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# PREPARE FOR CHAMPIONSHIP MONTH!

Dozens of high school state titles to be awarded in May

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**FULTON:** Alpharetta, Blessed Trinity, Centennial, Chattahoochee, Douglass, Grady, Lovett, Mays, Milton, North Springs,

Northview, Riverwood, Roswell, Tri-Cities, Westminster, Woodward Academy

**GWINNETT:** Berkmar, Brookwood, Buford, C. Gwinnett, Collins Hill, Dacula, Grayson, Greater Atlanta Christian, Meadowcreek,

Mill Creek, Norcross, North Gwinnett, Parkview, Peachtree Ridge, South Gwinnett, Wesleyan

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# THE HIGH SCHOOL PLAYERS OF THE WEEK



## DALE CAREY

WHEELER HIGH SCHOOL

Carey is considered by some experts as one of the best players in the state and MLB scouts seem to agree, as a dozen of them have attended his games for the last month to observe the Wildcat senior. The Miami commitment has a batting average of .359 with two homers and has struck out only five times in 64 plate appearances.



## LEAH HIXON

ETOWAH HIGH SCHOOL

Etowah's girls track team has been outstanding the past few years and one of the reasons they have had success is the effort that Hixon has provided. At the Cherokee County girls track and field championships, Hixon won the 400-meter dash, the long jump and the triple jump. She is also a standout basketball player for the Lady Eagles.

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# STATE CHAMPIONSHIP COVERAGE BROUGHT TO YOU BY REGIONS BANK



## REGIONS

### STEPHEN BLACK



## Prep spring sports culminate in May with dozens of championships awarded

The state of Georgia is about to enter May Madness. From April 30-May 29, a total of eight different sports will award state championships to boys and girls teams of all classifications.

Score Atlanta and GaPrepNews.com are going to be all over these events, giving metro Atlantans a place to turn for results and information about each championship tournament and meet. From this week's gymnastics finals to the baseball finals in late May, we will cover each metro team and their quests to bring home state championship hardware.

Score is also partnered with AJC.com to provide not only scores but rundowns on the baseball playoffs as well. So, between our prep issue, GaPrepNews.com and ajc.com, we will have all the bases covered.

### GYMNASTICS KICKS IT ALL OFF ...

In this issue, readers will notice the coverage of the girls gymnastics finals, which take place just after the issue is released on Friday, April 30. Each of our beat writers has zeroed in on their county teams that are in the competition, as well as the athletes that will be competing for individual titles.

The gymnastics final takes place at Westminster in Atlanta, with six teams and several individuals competing. Chattahoochee, Lassiter, Milton, Pope, Tift County and Walton are the teams that will fight for the state title.

For a little background on the sport, GHSA.net provides a list of state champions for each varsity sport in the state. Last year in gymnastics, Gwinnett's Providence Christian Academy won the team title by just 0.625 points over Milton. Michelle Shealy of Providence Christian won three of the five individual titles while Bekah Bennetts from Sequoyah won the vault.

In the 2008 season, the title was won by Newnan, who out-pointed Walton by 1.025. Roswell took the title in 2007 by just 1.55 points, while in 2006 Colquitt County won the state title by the razor-thin margin

of .05 points over a hard-luck Milton program that has yet to win the state since 2001.

Roswell dominated the state from 1997-2007, winning seven titles. However, the Hornets have won just a single state championship since 2005 and did not qualify for the tournament this season.

### GOLF FINAL TEES OFF MONDAY ...

On the links, the state's best teams will do battle on Monday for 10 separate state championship trophies. All five classifications in the state award state titles in both girls and boys competitions.

Several teams qualified from our six-county coverage area, with at least one school in each

class and gender. Ten separate golf courses throughout the state will host a state tournament, with only two of them being in metro Atlanta (Capital City Club and Alpharetta Athletic Club).

However, despite the courses being located outside of metro Atlanta, many teams from the area expect to take home state titles. Last season, for example, four of the 10 titles were won by metro teams. Wesleyan, Blessed Trinity and Mill Creek won girls state titles while Peachtree Ridge won a boys championship. Metro boys teams have won the past three Class 5A titles while girls teams have won or shared the past four in the state's largest classification.

### COVERAGE CONTINUES THROUGH MAY ...

After the golf and gymnastics finals wrap up, tennis and girls track and field will hold their state championship finals during the following weekend. These championship events will be covered in our next issue of Score Prep as well as being featured on GaPrepNews.com.

Then, over the following three weeks, boys track, soccer, lacrosse and, finally, baseball will conclude the 2009-2010 high school sports calendar in Georgia.

Throughout it all, fans can receive updated information, brackets and results on GaPrepNews.com.

Cover photo and photos on this page are courtesy of Photographic Arts. Black can be reached at [sblack@scoreatl.com](mailto:sblack@scoreatl.com).



## REGIONS BANK CHAMPIONSHIP MONTH

- April 30**  
Gymnastics state finals
- May 3**  
Golf state tournaments
- May 6-8**  
Track state meet- girls
- May 7-8**  
Tennis state semifinals and finals
- May 13-15**  
Track state meet- boys
- May 14-15**  
Soccer state finals
- May 15**  
Lacrosse state finals
- May 28-29**  
Baseball state finals

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# ON THE PREP BEAT





## Preview of soccer playoffs; Walton girls tennis hunting seventh consecutive state title

With the school year winding down and students preparing for finals, the spring sports season is also coming to a close and it kicks off this week with the soccer playoffs getting underway on Tuesday. Results from the first round games were not available at press time, but here are some things to watch for from each classification.

### CLASS-BY-CLASS BREAKDOWN ...

In Class 5A boys, Northview is the top-ranked team after winning their last eight regular season games. But that doesn't make the Titans the automatic favorite to win because Collins Hill is the defending state champ and they were ranked No. 1 in the country earlier in the year. Other teams to watch for are Walton, Lassiter and Centennial. Also, keep an eye on Greenbrier because they are the only team ranked in the top 10 that is not from the metro Atlanta area and is the only team of the top 10 teams that is undefeated.

For the girls in Class 5A, Parkview is the three-time defending state champion, but they will have to go through No. 1 Walton who has not lost a game in the regular season. Other teams that have a legitimate shot of winning are Brookwood, Harrison and North Gwinnett, with the return of Danielle Au who could be the state's best soccer player.

In Class 4A, the McIntosh boys team is No. 1 and they have gotten huge victories over defending champion Marist, Starr's Mill and Dalton, all ranked in the top 10. Two local teams that could make some noise in the tournament are Hillgrove, who only suffered one regular season loss, and Lakeside, DeKalb who won the title in 2008 and are ranked No. 3.

Whitewater is the No. 1 team in the girls Class 4A classification, but struggled in the latter part of their schedule with a 3-2-1 record in the last six games. This could mean that the title is wide open for a handful of

teams such as Starr's Mill who has won their last nine games and McIntosh who lost to Whitewater via penalty kicks in mid-March. Let's not forget about defending state champion Marist who has not lost to a team on the Class 4A level all year.

Collins Hill was at one point the most dominating team in the state regardless of classification, but with a couple of losses under their belts, everyone should keep an eye on St. Pius X, as they are ranked No. 1 in Class 3A and No. 3 in the National Soccer Coaches Association of America Rankings. Teams that could give the Golden Lions fits are Oconee County, Gainesville and Woodward Academy, who lost to St. Pius X 2-0 on Feb. 26.

As talented as the St. Pius X boys team has been this season, the girls side has been just as good, led by a talented group of girls such as Alexa Newfield and Diana Sologa. The only team that could trip St. Pius X is Creekview, who is ranked No. 2 and lost to St. Pius X in the semifinals last season.

Blessed Trinity comes into the tournament as the No. 1 team in the boys Class 2A/A classification and they are looking to bounce back after getting ousted by state runner-up Westminster in the semifinals last year. Blessed

Trinity could catch a break because Westminster plays against Wesleyan in the first round, so whoever is the winner of that contest would be the biggest threat for the Titans.

On the girls side, Walker comes in as the No. 1 team and they will kick off tournament play on Friday when they take on Fellowship Christian. That is just the first test the defending state champs have to pass, as GAC, Westminster and St. Vincent's all have the ability to take the title away from Walker.

### WALTON BEGINS QUEST ...

The tennis state tournament is underway as well and the biggest story of the tournament has to be the Walton girls. Can they continue their dominance and become one of the greatest programs of all time? The Lady Raiders got past Norcross in their first round match 3-0 but their second-round match could be their toughest one yet, as they face No. 2-ranked Marietta. If Walton wins that match, it would be their 128th consecutive win and would well on their way to win their seventh consecutive title.

### OTHER NEWS AND NOTES ...

Westlake standout basketball player Marcus Thornton is still weighing his

options on where he wants to go to play college ball, as he wrapped up seven in-home visits last week. The seven finalists are Georgia, Georgia Tech, Texas, Kentucky, Alabama, Clemson and Michigan. He is expected to narrow down his list this week and expected to make a final decision by the third week in May.

In baseball news, Wheeler is not having the season that they hoped for, but two players are getting a lot of attention for all the right reasons. Dale Carey, who plays center field for the Wildcats, is catching a lot of major league scouts' eyes and could be a first-round pick in the upcoming MLB draft. He has a batting average of .359 and has struck out only five times in 64 plate appearances. He is projected to go anywhere from the third round to the sixth round according to his coach David McDonald.

The other player that is making a name for himself is pitcher Sam Bragg who did something you don't see in baseball that often. In a game against Campbell last week, Bragg struck out the first 14 batters. He is one of the top juniors in the state and has an early offer from UGA.

Jones can be reached at [bjones@scoreatl.com](mailto:bjones@scoreatl.com).

## STATE LACROSSE RANKINGS

### Boys AAAAA

1 Lassiter	6 Newnan
2 Harrison	7 Alpharetta
3 Milton	8 Peachtree Ridge
4 Northview	9 Pope
5 Walton	10 Collins Hill

### Boys AAAA/AAA/AA/A

1 Lambert	6 McIntosh
2 Westminster	7 Blessed Trinity
3 Wesleyan	8 Holy Innocents
4 Lovett	9 Woodward
5 St. Pius X	10 Starr's Mill

### Girls All Class

1 Milton	6 Lassiter
2 Northview	7 Walton
3 Chattahoochee	8 West Forsyth
4 Westminster	9 Alpharetta
5 Roswell	10 McIntosh

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# NEWS FROM AROUND THE COUNTY





## Gymnastics, golf state championships to be decided; soccer state playoffs getting started

The school year is winding down, and so are the regular seasons in Cobb County high school sports. The time has passed when every game is weighed the same and every win, loss, achievement or failure is considered equal. Championships and state playoffs are nearing, and with them comes the excitement and pressure of the postseason. In the coming weeks, dozens of state champions will be determined in a variety of spring sports.

### UPCOMING FINALS ...

Looking sport-by-sport at the contending teams and upcoming matchups, just around the corner are the gymnastics championships. A one-day final, set to take place on Friday, April 30, at the Westminster Schools in Atlanta, the gymnastics championships will feature several teams from Cobb County including Pope, Lassiter and Walton. Additionally, Kell's Leslie Miller will compete individually.

Also right around the corner, Cobb schools will have several teams in the golf state championships. On the boys side, in Region 5, Class 5A, Harrison will compete as the No. 1 region qualifier, coming in with a team score of

281, with Etowah trailing as the No. 2 qualifier with a team score of 298. Harrison will be led by their low medalist, Blaine Woodruff, who earned the honor after shooting a 68.

Harrison comes into the state championships as the No. 1 region qualifier in Region 5 on the girls side as well, boasting a team score of 175. They are followed by Kennesaw Mountain, whose team score is just higher at 179.

Cobb is represented in Region 6 by the girls team from Walton, who comes to the tournament tied with Roswell as the top region qualifier, both holding team scores of 167.

### SOCCER NEARING PLAYOFFS ...

Moving on into the realm of soccer, Cobb County finds itself well represented in the upcoming Class 5A boys tournament which is set to take place from April 27 through May 14. The tournament will begin with a field of 32 teams, seven of which come from Cobb County. When the tournament begins, the first county team to take the field will be Region 5 representative, North Cobb, against their Region 8 opponent, Meadowcreek at 7 p.m. Following that contest, Harrison will take on

Parkview, McEachern will face off against Dacula, and Lassiter will battle Northview, and Pebblebrook will square off against Houston County, with all four games set to begin at 7:30. Just half an hour later, at 8:00, the final Cobb County teams will take the field, including Walton vs. Collins Hill and Marietta vs. Brookwood.

Of all seven match-ups, Lassiter versus Northview may be the game to watch. Lassiter, who is currently ranked No. 3 will try to knock off the No. 1 ranked Northview. Meanwhile, the Walton vs. Collins Hill matchup will feature excitement of its own, as Collins Hill the No. 2 team, is looking to repeat as state champions.

In Class 4A, representing as the sole competitor from Cobb County, Hillgrove helped kick off the state tournament on April 27 as well, taking on North Springs at 7 p.m. (results were not available at press time). Hillgrove, though perhaps not the tournament favorite, is nevertheless a team to be feared. The Hawks, although coming off a tough loss to Dalton in the 7-AAAA finals, finished their season with an impressive 14-1-2 record. Currently, the team to beat in the tour-

namment looks to be McIntosh, who posted a 17-1 record and holds the No. 1 ranking.

Meanwhile, on the girl's side, in Class 5A, there will be five teams representing Cobb County when the state tournament kicks off on April 28. At 6 p.m. Region 5 competitor, Kennesaw Mountain will take on Region 8 representative Brookwood. An hour later, another county team, Walton, will face off against Collins Hill at 7:00 p.m., followed by Pope vs. Northview, Lassiter vs. Chattahoochee, and Harrison vs. Grayson at 7:30.

For the girls, the tournament favorite is none other than Cobb County's Walton, although the three-time defending champion Panthers from Parkview can never be discounted. Additionally, Harrison should put up a good fight as well, as they are currently riding a 12-game win streak and will no doubt present Grayson with all they can handle. Meanwhile, Kennesaw Mountain's competition, Brookwood, won't go down easily. Just two weeks ago, the Lady Broncos barely lost to Parkview 2-1 and are currently Class 5A's No. 3-ranked team in the state.

Wade can be reached at [kwade@scoreatl.com](mailto:kwade@scoreatl.com).

## BASEBALL RANKINGS

### Class AAAAA

1. Parkview
2. Milton
3. East Coweta
4. South Forsyth
5. Mill Creek
6. Collins Hill
7. Camden County
8. Etowah
9. Pope
10. Roswell

### Class AAAA

1. Lakeside, Evans
2. Ola
3. Alcovy
4. Loganville
5. Wayne County
6. Winder-Barrow
7. Dalton
8. Hillgrove
9. Marist
10. Evans

### Class AAA

1. Columbus
2. Gainesville
3. Carrollton
4. Cartersville
5. Oconee County
6. Thomson
7. Ringgold
8. Dunwoody
9. St. Pius X
10. Creekview / North Atlanta

### Class AA

1. Cook
2. Toombs County
3. Calhoun
4. Appling County
5. North Oconee
6. Jefferson
7. Lovett
8. Adairsville
9. Central, Macon
10. Callaway

### Class A

1. Landmark Christian
2. Calvary Day
3. Hebron Christian Academy
4. Wesleyan
5. Schley County
6. Eagle's Landing Christian Acad.
7. Holy Innocents'
8. Bremen
9. Walker
10. Savannah Christian

Rankings were compiled on April 26 and are courtesy of GaPrepCountry.com.



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# BOYS STATE SOCCER RANKINGS

## Class AAAAA

1. Northview
2. Collins Hill
3. Lassiter
4. Centennial
5. Greenbriar, Evans
6. Dacula
7. Milton
8. Walton
9. Norcross
10. Brookwood

## Class AAAA

1. McIntosh
2. Starr's Mill
3. Lakeside-DeKalb
4. Marist
5. Dalton
6. Habersham Central
7. Hillgrove
8. North Springs
9. Lakeside, Evans
10. Glynn Academy

## Class AAA

1. St. Pius X
2. Oconee Co.
3. Gainesville
4. Woodward Acad.
5. Carrollton
6. Columbus
7. SE Whitefield
8. Lambert
9. Johnson
10. Perry

## Class AA/A

1. Blessed Trinity
2. Thomasville
3. Aquinas
4. Wesleyan
5. Paideia
6. Walker
7. Westminster
8. Benedictine
9. Savannah Country Day
10. Atlanta International

## All Classes

1. Northview
2. St. Pius X
3. McIntosh
4. Collins Hill
5. Lassiter
6. Oconee Co.
7. Starr's Mill
8. Centennial
9. Blessed Trinity
10. Greenbrier, Evans

# GIRLS STATE SOCCER RANKINGS

## Class AAAAA

1. Walton
2. Parkview
3. Brookwood
4. Harrison
5. North Gwinnett
6. Lassiter
7. Northview
8. Pope
9. Greenbrier, Evans
10. Collins Hill

## Class AAAA

1. Whitewater
2. Starr's Mill
3. Marist
4. McIntosh
5. Salem
6. Heritage-Conyers
7. Glynn Academy
8. South Paulding
9. Thomas Co Central
10. Lakeside Evans

## Class AAA

1. St. Pius X
2. Creekview
3. John's Creek
4. Woodward Acad.
5. Lambert
6. Oconee Co.
7. Columbus
8. Riverwood
9. Carrollton
10. Spalding

## Class AA/A

1. Walker
2. GAC
3. Westminster
4. St. Vincent's
5. Pike Co.
6. Paideia
7. Eagle's Landing Christian
8. Fellowship Christian
9. Wesleyan
10. Blessed Trinity

## All Classes

1. Walton
2. Parkview
3. Whitewater
4. Brookwood
5. Harrison
6. Starr's Mill
7. North Gwinnett
8. St. Pius X
9. Walker
10. GAC

Rankings were compiled on April 26 and are courtesy of Euroscoreboard.com. (All Classes Rankings were updated on April 26)

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