent is invisible when they are off the air. Again, I wish Chuck the best of luck but I have to wonder if Oliver thought this one completely through.

*Rosenberg can be heard every Sunday on 790 The Zone during the Falcons game. The Score Atlanta Live NFL Scoreboard Show will be on this Sunday from 1-4 p.m. Rosenberg can be reached at [ijrosenberg@scoreatl.com](mailto:ijrosenberg@scoreatl.com) and 404-256-1572.*

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# SCORE LIST

BY TAD ARAPOGLOU

- 1 **DOGS CHOMPED:** In last week's issue I picked Florida to win, but only by a score of 38-34. Seeing UGA get manhandled—again—proves the Dogs are still light years away from being national title contenders. Wasn't this team No. 1 at one point?
- 2 **CAN'T BLAME HIM:** Were Urban Meyer's late timeout calls classless? Yeah, probably. But no Georgia fan can complain about it after last year's touchdown celebration. Trust me, I'm no Florida fan, but as they say, payback's a ... well, you know.
- 3 **BUILDING BUZZ:** Could Tech-FSU have had a better ending? The Jackets avoided a "Florida sweep" on the weekend by forcing a fumble near the goal line for the win. Tech and UNC are now the ACC's top-ranked teams, and they meet this Saturday.
- 4 **SILVER & BLECH:** Those Raiders sure are atrocious to watch, but seeing the Falcons beat up on them was fine by me. Matt Ryan was as efficient as ever, the combo of Turner and Norwood tore it up, the defense shut them down ... it was a thing of beauty.
- 5 **WRAPPING UP:** It's the last week of high school football's regular season! No. 4 North Gwinnett vs. No. 7 Peachtree Ridge will decide Region 7-AAAAA, and if Class 2A's Buford beats GAC, it will be the Wolves' fourth straight undefeated regular season.
- 6 **FIRST PLACE:** The Hawks kicked off the season beating Orlando and Philly. Yeah it's just two games, but winning early games helps tremendously down the road, especially with a young team. Still, I gotta say, at this rate I like our chances of going 82-0.
- 7 **VOL NO MORE:** At least UGA fans can be thankful they're not in the same shape as rival Tennessee. Phil Fulmer announced he will step down at the end of 2008; right now the Vols are 3-6. And just think: 10 years ago, Fulmer was a national champ.
- 8 **I'LL PASS:** Can you imagine a quarterback going 57-for-85 in one game? Well, Stephen F. Austin's Jeremy Moses did just that last weekend, breaking NCAA records in each category. And how about this: SFA lost the game, 34-31, to Sam Houston State.
- 9 **AT THE POINT:** Why did Detroit trade Chauncey Billups and Antonio McDyess for Allen Iverson? Even at 33, Iverson is one of the league's better scorers, but how will the Pistons depend on him at the point? Not sure what Joe Dumars was thinking there.
- 10 **MORE GAMES?:** According to the *New York Daily News*, the NFL is looking to turn two preseason games into regular-season games by 2010, making it an 18-game season. More football ... dream come true ... oh man, I'm starting to hyperventilate ...

# DUE UP

HOTTEST THINGS TO SEE AND DO OVER THE NEXT SEVEN DAYS

BY BRIAN JONES

- WEDNESDAY**  
**5** **Hawks at New Orleans. 790 The Zone. SportSouth.**  
The Hawks are back and are hoping to prove they are a true playoff contender. They have a tough challenge ahead of them, however, as they take on Chris Paul and the New Orleans Hornets. Tip-off is set at 8 p.m.
- THURSDAY**  
**6** **Thrashers vs. N.Y. Islanders. 680 The Fan. SportSouth.**  
The season has not started as well as the Thrashers had hoped, but they can right the ship with a big win against a struggling New York Islanders team at Philips Arena. BlueLand will be rockin' starting at 7 p.m.
- FRIDAY**  
**7** **High School Football.**  
It's the final week of the regular season and some great rivalry games still await us. Brookwood at Parkview, North Gwinnett at Peachtree Ridge, and Harrison at Etowah are just a few to get you pumped up. All games start at 7:30 p.m.
- SATURDAY**  
**8** **UGA-Kentucky/Tech-UNC. 750 AM/790 The Zone. Raycom.**  
It's another crucial week for our college teams, as the Dawgs take on Kentucky and the Jackets try to get a win over an improving North Carolina squad. The games start at 12:30 and 12 p.m., respectively.
- SUNDAY**  
**9** **Falcons at New Orleans. 92.9 FM. FOX.**  
The Falcons will be back at home for the first time since Oct. 12. And what better way to kick off their three-game homestand than to pick up a win over their NFC South rival New Orleans Saints? Kickoff is at 1 p.m.
- MONDAY**  
**10** **Monday Night Football. 680 The Fan. ESPN.**  
Under new head coach Mike Singletary, San Francisco looks to turn its season around when the 49ers travel to Arizona. Can they stop the duo of Anquan Boldin and Larry Fitzgerald? The fun starts at 8:30 p.m.
- TUESDAY**  
**11** **Hawks at Chicago. 790 The Zone. SportSouth.**  
The Hawks will have another road test when they take on the Chicago Bulls. Joe Johnson and company will look to stop Ben Gordon and 2008 No. 1 draft pick Derrick Rose in this Tuesday night affair. Tip-off is at 8:30 p.m.

## WHO'S HOT

THUMBS UP TO EARLY SUCCESS



### Atlanta Hawks

The Hawks opened the year with a convincing win over Orlando and followed it up with a come-from-behind win over Philadelphia in which Atlanta trailed by as many as 23 points. Joe Johnson (pictured) is averaging 30 points per game.

### Tech beats FSU

The Yellow Jackets hadn't beaten the Seminoles in more than three decades before last Saturday. That all changed when an FSU fumble in the end zone sealed the 31-28 victory for Tech, who now leads the ACC's Coastal Division.

### Falcons defense

Not to take anything away from the offense, but Atlanta's defense couldn't have been better in a 24-0 win over Oakland. The Raiders had a total of minus-2 yards at halftime and finished with just 10 net yards passing (77 total yards).

### Bogolian injury

The Thrashers' young phenom is expected to miss six weeks after breaking his leg last week. The timing couldn't be worse, as the Thrashers had lost six of seven games (one OTL) at press time and have only won once since Oct. 18.

### DeAngelo Hall

Shortly after Sunday's game began, the cornerback was burned by a 37-yard touchdown pass from Matt Ryan to Michael Jenkins. Hall slammed the Falcons franchise and said he wanted out last year ... think he's enjoying life on the 2-6 Raiders?

### UGA Bulldogs

Mark Richt (pictured) and the Bulldogs were crushed by Florida by a score of 49-10. Urban Meyer relished the win, even calling two timeouts in the final minute. Georgia has now lost to Florida in 16 of their past 19 meetings.



## WHO'S NOT

THUMBS DOWN TO GATOR BAIT

## CRUNCHING THE NUMBERS

**8** Number of times Georgia Tech played FSU prior to 1992

**0** Number of FSU victories over Georgia Tech prior to entering the ACC in 1992

**12** Number of consecutive FSU victories before Saturday

## DALY'S BAD PUBLICITY

John Daly spent a night in jail sleeping off a drinking binge last week. Initial reports were, as usual, wrong. They had him getting arrested, thrown out of the Hooters restaurant he was at, and being belligerent. Now, he says those stories were wrong and the damage to his reputation might cost him his endorsement deal with Hooters. I agree with him. It doesn't seem fair that a bad newswire story can cost a player an endorsement because of the bad publicity it causes, but this



is John Daly we are talking about. If a company is signing a deal to have him wear its logo, bad publicity is part of the deal.

Here is an interesting note on Ryan Palmer's win at the Gin sur Mer Classic. It is his second career PGA Tour win — both of them coming the Sunday before a presidential election.

Brian Katrek can be heard on 790 The Zone's "On The Green with Brian Katrek" and can be reached at [bkatrek@790thezone.com](mailto:bkatrek@790thezone.com).

## SANITY AT LAST

*"Losing hurts. Even if we lost by one point, it still hurts. ... We have learned that we can't take anything for granted and we have to keep working hard every day."*

- Georgia LB Dannel Ellerbe



# THE SPIN

## NEWS - NOTES - QUOTES

FROM THE ATLANTA SPORTS BEATS BOTH ON & OFF THE FIELD

### SCORE

## Two Braves prospects honored and Georgia State finds football home

### FROM PHILLY TO ATLANTA

The Philadelphia Phillies are World Series champions! Who says you need more than one really good pitcher to win it all?

Cole Hamels was named MVP for his efforts in shutting down Tampa Bay's lineup and also for his efforts to try to get them to call Game 5 because of rain. Maybe I'm the only person who noticed, but it sure looked to me like he was stalling as the rain began to worsen in the top of the sixth inning when the Phillies still had a one-run lead. Now in fairness to Hamels, B.J. Upton was on first base and he had already stolen several bases during the series, but when he wasn't throwing over to first, Hamels was stalling. Prior to the threat of the game being called, he had been working at a normal pace. Luckily, the Rays tied the game before the commissioner decided to call it a night. Bud Selig said he would not have let the World Series end on a called game. Either way, the Phillies are champions.

Alabama sits atop the BCS rankings after Texas Tech upset Texas on Saturday night. That No. 1 spot is not a good place to be this season. Alabama will probably lose this week just to shake things up. There are so many really good teams you just wish there was some sort of non-mathematical format to decide which two teams should battle it out for the title. Too bad it's only 2008 and we don't have anything that sophisticated.

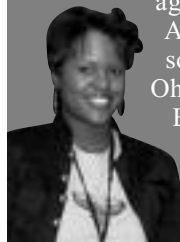
The Atlanta Hawks and Atlanta Falcons are on the verge of making professional sports in Atlanta relevant again. The Hawks came from 23 points down to beat Philadelphia on Saturday night and one day later, that

Falcons defense was nasty against the Raiders.

Atlantans finally have something to cheer about.

Oh, and poor Georgia Bulldogs. That's really all I can say about that.

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



**PICK IT UP:** Years of ACC misery against Florida State finally came to an end for Georgia Tech when FSU's Marcus Sims fumbled the ball near the goal line with 45 seconds remaining. Rashaad Reid (pictured) recovered it for the Yellow Jackets, giving Tech its first ACC victory over FSU. The Jackets now lead the ACC's Coastal Division with a 4-2 conference record. Photo courtesy of Don Jackson/Photographic Arts.

### CHECK THIS OUT!

One of the biggest amateur sports car races is coming to road Atlanta, and you're not going to want to miss it. The Sports Car Club of America (SCCA) is coming to town for its annual American Road Race of Champions Presented by Grassroots Motorsports! The racing lasts all weekend long, starting on Thursday and ending on Sunday. Testing and inspection take place on Thursday, with qualifying on Friday, and all the great racing action goes down on Saturday and Sunday. More than 400 competitors from all across the country will show up to compete in the final race of the SCCA season. So what are you waiting for? Visit [www.roadatlanta.com](http://www.roadatlanta.com) and purchase your tickets today! Weekend passes for all three days are just \$40, and a two-day ticket for Saturday and Sunday's races cost just \$20! And with more questions, visit [www.atlantascca.org](http://www.atlantascca.org).

## HERE'S THE SCOOP ...

Compiled by Scott Janovitz

Two Braves minor league pitchers were rewarded last week for dominant performances turned in over the last year. For his performance on July 22, David Francis earned the Class A Short-Season Best Single-Game Performance award. In only his third professional start, Francis threw six no-hit innings and struck out a career-high 16 batters. At the time, the win was the 20-year-old right-hander's third in a row. Joining Francis as a recent award recipient, Tommy Hanson was awarded MiLB's Class A Advanced Single-Game Performance award for his April 4 performance against the Wilmington Blue Rocks. Hanson, a 22-year-old righty, faced one batter over the minimum, threw five innings of no-hit ball, and recorded a then-career best 13 strikeouts.

He may spend most of his time now suiting up for the Orlando Magic, but Dwight Howard was born and raised in Atlanta, and local sports fans should rejoice in all the 22-year-old's recent success. All the success I am referring to was elevated to a completely new level last week when Howard became the proud new owner of the Chateau d' Usse, possibly the priciest single-family home on record in Seminole County, Fla. While it had been listed for \$9.7 million, Howard purchased the magnificent, palace-like estate for \$8 million. As if he didn't already, the "Daily Double"

has plenty to be proud of, as his new home captured every award possible earlier this year in a local Street of Dreams luxury-home television show.

Continuing a Falcons trend, kicker Jason Elam gave back to the community in a big way last Tuesday when he accompanied second-grader Gunnar Samuelson to school as part of the NFL's Take a Player to School program. Elam, who is one of 34 players to have been selected to participate in the program that rewards elementary school students with a visit from their favorite NFL players, led the kids in fitness activities as part of the NFL's PLAY 60 campaign, and lectured and answered questions.

### MARKING TERRITORY ...

Georgia State moved one step closer to realizing its 2010 dream of playing football when the University Foundation purchased 3.8 acres of land last week to house the program's future football-only complex. Purchased for \$6.6 million, the land is located at 188 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive. Though nothing has been finalized, the complex is expected to include a 100-yard turf field, a 50-yard grass field, and a building for offices, training rooms, locker rooms, weight rooms, and various other amenities. Of course, Georgia State does not begin play until 2010.

The Gwinnett Gladiators, the Thrashers' Double-A affiliate, added a new face last Thursday, acquiring defenseman Jim Jorgensen in a trade with the Las Vegas Wranglers for future considerations. Jorgensen, who joined Las Vegas for eight games last year after completing his senior year at Ferris State University, has appeared in four games for the Wranglers this year, recording an assist and two penalty minutes along the way. Jorgensen was made available for the Gladiators' 7:05 p.m. contest with the Florida Everblades on Monday, though results from the game were not available at press time.

### OLSON RETIRES ...

In national sporting news, college basketball lost a legend last week when 74-year-old Lute Olson announced his retirement from coaching the Arizona Wildcats. Olson, who won a national championship in 1997 and two National Coach of the Year awards in 1988 and 1990, spent 24 years as the head coach of the Wildcats. Interestingly, Olson's announcement came only two days after he appeared at the Wildcats' Media Day. According to reports, health was a major factor in the decision, as a recent MRI confirmed Olson had suffered from a stroke in the last year, which reportedly left him with severe depression and impaired judgment.

## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

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# ON THESE DAYS IN ATLANTA SPORTS



Compiled by Stephen Black

**2007** – The No. 10-ranked Georgia Bulldogs donned black jerseys for the first time in the modern era on Nov. 10 and proceeded to dominate the No. 18 Auburn Tigers by a score of 45-20. The Bulldogs scored the final 28 points of the game, sending the “black-out” crowd at Sanford Stadium into a frenzy. Running backs Thomas Brown and Knowshon Moreno combined for 182 yards rushing along with three touchdowns.



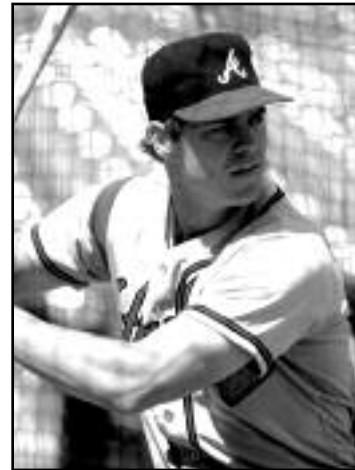
**BACK IN BLACK:** Knowshon Moreno and Thomas Brown rushed for a combined 182 yards and three touchdowns in the 2007 “blackout” win over Auburn. Photo courtesy of UGA.

**2003** – The Falcons outscored the New York Giants 20-0 in the second half on their way to a 27-7 road victory on Nov. 9. The win was just the Falcons’ second of the season in nine games. Warrick Dunn

accounted for 178 yards and a touchdown, while the defense caused four Giant turnovers. Quarterback Kurt Kittner played the entire game and tossed the go-ahead touchdown pass in the third quarter to full-back Justin Griffith.

**1998** – The Braves traded Denny Neagle, Michael Tucker and minor leaguer Rob Bell to Cincinnati in exchange for Bret Boone and Mike Remlinger on Nov. 10. Though Neagle went 36-16 in two seasons in Atlanta, he went just 43-37 over the next five seasons after the trade. Boone only spent one season in Atlanta, but Remlinger went 10-1 in his first season in Atlanta (1999) and was an All-Star in 2003.

**1983** – No. 4 Georgia defeated No. 9 Florida, 10-9, on Nov. 5. It was the sixth consecutive time the Bulldogs had defeated the Gators. Running back Barry Young scored the game’s only touchdown on a 1-yard plunge in the third quarter. ... Also, on Nov. 8, Braves outfielder Dale Murphy became just the fourth player in history to win back-to-back NL MVP Awards after hitting .302 with 36 home runs and 121 RBIs.



**BACK TO BACK:** After batting a career-high .302, Braves outfielder Dale Murphy won his second consecutive National League MVP Award in 1983. Photo courtesy of Scott Cunningham.

Finals; the Hawks won their sole NBA championship in a six-game series, marking the only season from 1957-66 in which the Celtics did not win the title.

**1938** – On Nov. 7, former Major Leaguer Fred Haney started his managerial career when he was signed to manage the St. Louis Browns. Haney did not have much success with the Browns, going 125-227 in three seasons. But the experience paid off – Haney later became manager of the Milwaukee Braves in 1956 and led the team to the 1957 World Series title and 1958 National League pennant.



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**NEWS FROM THE OWLS**  

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## Hoops teams scrimmage and soccer wins

The basketball teams held their annual Black and Gold scrimmage on Oct. 28. Nearly 2,000 spectators watched the men's and women's teams compete in two split-squad scrimmages. The men's team will face North Greenville in a home exhibition on Thursday, while the Lady Owls will host Columbus State on Tuesday.

On Oct. 27-28, the women's golf team competed at the 31st Annual FIU Pat Bradley Invitational in Fort Meyers, Fla. KSU finished ninth overall. Laura Lindsay led the squad with a three-round total of 229, which was good enough for a 15th-place finish overall. The finish was the senior's best of the year. The team has completed its fall season and will begin practicing for the spring season, which will begin on Feb. 22 in Kiawah Island, S.C.

### SENIOR NIGHT SUCCESS ...

The soccer team won its fourth straight game last Wednesday, defeating Mercer 2-1. The win capped off an emotional Senior Night performance by KSU. Freshman Katie Schwartz scored her first career goal in the 81st minute to put the Lady Owls up 2-1. KSU scored its other goal on an own-goal by Mercer in the 57th minute. The Lady Owls improved to 11-4-4 overall and 6-2-2 in Atlantic Sun play. The win clinched second place in the standings and the team will receive a bye in the conference tournament, which starts next weekend.

The women's volleyball team lost two games last week but was able to rebound on Saturday to defeat Stetson. On Oct. 28,

home-standing Georgia State defeated KSU by a score of 3-0. The Lady Owls then dropped a conference game to Florida Gulf Coast on Friday night in Fort Meyers, 3-0. The team closed out the week sweeping Stetson in Deland, Fla., 3-0, as freshman Rachael Albright had a double-double. Fellow freshman Callie Churchwell contributed nine kills and four blocks in the victory while Selina O'Leary set a school record for a three-set match with 21 digs. The Lady Owls (6-19, 5-11) will host Jacksonville on Friday night and North Florida on Saturday.

### ON THE RUN ...

The cross country teams competed in the Atlantic Sun Conference Championships in Macon last Saturday. Mackenzie Howe paced the women's team with a second-place finish. Siobhan Wolcott finished in fifth place while Kristen Gibson came in seventh. Howe, Wolcott and Gibson each made the All-Conference First Team. The Lady Owls finished third as a team, behind Belmont and Jacksonville. ... The men's team also finished third overall behind a strong performance from Scott Burley, who came in eighth place individually. The Owls finished behind East Tennessee State and Belmont. Burley was named to the All-Conference Team while Travis Holmes was named Freshman of the Year. The cross country squads will be out of action until Jan. 9, when they will compete at the Clemson Invitational.

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

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# THE SPORTS SCENE AT GEORGIA STATE



**DAVE COHEN**

## Steeds wins CAA Championship and three named Academic All-District

Congratulations to Mark Steeds, who claimed his first CAA Cross Country Championship last Saturday, as the men's and women's cross country teams placed second and third, respectively, at Bull Run Regional Park in Manassas, Va. Steeds turned in a time of 23:56, which was a new personal-best for him and the second-fastest CAA Championship meet time (8K) ever recorded. Steeds becomes the seventh Georgia State runner to earn a conference championship but the first since joining the CAA in 2005. Paul Rickard was the last men's runner to win the title in 2003. The Panthers had four runners named to the CAA All-Conference Team for their top-12 finishes: Mark Steeds, Rabah Syed, Janel Blancett and Caitlin Price. The Panthers return to action on Nov. 14th when the teams travel to Maryville, Tenn., to compete in the NCAA South Regional.

Candace Gonzales, senior captain of the women's soccer team, was named to the CoSIDA Academic All-District Third Team. Her 3.80 GPA, along with her on-the-field prowess, made Gonzales an easy choice for the people at CoSIDA. Gonzales is a two-year captain and three-year starter at midfield with five career goals, including two game-winners and five assists.

"That's tremendous," said Panthers head coach Domenic Martelli. "Candace has been a great player to coach. She goes above and beyond our expectations on the field and, especially, in the classroom."

Gonzales is the first women's soccer player at Georgia State to be named CoSIDA Academic All-District. In the team's final game of the season, the Lady Panthers fell, 3-0, to UNC Wilmington, ending their season with a record of 11-9-0 (4-7-0 CAA).

Men's soccer players Tobias Nagy and Filipe Carvalho were named CoSIDA Academic All-District as well. Nagy was named First Team and will continue onto the All-America ballot, while Carvalho was named Second Team. It is the second straight year that Carvalho has received the honor. In the team's latest game, men's soccer defeated Towson 2-0.

### HOOPS NOTES ...

After trailing for much of the game, freshman James Fields led a late charge to help the men's basketball team hold off Oglethorpe, 85-80, in its opening exhibition game last Thursday. Fields scored all 17 of his points in the second half while Leonard Mendez added 16 points, seven rebounds and five assists. Joe Dukes finished with 13 points and three assists.

"First of all, give a lot of credit to Oglethorpe; they outthusted us and out-executed us," said head coach Rod Barnes. "This was a great game for us to play because they were totally opposite of the way we've been practicing."

The Panthers play their second exhibition Thursday against Clark Atlanta at the Sports Arena. They open the regular season at the NABC Classic, Nov. 14-16 in Minneapolis, Minn., facing Bowling Green, Concordia-St. Paul and host Minnesota. All games will be broadcast on WRAS-FM, 88.5. ... Women's basketball plays its only exhibition game Nov. 13 against Georgia Southwestern. The team will open the season on Nov. 22 at Clemson.

*Dave Cohen is in his 26th 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.*

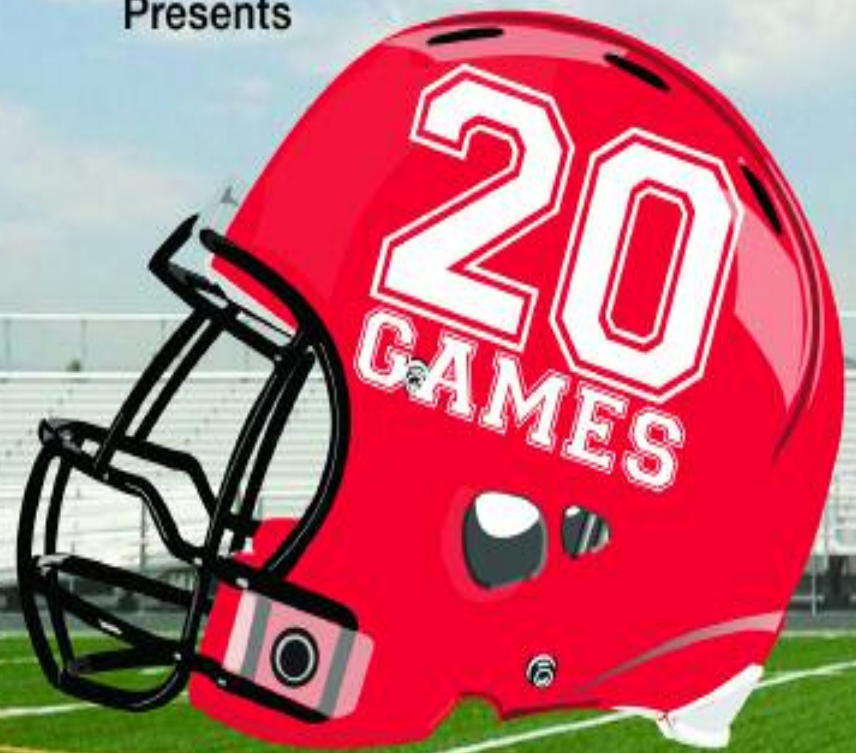
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## Losses represent failed run at national title

Georgia entered the 2008 campaign ranked the No. 1 college football team in the country in both the Associated Press and USA Today coaches' polls, the first preseason No. 1 ranking in the program's history. That ranking seemed appropriate, considering that Georgia finished 2007 ranked No. 2 in the AP and No. 3 in the coaches' poll, and returned 16 starters. The planning and mentality the Bulldogs displayed in losses to Alabama and Florida was not appropriate, however, and may have cost Georgia a chance at the ultimate prize: a BCS title.

### RUNNING EMPTY ...

In his Sunday teleconference, Georgia head coach Mark Richt attributed the team's underwhelming performances in its two losses this season to both a young offensive line and the fact that both games were preceded by emotionally draining road trips. The Bulldogs had won at Arizona State one week before returning home to face the Crimson Tide on Sept. 27, and had won at LSU before facing the Gators in Jacksonville last Saturday. Richt's beliefs have some truth to them, but his team's game plan for those games did not help matters. Playing with an inexperienced offensive line against a physically imposing Alabama defensive line, Georgia opened the game with passes on six of its first eight offensive plays, achieving only one first down. Meanwhile, the Crimson Tide offense had its way with the Bulldogs' defense to the tune of 10 first-quarter points and eventually 31 first-half points. While the Bulldogs were by no means going to dismantle the huge Alabama defensive front by trying to establish the run early, had they decided to do so, their defense might not have been in a position to give up 31 points and the likelihood of a second-half comeback may have been higher.

Similarly, this past week against Florida, Georgia did not force the run. That strategy worked between the 20s, as the Gators keyed on tailback Knowshon Moreno, allowing the Bulldog play-action passing game to be successful. But on two different trips inside of the Florida 15-yard line, Georgia passed the ball on four of five plays. In fairness to offensive coordinator Mike Bobo and the Georgia offensive staff, a first-and-10 play call from the Florida 6 in the second quarter



**SLIPPING AWAY:** Georgia head coach Mark Richt winced while looking at the scoreboard, seeing his Bulldogs down by as many as 46 points to the Florida Gators last Saturday. After entering the season with national title hopes, it is clear that this team still has plenty of work to do before it becomes a contender. Photo courtesy of Rob Saye.

produced a wide open Tripp Chandler in the end zone, but quarterback Matthew Stafford was not able to complete the pass to him and a third-down pass into the end zone on that same series bounced off of the shoulder of Moreno. Still, Georgia had two possessions inside of the Gators' 15-yard line and not one play featured its bread and butter from a year ago, Moreno's running. Caleb King recorded the only carry of the five plays.

Last year, the Bulldogs' season turned around in part due to the running of Moreno. He helped carry the team against Florida and teamed up with Thomas Brown to help Georgia pick up wins over Auburn and Georgia Tech. When the Bulldogs were tabbed preseason No. 1, it had a lot to do with the belief that Moreno would continue to be the workhorse and Stafford and the passing game would complement him. That has not been the case this year.

### MIND BENDER ...

Georgia's mentality in both games was not as sound as it could have been. The Alabama game marked the team's third "blackout," as the team won each of its "blackouts" in 2007 against Auburn and Hawaii. At the time, the idea of wearing black and asking the fans to wear black for the Alabama game seemed like a good one. Georgia was coming off of the Arizona State game and adding some extra spice to the meeting with the Crimson Tide did not seem like it could hurt the Bulldogs. Georgia started slowly, however, and may have depended too heavily on outside factors to get them mentally and emotionally ready to play.

Fast-forward to a week ago before the Florida game and there was talk of wearing red pants, as if the Bulldogs needed an extra boost for that game as well. Despite last year's victory over the Gators and a higher BCS ranking, Georgia came across as underdogs against Florida. This sense was exemplified in Richt's failed inside kick call in the second quarter with his team only down 7-3.

There will be more years in which Richt and Georgia will enter the season as one of the favorites for a national title, but they have some lessons to learn from this season before getting over that final hump.

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

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# SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8

## WILD BILL'S FIGHT NIGHT '16





## Volleyball champs crowned; football enters final week of regular season

The volleyball state championship matches took place last Saturday at Marietta High School. For three of the four state champions, it was just another in a long line of titles. But one school, Sandy Creek, broke new ground with its win in the Class 4A title match, defeating one of the most consistently successful volleyball programs in the state. The Patriots defeated Marist, which has six state titles to its name, in four games (25-23, 16-25, 25-23, 25-21) to win the school's first volleyball title. The Patriots finished the year with an astounding 50 wins (50-13). Sandy Creek was state runner-up in Class 3A a year ago.

### DOMINANCE REASSERTED ...

In Class 5A, Northview defeated Pope to win its third state volleyball title in four years. The Titans defeated the Greyhounds 3-1 in the final match. Pope, which has only one senior, took the third game 25-20, but fell in the fourth, 25-21. Seniors Ashley Veach and Lauren Busing supplied the offense for Northview, which won the title last year and in 2005. ... Woodward Academy won its eighth all-time GHSA volleyball title, adding to its state-leading total. The War Eagles handily defeated St. Pius in straight games (25-10, 25-17, 25-20). Zoey Horton and Mariah Woodson (daughter of Atlanta Hawks head coach Mike Woodson) combined for 22 kills in the victory. This was Woodward's first championship as a member of Class 3A, as the War Eagles won their other seven titles in Class 4A. ... Westminster defeated Buckhead rival Lovett in the Class 2A/A championship match, 3-1. It was the seventh

state title for the Wildcats program, and first as a member of the state's lowest classification. Lovett once again narrowly misses bringing home a state volleyball championship, having lost in the state title match for the third straight season.

### TRICK OR TREAT ...

Getting around to football, Westside-Macon had a potential statement game against No. 4 Thomas County Central on Halloween Night. The undefeated Seminoles announced loudly to the rest of the state that they are indeed the frontrunner for the Class 4A state title. Westside blanked its Region 1 rival 51-0, clinching that league's top seed and reaffirming its status as the classification's No. 1 team.

There were plenty of other big-time games last Friday, including Buford's 29-7 win over Westminster. The victory clinched the eighth region title in a row for the Wolves and potentially sets them up for a third straight undefeated regular season. ... Northside-Warner Robins beat crosstown rival Warner Robins 14-0. Northside running back Xavier Bacon rushed for 159 yards on 28 carries to help the Eagles secure Region 1-A's No. 2 seed and knock Warner Robins out of playoff contention. ... Meanwhile, the top team in Region 1 and Class 5A, Lowndes, went on the road and beat Coffee 21-0 to clinch a No. 1 seed. ... In Region 5-A, Kennesaw Mountain defeated McEachern on the road, 30-27. The loss knocks McEachern out of its previous No. 4 position in the league; Woodstock is currently in line to earn that region's No. 4

seed, but Kennesaw Mountain and McEachern are still in the hunt. ... Walton went to Roswell and defeated the Hornets by a score of 28-21, as running back Michael Boydston carried the ball an incredible 47 times for 257 yards and four touchdowns. Walton, at 7-1 in Region 6-A, is ensured of a playoff spot, although not the No. 1 seed.

There were other important matchups before and after Halloween, as No. 8 Carver-Columbus defeated No. 2 LaGrange 24-0 on Thursday, and Tucker beat Southwest DeKalb 10-7 on Saturday.

### ONE MORE WEEK ...

With a 20-7 win last Friday over Norcross, Peachtree Ridge put itself in position to win Region 7-A outright with a victory over current region-leader North Gwinnett. ... There's an interesting situation brewing in Region 6-AA, as four teams are tied at 4-2 in the region heading into the final game. Two of those teams—Westminster and Blessed Trinity—will square off head-to-head Friday, while Lovett meets 2-4 Decatur and Greater Atlanta Christian meets 6-0 Buford. One of the four will be left out of the playoffs. ... Back to Roswell; the Hornets will play in an elimination game this Friday against Lassiter. The loser of that game will miss the playoffs. If the Trojans win, they're in, but if Roswell wins, the Hornets still have to hope for a Milton win ... yeah, it's complicated.

Check back here next week for complete playoff seedings and first-round matchups!

Ewalt can be reached at [aewalt@scoreatl.com](mailto:aewalt@scoreatl.com).



**MAKE IT THREE:** Northview's Lauren Busing puts the ball back over the net in the Titans' semifinal match against Lassiter. After beating Pope in the finals, Northview came away with its third volleyball state championship in four years.

Photo courtesy of Don Jackson/Photographic Arts.






# HIGH SCHOOL TOP TEN

Class AAAAA	Class AAAA	Class AAA	Class AA	Class A
1. Lowndes (Region 1; 9-0)	1. Westside-Macon (Region 4; 9-0)	1. Cairo (Region 1; 8-0)	1. Buford (Region 6; 9-0)	1. Emanuel Co. Inst. (Region 3; 9-0)
2. Camden Co. (Region 3; 9-0)	2. Marist (Region 6; 8-1)	2. Baldwin (Region 3; 9-0)	2. Pepperell (Region 7; 9-0)	2. Wilcox Co. (Region 2; 9-0)
3. Northside-WR (Region 1; 8-1)	3. Sandy Creek (Region 5; 9-0)	3. St. Pius X (Region 5; 9-0)	3. McIntosh Co. Acad. (Region 2; 9-0)	3. Clinch Co. (Region 1; 8-1)
4. North Gwinnett (Region 7; 8-1)	4. Rome (Region 7; 8-1)	4. Dunwoody (Region 5; 9-0)	4. Henry Co. (Region 4; 8-1)	4. Lincoln Co. (Region 7; 8-1)
5. Newnan (Region 4; 9-0)	5. Tucker (Region 6; 8-1)	5. Carver-Columbus (Region 2; 7-2)	5. Charlton Co. (Region 2; 8-1)	5. Brookstone (Region 4; 9-0)
6. Grayson (Region 8; 9-0)	6. Statesboro (Region 3; 9-0)	6. Gainesville (Region 7; 9-0)	6. Brooks Co. (Region 1; 8-1)	6. Savannah Christian (Region 3; 8-1)
7. Peachtree Ridge (Region 7; 7-2)	7. Sequoyah (Region 7; 8-1)	7. Flowery Branch (Region 7; 8-1)	7. Westminster (Region 6; 7-2)	7. Bowdon (Region 6; 9-0)
8. Coffee (Region 1; 7-2)	8. North Clayton (Region 4; 8-1)	8. LaGrange (Region 2; 7-2)	8. Appling Co. (Region 2; 8-1)	9. Wesleyan (Region 8; 7-2)
9. Etowah (Region 5; 8-1)	9. Evans (Region 3; 9-0)	9. Carrollton (Region 6; 8-1)	9. Fitzgerald (Region 1; 8-1)	8. Turner Co. (Region 2; 7-2)
10. Kell (Region 6; 8-1)	10. Villa Rica (Region 5; 8-1)	10. Jackson (Region 4; 9-0)	10. Blessed Trinity (Region 6; 7-2)	10. Eagle's Landing C.A. (Region 5; 8-1)

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# NEWS FROM THE FALCONS




**JOSH BAGRIANSKY**

## Birds shut down lowly Raiders on road and prepare for NFC South rivals

### OFF THE FIELD

Injuries continued to plague the team on the offensive line. Rookie left tackle Sam Baker missed his second straight game with a left hip injury. Baker saw a hip specialist last week to look at the nagging injury. He had successful surgery over the weekend.

The Falcons were active in the free agent market last week, signing two players and releasing two more. Tight end Jason Rader was released, as was practice squad player Sean Conover. Conover was replaced by defensive tackle J'Vonne Parker on the practice squad. Parker spent the past two seasons with the Baltimore Ravens before being released on Oct. 8.

In order to deal with the plethora of injuries on the offensive line, the Falcons also signed 15-year veteran Wayne Gandy to fill the hole at the tackle position. Gandy was a Falcon just last year before suffering a season-ending injury late in a loss to the Tennessee Titans. Gandy saw action in Oakland last week, his first since the Tennessee game. This is Gandy's 15th NFL season.

Jason Elam joined second-grader Gunnar Samuelson for a day of classes at R.D. Head Elementary School as a part of the NFL's Take a Player to School Campaign. Elam led students in exercises through the NFL's Play 60 Campaign, which encourages youths to work out for at least an hour every day.

### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*"Defensively, I thought it was outstanding today. It was a very dominating first half. I thought we were very efficient throughout."*

- Head coach Mike Smith



**GOING DEEP:** Michael Jenkins (left) only caught two passes last Sunday, both in the first half, but he found the end zone each time. Raider fans watched in disgust as the Falcons shut their team out and cruised 24-0. Photos courtesy of Jimmy Cribb/Atlanta Falcons.



### THE SCHEDULE

- Nov. 9 vs. New Orleans, 1 p.m. FOX.
- Nov. 16 vs. Denver, 1 p.m. FOX.
- Nov. 23 vs. Carolina, 1 p.m. FOX.

All games will be broadcast on 92.9 Dave FM. Tickets can be purchased at [www.atlantafalcons.com](http://www.atlantafalcons.com)

### PLAYER OF THE WEEK

**2 REC  
64 YDS  
37 LNG  
2 TDS**



**MICHAEL JENKINS WR**

### THE TWO-MINUTE WARNING ...

The Falcons are coming back home fresh off of the heels of what was perhaps their best performance of the season. They cruised to victory out west last Sunday, walloping the Oakland Raiders in a 24-0 defeat.

"It's going to be an enjoyable flight back across the country," said head coach Mike Smith.

Atlanta outgained the Raiders in yardage 309 to negative-2 in the first half en route to a 24-0 lead at the break. Oakland also was unable to notch a first down in the first half. Matt Ryan was 17 of 22, throwing for 220 yards and two touchdowns, both of which were caught by wide receiver Michael Jenkins. The run game was also rolling, as Michael Turner ran for 149 yards and Jerious Norwood (pictured) scored on a 12-yard touchdown run.

"I'm really proud of our football team today," Smith said. "Any time you can come out in the road and play efficiently like we did today, I think you've got to be very encouraged."

#### SAINTS COME CALLING ...

The Falcons have survived a brutal stretch that saw them play four of their last five games on the road, going 3-2 during that difficult period. Now they return home to play three consecutive games at the Georgia

Dome. The Dome has been kind to the Falcons this season, as they have yet to lose a game on their home field.

Their first opponent during the home-stand will be the division rival New Orleans Saints. The Saints are 4-4 this season and are coming off of their bye week. They have been inconsistent this season, but their offense is a dangerous one when it is clicking.

Covering a healthy Marques Colston will be difficult challenge for corners Chris Houston and Dominique Foxworth. Colston is a tough matchup and has the ability to make the catch deep or over the middle and is finally at 100 percent after missing five weeks with a thumb injury earlier in the season. He also has Drew Brees throwing him the ball: Brees has already thrown for 2,563 yards and 15 touchdowns this season. And if their last game was any indicator, the Saints might be hit-



ting their stride offensively. They beat the Denver Broncos 37-32 at Wembley Stadium in London, England.

The Falcons won't have to deal with running back Reggie Bush on defense or special teams, however. Bush, who can potentially be a big-play threat out of the backfield and on returns, is out with an ankle injury.

For Smith, the Saints game represents the beginning of another step in the regular season.

"We've completed the second quarter of our season," Smith said. "We're 5-3 and moving onto the fourth quarter."

#### HUNT FOR THE LEAD ...

John Abraham was simply unstoppable in Oakland, notching three sacks in the first half alone to raise his total to 10 on the season. After jumping out to an early lead in overall sacks by making six in his first three games, Abraham saw Joey Porter and several other players pass him while facing constant double teams. Abraham is now tied for second on the list with Dallas' DeMarcus Ware after his big day in Oakland, and is just 1.5 sacks behind Porter for the lead.

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NEWS FROM  
**THE HAWKS**

SCOTT JANOVITZ

**Hawks win two to start season and host poetry contest with United Way**

Just the way they needed to, the Hawks began their 2008-09 NBA season in impressive fashion, opening the year with an exciting road win over the defending Southeast Division champion Orlando Magic and a statement victory over the new-look Philadelphia 76ers. While many may suggest a 2-0 start isn't really all that meaningful considering 80 games remain in the season, ponder this little factoid for a moment: the Hawks have not begun a season 2-0 since the strike-shortened 1999 season.

On Wednesday, the team traveled to Orlando for a showdown with Dwight Howard and Co. and, behind 25 points from Joe Johnson (nine in the fourth to fight off an Orlando run) and a 99-85 victory, sent a warning message to Orlando: winning the Southeast Division for the second year in a row may not be as easy as it was the first time around. More importantly, however, the good guys won with defense and energy and did so on the road, a feat they only managed to accomplish 12 times all of last season. Simply put, the Hawks walked into Orlando on opening night and out-hustled and out-played the Magic for a solid four quarters.

Specifically, Josh Smith was all over the

place for the Hawks—how about these numbers: 17 pts, 10 rebounds, five blocks and four steals—and did a sensational job on Dwight Howard early in the game. The team also did a terrific job shutting down the Magic's Hedo Turkoglu for the better part of three quarters.

Hawks fans were also happy to see their bench look as impressive as it did. Flip Murray was tremendous offensively (14 points on 4-of-7 shooting) and Zaza Pachulia contributed admirably on both ends of the floor, getting hustle points at every turn; nobody works harder than Z-Pac. Maurice Evans was also solid in all aspects of the game and, though he started on Wednesday in the absence of Marvin Williams, Mo repre-

sents yet another valuable asset on a new and improved Hawks bench.

Last Wednesday, the Hawks proved they could beat a good team on the road comfortably. Last Saturday, they proved they could overcome a large deficit to beat a good team at home narrowly. Against Philly, the Hawks fell behind early, trailing by as much as 23 points. Just as he did against the Magic, however, Joe Johnson came through for the Hawks yet again when it mattered most, scoring 35 points including a deep three-pointer that iced the game with 11 seconds remaining, giving the Hawks a 95-88 victory. Interestingly, the Hawks did not take their first lead until a Johnson dunk with 1:53 remaining.

And, again, the Hawks won with effort and defense, two attributes that are quickly becoming Hawk trademarks early in the season. To be exact, Atlanta held the Sixers to only 88 points on 41-percent shooting. The Hawks also forced an impressive 18 turnovers only days after forcing the Magic into 14 miscues. The team now leads the NBA in steals per game (10.5). Unfortunately, however, the Hawks bench did not maintain its impressive play from Game 1, contributing only 16 points in the winning effort.

**FILLING THE STAT BOOK ...**

On their way to a 2-0 start, the Hawks have managed to compile some pretty impressive statistics. In addition to Johnson's league-leading 30.5 points per game average and the team's league-leading 10.5 turnovers forced per game, Hawks power forward Josh Smith ranks second in the league in steals (3.5) and blocks (3.5), and is 14th in the NBA in rebounds per game (10.5). Additionally, despite averaging only 16.3 minutes per game, Zaza Pachulia is leading the league in offensive rebounding (6.5), while Mike Bibby ranks among the NBA's leaders in steals at 2.5 per game (fifth). Finally, as a team, the Hawks rank second in the league in offensive rebounding (16.0) and third in overall rebounding (47.0).

**LENDING A HAND ...**

In honor of the holiday celebrating the life Martin Luther King Jr., the Atlanta Hawks have teamed up with the United Way to host a poetry contest for all area high school students. From now until Nov. 28, all students may submit entries to the Hawks and should focus on the theme "Live United." One winner will be selected to perform his or her poem at the Hawks' annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day game on Jan. 19 against the Toronto Raptors. Visit the Community section at [www.hawks.com](http://www.hawks.com) for more information and contest rules.

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



**SAME OL' JOE:** Joe Johnson has started the season on a hot streak, scoring 25 points in a win over Orlando and 35 more in a win over Philadelphia. Johnson is hoping to improve his scoring average of 21.7 from last season. Photo courtesy of Scott Cunningham.

NEWS FROM  
**THE THRASHERS**

JASON BORAL

**Thrashers end six-game losing streak; rookie Bogosian out at least a month**

After one of the most embarrassing losses in team history on Oct. 28, a 7-0 blowout by the hands of the Philadelphia Flyers, Atlanta was able to put together one of its best performances against one of the league's best teams, the New York Rangers, last Thursday. Unfortunately, an early lead wasn't enough, as Atlanta fell 3-2 in New York.

Atlanta got on the board first, getting a goal from Slava Kozlov, his fourth of the season, just five minutes into the first. It was the first game that head coach John Anderson used his new line of Kozlov, Todd White and Brian Little, and the early returns were good.

After two consecutive goals from the Rangers, that same line tied the game at 2-2 halfway through the final frame. Little continued to impress in his first full season with the team, scoring goal No. 5 of the season to tie the score. But the Rangers proved to be too much, scoring with just under seven minutes to play, dashing all Atlanta hopes of leaving Broadway with at least a point.

**NO BRODEUR NEEDED ...**

A few weeks after a 1-0 shutout at the hands of New Jersey in Atlanta, the Thrashers headed to Newark to face Martin Brodeur and the Devils once again. This time, New Jersey didn't need an all-pro performance from its goaltender to win. Already sitting comfortably with a 3-0 lead in the second period, Brodeur was forced to leave the game with a bruised elbow. New Jersey played it safe with the big lead and put in veteran Kevin Weeks, who had yet to play a minute all season.

Experience wasn't necessary, however, as Atlanta struggled to put together a consistent offensive attack.

It took two periods for Atlanta to make it over the 10-shot mark, and it wasn't until 13:30 into the third when Atlanta finally ended New Jersey's shutout hopes. Slava Kozlov redirected a pass from Colby Armstrong to score the Thrashers' lone goal.

In the net, Johan Hedberg struggled through two periods of play before giving way to Ondrej Pavelec in the third. Pavelec stopped all six shots he faced in the final period, leaving the final score 6-1 in favor of New Jersey.

**SIX IS ENOUGH ...**

The bleeding finally stopped on Sunday evening, as Atlanta took down the Florida Panthers, 5-3, snapping a six-game losing streak. Ilya Kovalchuk had a big game, scoring twice and missing on the hat trick when he was unable to get his stick on a puck that was on its way into the Panthers' empty net.

Kovalchuk's two goals came off of great passes from his new linemate, Erik Christensen. On two occasions, Christensen was able to set up deep in the Panther zone before shooting passes to Kovalchuk, who redirected the passes for his two goals. Even after the game, Kovalchuk's first thoughts surrounded his team's defense, not his scoring showcase.

"We still gave up too many opportunities," Kovalchuk said of Atlanta's defense. "We need to make sure we play defense first." Kovalchuk's goals led an offense that put together Atlanta's best second period of the

season. The Thrashers scored one other time in the middle frame, building a 4-2 lead going into the final period.

Along with Ilya, Atlanta had the full services of Slava Kozlov, who continues to improve after his multiple offseason surgeries. Kozlov opened the scoring for Atlanta in the first, shooting a rebound past Tomas Vokoun just before the period ended. Ondrej Pavelec got the start in goal for Atlanta, starting his first game for the team this season. Pavelec was called up from Triple-A Chicago over the weekend, taking the roster spot of Kari Lehtonen, who sat out both weekend games after being "under the weather."

The loss was Florida's 12th in its last 15 games in Atlanta, and with the win, the Thrashers improved to 2-0-2 in games against opponents from the Southeast Division.

This week, games include a visit from the New York Islanders on Thursday at 7 p.m., followed by a trip to Buffalo on Friday at 7:30 p.m. and finally the season's first game against the Carolina Hurricanes on Sunday at 3 p.m. in Raleigh, N.C.

**INJURY UPDATE ...**

Atlanta's first-round pick Zach Bogosian suffered a fractured left fibula in the game against Philadelphia and will be out 4-6 weeks. A spokesman for the team said Thursday the injury won't require surgery. Bogosian was the No. 3 overall pick in the 2008 NHL Draft.

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



**KING KOVY:** Ilya Kovalchuk scored twice on Sunday to help the Thrashers snap a six-game losing streak with a 5-3 win over Florida. With a 2-0-2 record against Southeast Division opponents, Atlanta hopes to improve that record against Carolina this Sunday. Photo courtesy of Scott Cunningham/Atlanta Thrashers.



# ON THE BRAVES BEAT *Braves*

## FLETCHER PROCTOR

### Smoltz still wants to return to Braves in '09

According to a story in the *New York Daily News*, Keith Grunewald, one of John Smoltz's agents, said that the longtime Braves pitcher might be open to playing elsewhere next season, choosing to sign with a contender halfway through the year. The former Cy Young award winner responded recently saying that he wanted to finish his career in Atlanta, if possible. Smoltz stated that if the Braves had him in the team's plans and if he can pitch, he would like to return to the Braves in 2009. Another one of Smoltz's agents said that the pitcher will not be releasing any information on his condition during his rehab. Smoltz had surgery to repair his shoulder, which caused him to shut down early in 2008 and because of that, his 2009 \$12 million option was not vested by the team. For his career, Smoltz has more than 200 wins, over 150 saves and more than 3,000 strikeouts, becoming the first pitcher in Major League history to collectively accomplish those three benchmarks.

#### NEW LOOKS ...

A former Braves outfielder has moved over to enemy lines. Marquis Grissom was hired by the Washington Nationals to serve as Manny Acta's first base coach for the 2009 season. Grissom caught the final out in Game 6 of the Braves' last World Series title win. He was traded to Cleveland along with David Justice after the 1996 season.

Due to a trademark dispute between the 123-year-old Cape Cod League and Major League Baseball, the Bourne Braves could soon abandon the nickname "Braves." Six of the 10 CCL teams were given a Nov. 1 deadline to decide whether to purchase team uniforms and merchandise through licensed vendors or drop the names. According to a

New York Times report, MLB spokesman Matt Bourne said that the league "was obligated to protect its trademarks." The other teams in the non-profit league that are under the gun include the Hyannis Mets, Harwich Mariners and Yarmouth-Dennis Red Sox. The Chatham Athletics have already changed its nickname to the Anglers and the Orleans Cardinals will soon change its nickname. The Braves will keep their name through the 2009 season. The Cape Cod League traditionally showcases college talent, usually after the players' sophomore years.

#### OVER AT TURNER ...

Just because the Braves season is over doesn't mean Turner Field is shutting its doors until 2009. Fans still have the chance to visit The Ted and tour the Braves Museum and Hall of Fame, and the team is offering monthly specials to get folks down to the stadium. On Saturday, Nov. 15, the Braves Museum and Hall of Fame is holding "Free Admission Day" where fans can visit during normal museum hours (10 a.m. through 2 p.m., Monday-Saturday) and tours of the stadium will be free. Normally, pricing is \$12 for adults, \$7 for children and \$10 per person in groups of 20 or more. Starting Dec. 1 until the 22nd, kids 13 and under who bring a new, unwrapped toy will receive free admission to the museum and a complimentary tour of the stadium. The Atlanta Braves Foundation will donate the toys to children's charities for distribution during the holiday season. Free parking is available during the offseason in the Turner Field Green Lot, on the corner of Hank Aaron Drive and Ralph David Abernathy Avenue.

Proctor can be reached at [fproctor@scoreatl.com](mailto:fproctor@scoreatl.com).

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Fri. Aug. 22	Tennessee vs. Atlanta 9:00pm	Sun. Sept. 14	Atlanta vs. Chicago 1:00pm
		Sun. Oct. 12	Chicago vs. Atlanta 1:00pm
		Sun. Nov. 9	Denver 1:00pm
		Sun. Nov. 16	Atlanta vs. Carolina 1:00pm
		Sun. Nov. 23	Carolina vs. Atlanta 1:00pm
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		Sun. Dec. 28	St. Louis vs. Atlanta 1:00pm

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# ON THE DAWGS BEAT



## Mistake-prone Georgia loses to Florida; hoops teams get set for exhibitions

### AROUND CAMPUS

While the football's team matchup with Florida last week was all Florida, the swimming and diving program did manage some success against the Gators. The men's swim team lost to Florida 139-103, but the women defeated the Lady Gators 143-100 last Thursday in Gainesville, Fla. Wendy Trott (500 and 1,650 free) and Chelsea Nauta (200 free) were among those that picked up individual wins for the Georgia women.

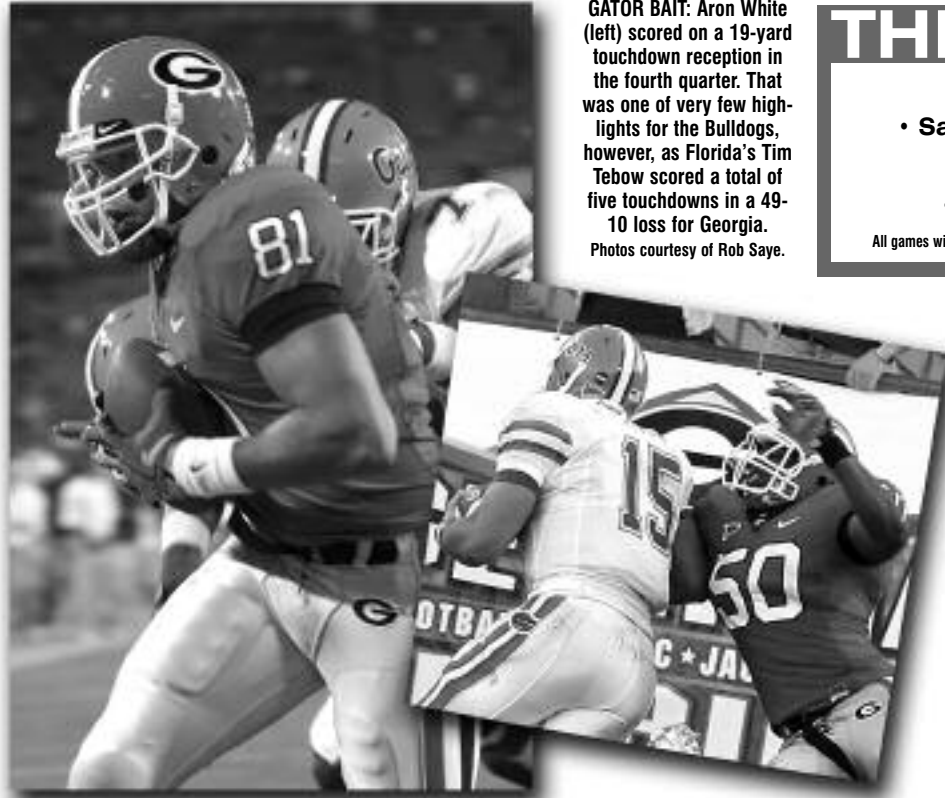
The volleyball team saw its six-match winning streak come to an end last week, as Georgia lost at both Tennessee and Kentucky. On Friday, the team fell to the Volunteers 3-0 (25-15, 25-12, 25-16). The Bulldogs' offense had a tough time getting on track, as they compiled just a .029 attack percentage. On Sunday, at No. 21 Kentucky, the offense was a little better, as Maria Taylor's 11 kills helped Georgia convert on .174 of their attack opportunities, but the Bulldogs lost 3-1 (20-25, 14-25, 26-24, 20-25).

The soccer team wrapped up its regular season this past week with a win at Tennessee. The Bulldogs downed the Volunteers 2-0, earning the fourth seed in this week's SEC Tournament. Carrie Patterson scored both of Georgia's goals, one in each half, and goalkeeper Michelle Betos stopped all six of Tennessee's shots on goal. The Bulldogs will play No. 5-seeded South Carolina on Wednesday in Orange Beach, Ala. The tournament runs until Sunday.

### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*"We always critique what we do every week. We have all of our friends in the media and fans that do it; we do it and review the film. You watch it and make judgments on how we're playing, the personnel, who is playing and how much."*

- Head coach Mark Richt



**GATOR BAIT:** Aron White (left) scored on a 19-yard touchdown reception in the fourth quarter. That was one of very few highlights for the Bulldogs, however, as Florida's Tim Tebow scored a total of five touchdowns in a 49-10 loss for Georgia. Photos courtesy of Rob Saye.

### THE SCHEDULE

#### FOOTBALL

- Sat. at Kentucky, 12:30 p.m. *Raycom.*
- Nov. 15 at Auburn, TBA.
- Nov. 29 vs. Georgia Tech, TBA.

All games will be broadcast on 750 AM. Tickets can be purchased at [www.georgiadogs.com](http://www.georgiadogs.com).

### IN THE SPOTLIGHT

**5 REC**  
**112 YDS**  
**22.4 AVG**  
**32 LNG**



**MOHAMED MASSAQUOI WR**

## NEWS FROM THE DOGHOUSE ...

Georgia's hopes of winning the SEC East took a serious blow last Saturday, as the Bulldogs went down hard to their hated rival Florida. The No. 8 Gators defeated No. 6 Georgia 49-10 in their annual showdown in Jacksonville. Florida forced four Georgia turnovers and the offense capitalized, as Tim Tebow ran for three touchdowns and threw for two more. Georgia's offense was led by quarterback Matthew Stafford, despite his three interceptions, and receivers Mohamed Massaquoi and A.J. Green.

Stafford passed for 265 yards on 18-of-33 passing, and Massaquoi and Green hauled in five passes apiece for 112 and 91 yards, respectively. The Bulldogs came away with no points on two first-half trips inside of the red zone, thanks to two Blair Walsh missed field goals. Tailback Knowshon Moreno (pictured) was held to 65 yards on 17 carries. The 39-point margin of victory for the Gators is the highest in the series since 1996. Florida has won 16 out of the past 19 meetings. Now, the Bulldogs' fading SEC Championship Game aspirations are depending on Florida (7-1, 5-1) stumbling in its final two SEC games. The Bulldogs (7-2, 4-2) fell to No. 13 in the BCS standings and will travel to Kentucky on Saturday.

### GETTING TO KNOW ...

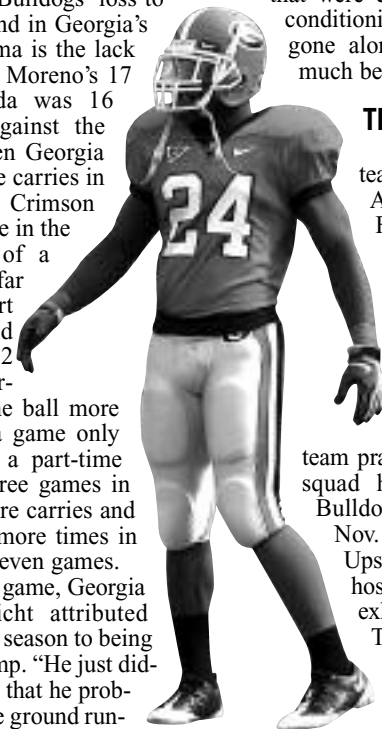
Noticeable in the Bulldogs' loss to Florida last Saturday and in Georgia's Sept. 27 loss to Alabama is the lack of carries for Moreno. Moreno's 17 carries against Florida was 16 fewer than he had against the Gators a year ago when Georgia won 42-30. He had nine carries in the 41-30 loss to the Crimson Tide, as he left the game in the second half because of a bruised elbow. Thus far this season, the redshirt sophomore has rushed for 990 yards and 12 touchdowns on 166 carries, but has carried the ball more than the 23 times in a game only once. Last season, as a part-time starter, Moreno had three games in which he had 26 or more carries and carried the ball 22 or more times in five of the team's last seven games.

Before the Florida game, Georgia head coach Mark Richt attributed Moreno's workload this season to being held for parts of fall camp. "He just didn't get the reps in camp that he probably needed to, to hit the ground run-

ning," Richt said. "We had some early games that were extremely hot and I think his conditioning showed. As the season has gone along, I think he's gotten in to much better condition."

### TIPPING OFF ...

The men's basketball team will welcome Division II's Albany State to Athens on Friday for an exhibition game against the Rams. Head coach Dennis Felton's team has nearly three weeks of practice under its belt and will give Bulldog fans their first chance to see the 2008-09 team in live action. Georgia fans got a chance to see the team practice this past Monday, as the squad held an open practice. The Bulldogs' regular-season opener is Nov. 14, when they host USC-Upstate. ... The women's team will host the SEHR All-Stars for an exhibition game on Wednesday. The Lady Bulldogs will begin their regular season on Nov. 15, when Alabama State comes to Athens.





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# ON THE JACKETS BEAT




**JOHNNY CROSSKEY**

## Jackets beat Florida State for first time in ACC play; a look at men's hoops

### AROUND CAMPUS

The volleyball team's fifth sweep of the season may have been its biggest. The 3-0 victory over Virginia Tech kept the Jackets in second place in the ACC. Callie Miller hit .524 and Talisa Kellogg had 15 kills in the match. Six of Kellogg's kills came in a 26-24 first set win. Tech then used a 7-2 run to push ahead of the Hokies for the second set win before using a 6-1 run in the third set to finish them off.

The next day, the volleyball team had a repeat performance, as Chrissy DeMichelis notched 10 kills to lead Tech to a 3-0 win over Virginia. Michelle Kandell had seven of her game-high 11 digs to lead in Tech's 25-19 win in the first set. Callie Miller had four kills while DeMichelis added three kills in a set victory. Finally, Tech dominated the third set with 17 kills en route to a 25-16 win.

The cross country teams had good individual performances but finished near the bottom at the ACC Championships. The men finished in 10th place and the women in 11th place. Nazar Trilisky led the men's team with a time of 25:41 in the 8K race. Leading the women's team was Mary Kate DuBard with a time of 21:42 in the 6K race. The Virginia men and Florida State women won the team titles.

### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*"When I saw [Rashaad Reid] try to pick that up [that fumble], I wanted to strangle him. Then when I saw him roll over on it, I wanted to kiss him."*

- Head coach Paul Johnson



**PICK IT OFF:** Jaybo Shaw (pictured left with Paul Johnson) threw an interception shortly after entering the game. Lucky for him, Cooper Taylor picked off a pass on defense and forced a last-minute fumble to help give Tech a 31-28 win over FSU.

Photos courtesy of Don Jackson/Photographic Arts.

### THE SCHEDULE

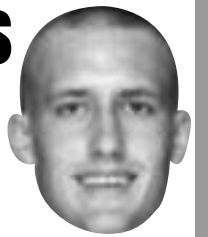
#### FOOTBALL

- Sat. at North Carolina, Noon. *Raycom.*
- Nov. 20 vs. Miami, 7:30 p.m. *ESPN.*
- Nov. 29 at Georgia, TBA.

All games will be broadcast on 790 The Zone and WREK. Tickets can be purchased at [www.ramblinwreck.com](http://www.ramblinwreck.com).

### IN THE SPOTLIGHT

**10 TKLS**  
**1 INT**  
**1 FF**



**COOPER TAYLOR S**

### NEWS FROM THE FLATS ...

The 22nd-ranked Yellow Jackets' 31-28 victory over No. 24 Florida State provided perhaps the biggest roller coaster finish this side of Lubbock, Texas. The Seminoles had driven to Tech's 3-yard line and running back Marcus Sims was steps away from knocking the air out of Tech fans' sails before freshman safety Cooper Taylor rammed the ball out his hands and Rashaad Reid recovered it. Instead, fans celebrated Tech's first victory over Florida State since 1975 and first ever in ACC play.

The offense put up three touchdowns in the second quarter and looked to run away with the game when FSU's Jermaine Thomas busted through the line for a 62-yard run, which set up touchdown pass from Christian Ponder to Seddrick Holloway. The Seminoles had another big play in third quarter when backup quarterback D'Vontrey Richardson threw a 39-yard touchdown pass to Preston Parker. While those struggles nearly led to heart-break, Tech made big plays when they had to, including an interception by Taylor off of a deflection by Michael Peterson (pictured), and two sacks by Darryl Richard. Jonathan Dwyer returned to form against the ACC's best run defense, rushing for 145 yards and touchdown runs of 36 and 66 yards. Quarterback Josh Nesbitt had 61 rushing yards before going down with an ankle injury.

#### ACC SHOWDOWN ...

While the Tech community celebrated the big win, defensive end Michael Johnson wasn't satisfied.

"Our goal from the beginning is to win an ACC Championship, and that's what we need to continue to focus on," Johnson said. With Virginia's loss to Miami, the Yellow Jackets are still on track for this goal going into a showdown at Chapel Hill with North Carolina. Johnson also lamented the fact that his unit gave up 28 points against Florida State. While the Tar Heels are without Brandon Tate and T.J. Yates, they still have Hakeem Nicks, who has 47 catches and seven touchdowns. Tech's defense will have the opportunity to feast on another inexperienced quarterback in Cameron Sexton, however.

#### ON THE COURT ...

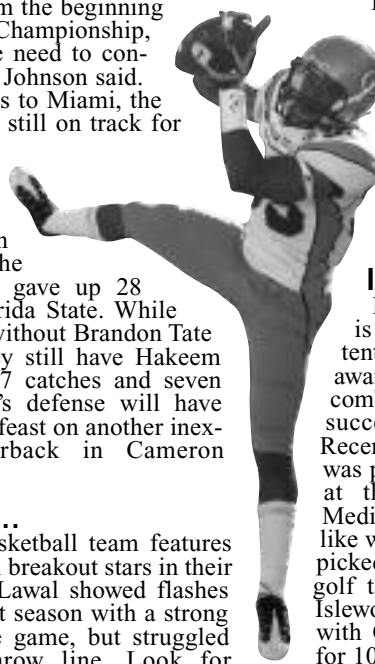
The men's basketball team features depth and potential breakout stars in their front court. Gani Lawal showed flashes of his potential last season with a strong one-on-one, inside game, but struggled from the free throw line. Look for


improved play on offense from him this season, including better defense and shooting. Zach Peacock's improved ball-handling in practice will give head coach Paul Hewitt the option to play

him at the 3- and 4-spots. Alade Aminu and 7-foot center Brad Sheehan will provide size and depth for the front-court. The team hosts LeMoyne in an exhibition game on Friday before kicking off the new season at home against Winston-Salem State on Nov. 14.

#### IN OTHER NEWS ...

Defensive tackle Darryl Richard is among the 15 finalists in contention for the Draddy Trophy. This award honors the player who best combines athletic ability, academic success and civic leadership. ... Recently, the women's basketball team was picked to finish sixth in the ACC at the ACC Women's Basketball Media Day in Greensboro, N.C. Just like with the men, North Carolina was picked to win the conference. ... The golf team tied for sixth place at the Isleworth-UCF Collegiate Invitational, with Cameron Triangle finishing tied for 10th place.





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**BASKETBALL**

**Hawks.** November 5 at New Orleans 8 PM. November 7 vs. Toronto 7:30 PM. November 9 at Oklahoma City 7 PM. November 11 at Chicago 8:30 PM. November 12 at Boston 7:30 PM. November 14 at New Jersey 7:30 PM. November 15 vs. New Jersey 7 PM. November at Indiana 7 PM.

**Georgia Men.** November 7 vs. Albany State 7:30 PM. (Regular season). November 14 vs. USC-Upstate 7:30 PM. November 17 vs. Loyola of Chicago 9:30 PM.

**Georgia Women.** (Preseason). November 5 vs. SEHR All-Stars 7 PM. (Regular season). November 15 vs. Alabama State 12 PM.

**Georgia Tech Men.** (Preseason). November 7 vs. LeMoyn 7:30 PM. (Regular season). November 14 vs. Winston Salem State 8:30 PM.

**Georgia Tech Women.** (Preseason). November 9 vs. Southeastern Hoops Report All-Stars 2 PM. (Regular season). November 14 vs. Troy 6 PM. November 16 at Connecticut 2 PM.

**Georgia State Men.** (Preseason). November 6 vs. Clark Atlanta 7:30 PM. (Regular season). (NABC Classic at Minneapolis). November 14 vs. Bowling Green 7 PM. November 15 vs. Concordia-St. Paul 7 PM. November 16 vs. Minnesota 7 PM.

**Kennesaw State Men.** (Preseason). November 6 vs. North Greenville 7:30 PM. (Regular season). November 14 vs. Western Illinois 7:30 PM. November 15 vs. Maine/Northern Illinois 7:30 PM. November 18 vs. Clark Atlanta 7:30 PM.

**Kennesaw State Women.** (Preseason). November 4 vs. Emmanuel College 5:30 PM. November 11 vs. Columbus St. 6 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto:mark@georgiasportleagues.org). Visit [www.georgiasportleagues.org](http://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](http://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.

**Monday Night Basketball Clinic with Corretta Brown.** Mondays through Oct. 6. 9-16 year old boys & girls. 6-7:30 PM. All Tournament Players Park, 3910 Canton Hwy, Marietta GA 30066. Register at [www.alltournamentplayerspark.com](http://www.alltournamentplayerspark.com) or (678) 384-6500.

**Super Hoopz "Tournament of the South" Elite Travel Team Event.** October 3-5. NCAA Certified Events. Age groups 13-17. Deadline September 29. All Tournament Players Park, 3910 Canton Hwy Marietta, GA 30066. Register at [www.alltournamentplayerspark.com](http://www.alltournamentplayerspark.com) or (678) 384-6500.

**Open Basketball League - Teams Only.** November 8 - February 22, 2009. Age groups 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th & 8th Grade Boys and Girls. Deadline November 2. Mandatory Coach's Meeting November 2 at 3 PM. All Tournament Players Park, 3910 Canton Hwy Marietta, GA 30066. Register at [www.alltournamentplayerspark.com](http://www.alltournamentplayerspark.com) or (678) 384-6500.

**BASEBALL**

**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.pearlz.com/tryouts](http://www.pearlz.com/tryouts).

**Adult Baseball League Metro Atlanta.** Ongoing. MSBL 18+, 26+, 36+, and 48+. Sunday League contact info is 770.785.2588, e-mail [info@AtlantaMSBL.com](mailto:info@AtlantaMSBL.com). MSBL 18+ Saturday League contact info is 770-436-8114, e-mail [AtlantaMABL@aol.com](mailto:AtlantaMABL@aol.com), MSBL 18+ Midweek Wood bat league contact info is 770-436-8114, e-mail [AtlantaMABL@aol.com](mailto:AtlantaMABL@aol.com). MSBL 18+ Fall League contact info is 770-436-8114, e-mail [AtlantaMABL@aol.com](mailto:AtlantaMABL@aol.com). For more information about our Atlanta Adult Baseball League, please visit our website at [www.AtlantaMSBL.com](http://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](http://jackcity.net).

**Fall 12U Wooden Bat Tournament.** September 19-21. Age group 12U. Registration deadline Sept. 15. All Tournament Players Park, 3910 Canton Hwy, Marietta GA 30066. Register at [www.alltournamentplayerspark.com](http://www.alltournamentplayerspark.com) or (678) 384-6500.

**Triple Crown Last Chance Face-off Baseball Tournament.** Sept. 5-8. Age Groups 8U, 9U, 10U Teams. All Tournament Players Park, 3910 Canton Hwy Marietta, GA 30066. Register at [www.alltournamentplayerspark.com](http://www.alltournamentplayerspark.com) or (678) 384-6500.



**RIVALRY RENEWED:** Though Marvis Lane and the Brookwood Broncos will not win the Region 8-AAAAA crown, they still have a lot to play for in their matchup with Parkview on Friday. Many believe this is the metro area's best rivalry, and the winner will earn a No. 2 seed in the playoffs, which means home field advantage in the first round. For more on the high school sports scene, check out page 13. Photo courtesy of Photographic Arts.

**FOOTBALL**

**Falcons.** November 9 vs. New Orleans 1 PM. November 16 vs. Denver 1 PM.

**Georgia.** November 8 at Kentucky TBA. November 15 at Auburn TBA.

**Georgia Tech.** November 8 at North Carolina TBA. November 20 vs. Miami 7:30 PM.

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

**Grayson Athletic Association.** Ongoing. Football coaches needed for eighth grade and all age groups. For information call Duané Davis at 678-300-0282 or visit [www.gaasports.org](http://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](mailto:mark@georgiasportleagues.org). Visit [www.georgiasportleagues.org](http://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 [stmtn@aol.com](mailto:stmtn@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](http://www.forcehighschoolfootball.com).

**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](mailto:info.indoor@atlantasilverbacks.com). [www.atlantasilverbacks.com/indoor](http://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 [lrvin\\_seabrook@yahoo.com](mailto:lrvin_seabrook@yahoo.com).

**HOCKEY**

**Thrashers.** November 6 vs. New York Islanders 7 PM. November 7 at Buffalo 7:30 PM. November 9 at Carolina 3 PM. November 14 vs. Carolina 7 PM. November 16 at Philadelphia 7 PM.

**Gladiators.** November 7 at Florida 7:30 PM. November 8 at Florida 7:05 PM. November 14 vs. Charlotte 7:35 PM. November 15 vs. South Carolina 7:05 PM.

**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](http://www.pbc.sports.org).

**SOCCER**

**Georgia.** November 5-9 at SEC Tournament TBA.

**Georgia State Men.** November 7 vs. Delaware 3 PM.

**Georgia State Women.** November 5-9 at CAA Tournament TBA.

**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](http://www.clarkstoncommunitycenter.org). 5:30-7 PM.

**Competitive Amateur Soccer in Atlanta** For more information, visit [www.majesticoccer.com](http://www.majesticoccer.com).

**TENNIS**

**Technique Clinics.** Ongoing - Betsy Grant Tennis Center. Tuesdays (serve/volley) and Saturdays (forehand/backhand). Fees: \$18. For information call 404-790-4772 or email [jimhines01@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:jasona@bagatawaylacrosse.com) or visit [www.bagatawaylacrosse.com](http://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](mailto:chris@kicks-sticks.com).

**Double Stix 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.doublestixlacrosse.com](http://www.doublestixlacrosse.com) or by contacting Chris Smith at [chris@doublestixlacrosse.com](mailto:chris@doublestixlacrosse.com) or 404-550-5322.

**RUNNING**

**Strong Legs Run 10K/5K/2K.** Nov. 8. Atlanta, Turner Field, 8 AM.

**Chickamauga Battlefield Marathon and 10M.** Nov. 8. Fort Oglethorpe, 7:30 AM.

**DaySpring 5K/Mile.** Nov. 8. Douglasville, 3:30 PM. 770-887-2461.

**Lake Spivey Road Race 15K/5K/Tot Trot.** Nov. 8. Jonesboro, 8 AM.

**SOAR 5K Run/Walk.** Nov. 8. Athens, 8:30 AM, 706-769-6593.

**Autumn Chase 15K/5K.** Nov. 8. Newnan, 8 AM. 770-254-3449 ext. 8549.

**YMCA Holiday Chili Run.** Nov. 8. Albany, 8 AM. 229-436-0531.

**New Hope Harvest Classic 5K.** Nov. 8. Fayetteville, 8 AM. 404-464-2078.

**XTERRA Georgia Battle at Big Creek 3.5 mile & 7 mile Trail Run.** Nov. 8. Roswell, 8:30 AM. [www.dirtyspokes.com](http://www.dirtyspokes.com).

**Deer Dash 5K/Mile, Monticello.** Nov. 8. 7:30 AM. 706-769-6593.

**GA-PCOM Old Peachtree Road 5K.** Nov. 8 Suwanee, 7:30 AM. 678-770-7711.

**Cabbagetown Romp and Stomp 5K.** Nov. 8 Atlanta, 8 AM. 404-234-8337.

**Spring Hill Elementary Turkey Trot 5K/Mile.** Nov. 8. Fayetteville, 8 AM. 678-817-5939.

**Miles for Smiles 5K.** Nov. 8. Douglas, 9 AM. 912-383-6988.

**Haralson County Veterans Association 5K Freedom Run.** Nov. 8. Tallapoosa, 8 AM. 770-646-0311

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**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](http://www.usportscamps.com).

**Georgia Tech MacChelle Joseph Basketball Camp.** Ages range from 7-17. Day camps, overnight camps and team camps available. Visit [www.ramblinwreck.com](http://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](http://www.harlemlegends.com)) or call 404-837-6719 for additional camps.

**VOLLEYBALL**

**Georgia.** November 7 vs. Mississippi State 7 PM. November 9 vs. Alabama 1:30 PM. November 16 vs. Auburn 1:30 PM.

**Georgia Tech.** November 7 at Wake Forest 7 PM. November 8 at Duke TBA. November 14 at Miami 7 PM. November 16 at Florida State 1 PM.

**Georgia State.** November 7 vs. William and Mary 5:30 PM. November 9 vs. VCU 2 PM. November 14 at James Madison 7 PM. November 15 at George Mason 7 PM.

**Kennesaw State.** November 7 vs. Jacksonville 7 PM. November 8 vs. North Florida 4 PM. November 14 at Lipscomb 7 PM. November 15 at Belmont 2 PM.

**Gwinnett Sports Center.** Registration ongoing. For information call Jerry Robison at 678-491-0203 or visit [www.gsfun.com](http://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](http://www.ssasports.com).

**VolleyStars.** Beginning February 7 @ Suwanee Sports Academy for girls & boys grades 6-8 teaches individual skill development and team concepts through instruction and game play. For more information, contact Christy Howard at 770-614-6686 x106 or visit [www.ssasports.com](http://www.ssasports.com).

**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**

**Georgia.** November 5 vs. Georgia Tech 4 PM. November 14 vs. Auburn 3:30 PM.

**Georgia Tech.** November 5 at Georgia 4 PM. November 5 vs. Georgia Southern 12 PM.

**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.tyssa.com](http://www.tyssa.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 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



**FOR THE FANS:** Hawks guard Mike Bibby chats with a young fan at Target during the team's "Paint the Town" event at the Edgewood Shopping Center on Oct. 25. The Hawks players and coaches were on hand assisting customers at various stores before conducting a free autograph session. Photo courtesy of Jennifer Boxley/Hawks Photos.

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 [lrvin\\_seabrook@yahoo.com](mailto:lrvin_seabrook@yahoo.com).

**Softball Camp for Cherokee Fall Break.** September 15-18 (Monday - Thursday) 9 AM-12 PM. Age groups 9-14 years old. All Tournament Players Park, 3910 Canton Hwy, Marietta GA 30066. Register at [www.alltournamentplayerspark.com](http://www.alltournamentplayerspark.com) or (678) 384-6500.

**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.tigsnellvillega.com](http://www.tigsnellvillega.com).

**RACING**

**SCCA American Road Race of Champions.** November 7-9 at Road Atlanta

**Richard Petty Driving Experience.** November 13-16 at Atlanta Motor Speedway

**Legends Racing.** November 14 at Atlanta Motor Speedway

**Eastman Gun Show.** November 15-16 at Atlanta Motor Speedway

**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 Hernebaul 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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# THE LOCAL MEDIA REPORTER



JEFF BATTEN

## SportsNite delivers for fans with preview

There's something about November college football that always gets the local television business excited. All four news stations created a large presence in Jacksonville last weekend for Georgia-Florida, though you would have needed a scorecard to keep up with the talent roster on CSS SportsNite's hour-long preview show Friday night. After I saw the 12th talking head, I stopped counting, though I certainly applaud producer Jen Gleason for cramming as much content as she could have into a monster SportsNite one-off.

SportsNite has grown up considerably since its great-grandfather Sports Unlimited debuted on the old MediaOne cable system in 1996. Host Matt Stewart is still there, but he's no longer plastered to a faux-laminate wall and a 28-inch monitor.

"SportsNite has grown by leaps and bounds," said Gleason, the program's senior producer. "It's no longer four guys doing radio on TV. We go for the big names and high production value."

True, I was digging the big jib shot for that Friday broadcast and saying a silent prayer that I had nothing to do with mixing audio for a five-person panel set against a drunk and screaming crowd at the Jacksonville Landing. Gleason tells me that more than 100 people were involved with the program, and I believe it.

I've written that there's not an hour-long local show anywhere that couldn't be done better in 30 minutes, but the Friday program had something fresh for me in every segment. Co-host Kelin Johnson might want work on his diction if he wants to make a career out of TV, but otherwise, Matt Chernoff, Bob Neal and the gang kept the good times rolling.

### STILL GOT IT ...

Glad to see Verne Lundquist was back on his game last Saturday for CBS' broadcast of Georgia-Florida. His call of the LSU-Georgia game the previous Saturday was so uncharacteristically bad that after the fourth or fifth gaffe, I was convinced that age was starting to get the best of the 68-year-old icon. Fortunately, Lundquist was razor-sharp in describing the carnage in Jacksonville, though if he screwed up in the fourth quarter, I doubt many UGA fans were watching to catch it.

On the other hand, his partner Gary Danielson is fast becoming the premiere color analyst in college football. True, he has

the largest audience to begin with, but Danielson has risen quickly in his second year on the SEC package and marries nicely the folksy wit of a Paul Maguire with the first-hand quarterbacking knowledge of a Ron Jaworski. He makes great use of that light, airy voice that would never work in news or music radio but works perfectly as the wisecracking foil to Lundquist's voice-of-God style. I didn't mind Todd Blackledge in that role, but I can see why CBS switched to Danielson. (For example, he would have known exactly how to play off Mike Patrick's infamous "Britney Spears" comment.) I'm surprised CBS hasn't built more in-game promotion around Danielson yet, because I think he's going to be a superstar.

### CURRENT TIMES ...

The average fan probably doesn't think about such things but if Pete Van Wieren were transported back in time to his first year of Braves announcing in 1976, I bet he'd be shocked at how many more bodies are involved in a daily broadcast after 32 years. I'm guessing fewer than 10 staffers played a role in announcing, producing, engineering and running the Braves radio network in 1976, while that number has probably grown to four times that today. The growth in Braves personnel on television would be even greater, of course.

Technology has made it easier to air comprehensive pre-game, post-game and mid-week shows and just the sheer increase of money in sports has provided stations the justification to hire more people who in turn produce more programming for the sales staff to monetize. All of which is good news for people who are interested in making a living in sports broadcasting. As I tell my students at Complete Game Broadcasting, "Who would have thought 20 years ago that radio stations would be hiring people to produce video for their websites?"

Music radio has trimmed back on personnel dramatically, but you can't deny the number of jobs that sports have created for the radio industry in the last 10 years. And even in a recession, it's still growing.

*Jeff Batten owns Batten Communications, Inc., the Southeast's largest independent sports production company. He also owns Complete Game Broadcasting in North Atlanta, a sports broadcasting training facility. His column appears twice-monthly in Score Atlanta. Send items of interest to jeff@completegame.tv.*

## SAID ON THE AIR

*"The Hawks didn't just beat two teams everyone expects to see in the East's top eight at season's end. They started 2-0 for the first time since 1999."*

- ESPN's Marc Stein on the Hawks' impressive start. Stein ranks Atlanta as the league's 12th-best team this week.

## KEEPIN' AN EYE ON


The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

No Georgia fan likes what happened to the 'Dogs last Saturday, but the outcome has actually allowed for answers to some humorous questions. Primary among them: how many times in a short span can one man be so wrong? Last week, Mark Bradley wrote, "Matthew Stafford has become the Matthew Stafford Georgia fans envisioned when he arrived from Dallas. He has stopped throwing the ball to the wrong team." Really? Then, in referring to Georgia's throttling of LSU, Bradley wrote, "If you can do this to LSU in frothing Tiger Stadium, you need have no fear of Florida or anything reptilian." Need we say more?

On Thursday, Terence Moore wrote, "The Hawks will do impressive things this season, because Al Horford won't settle for less." We salute Terence here, for when most observers still look at Josh Smith as the Hawks' future, Moore has proven to be ahead of the curve, realizing Horford will be the team's most valuable piece in the years to come.

## MEDIA HALL OF FAME

After Georgia's disappointing 49-10 loss to Florida last Saturday, ESPN's Todd McShay had this to say about Bulldogs quarterback Matthew Stafford: "Once it became clear that Georgia would not be able to run on the Gators, all the pressure fell on Stafford's shoulders, but the hard-throwing junior simply was not up to the challenge." Here, McShay is spot-on and also shines light upon what has become a simple fact: Matthew Stafford has all the potential in the world but has thus far been undeserving of all the hype.



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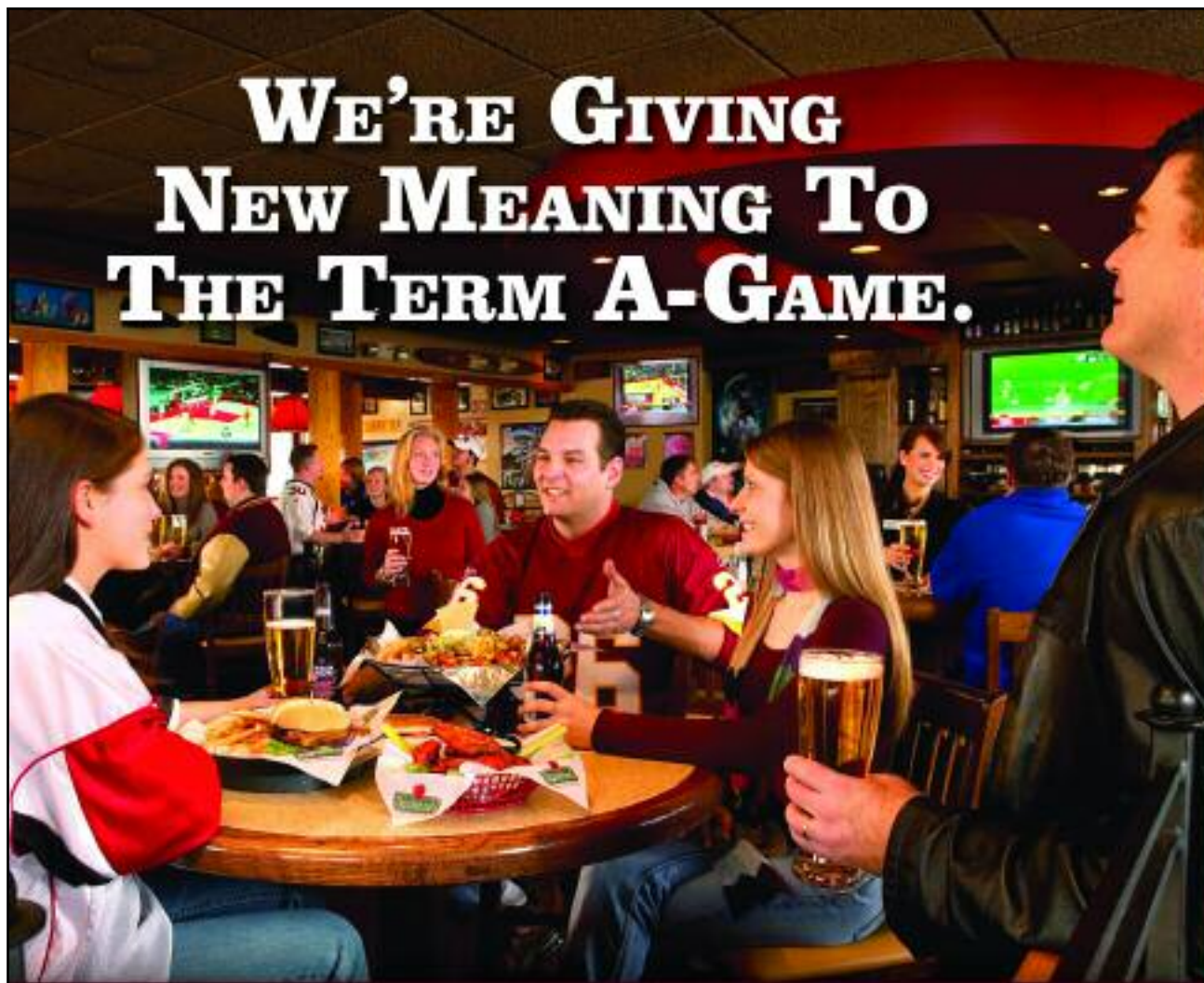
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Jon Hyman, MD serves as Medical Director of The Hip Arthroscopy Center at Emory-Adventist Hospital. He is a Board Certified Orthopaedic Surgeon and Sports Medicine Expert who concentrates on helping his patients understand their problem and get the results they want. Dr. Hyman has served as a team physician for the Atlanta Falcons, Atlanta Hawks, and Atlanta Thrashers. For more information about the hip arthroscopy procedure and/or Dr. Hyman, visit [www.emoryadventist.org](http://www.emoryadventist.org).



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