



#### STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS





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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

-	-	88
-	 ıb	
	 -	_
 _	 	

Letter from the Executive Director	3
Tournament Schedule	4
Arena at Gwinnett Center/Macon Coliseum	5
Hoops History	23
Past State Champions	29

#### **TEAM INFORMATION**

Class AAAAA Rosters	6
Class AAAAA Previews	7
Class AAAA Rosters	8
Class AAAA Previews	9
Class AAA Rosters	10
Class AAA Previews	11
Class AA Rosters	12
Class AA Previews	13
Class A Rosters	14
Class A Previews	15
Class AAAAA Brackets	19
Class AAAA Brackets	20
Class AAA Brackets	22
Class AA Brackets	25
Class A Brackets	27



The games will also be webcasted live on GPB.org/sports and available on demand on both Charter and Comcast cable systems



In association with the GHSA, Georgia Public Broadcasting, PlayOn Sports and Score Atlanta, all semifinal games from The Macon Coliseum and Gwinnett Arena on March 9-11 will be available live and on demand at GPB.org/basketball and GHSA.tv.







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#### SPONSOR INDEX

Verizon	2
Regions	2
Everest Institute	4
Angel McCoughtry Camp	4
Mizuno	16
Gatorade	16
Georgia EMC	17
American Assoc. of Adapted Sports Pro	grams 17
Choice Hotels	18
GA College 411	18
Team IP	21
Georgia Meth Project	21
Marines	21
Electro Mech	24
Jostens	24
Musco Lighting	26
Sports Med South	26
PlayOn Sports	28
Army	28
GPB Sports Central	30
GAPrepNews.com	30
GPB	30
Air National Guard	31
Wilson	31
State Farm	<b>Back Cover</b>



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Order DVD copies of all televised games at GHSA.tv.

## A Word Brox The Extending Director

**GHSA Marketing** 

**Alan Sharp** 

Greetings, GHSA Basketball Fans:

Welcome to the 2011 GHSA Basketball championships. This season has been an exciting one, as regular season games received local and national attention. The Region Tournaments and the early rounds of the playoffs allowed a number of "Cinderella teams" to prevail. This week there will be a group of teams who have peaked at the right time, and they are prepared to compete for the title of "Champion". The work of the players, coaches, and cheerleaders from these competing schools qualifies all of them as "winners". It is my hope that you will appreciate the performances that you will see in the pressure packed world of post-season basketball.

The Georgia High School Association thanks you for your support of high school basketball throughout the season. Spectators are a very important part of high school athletics in general, and this is especially true for the school for which you are cheering. We do want to remind you that good sportsmanship is an essential element of high school athletics, and today is no exception. Be positive in your support of all the participants.

Behind the scenes of this great event is a group of hard-working volunteers who will donate many hours of work this week to enhance this experience for our participants. The GHSA office staff has been working for many weeks on the details that make this event special.

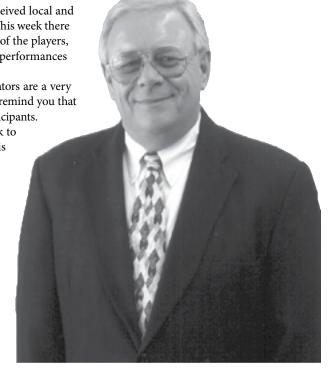
The quality of GHSA events such as this one is made possible through the help of corporate partners whose ads are displayed in this program and around the arena. The GHSA thanks these fine companies, and we encourage you to support them whenever possible.

People throughout the state of Georgia (and in parts of surrounding states) will be able to share in this experience through the television production provided by Georgia Public Broadcasting. The GHSA thanks GPB for their fine work. You may also enjoy these games in the future by availing yourselves of the "on-demand" options found GHSA.tv, GPB.org/basketball and Comcast & Charter On Demand.

Now sit back and enjoy high school basketball at its finest!

Cordially yours,

Dr. Ralph E. Swearngin Jr. Executive Director





#### TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

#### **AT GWINNETT ARENA**

Wednesday, March 9 - Class AAAA Semifinals

<u>Time</u>		Home Team	Visiting Team
4:00pm	Girls	Douglas County	Forest Park
5:30pm	Boys	Miller Grove	Jonesboro
7:00pm	Girls	Chattahoochee	Fayette County
8:30pm	Boys	Rockdale County	Fayette County

#### Thursday, March 10 - Class AAAAA Semifinals

<u>Time</u>		Home Team	Visiting Team
4:00pm	Girls	Norcross	Campbell
5:30pm	Boys	Norcross	Valdosta
7:00pm	Girls	Mill Creek	McEachern
8:30pm	Boys	Milton	Tift County

#### Friday, March 11 - Finals

<u>IIMe</u>			
12:15pm	AAASP Wheelchair Final	7:00pm	Class AAAAA Girls Final
3:00pm	Class AAAA Girls Final	8:45pm	Class AAAAA Boys Final
4·45nm	Class AAAA Rovs Final	•	•

#### **AT MACON COLISEUM**

Wednesday, March 9 - Class A Semifinals

<u>Time</u>		Home Team	<u>Visiting Team</u>
4:00pm	Girls	Wesleyan	Calvary Day
5:30pm	Boys	Wilkinson County	Greenville
7:00pm	Girls	Pace Academy	Turner County
8:30pm	Boys	Whitefield Academy	Terrell County

#### Thursday, March 10 - Class AA Semifinals

<u>Time</u>		Home Team	Visiting Team
4:00pm	Girls	Greater Atlanta Chr.	Northeast, Macon
5:30pm	Boys	Buford	Laney
7:00pm	Girls	Buford	Laney
8:30pm	Bovs	Greater Atlanta Chr.	Swainsboro

#### Friday, March 11 - Class AAA Semifinals

<u>Time</u>		Home Team	<u> Visiting Team</u>
4:00pm	Girls	Dalton	Crisp County
5:30pm	Boys	Columbia	Eagles Landing
7:00pm	Girls	Columbia	Washington Co.
8:30pm	Boys	Franklin County	Butler

#### Saturday, March 12 - Finals

<u>IIMe</u>			
11:00am	Girls Class A Final	4:45pm	Boys Class AA Final
12:45pm	Boys Class A Final	7:00pm	Girls Class AAA Final
3:00pm	Girls Class AA Final	8:45pm	<b>Boys Class AAA Final</b>

# AAASP WHEELCHAIR ROSTERS

#### Atlanta Wolfpack (Home)

			` '
2	Lacey Todd	3	Logan Wegienka
5	Kailyn McKinnon	4	Laura Ray
12	Joshua Porter	5	Vincent VanVleet
13	Terry Chambers	J	VIIIGGIII VAIIVIGGI
14	Abubakar Garba	10	Eugene Layne
15	<b>Aquintis Burnett</b>	14	<b>Leslie Ann Hutchins</b>
21	Toraino Newton	20	Tim Peek
22	Alexander Amey	31	Douglas Johnston
23	Reece Johnson	JI	Douglas Joilliston

#### Coaches Andrea Arnold & Jimmy Roberts

Coaches
Richard McIntyre & Ric McIntyre

**West Georgia Wolverines** 

(Visitor)

# CONGRATULATIONS FROM EVERESTI

Everest offers "Hands-on" Career Education

Criminal Justice | Dental Assistant | Massage Therapy Medical Assistant | Medical Insurance Billing & Coding Medical Administrative Assistant

Stop by our booth on Wednesday thru Friday at the Gwinnett Arena, and learn about careers in healthcare and criminal justice. On Friday, March 11 get your blood pressure checked and while there sign in for a chair massage.

# **Everest**

#### **Norcross Campus**

CONTACT US TO SCHEDULE A CAMPUS VISIT

1750 Beaver Ruin Road - Norcross, GA 30093 678.892.2773 | dwwalters@cci.edu

#### Angel McCoughtry Basketball Camp



Three 98 Entertainment is pleased to announce the 1st annual Angel McCoughtry Basketball Camp for girls ages 8-18.

Location: Milton High School Camper Cost: \$179.00

Details: Lunch will be provided and all campers will be given a commemorative T- shirt. Each camper will also receive a ticket for the Atlanta Dream game on July 19, 2011.

> For more information and to register go to www.angelbasketballcamp.com

# THE 2011 CHSA CHAMPIONSHIP VENUES

# THE ARENA AT VINNETT CENTER

The Arena at Gwinnett Center is located in Duluth, Ga., which is 20 miles north of Atlanta. The Arena has been open for six years and has had tremendous success in a short period of time. The Arena was nominated for the 2005 Pollstar Arena of the Year Award.

The Arena was constructed with the patrons in mind, so there is truly not a bad seat in the house. Events can be held to accommodate groups from 3,500 in an intimate theater-style setting, up to 13,000 for a major concert or sporting event. As a result, The Arena provides the best possible environment for experiencing a wide range of events.

The Arena has hosted many events over the last six years, including Bruce Springsteen, Coldplay, The Eagles, Bon Jovi, George Strait, Martina McBride, The American Idol Tour, Stars on Ice, The Wiggles and many more. It is also the home of the Gwinnett

Gladiators hockey team and the Georgia Force Arena Football team.

Along with hosting these national shows, The Arena prides itself in hosting local community events. Along with the Georgia High School Basketball Championships, The Arena has held the GHSA Wrestling Championships, and the first and second rounds of the NCAA Division I Women's Championship Basketball Tournament.

The Arena at Gwinnett Center would like to thank everyone who has made the facility such a success over the past six years. For more information regarding events, please visit www.gwinnettcenter.com.



# THE MACON

The 9,252-capacity Macon Coliseum is the entertainment center for Macon and Middle Georgia's 30 surrounding counties. Built in 1968, it was the first facility of its size and type in the state and has housed full-house crowds for such greats as Elvis, The Jacksons, Billy Joel, Reba McEntire, Kenny Chesney, Elton John, and of course, Georgia high school basketball!

In addition to concerts and family shows, the Coliseum is the perfect site for a variety of events from conventions and trade shows to ice shows, circuses and just about any other sporting or entertainment event you can imagine.

And the location just can't be beat. Located in the heart of Georgia, just 80 miles south of Atlanta and two miles off of I-75, more than two-thirds of Georgia's population lives within one hour of the facility.

Looking for something to do during our event's downtime? Not to worry. Welcome to Macon, one of the most historic, hospitable, happening places in the South. It is a place with all the bustle of a big metropolis and all the charm of a small Southern town.

Without a doubt, we have it all — from shopping and symphonies to professional sporting events, theaters, museums, golf, historical tours and top-notch eateries!

#### Area highlights include:

- More than 4,000 hotel rooms and 200 restaurants, all close by;
- One of the largest malls in the southeastern U.S.;
- More historic sites on the National Register of Historic Places than any other city in Georgia;
- Museums galore, including the Georgia Music Hall of Fame, the Museum of Arts and Sciences, the Harriet Tubman African-American Museum, and the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame Museum.

For more info, call toll free at 877-523-6144 or go to www.maconcentreplex.com.





# AAAAA TEAM ROSTERS

#### BOYS

Valdosta Wildcats   Black, Gold & White - 1-AAAAA   Arad Coach: Rufus McDuffle   Pos.		—— BOY	<b>'5</b> —			
Dominique Bullock		Black, Gold & White • 1-AAAAA				
Coy Roberts						
Devintae Foster   12						
Jay Rome	2	Devontae Foster	10	SF		
10	3	Jay Rome	12	SG		
Terrance Foster			12	SF		
11	อ 10	Terrance Foster	11	SG		
Valen Lopez   12	11	Mondella Givens	12	SF		
Malcolm Mitchell		Jarquez Samuel	12	SF		
Clarence Smith		valen Lopez Malcolm Mitchell	12	SF.		
Norman Taylor	22	Clarence Smith	10	SG		
Norcross Blue Devils   Blue, Gray & White • 7-AAAAA   Head Coach: Jesse McMillan	24 33	Will Ferrell	12	SG		
No.   Name   Gr.   Pos.		Norcross Blue Blue, Gray & Whit	e Devils e • 7-AAAAA	ru		
1						
Nate Sims		Name				
Myles Autry   9   S6			11			
E. Victor Nickerson   12	4	Myles Autry	9	SG		
12	5		12	SF BO		
10			10 12	PG SG		
Alonzo Nelson-Ododa	23		12	SG		
Second Series   10	24	Alonzo Nelson-Ododa	12	PF		
Tift County Blue Devils Blue & White + 1-AAAAA Head Coach: Eric Holland   PF	25 22					
Tift County Blue Devils	42					
Tift County Blue Devils   Blue & White • 1-AAAAA   Head Coach: Eric Holland	50	Jason Croom	11	PF		
No.   Name   Gr.   Pos.	55	Jordyn Thomas	9	PG		
Ricky Frambo   12		Blue & White •	1-AAAAA			
Comparison	No.	Name				
5         Cory Gibson         12         SG           10         Colby Czerepinski         12         SG           11         TJ Cromer         10         SG           12         Tadric Jackson         9         PG           14         Austin McCant         10         SG           15         Ladarius Stewart         9         SG           20         Trent Hillman         12         SF           21         Rashawn Canady         9         PF           21         Rashawn Canady         9         PF           22         Donell Tuff         10         PF           23         Tae Jolly         12         SG           24         Damedric Jackson         12         SG           25         Steven Waters         9         PF           32         Raliegh Parson         12         C           40         Breon Dixon         12         C           Milton Eagles           Red, White & Blue • 8-AAAAA           Head Coach: David Boyd           No.         PG           3         Chase Coleman         11         PG	1	Kicky Frambo Gerald Pledger				
5         Cory Gibson         12         SG           10         Colby Czerepinski         12         SG           11         TJ Cromer         10         SG           12         Tadric Jackson         9         PG           14         Austin McCant         10         SG           15         Ladarius Stewart         9         SG           20         Trent Hillman         12         SF           21         Rashawn Canady         9         PF           21         Rashawn Canady         9         PF           22         Donell Tuff         10         PF           23         Tae Jolly         12         SG           24         Damedric Jackson         12         SG           25         Steven Waters         9         PF           32         Raliegh Parson         12         C           40         Breon Dixon         12         C           Milton Eagles           Red, White & Blue • 8-AAAAA           Head Coach: David Boyd           No.         PG           3         Chase Coleman         11         PG	3	Malcolm Strozier	12			
10	4	Demetris McCray	12	SG		
11         TJ Cromer         10         SG           12         Tadric Jackson         9         PG           14         Austin McCant         10         SG           15         Ladarius Stewart         9         SG           20         Trent Hillman         12         SF           21         Rashawn Canady         9         PF           21         Rashawn Canady         9         PF           22         Donell Tuff         10         PF           23         Tae Jolly         12         SG           24         Damedric Jackson         12         SG           25         Steven Waters         9         PF           32         Raliegh Parson         12         C           40         Breon Dixon         12         C           Milton Eagles           Red, White & Blue • 8-AAAAA           Head Coach: David Boyd           No.         Name         Gr.         Pos.           2         Kevin Kornegay         12         PG           3         Chase Coleman         11         PG           5         Shannon Scott         12 <td< td=""><td>5</td><td></td><td></td><td>SG</td></td<>	5			SG		
Tadric Jackson	10		12	SG		
15	12	Tadric Jackson	9	PG		
20 Trent Hillman 12 SF 21 Rashawn Canady 9 PF 22 Donell Tuff 10 PF 23 Tae Jolly 12 SG 24 Damedric Jackson 12 SG 25 Steven Waters 9 PF 32 Raliegh Parson 12 C  Wilton Eagles Red, White & Blue • 8-AAAAA Head Coach: David Boyd  No. Name Gr. Pos.  2 Kevin Kornegay 12 PG 3 Chase Coleman 11 PG 5 Shannon Scott 12 PG 10 Jordan Loyd 12 PG 11 SF 15 Evan Nolte 11 SF 15 Evan Coleman 11 PG 10 Luke Neenan 11 PG 11 SF 15 Evan Coleman 11 SF 15 Evan Coleman 11 SF 15 Evan Coleman 11 SF 16 Evan Coleman 11 SF 17 Shaquille Johnson 11 SF 20 Luke Neenan 12 PF 21 Shaquille Johnson 11 SF 22 Jalyn Patterson 9 PG 23 Dai-Jon Parker 12 SF 25 Julian Royal 12 PF 36 Mo Lewis 9 PF 37 Eric Riley 12 PF 38 Justin Kornegay 9 SG 40 Jazz Felton 10 SF	14					
21       Rashawn Canady       9       PF         22       Donell Tuff       10       PF         23       Tae Jolly       12       SG         24       Damedric Jackson       12       SG         25       Steven Waters       9       PF         32       Raliegh Parson       12       C         40       Breon Dixon       12       C         Milton Eagles         Red, White & Blue • 8-AAAAA         Head Coach: David Boyd         No.         No.       Name       Gr.       Pos.         2       Kevin Kornegay       12       PG         3       Chase Coleman       11       PG         5       Shannon Scott       12       PG         10       Jordan Loyd       12       PG         12       Evan Nolte       11       SF         15       Evan Nolte       11       SF         20       Luke Neenan       12       PF         21       Shaquille Johnson       11       SF         22       Jalyn Patterson       9       PG         23       Dai-Jon Parker <td< td=""><td></td><td></td><td>12</td><td>SE SE</td></td<>			12	SE SE		
23       Tae Jolly       12       SG         24       Damedric Jackson       12       SG         25       Steven Waters       9       PF         32       Raliegh Parson       12       C         Milton Eagles         Red, White & Blue • 8-AAAAA         Head Coach: David Boyd         No.       Mame       Gr.       Pos.         2       Kevin Kornegay       12       PG         3       Chase Coleman       11       PG         5       Shannon Scott       12       PG         10       Jordan Loyd       12       PG         12       Evan Nolte       11       SF         15       Evan Coleman       11       SF         15       Evan Coleman       11       PG         20       Luke Neenan       12       PF         21       Shaquille Johnson       11       SF         22       Jalyn Patterson       9       PG         23       Dai-Jon Parker       12       SF         25       Julian Royal       12       PF         33       Eric Riley       12       PF	21			PF		
24 Damedric Jackson 12 SG 25 Steven Waters 9 PF 32 Raliegh Parson 12 C 40 Breon Dixon 12 C  Milton Eagles Red, White & Blue • 8-AAAAA Head Coach: David Boyd  No. Name Gr. Pos.  2 Kevin Kornegay 12 PG 3 Chase Coleman 11 PG 5 Shannon Scott 12 PG 10 Jordan Loyd 12 PG 11 SF 15 Evan Nolte 11 SF 15 Evan Coleman 11 SF 15 Evan Coleman 11 PG 12 PG 12 Evan Rolte 11 SF 15 Evan Coleman 11 SF 15 Evan Coleman 11 SF 15 Evan Coleman 11 SF 20 Luke Neenan 11 SF 21 Shaquille Johnson 11 SF 22 Jalyn Patterson 9 PG 23 Dai-Jon Parker 12 SF 25 Julian Royal 12 PF 30 Mo Lewis 9 PF 31 Eric Riley 12 PF 313 Eric Riley 12 PF 315 Justin Kornegay 9 SG 40 Jazz Felton 10	22					
25 Steven Waters 9 PF 32 Raliegh Parson 12 C 40 Breon Dixon 12 C  Milton Eagles Red, White & Blue • 8-AAAAA Head Coach: David Boyd  No. Name Gr. Pos.  2 Kevin Kornegay 12 PG 3 Chase Coleman 11 PG 5 Shannon Scott 12 PG 10 Jordan Loyd 12 PG 11 Evan Nolte 11 SF 15 Evan Coleman 11 SF 15 Evan Coleman 11 PG 20 Luke Neenan 11 PG 21 Shaquille Johnson 11 SF 22 Jalyn Patterson 9 PG 23 Dai-Jon Parker 12 SF 25 Julian Royal 12 PF 30 Mo Lewis 9 PF 31 Eric Riley 12 PF 32 Justin Kornegay 9 SG 40 Jazz Felton 10 SF	23 24		12 12	SG SG		
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2       Kevin Kornegay       12       PG         3       Chase Coleman       11       PG         5       Shannon Scott       12       PG         10       Jordan Loyd       12       PG         12       Evan Nolte       11       SF         15       Evan Coleman       11       PG         20       Luke Neenan       12       PF         21       Shaquille Johnson       11       SF         22       Jalyn Patterson       9       PG         23       Dai-Jon Parker       12       SF         25       Julian Royal       12       PF         30       Mo Lewis       9       PF         33       Eric Riley       12       PF         35       Justin Kornegay       9       SG         40       Jazz Felton       10       SF	No.		Gr.	Pos.		
10       Jordan Loyd       12       PG         12       Evan Nolte       11       SF         15       Evan Coleman       11       PG         20       Luke Neenan       12       PF         21       Shaquille Johnson       11       SF         22       Jalyn Patterson       9       PG         23       Dai-Jon Parker       12       SF         25       Julian Royal       12       PF         30       Mo Lewis       9       PF         33       Eric Riley       12       PF         35       Justin Kornegay       9       SG         40       Jazz Felton       10       SF			12	PG		
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30       Mo Lewis       9       PF         33       Eric Riley       12       PF         35       Justin Kornegay       9       SG         40       Jazz Felton       10       SF	23	Dai-Jon Parker	12	SF		
33       Eric Riley       12       PF         35       Justin Kornegay       9       SG         40       Jazz Felton       10       SF	25 20	Julian Royal Ma Louria				
35         Justin Kornegay         9         SG           40         Jazz Felton         10         SF	ა <b>ს</b> 33	MU LEWIS Fric Rilev	9 12	PF PF		
40 Jazz Felton 10 SF	35		9	SG		
44 Alyja Hennings 12 SG	40	Jazz Felton	10	SF		
	44	Aiyja Hennings	12	Տն		

#### **GIRLS**

	nivr:		
	Campbell Sparta Royal Blue & Silver • Head Coach: Randy l	4-AAAAA	
No.	Name	Gr.	Pos.
3	Baylee Hawkins	11	PG
4	Erica Norwood	12	PG
10	Gabrielle Gray	11	PG
13	Sontell Kennedy	12	PG
14	Kanchi Patel	10	PG
15	Princess Forbes	11	PF
20 21	Sharde Slaw	10 11	PG PF
22	Raven Wildermuth Angel Foster	12	PF
23	Jaleesea Phillips	12	PF
24	Chakecia Miller	12	PG
25	D'Asia Cain	10	SF
30	Erika Dorsey	11	PF
50	Diamond Freeman	11	PF
	Norcross Blue De Blue, Gray & White • Head Coach: Angie H	7-AAAAA	
Ma	EMERING SECTION NOWS	AND THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPER	Поо
<i>No.</i> <b>10</b>	Name Kamilah Bakari	<u>Gr.</u> 11	<u>Pos.</u> <b>SF</b>
11	Javonne Stanfield	10	SG SG
12	Sheena Hartley	11	SG
13	Bri Williams	9	PG
21	Nia Ladson	12	PG
22	Diamond DeShields	10	SG
23	Dearica Hamby	12	SF
24	Tori Carter	11	PG
25	Alex DeMercy	12	PF
30	Deja Smith	9	SG
31	Emaree Cobb	12	SF
32	Shayla Cooper	10	SF
34	Patrice Butler	11	C
41	Kolby Meeks	9	SF
42	Sierra Butler	9	C C
44	Jasmine Kemp	11	L
	McEachern India Blue & Gold • 4-A Head Coach: Phyllis	AAAA	
No.	Name	Gr.	Pos.
00	Triana Tisdale	10	7 03. PG
3	Mia Cooper	10	PĞ
4	Joclyn Ramos	10	SF
10	Mesha Morris	11	SG
11	Lauren Coleman	12	PG
12	Dominique Wilson	11	PG
14	Legiah Štrickland	12	SF
21	Savannah Patrick	10	PG
22	Breana Jackson	12	SG
23	Patches Roberts	11	SF
24	Kelsey Austin	12	SG
31	Brittany Hodges	12	SF
33	Kayla Montgomery	11	С
	Mill Creek Haw Vegas Gold, Navy, Cardinal Head Coach: Ashley	Red • 7-AAAAA	
No.	Name	Gr.	Pos.
<b>2</b>	Cari Powell	12	PF
3	Elease Dillard	12	SG
4	Christina McDannald	12	SG
5	Alicia Brookins	12	SG
11	Kathleen Haxton	9	SG
12	Tamarr Williams	11	SF
14	Nadiya Miller	10	SG
22	Emily Wylie	10	C
23	Sierra Menzies	11	PĞ
<b>25</b>	Alisia Fagin	<b>ii</b>	PG
30	Paige Orangio	10	PF
32	Jasmine Carter	9	SG
33	India Dillard	10	PF
44	Sarah Chamblee	10	PF



# ANTERIA PRINTS

#### **BOYS**

#### Norcross vs. Valdosta

It's no surprise that the Norcross boys are playing in the state semifinals. The big surprise is the route the Blue Devils took to Gwinnett Arena. The traditional power started the season 5-8. On the other hand, their opponents, the Valdosta Wildcats, may be a surprise entrant. The brackets in Class AAAAA were filled mostly by teams from the Atlanta suburbs, and Valdosta did not even win their region tournament (they placed second).

Of course, how the teams made it to Gwinnett is history. Now, a shot at the state title is just one game away. Norcross head coach Jesse McMillan doesn't apologize for his team's slow start. He explained in a recent interview the start was simply part of the process.

"We set up the schedule with the intentions to test our kids the best we could," said McMillan. "This team in particular needed to experience as many challenges as possible to speed up the maturing process."

"Our group has learned how to win and that is one of the toughest things to master."

Personnel wise, Norcross is led by three seniors who will move to college campuses next fall. Guard Josiah Moore has signed with Nebraska while forwards E. Victor Nickerson and Alonzo Nelson-Ododa are headed to UNC-Charlotte and Richmond, respectively.

Valdosta counters the star power of Norcross with University of Georgia football signee Jay Rome who, in particular, has caught the eye of McMillan. "Jay Rome is a terrific post player and while metro fans don't know much about him," McMillan said, "he's probably one of the top five bigs in the state."

If possible, the Valdosta backcourt would like to create an up-tempo game, but McMillan thinks a slower game is more likely.

"The teams that can execute and defend are the ones that are successful," he said. "Eventually, you will come up against a team that can handle the pressure and is just as athletic and quick. When that happens, you better be able to get something done in half-court."

#### MILTON VS. TIFT CO.

Some things are just "tradition." Backyard football on Thanksgiving and fireworks on the Fourth of July are two that quickly come to mind. For 18 years, there has been another tradition in the boys state basketball tournaments: the presence of the Tift County Blue Devils. Since 2004, the Blue Devils have two semifinals appearances and had one shot in the finals.

Tiff County's opponent, Milton, may not have tradition, but they do have recent history on their side. Milton is the defending state champ in Class AAAAA. Head coach David Boyd knows that being a defending champ can have its disadvantages. "When you win a state championship and have, essentially, all your returners and your sixth man back, you do feel some pressure," he said in a recent interview. "[Repeating] is a lot easier said than done."

When tip-off rolls around, the Eagles, ranked No. 4 in the country by USA Today, will have a tough task. The core of Tift County's team is built with a solid foundation of 10 seniors, but Boyd is most impressed with super freshman point guard Tadric Jackson.

"He's a point guard, but he's a scoring guard also," said Boyd. "I've been reading about him for the last couple of years."

In the front court, senior Breon Davis can also fill up the basket for the Blue Devils.

Of course, any team like Milton that plays national opponents regularly and doesn't lose to a Class AAAAA team all season can hoop it up. Milton is led by senior guards Shannon Scott (headed to Ohio State) and Dai-Jon Parker (Vanderbilt), Jordan Loyd (Furman) and forward Julian Royal (Ga. Tech). The Eagles also feature two talented juniors in Evan Nolte and sixth-man Shaquille Johnson, who routinely scores in double-digits off the bench.

However, despite all the star power, Boyd knows Milton's success comes from fundamentals. "Great defense, tremendous pressure, very unselfish offense and excellent contributing off the bench," he said when describing Milton's recipe for success

By Score Atlanta's Sean Conway

#### **GIRLS**

#### **CAMPBELL VS. NORCROSS**

Campbell head coach Randy McClure is no stranger to the state tournament. His teams have made it to the Elite Eight nine times. This year, his Lady Spartans are looking forward to a matchup against the mighty Norcross Lady Blue Devils for a couple reasons. First, this will be the Spartans' first trip to the Final Four, and secondly, it was eventual state champion Norcross that ended Campbell's run in last year's playoffs.

The Lady Spartans are one of the state's most battle-tested teams. They come from Region 4, which put all four playoff teams in this year's quarterfinals. McClure believes surviving that gauntlet of a region is an advantage.

"There is a benefit to playing North Cobb, Hillgrove and McEachern," he said. "They are all really good. That [schedule] gave us the chance to be successful."

However, McClure's program may have to manage an emotional let-down after beating North Cobb 58-53 over the weekend.

"I don't think there will be a problem," said McClure. "We've got good senior leadership. Those kids have been through a lot, and Norcross knocked us out last year. We know what's ahead of us."

What's ahead of Campbell may very well be the second coming of Maya Moore, a former Collins Hill star and current University of Connecticut two-time All-American. Her name is Diamond DeShields. DeShields, a 6-foot-2 wing player, is just a sophomore, but already has experience playing for Team USA. DeShields scored 22 points in Saturday's win over Milton on what happened to be her 16th birthday. Norcross is more than just one star player, however. The Lady Blue Devils are so deep that senior forward and Wake Forest signee Dearica Hamby doesn't even start. Norcross coach Angie Hembree prefers to use Hamby's energy off the bench.

"You want to try to limit some of the stuff they want to do," McClure said when asked how to slow down a team like Norcross. "It's all about the tempo, and we have to do the stuff we want to do."

#### McEachern vs. Mill Creek

The semifinal matchup pitting McEachern against Mill Creek will feature two teams that took eerily similar paths to Gwinnett Arena. Neither team made the finals of their respective region tournaments, and each are the third-seeded representatives of their regions. The Lady Indians and Lady Hawks also survived hard-fought quarterfinal affairs to advance.

At Fort Valley State, McEachern had just a one-point lead over Cobb County rival Hillgrove with less than 30 seconds on the clock. But two free throws by sophomore guard Mia Cooper extended the lead to the eventual final score of 56-53. Cooper can get used to playing in the spotlight. She has already committed to play her college hoops at South Carolina. Cooper finished the night with seven points and six rebounds. Junior wing Dominique Wilson, playing in what McEachern coach Phyllis Arthur believes may have been her best performance, paced the Lady Indians with 18 points. In comments to the Marietta Daily Journal afterward, Arthur was proud of Wilson and the overall team effort.

"I told Dominique before the game that I wanted this to be of the biggest games she's played in her career," said Arthur. "I'm proud of this team for playing so hard."

Not to be outdone, Mill Creek defeated Roswell 64-59 in overtime at West Georgia. The seniors on the team can thank freshman Jasmine Carter for helping them to their second trip to the final four. The guard showed experience beyond her years as she poured in 32 points. Exactly half of those points came in the fourth quarter and overtime and Mill Creek desperately needed those points to force overtime and win the game, as the Lady Hawks trailed by seven with over five minutes remaining in regulation. Mill Creek coach Ashley Phillips praised Carter's poise to the Gwinnett Daily Post. "At the end of the game she wants the ball and always rises to the occasion," said Phillips. "I was impressed with what she did, but I can't say I'm surprised."

By Score Atlanta's Sean Conway



# ANA TEAM ROSTERS

#### BOYS

#### Jonesboro Cardinals Scarlet & White • 4-AAAA Head Coach: Daniel Maehlman

No.	Name	Gr.	Pos.
1	Patrick Petty	10	SG
3	Daniel Peace	10	PG
5	John Walker	10	SF
11	Rasham Suarez	12	PG
12	Casey Wells	10	SG
15	Jordan Enadeghe	12	SF
20	Keith Bennefiled	10	SG
21	Chukedubem Okeke	10	C
23	Cameron Sutton	10	PG
30	Brandon Black	10	PF
33	James White	12	SG
44	Myron Sallie	12	PF

#### Miller Grove Wolverines Purple, White & Silver • 8-AAAA Head Coach: Sharman White

No.	Name	Gr.	Pos.
3	Thomas Marshall	12	PG
4	Davante Provost	11	PG
10	Christian Houston	11	PG
11	Justin Colvin	11	SG
12	Kyle Wallace	10	SG
13	Earl Bryant	10	SG
14	Devon Provost	12	SG
20	Johnquavious McBride	10	SG
22	Henry Brooks	12	SF
24	Elondo Evans	12	SG
30	Tony Evans	11	SF
31	Brandon Morris	11	SF
32	Tony Parker	11	C

#### Fayette County Tigers Black & Gold • 3-AAAA Head Coach: Andre Flynn

No.	Name	Gr.	Pos.
2	Adam Smith	12	SG
3	Eric Lauderdale	12	PG
4	Brandon Grant	11	PG
5	lan Clarke	12	SF
10	Antoine Walthall	12	SG
11	Larry Erves	12	SG
12	Maurice Williams	12	SF
15	Corey Williams	10	PG
21	Jalen Thompson	11	SF
22	Terrance Johnson	12	SG
23	Kellen Sanford	11	SG
25	Jeremy Taylor	11	PG
33	Will Parker	12	SF
34	CJ Johnson	9	SG
44	Ekene Anachebe	11	C
45	Kristofer Curtis	12	PF

#### Rockdale County Bulldogs Red & Black • 8-AAAA Head Coach: Alvin Williams

No.	Name	Gr.	Pos.
11	Carren Wilson	10	PG
12	Derek Ferrell	12	SF
14	Charles Moore	11	SG
15	Darion Clark	11	PF
20	LaRonte Parks	10	SG
21	Devon Bussey	9	SF
22	Richard Slater	11	SG
25	Darious Mitchell	10	SF
31	Neville Hewitt	12	PF
33	David Jelks	11	PF
34	Deshaun Sunderhaus	12	PF
35	Kevin Ware	12	PG
40	Bernard Thompson	12	SG
41	Shane Pennant	12	PF

#### **GIRLS**

#### Forest Park Panthers Maroon & Gold • 4-AAAA Head Coach: Steven Cole

No.	Name	Gr.	Pos.
1	Jessica Anderson	12	SG
2	Kierra Dennis	12	SG
3	Cydni Bivins	11	SF
4	Kayla Potts	9	PG
10	Cabrisha Anderson	12	SG
12	Ashlee Cole	11	SG
14	Tiffany Wilson	9	SF
15	Lisa Pease	11	C
20	Tamara Brewster	11	SF
21	Keyonna Allen	12	C
22	Nicole Wilson	12	SF
23	Raven Wynn	10	PG
24	Kristin Pittman	11	SF

#### Douglas County Tigers Blue & Gold • 5-AAAA Head Coach: Chet Forsi

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No.	Name	Gr.	Pos.
12	Latara Spriggs	11	PG
14	Kristina Wells	12	SF
15	Rachel Watson	10	PF
20	Viveca Jones	12	SF
21	Kyemeshia Easy	10	PG
22	Darias Wilson	12	SF
23	Monique Wells	12	PG
24	Amadi Brooks	10	SG
25	Christin Mercer	606A 50 <b>11</b> 600000	C
30	Kianna Glover	10	SG
31	Ashley Cunningham	12	PF
32	Arlicia Turner	12	PF

### Fayette County Tigers Black & Gold • 3-AAAA Head Coach: John Strickland

No.	Name	Gr.	Pos.
10	Kyra King	12	SG
11	Keyondra Jenkins	10	PG
12	Dominique McGill		SG
13	Brianna Banks	12	SG
14	Candice Williams	9	PG
22	Lawna Kennedy	11	PF
23	Aneesa Watson	10	SG
25	Asia Harper	9	C
30	Jade Forest	11	SF
33	Elem Ibiam	12	C
35	Taybreanna Couch	12	PF
42	Bria Venson	12	C
44	Schaquilla Nunn	11	C
45	Charmayne Jordan	11	SF

#### Chattahoochee Cougars Royal Blue & Gold • 7-AAAA Head Coach: Eric Herrick

No.	Name	Gr.	Pos.
1	Kayla Upchurch	12	PG
3	Marissa Fitzgerald	12	PG
4	Courtney Froats	12	SF
5	Hollyn Phelps	12	SG
10	Katie Upchurch	11	SG
11	Kim Haight	12	PF
12	Cassidy Gaillard	12	SF
22	Emily Morrow	11	PG
23	Jordán Gaillard	12	SG
24	Saidat Ogbemudia	12	SG
25	Sara Kinkalaar	11	SG
31	Erika Ford	12	SG
44	Alexis Alexander	11	PF
45	Erin Morrow	9	SF
54	Amari Carter	10	SF



# AAAA PREVIEWS

#### **BOYS**

#### MILLER GROVE VS. JONESBORO

Sharman White's Miller Grove team has been here before. The Wolverines are shooting for a third consecutive state title with a star-studded roster that has been favored to win it all since November. "The Grove" hasn't disappointed either, going 30-1 on the season.

However, they faced some rare adversity after being shocked by Southwest DeKalb in the region title game. Despite that upset, the Wolverines have responded by winning their three state tournament games by 25 points or more, including a 72-53 domination of previously unbeaten Sequoyah in the second round.

Big man Tony Parker is the guy to look for. He's a 6-foot-9 center with size and strength, but also quick on his feet and has a nice touch around the rim.

Everyone knows about Parker, but there is some serious talent across the board. Power forward Brandon Morris, at 6-foot-8, starts alongside Parker, and matching up with the size of those two is virtually impossible. Then there's 6-foot-8 forward Henry Brooks lurking as well. Add in what White calls a "dynamic backcourt" with Davante Provost and Thomas Marshall, and this is the team to beat.

Jonesboro enters their matchup with the Purple Wolverines having won 16 straight.

The Cardinals are back in the semifinals for the first time since 2003. Leading the way is region player of the year Rasham Suarez. The Georgia Southern commit will surely give Miller Grove's more heralded backcourt issues. If the Cardinals are to pull the upset, he will need to have a big night.

At 6-foot-8, guard James White will also give the tandem of Provost and Marshall potential matchup issues, due to his height, if nothing else.

The Cardinals will also need some young players to play above their heads. The future is bright with sophomores shooting guard Patrick Petty, forward John Walker, guard Casey Wells and power forward Brandon Black all contributing. Black in particular will have to perform beyond his years, as he will have to deal with Miller Grove's size in the post.

#### FAYETTE CO. VS. ROCKDALE CO.

Fayette County is the only AAAA school to place their boys and girls teams in the semifinals this year. Like their female counterparts, the boys are on an absolute tear after going unbeaten in region play and mowing down the competition in the state tourney.

Adam Smith is the man to watch. The all-state guard is averaging over 26 points per game. Smith came through with 30 in a 20-point win in the quarterfinals, and broke the scoring record previously set by former Tiger star Noel Johnson. He is a mid-major prospect, but his current season will go down as one of the best in state history.

Smith will carry most of the weight offensively. But this is a team that has been successful due to the sum of its parts. Ekene Anachebe is an underrated big man, and the 6-foot-8 junior gives the Tigers a huge size advantage down low. He's a double-double machine, and will likely have another one against the Bulldogs. Hardworking Will Parker is also one to watch.

Rockdale County has a star of their own in 6-foot-5 guard Kevin Ware. The future Tennessee Volunteer possesses tremendous athleticism and ability. The prospect of Ware and Smith going basket for basket has to have fans excited.

Ware gets a lot of the fanfare, but he has some fine support. Junior Darion Clark, at 6-foot-7, handles a lot of the scoring, having dropped 23 in a second-round victory over Cass. He'll be one of the state's top players in 2012. Guard Bernard Thompson, at 6-foot-2, is also a big-time scorer. Both players have had no problem taking the reigns from Ware when it comes to scoring the basketball, making them a dangerously balanced squad on offense.

C.J. Wilson is another key cog, having been named MVP at the region tourney.

**GIRLS** 

#### FOREST PARK VS. DOUGLAS CO.

At 30-0 and No. 1 in Class AAAA, this is probably Douglas County's title to lose. The Lady Tigers have been simply dominant this season. They score an astonishing 69 points per game, win by an average margin of 30 points per matchup and possess the savvy and talent to go all the way.

Look out for senior swingman Kristina Wells. The future Kennesaw State Owl can literally do it all. She'll go for over 20 points regularly, but she's also a well-rounded player who is excellent at passing, rebounding and defending. Her versatility makes her a very tough matchup.

Center Christin Mercer does the dirty work down low. At 6-feet, she is a blocking and rebounding machine. Running the show at the point is unsung hero Latara Spriggs, who should step into a larger scoring role next season after Wells graduates.

The Tigers take on a red-hot Forest Park team that is looking to pull the upset. The Lady Panthers haven't lost since Dec. 30, and haven't been defeated by in-state competition this season. This year, they're back in their second consecutive Final Four looking to do some damage.

Guard Ashlee Cole will be one of the top players in the semifinals. Like Wells, she's a do-it-all type and features a knockdown jumper. Keeping Cole quiet will be key. But that won't be easy, as she can also get into the paint and get to the line, where she has been automatic of late.

Keep an eye on Kayla Potts, who is emerging as one of the top young players in the classification to take pressure off Cole in the backcourt.

The matchup to watch will be in the paint, where Mercer goes up against 6-foot-1 Keyonna Allen. Allen isn't quite as polished offensively as her opponent, but her size advantage makes it a rare tough matchup for Mercer.

#### FAYETTE CO. VS. CHATTAHOOCHEE

Fayette County lost a pair of games at the turn of the new year, but no one has been able to touch John Strickland's Lady Tigers since.

Strickland's bunch went an impressive 12-0 in region play before winning all three of their tournament games by double-digits, including a 71-39 demolition of Warner Robins last weekend in the quarterfinals.

Guard Brianna Banks is one of the performers to watch this weekend. The McDonald's All American and UConn commit just might be the best player still playing in any classification.

The Lady Tigers are surely one of the most talented teams still alive. After all, they have three Division I commitments in the starting five with Banks, 6-foot-4 center Elem Ibiam (South Carolina), and power forward Taybreanna Couch (Clayton State).

The Lady Cougars' region tournament ended with a disappointing loss to underdog Creekview in the final, but they have responded well storming into the Final Four looking better than ever.

Kayla Upchurch reached 1,000 points for the Lady Cougars. She will be relied upon heavily should "The Hooch" give Fayette a push. The point guard will have to keep the tempo at a favorable pace against a team that can jump out to a nice lead from nowhere.

Georgia commitment Erika Ford's presence alongside Upchurch makes this a top-notch backcourt. If Fayette focuses too many resources on Upchurch, Ford will surely make them pay.

Alexis Alexander, a 6-foot-1 forward, will help out with the scoring, and she has been on fire in the playoffs, scoring 23 points in a close victory in the quarterfinals against Clarke Central. With her size and athleticism, she will be a very tough matchup for whoever draws the assignment.

The Lady Cougars will also be confident as they have played well since Ford's recent return from injury. They showed some resiliency after trailing by 10 in the first quarter, and three at the half.

By Score Atlanta's Josh Bagriansky

By Score Atlanta's Josh Bagriansky



# AAA TEAM ROSTERS

#### BOYS

#### Eagles Landing Golden Eagles Blue & Gold • 4-AAA Head Coach: Clay Crump

No.	Name	Gr.	Pos.
3 5	Marquis Griffin	10	PG
5	Aldarrien Bryant	12	SG
12	Aaron Horton	12	SG
15	Jaylun Smith	12	C
21	PJ McNeal	11	SG
22	David Key	12	PF
23	Isaiah Dennis	10	SF
25	Keith Colquitt	11	PF
32	Desmond Ringer	10	C
34	Quinton Gordon	10	SF
35	Eric Wortham	10	PG
51	Warren Wright	9	C

#### Columbia Eagles Orange & Blue • 5-AAA Head Coach: Phillip McCrary, Ed.D

No.	Name	Gr.	Pos.
10	Nathaniel Mason	9	SG
11	Shamoi Allen		PG
12	Jade McClendon	10	SF
13	Tahj Shamsid-Deen	10	PG
15	Stephon Allen	12	SG
20	Damien Goodwin	11	PF
22	Kiair Crouch	9	SG
<del>2</del> 3	Algie Key	12	SG
24	Chris Daniels	12	PG
<b>25</b>	Greg Smith	9	SG
30	Jevante Davenport	12	SF
32	Jarmal Reid	11	SG
35	Chris Horton	11	PF
45	Jhaustin Thomas	11	PF
50	Jabari Menefee	ii	SF
55	Jordan Anderson	10	SF

#### Butler Bulldogs Gold, White & Black • 3-AAA Head Coach: Cervantes Boddy

No.	Name	Gr.	Pos.
1	Isaiah Williamson	10	C
3	Jeffery Menefee	11	PG
4	Akeem Johnson	12	PG
5	Kaleb Quarterman	11	SG
10	Javante Goodwin	ii	SG
11	Marquis Leverett	iÓ	PG
12	Dan Lambert	ii	C PG PG SG PG SF SF SF SF
15	Deontaye Shavers	12	S.F.
21	Ronald Jones	10	SF
22	Brandon Green	12	SG
23	Jordan Tanksley	12	PG
24	Rymel Jones	11	PF
25	Chris Washington	12	CE.
31	Tayari Thompson	11	SF PF PG SG
32	laffarii Archio	11	PC
	Jeffery Archie		PU
33	Christian Garnett	11	90
34	Eric Morris	11	PF
40	Chaz Clark	12	C

#### Franklin County Lions Green, Black & White • 8-AAA Head Coach: Harry Marsh

		-	
No.	Name	Gr.	Pos.
2	Mattavious Scott	12	PG
3	Drew Parten	10	SG
4	KeShaun Mayfield	12	SG SF
5	AJ Ricci	10	C
10	Tomoriea McGlockling	10	PG
11	Lee South	12	SG
12	Austin Farrow	12	SG SG SF
13	Kalep Leverette	ġ <sup>-</sup>	SF
15	Raguan Jones	11	SG
20	Red Montgomery	10	SG SF
21	Jack McRee	11	PF
22	Deonte Smith	9	SG
23	Kareem Butler	12	C
24	BJ Brown	1 <u>0</u>	PĚ

#### **GIRLS**

#### Crisp County Cougars Royal Blue & Gold • 1-AAA Head Coach: Molly Speir

No.	Name	Gr.	Pos.
<i>No.</i> <b>5</b>	Anna Olsen	9	SG
10	Nisha Waters	10	PG
12	Charde Felton	11	SF
14	Mariah Davis	12	PG
20	Keidra Green	11	PF
21	Kayla Green	9	SG
22	Adrianna Dennard	11	C
23	Tierra Adams	11	SG
32	Brittany Mapp	12	PF
34	Deletria Colson	9	PG
40	Shrelle Herman	11	SF
42	Kenisha Whitest	12	C
54	Nasheema Oliver	9	Č

#### Dalton Catamounts Red & White • 7-AAA Head Coach: Jeff McKinney

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No.	Name	Gr.	Pos.
10	Amanda Rector	12	PG
12	Sarah Stinnett	10	PG
14	April Besley	12	SG
20	Chandler McKinney	11	SG
22	Maddie Howell	10	SG
23	Taylor Behr	10	SG
24	Brooke Thomas	10	SG
25	Annie Kate Snyder	11	SF
32	Blakely Thomason	10	PF
34	Allie Blackwood	10	SF
40	Quanisha McCurty	12	C
44	Carson Sharp	10	SF

#### Washington County Golden Hawks Black & Gold • 3-AAA Head Coach: Sug Parker

No.	Name	Gr.	Pos.
10	Arnisha Pierce	10	SG
10 12	Shonterria Kitchens	9	PG
13	Shabreka Gordon	10	SG
14	Demeshia Ford	9	PF
15	Allisha Gray	10	PG
20	Felicia Kitchens	12	SG
21	Imani Simmons	11 (2000)	PG
22	Menyatta Holliman	11 (b) (b) (c)	SF
23	Amber Antoine	12	SF
25	Sheirkerriea Nelson	11	PG
30	Asia Bloodsaw	12	C
31	Sierra McNure	12	SG
32	Fathia Bess	12	PF
34	Tierra Murray	10	PF
40	Kala Brown	11	SF

## Columbia Eagles Orange & Blue • 5-AAA Head Coach: Chantay Frost

No.	Name	Gr.	Pos.
200	Shamyiah Smith	9	PG
2	Victoria Gonzales	11	PF
5	Destinee Smith	12	SG
10	Kadeejah Vaughn	11	SF
11	Adajhawa Russ	11	PF
13	Miah Spencer	10	SG
14	Hope Kelly	12	C
20	Akilah Haynes	10	SG
23	Zuri Frost	11	SG
25	Ebony Johnson	11	SF
30	Ariel Walker	10	SG
32	Yaktavia Hickson	9	SF
33	Jasmine Clemmons	11	SG
42	Shaundricka Man	10	PF
45	Christina Gamble	12	PF



# AAA PREVIEWS

#### **BOYS**

#### EAGLES LANDING VS. COLUMBIA

The Eagles Landing Golden Eagles (26-4) face the Columbia Eagles (28-3) with the winner advancing to the state finals for a chance at the Class AAA state title.

Columbia, the defending champs, comes into the game having handled Troup 64-33 in the quarterfinals. In fact, the Eagles' road through the tournament so far has not been very challenging, as coach Phillip McCrary's boys began the playoffs with a 91-38 victory over Heritage-Catoosa, and then held off West Hall 68-52 in the second round.

The Region 5-AAA champs, who have not lost a region contest since the 2007-08 region title game to Stone Mountain, will face a much tougher test in the semifinal round in the form of fellow region champion Eagles Landing.

After beating Drew 63-56 in the final game of the regular season to win the Region 4-AAA title, the Golden Eagles have successfully navigated the first three rounds of the tournament starting with a 62-47 win over Howard in the opening round.

Coach Clay Crump's boys defeated Crisp County 73-62 in the round of 16 then survived a test against Washington County 52-49 in the Elite Eight.

If Columbia wins the semifinal matchup and advances to the title game, they would have a shot at being the first back-to-back champions in the classification since Dunwoody won the 2004-05 and 2005-06 titles. The Eagles also won state titles in 2006 and 2008, with both coming at the Class AAAA level.

The Eagles almost made it to the state championship game in the 2009 playoffs, but fell to eventual champion South Atlanta in the semifinals. The two teams have not met before as Columbia recently moved to Class AAA from Class AAAA at the beginning of the 2008-09 season.

Eagles Landing is dealing with playoff success for the first time, as the Golden Eagles had never won a playoff game before this year.

#### BUTLER VS. FRANKLIN CO.

The Butler Bulldogs (24-7) will face the Franklin County Lions (25-5) in the boys Class AAA semifinals. The matchup will feature two region champions in the form of Region 3-AAA champion Butler and the Region 8-AAA champion Lions.

Both teams came into the tournament as No. 1 seeds and have not disappointed. After starting this season 6-5, Franklin County reeled off 13 straight victories to end the regular season, then won the region tournament with a tough 49-48 victory over West Hall.

Coach Harry Marsh's team then began the state tournament with a 65-57 win over last year's runner-up, LaGrange. The Lions then defeated Woodward Academy 63-55 in the second round, and toughed out a 64-54 win over Carrollton in the quarterfinals.

The Lions have qualified for the state tournament the last four years, but did not get past the second round during that time. The Lions' last two playoff runs were ended by region foe North Hall, who did not make the playoffs this year.

Coach Cervantes Boddy of Butler, the Central Savannah River Area coach of the year, ended a streak of four consecutive losing seasons for the Bulldogs, and put his school back in the playoffs for the first time since the 2005-06 season.

The Bulldogs are led by senior forward Chris Washington, the Region 3-AAA basketball player of the year. Washington is one of six seniors on Butler's depth chart, while the Lions boast five. Franklin County will have a hard time handling the 6-foot-7 Washington, who scored the 1,000th point of his high school career this season.

Boddy's squad also features sophomore center Isaiah Williams, who at 6-foot-6 gives the Bulldogs some added depth in the front court.

Butler opened the tournament with a 51-48 win over Dougherty then pummeled Peach County 77-43 in the second round. The Bulldogs then handled Drew's surprising basketball program 54-47 to punch their ticket to the semifinals.

By Score Atlanta's Drew Collins

#### **GIRLS**

#### **CRISP CO. YS. DALTON**

Crisp County (15-14) has continued its improbable run through the 2010-2011 Georgia state basketball playoffs with a 37-35 victory over region foe Westover. Westover beat the Lady Cougars three times this season, including eliminating them in the Region 1-AAA semifinal tournament en route to their region title, but came up short when it mattered most.

After finishing the regular season fifth in their region, with a losing record, coach Molly Speir's girls beat Americus-Sumter 57-55 in the opening round of the region tournament to qualify for the state playoffs.

As a third seed, the Lady Cougars beat Grovetown 67-65 in the opening round of the playoffs, then handled Rutland 67-46 in the second round before beating Westover.

Led by freshman center Nasheema Oliver (6-foot-3) and shooting guard Kayla Green (5-foot-8) off the bench, the Lady Cougars have put together an inside-out offense that has been almost impossible to stop the last third of the season.

"We turned it up at just the right time," says coach Speir. "We played some good teams, and our region is very tough. We've had some stiff competition, [but] we just kept working and things came together in the end [of the season], when every coach kind of wants that to happen. That's when we've been playing our best basketball, here at the end of the season."

With such a young team, it has been Green, a freshman, who has become a leader on the team despite not starting, but Speir is quick to point out that the girls have really come together as a team and gotten the job done.

Meanwhile, No. 1 seed and Region 7-AAA champion Dalton (31-0) comes into the semifinals undefeated after handling powerhouse St. Pius X 50-36 in the third round.

The Catamounts began the playoffs with a 66-39 win over Washington then defeated 2008-09 champion Carrollton, 57-38 in the second round.

#### **W**ASHINGTON CO. YS. COLUMBIA

Defending Class AAA champion Columbia (24-6) will play Washington County (30-0) for the right to advance to the state championship game.

The Lady Eagles have made the playoffs all three years since making the move from Class AAAA to Class AAA before the 2008-09 basketball season. They lost in the third round to Carrollton in the 2009 playoffs, and beating Carver-Atlanta last season in the title game.

If Columbia were to beat Washington County this Friday then beat the Crisp County-Dalton winner in the title game, they would be the first girls team to win back-to-back Class AAA titles since Gainesville won championships in the 2002-03 and 2003-04 seasons.

That could be a tall order though. Head coach Chantay Frost's girls came into the playoffs as a two seed after losing the Region 5-AAA championship game to St. Pius X 43-40.

The Lady Eagles responded well though, beating Allatoona 58-35 in the opening round. They then went on to beat Central-Carroll 64-32 and Cartersville 65-35 in the quarterfinals for an average margin of victory of 28 points.

Meanwhile, Region 3-AAA champion Washington County stands in their way. The top-seeded Lady Golden Hawks are coming off a close, 67-63 win over Butler in the third round.

Coach Sug Parker's team breezed through the first two rounds of the tournament, handling Americus-Sumter 79-42 in the opening contest and beating Sandy Creek 56-34 in the second round.

Washington County endured some disappointing seasons before Parker arrived in 2008. However, the Golden Hawks have made the playoffs every year during Parker's tenure, making it to the second round in 2009 and 2010.

The game could very well be decided in the paint, as both teams feature a lot of experience and size in the front court. For example, Washington County boasts five seniors, three of which play down low, while Columbia will have two seniors on the blocks.

By Score Atlanta's Drew Collins



# **AA TEAM ROSTERS**

#### **BOYS**

#### Laney Wildcats Red & Gray • 3-AA Head Coach: Jerry Hunter

No.	Name	Gr.	Pos.
1	Rod Hall	12	SF
3	Darren Bovian	12	PG
5	Raheem Newton	11	PG
11	Jamie West	11	SG
12	Raven Rodriquez	11	PF
15	Latron Hunter	12	PF
21	Corinthian Brown	12	PF
22	Jadorvis Davis	11	SG
24	Rodriguez Harris	12	PG

#### Buford Wolves Green, Gold & White • 6-AA Head Coach: Allen Whitehart

No.	Name	Gr.	Pos.
00	Chip Snellings	11	PF
1	Eric Barr	12	SG
2	Alex Flagler	12	PG
3	Coby Durden	10	SF
4	Jamal English	12	PG
5	Alton Grose	11	SF
11	Kyle Kellam	11	PG
12	Zac Lynn	12	SG
13	Shaq Gates	12	PF
15	T. J. Shipes	11	C
20	Payton Wehunt	11	SG
21	Jake Burnette	12	SF
23	Xavier Cunningham	11	PF
33	Dillon Lee	11	PF
44	Nick Mitchell	12	SF

#### Swainsboro Tigers Black & Gold • 3-AA Head Coach: Leroy Jordan

No.	Name	Gr.	Pos.
00	Johnnie Lane, Jr	11	PG
04	Shaquille Cowart	11	PG
05	Fabian Maples	12	PG
10	Lynquez Blair	12	SG
11	Trivial Green	12	SG
20	Lonnie Gibbons	11	PF
22	Armani Moore	11	SG
25	Demenquez Badie	12	SG
30	Devin Leach	12	SG
35	Marquise Sherrod	10	SF
40	Eric Worthen	12	PF
44	Maurice Strong	12	PF
45	Jacari McCrae	11	SF
50	Laharold Lott	12	SF
55	Larry Adams	11	PF

#### Greater Atlanta Christian Spartans Red & Gold • 6-AA Head Coach: Eddie Martin

No.	Name	Gr.	Pos.
3	AJ Davis	10	PF
4	Paul Dawson	12	PG
5	Collin Swinton	10	PG
10	Cole Hobbs	11	SG
14	Kyle Scales	10	PG
20	Morgan Ingram	12	SG
22	Malcolm Brogdon	12	SG
32	Trent Boyd	12	C
33	Elan Joseph	11	SF
34	Robert Armstrong	11	C
43	Andrew Lewis	10	C
44	Taylor Spann	11	PF

#### **GIRLS**

#### Northeast, Macon Raiders Red, Black & Gold • 4-AA Head Coach: Alvin Copeland

No.	Name	Gr.	Pos.
10	Taneshia West	11	PG
11	Rayna Porter	9	PG
14	Re'Nya Curtis	11	SG
15	Cyler Ward	12	PG
21	Maria Bond	12	SF
22	Samyra Millard	10	SG
23	Jerryshia Williams	11	SG
25	Kianna McElroy	9	SG
30	Kinisha McElroy	10	SF
31	Amber Woodford	11	SG
32	Jasmine Curry	11	SF
41	Fanetta Ricks	11	PF

#### Greater Atlanta Christian Spartans Red & Gold • 6-AA Head Coach: Cal Boyd

No.	Name	Gr.	Pos.
1	Sydney Means	9	PG
4	Shannon Cranshaw	10	SG
10	Olivia Thomas	10	SG
11	Jasmine Hill	10	SF
12	Christine Young	12	SG
13	Brianna Cummings	9	SF
15	Celine Tally	11	SG
20	Chandler Alverson	12	PG
23	Siera Lawrence	11	SG
24	CiCi Buford	10	SF
33	Meghan Mitchell	10	PF
50	Kristina Nelson	10	C

#### Laney Wildcats Red & Gray • 3-AA Head Coach: Otis Smart

No.	Name	Gr.	Pos.
1	Dekoya Mack	11	PG
3	Yasmine Coleman	10	PG
5	Shaneal Simpson	12	SG
10	Mykala Jones	12	SG
11	Katice Williams	11	PG
12	LaRobin Carter	12	SF
13	Khadijah Cave	10	PF
15	Vanessa Newton	11	PF
20	Chelsea Maultsby	11	C
21	Shaquila Johnson	12	SF
23	Jermika Gibson	11	PG
24	Zyterria Porter	12	SF
25	Simmone Smith	10	PF
30	Tynequa Martin	11	PF
31	Ciara Morris	12	SF
34	Chasity Maultsby	11	C
50	Danielle Mack	11	PF

#### Buford Wolves Green, Gold & White • 6-AA Head Coach: Gene Durden

No.	Name	Gr.	Pos.
1	Maya Dillard	10	PG
2	Joyclyn Kinsey	12	SG
3	Kaela Davis	10	SG
4	Andraya Carter	11	PG
10	Maggie Walsh	10	
11	Hannah Manley	10	PF
12	Karly Fullem	12	PF
14	MacKenzie Darrah	10	PF
22	Kat Tatum	10	C
23	Sheresse Williams	12	Č
34	Constance Harrison	12	SF
44	Shareka Peeples	12	C
50	JaQwannia Brown	11	PF



# AA PREVIEWS

#### BOYS

#### **BUFORD YS. LANEY**

Surprises were few and far between throughout the first two rounds of the Class AA state tournament, but Buford pulled off a shocker in the quarterfinals. The Wolves, who had not made it to state since 2007, stunned Region 6-AA rival and highly-ranked South Atlanta 47-44. Buford had lost to the Hornets by 19 points during the regular season and by 13 points in the region semifinals.

Buford (23-8) appears to be playing its best basketball—and certainly its most clutch basketball—at just the right time. The team's upset of South Atlanta was preceded by a 64-62 thriller against Kendrick in round two. It has won four in a row and seven of eight, having upended Decatur in the region third-place game prior to a 64-43 rout of Rabun County in the state opener.

Leading the way for the Wolves is Alex Flagler, who scored a game-high 16 points against South Atlanta. He drained a three-pointer with eight seconds remaining and his team trailing 44-43. Kyle Kellam, T.J. Shipes and Zac Lynn are also key components of a Buford team that prides itself on aggressive defense.

Buford will have to pull off another scalp of a highly-ranked opponent if it wants to reach the title game. Laney's only loss this season came in the Region 3-AA championship to Swainsboro, which had lost to the Wildcats twice during the regular season. Laney, however, has bounced back nicely with a trio of state tournament victories over Cook (51-32), Tattnall County (67-58) and Lamar County (75-52).

The Wildcats (29-1) are making their second consecutive semifinal appearance, having lost to a different Region 6-AA foe—Greater Atlanta Christian—in 2010. This season they are paced by Corinthians Brown, Rod Hall and Jamie West. Brown poured in 25 points in the quarterfinal win over Lamar County while Hall scored 21. Like Buford, though, Laney is a defensive-minded team that converts turnovers into points.

#### GAC vs. Swainsboro

There is no debate over which two regions are best in Class AA, as both semifinal matchups pit Region 3-AA against Region 6-AA. The most unlikely one of the foursome has to be Swainsboro, which is sending head coach Leroy Jordan out in style. Jordan is retiring after 23 seasons, but his exit will not come before what has already been a memorable postseason run.

The Tigers (19-7) did not advance to the state tournament in 2010 and, for much of this year, it looked like they could be spiraling toward another early exit. Jordan and company were 13-7 heading into the playoffs and survived a close one, 58-53 against Dodge County, in their region opener. Ever since, however, it has been full steam ahead for Swainsboro. The Tigers upset Laney 82-69 to capture the region title and has taken out Early County (67-51), Vidalia (72-58) and Thomasville (74-71) en route to the state semis.

Swainsboro's surge has been led by Armani Moore, Lynquez Blair, Maurice Strong and Devin Leach. Strong controls the paint for the Tigers. He dominated with 16 points and 22 rebounds in the double-overtime win over Thomasville.

If the Cinderella ride is to continue, Laney will have to take down the defending champion. Greater Atlanta Christian, which beat Thomasville 77-65 in last year's title game, is making its third-straight trip to the semifinals. The Spartans (26-5) had no trouble reaching this point, dismissing Elbert County (66-45), Jordan (69-47) and East Hall (65-52) all with relative ease. They have won 13 in a row, including a 68-54 victory over South Atlanta in the Region 6-AA final. While GAC has five losses, only one is to an in-state team, and that was dealt to them by nationally-ranked Milton, the No. 1 team in Class AAAAA.

Despite some injuries, a veteran core that features Malcolm Brogdon, Paul Dawson and A.J. Davis has kept GAC afloat. Brogdon, a Virginia signee, delivered 33 points and 19 rebounds in the East Hall game.

By Score Atlanta's Ricky Dimon

#### **GIRLS**

#### GAC vs. Northeast-Macon

Greater Atlanta Christian is bidding for its first state title since 2007 as it takes the court at the Macon Centreplex this weekend. If the progression of the last three seasons is any indication, the Spartans are at least in line for their third state title appearance since 2006. They lost in the second round in 2008, advanced to the quarterfinals one season later and reached the semis last year.

GAC is currently playing like it wants more than just another semifinal appearance. Bouncing back nicely from a loss to Buford in the Region 6-AA final, the Spartans have been hammering opponents during the state tournament. They handled Union County 60-42 in round one, rolled over Calhoun 56-35 in their second contest and overwhelmed top-ranked Kendrick 60-36 in the quarterfinals. The Spartans (24-7) are one of the youngest teams in the state, but freshman Brianna Cummings and 6-foot-3 sophomore Kristina Nelson are making sure that the program is only getting better and better. Northeast-Macon, meanwhile, relies heavily upon the terrific backcourt duo of Jerryshia Williams and Cyler Ward.

While not overly dominant, the Raiders (27-3) know a thing or two about winning close games — a vital ingredient to postseason success. Following a 53-30 first-round destruction of Jeff Davis, they squeaked by Dublin 43-41. Northeast then pulled away from Dodge County in the final minutes for a 47-40 quarterfinal triumph. The team also avenged an early-season loss to Morgan County by edging the Bulldogs 68-67 in the Region 4-AA championship game. Making their first semifinal appearance since 2002, the Raiders will have a home-court advantage of sorts, as the Centreplex is just minutes away from their school campus.

On paper, this has all the makings of a blockbuster matchup. Don't be fooled by GAC's seven losses; the Spartans have suffered only two setbacks at the hands of Class AA competition and both came to Buford (they also beat the Wolves once during the regular season). Combined, GAC and Northeast have just two losses to Class AA opponents this entire season.

#### **B**UFORD VS. LANEY

Buford and Laney are squaring off in the Class AA semifinals for a third consecutive year. The Wolves dominated each of the previous two meetings, 68-42 in 2009 and 62-49 in 2010. They followed up each victory by winning the state title, crushing Model two years ago and taking care of Vidalia last season.

The two-time defending champions did not have any trouble making a return trip to the semifinals. Buford opened with a 55-41 win over East Hall, doubled-up Heard County 72-36 in round two and thrashed Rabun County 67-28 in the quarters. The Wolves (27-3), who won the Region 6-AA tournament, are in the midst of an eight-game winning streak.

Nobody in Class AA, though, is as hot as Laney right now. The Wildcats (29-1) are riding a 28-game winning streak and they are undefeated this season against in-state competition. Their only loss came way back on Nov. 23 to a team from Dutch Fork, S.C. After falling in the Region 3-AA championship game last season, Laney took the title this time around by blasting Dodge County 74-55. It has been smooth sailing for the Wildcats in the state tournament. After a 74-22 opening-round rout of Albany, they made similar work of Tattnall County with 91-31 romp. Laney had won 25 of its past 26 games by double figures heading into a quarterfinal showdown against Morgan County, but barely got past the Bulldogs 71-67.

Laney features a balanced attack that includes guard Mykala Jones, who scored 13 points in the quarterfinal victory. Sharpshooter DeKoya Mack provides a nice compliment to post players Simone Smith and Ciara Morris for the Wildcats. Buford has been led all season long by Kaela Davis and Andraya Carter. Davis scored 24 points in the quarterfinal victory over Rabun County while Carter contributed 13 points and seven rebounds. The Wolves also boast a formidable defense, which forced 26 turnovers against Rabun County.

By Score Atlanta's Ricky Dimon



# A TEAM ROSTERS

#### BOYS

#### Greenville Patriots Red, White & Blue • 4-A Head Coach: Richard Carter

No.	Name	Gr.	Pos.
1	Lavionta Slaton	10	SF
2	Kentavious Caldwell-Pope	12	SG
3	Willie Bailey	12	SG
4	Jeremy Harris	12	SG
5	Jamil McKee	10	PG
10	Lamarcus Tenney	11	PG
11	Jonterrious Parham	10	PG
12	Tedric McGill	12	SF
14	Kanaan Patterson	12	SG
23	Mario Alford	12	PG
24	Corrion Bray	12	SG

#### Wilkinson County Warriors Blue & Gold • 7-A Head Coach: Aaron Geter, Jr.

No.	Name	Gr.	Pos.
00	Nick Whipple	12	SG
1	Montel Smith	11	PG
10	David Whipple	12	PG
11	Jereme McCormick	11	SG
12	Quentrell Williams	12	PG
15	Tevin Underwood	11	SG
21	Vashone Jones	12	SG
23	Ramhad Thomas	12	SG
24	Alvin Dupree	12	SF
30	Rontez Shinholster	12	SG
31	Quan Renfroe	12	SF
33	Devontage Drayton	12	SG
40	Martavious Jones	12	SG
42	Jarvis Williams	12	PF

#### Terrell County Greenwaves Green & Gold • 1-A Head Coach: John Davis

No.	Name	Gr.	Pos.
10	Margez Dotson	12	SG
12	Latray Buchanan	10	PG
21	Charles Brown	12	SF
22	Terel Hall	12	PG
23	Osmond Lemons	10	SF
24	Brian Browner	12	SF
25	Deshone Watson	11	SG
30	Dekoven Ware	11	PF
32	Jevonte' Peters	12	PG
33	Corderious Grier	11	SG
34	Raython Cooper	10	SF
40	Adrian Gardner	12	PF
43	Joseph Ward	9	PF
44	Elliot Harvey	12	PF
45	Rakeem Spencer	10	PF

#### Whitefield Academy Wolfpack Navy & Vegas Gold • 9-A Head Coach: Tyrone Johnson

No.	Name	Gr.	Pos.
1	Khalen Pinkett	9	SG
2	Chris Wingate	10	PG
3	Jordan Coar	11	PG
4	Kris Martin	10	PG
5	Kennard Backman	12	PF
12	Eric Lockett	9	SF
15	Berto Dryden	9	PG
21	Gerald Render	11	SG
23	Kenneth Gaines	11	SG
32	Tekele Cotton	12	PG
35	Braelen Philips	9	PF
40	Jacob Southerland	11	C

#### **GIRLS**

## Calvary Day Cavaliers Purple & Gold • 3-A Head Coach: Jackie Hamilton

No.	Name	Gr.	Pos.
1	Kare Badger	11	SG
10	Caroline Burk	11	PG
12	Kelsey Elllis	11	SF
21	Ashleigh Hensley	11	SF
25	Betsy Sutton	9	PF
32	Morgan Elrod	11	SF
33	Sarah Hamilton	10	PF
35	Rachel LeGear	11	PG
42	Taylor Baham	10	C

# Wesleyan Wolves Green, Gold & White • 5-A Head Coach: Jan Azar

No.	Name	Gr.	Pos.
2	Catherine Cropper	11	PF
3	Katie Frerking	10	SG
4	Grace Leah Baughn	12	SG
5	Brittany Stevens	10	PG
10	Elise Abernathy	11	SG
12	Jordan Frazier	11	PG
15	Landyn Duley	9	SG
21	Joshlyn Belcher	9	SG
22	Kendra Talley	10	PF
23	Taylor Blackmon	10	PG
32	Holli Wilkins	11	PF
33	Keevana Edwards	9	C
34	Missy Byrd	11	SG
44	Kaelyn Causwell	11	PF
55	Cara Mia Tsirigos	10	C

# Turner County Rebels Orange & Blue • 2-A Head Coach: Sherri M. Harris

No.	Name	Gr.	Pos.
1	Kadriana Howard	12	PG
3	Jazmin King	12	PG
10	Shameke Brown	11	SF
11	Zenia Coley	10	SG
20	Shabreka Edwards	11	PF
24	Keisha Cross	12	PF
32	Antania Graddic	10	C

# Pace Academy Knights Navy, White & Columbia Blue • 5-A Head Coach: Regina Tate

No.	Name	Gr.	Pos.
11	Haley Zwecker	11	PG
15	McKenzie Berezin	12	SG
20	Claire Quintrell	11	SF
21	Evelyn Hobbs	9	PG
22	Kaitlyn Dinkins	12	SG
23	Katie Williamson	9	PF
25	Morgan Batey	11	SG
32	Sarah Patterson	12	SG
33	Danielle Kerker	12	SF
34	Lindsey Zwecker	10	C
41	Alex Bussev	9	PF



# A PREVIEWS

#### **BOYS**

#### WILKINSON CO. VS. GREENVILLE

Wilkinson County is in the semifinals after failing to reach this point last season. Over the last two seasons they are 55-1, including a perfect 26-0 record this year. Senior forward Jarvis Williams powered the Warriors to victory in the quarterfinals, leading the way to an 85-70 win over Pace Academy with 30 points and 18 rebounds off the bench. At 6-foot-7, Williams is the tallest Warrior and will be a challenge to defend. Junior shooting guard Jerome McCormick pitched in a double-double with 18 points and 10 rebounds for the Warriors. The 15-point victory over Pace was the closest for Wilkinson County in the tournament as it has beaten their opponents by an average of 25 points in the first three rounds. Wilkinson County returns to Macon for the first time since 2007, when the Warriors won the state championship.

Greenville made it to the semifinals after narrowly defeating Wilcox County 77-75 in the quarterfinals. Senior guard Willie Bailey, assisted by senior point guard Mario Alford (a Georgia Southern signee), hit the game-winning layup in the final seconds to seal the win for the Patriots (27-3). Senior shooting guard Kentavious Caldwell-Pope, a University of Georgia basketball signee, led all scorers in the game with 40 points and snagged eight rebounds. The 6-foot-6-inch guard drained six 3-pointers in the victory against Wilcox County and will play a pivotal role in the semifinal. Greenville comes into this matchup on a roll after winning 22 straight contests. Only four of those wins came by single digits; all of the other games were blowouts with the margin of victory about 17 points through the tournament. The Patriots are a strong defensive squad that regularly holds opponents under 50 points. The 75 points given up to Wilcox County was the most since Feb. 12, when Greenville allowed 71 in a victory against Chattahoochee County.

#### WHITEFIELD ACADEMY VS. TERRELL CO.

Whitefield Academy is back in the semifinals for the third year in a row, the fifth time in six years and their eighth appearance overall. The Wolfpack (28-3) are vying for a chance to win their second state championship since 2009. The No. 1 seed out of Region 9 has cruised through the first three rounds of the tournament, winning by an average of 25.3 points. Senior guard Tekele Cotton scored 24 points and senior forward Kennard Backman scored 23 points in the 86-59 win over North Cobb Christian in the quarterfinals. The duo represent the only seniors on the team and will be counted on again in the semifinal matchup. The Wolfpack overcame 20 turnovers in the victory, something head coach Tyrone Johnson may have his team work on before they take on the Greenwave, who forced 23 turnovers in their quarterfinal victory.

Terrell County has had a fairly easy trip to the semifinals themselves. In three tournament games, the Greenwave (26-3) won each by an average of 11 points. They have now won nine straight games coming into the semis. Junior forward Dekoven Ware, the tallest starter for the team at 6-foot, led the Waves with 14 points and eight rebounds in the 59-49 win over Turner County in the quarter-finals. Point guard Terel Hall chipped in with 17 points and six steals in the victory and is one of seven seniors on the squad. Terrell County will be looking for revenge against Whitefield Academy, who beat them in last year's controversial semifinal, which was decided in overtime after four of Terrell County's starters fouled out. Blackman scored 21 points in the contest last year.

The matchup on paper is very even with Whitefield Academy averaging 71.2 points per game to Terrell's 71.7. The Wolfpack hold the defensive edge keeping opponents under 50 points per game on the season, slightly less than the Greenwave's 52.7 points per game.

By Score Atlanta's Joe Deighton and Jack Morbitzer

#### **GIRLS**

#### CALVARY DAY VS. WESLEYAN

Calvary Day (28-3) defeated Charlton County 71-66 and then Seminole County 50-45 to advance to the semifinals. The Lady Cavaliers have been a surprise since their 70-57 loss to Bryan County in the Region 3-A championship, which kept them from earning a top seed. Junior forward Kelsey Ellis led the way for Calvary Day in the quarterfinals with a game-high 20 points, 15 of which came in the first half against the Lady Indians. No other Calvary Day player scored in double-digits in the win. The Lady Cavs made the quarterfinals last year but fell to Savannah Christian. To get to the finals, they will have to upset the perennial power Wesleyan Lady Wolves, who want to continue their own title run.

Wesleyan (29-2) has dominated Class A since moving from Class AA in 2009, and have proved themselves as one of the top programs not only in Class A, but in all of GHSA girls basketball. They have won seven championships in nine years (four came in AA) and are going for their fourth straight title this year. The Lady Wolves have had an easy road to the semifinals, allowing just 34 points per game and winning each by an average margin of 48 points. In the quarterfinal victory over Gordon Lee, a 78-43 demolition, the Lady Wolves drained 11 shots from behind the arc to clinch their way to the semis for the 10th time in 11 years. The only senior on the roster, shooting guard Grace Leah Baughn, scored nine points and had six rebounds in the win over Gordon Lee, but four other Lady Wolves scored in double-digits. Ranked No. 22 nationally by ESPN, the only two losses for Wesleyan came back-to-back in December against No. 11 Spring Valley (S.C.) and a one-point loss to Norcross. On the season, the Lady Wolves have held opponents to roughly 38 points per game while averaging 71 of their own.

#### TURNER CO. VS. PACE ACADEMY

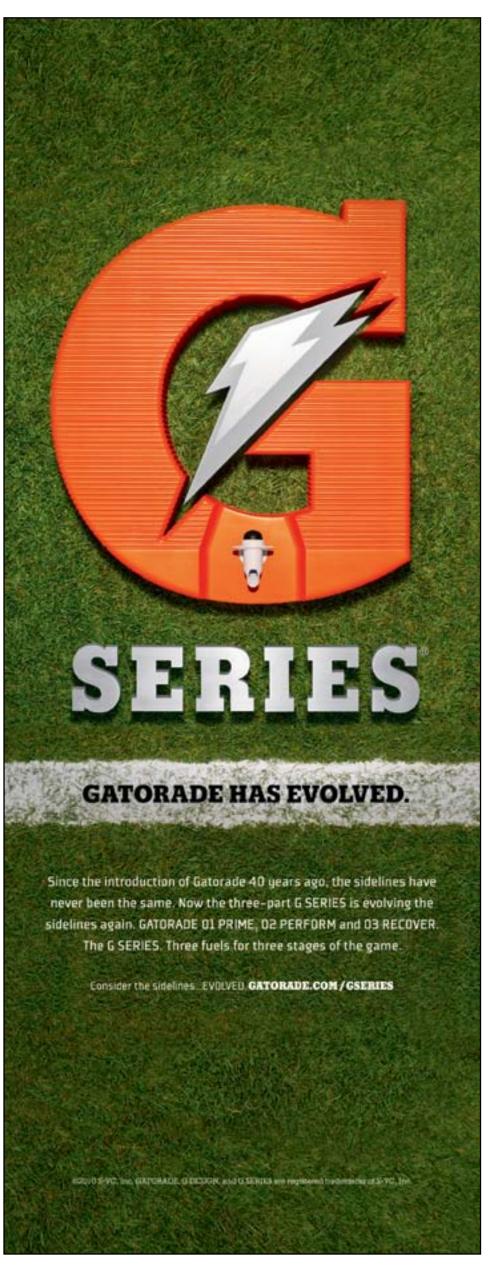
Turner County (24-6) is not a team that scores a lot of points, but they get the job done. That was never more evident than in the Lady Rebels' 39-34 win over Wilcox County in the quarterfinals. Junior forward Shabreka Edwards had a teamhigh 10 points and 10 rebounds to lead the way to the semifinals. Senior point guard Jazmin King leads the Lady Rebels in 3-pointers made, oddly it was just her fourth of the season that propelled them into the next round. Turner County has gritted its way to the semifinals by averaging 45 points per game while giving up an average of just 38 points. The Lady Rebels are 15-1 in their last 16 games, but have only scored above 60 twice. In that stretch, Turner County has allowed opponents to score more than 40 points just three times. The Lady Rebels did not make the state tournament last year and are making a run this season, but, in Pace Academy, they meet a team also trying to continue its recent success.

Pace Academy has scored more points than Turner County throughout the tournament, but have been challenged just as much. The Lady Knights (26-5) played their way into the tournament by winning the preliminary matchup and have continued their hot streak when they pulled out a 63-60 win in double overtime against St. Francis to advance to the semifinals. The win avenged a loss in the second round of the state playoffs last season. Against St. Francis, junior Morgan Batey hit a buzzer-beating three at the end of regulation to force overtime. She finished with a game-high 24 points in leading the Lady Knights to the win, while senior shooting guards Kaitlyn Dinkins and Sarah Patterson each had 12 points. Pace Academy has won 11 out of 12 coming into this game on their Cinderella run to the semifinals.

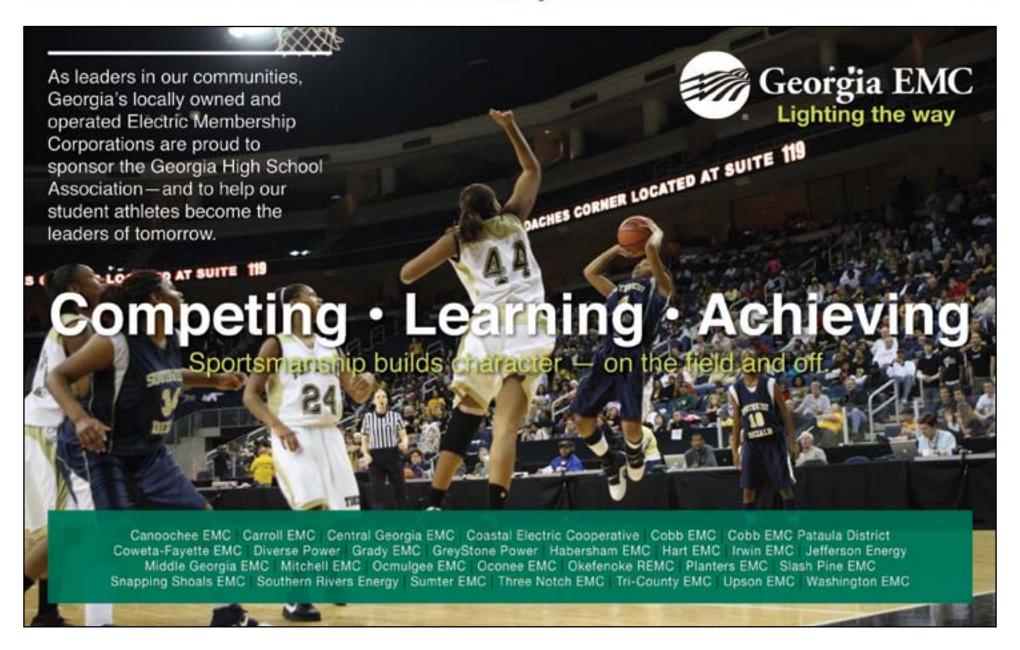
By Score Atlanta's Joe Deighton and Jack Morbitzer













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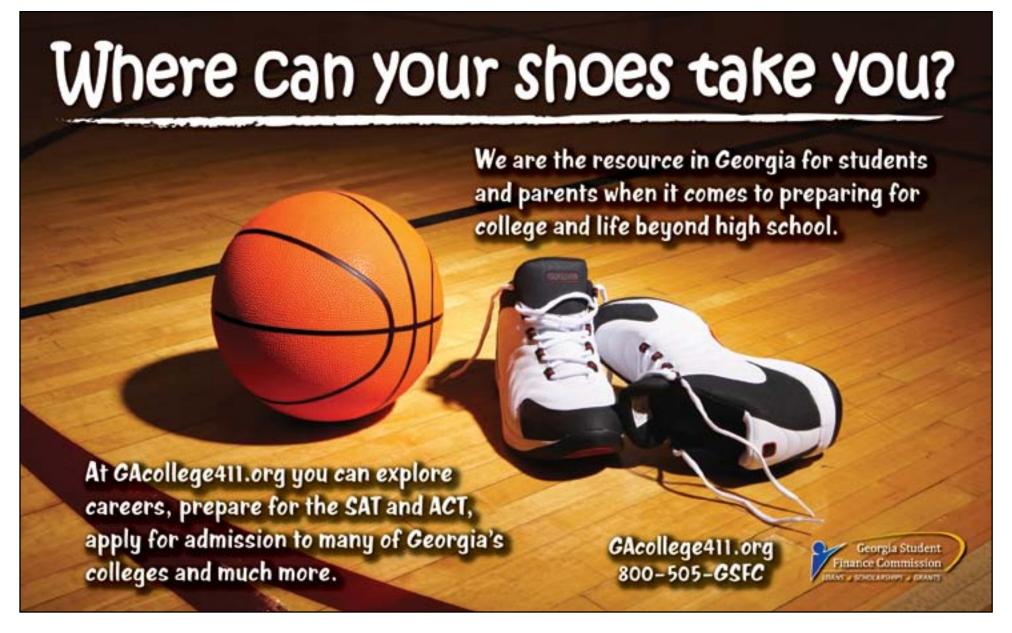




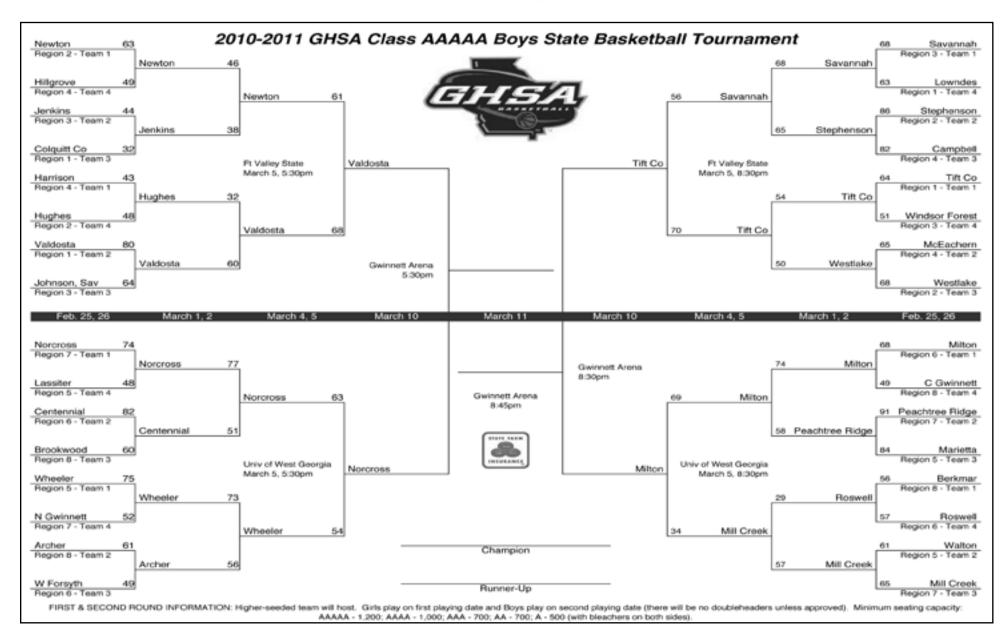


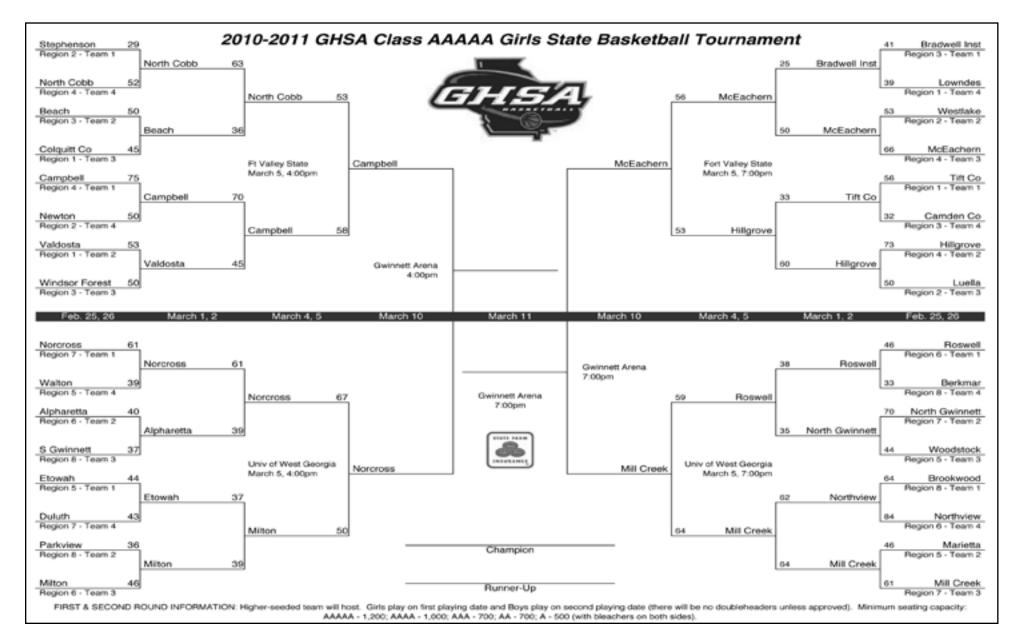


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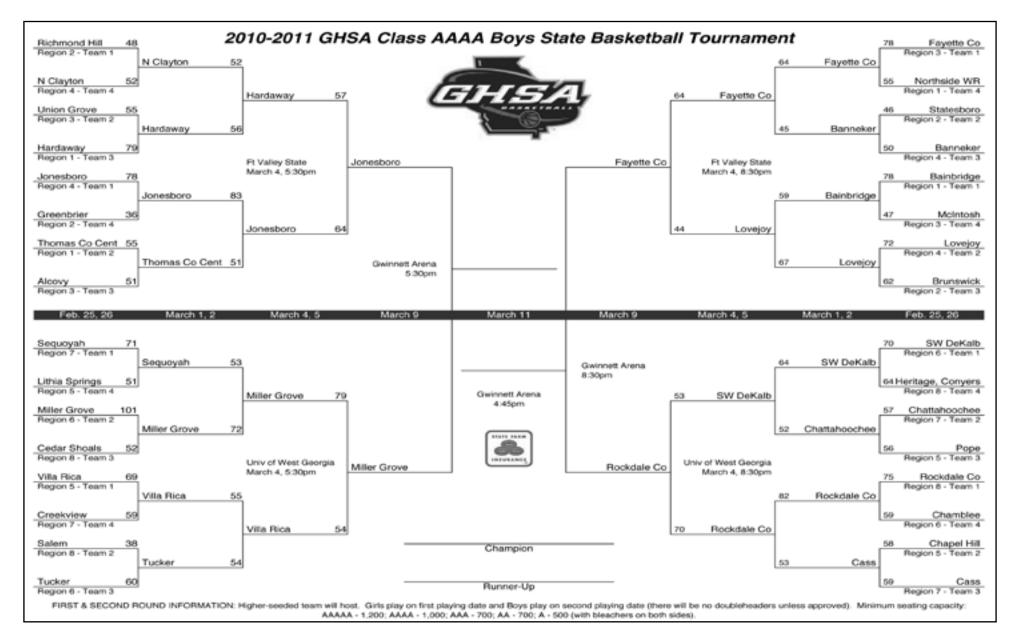


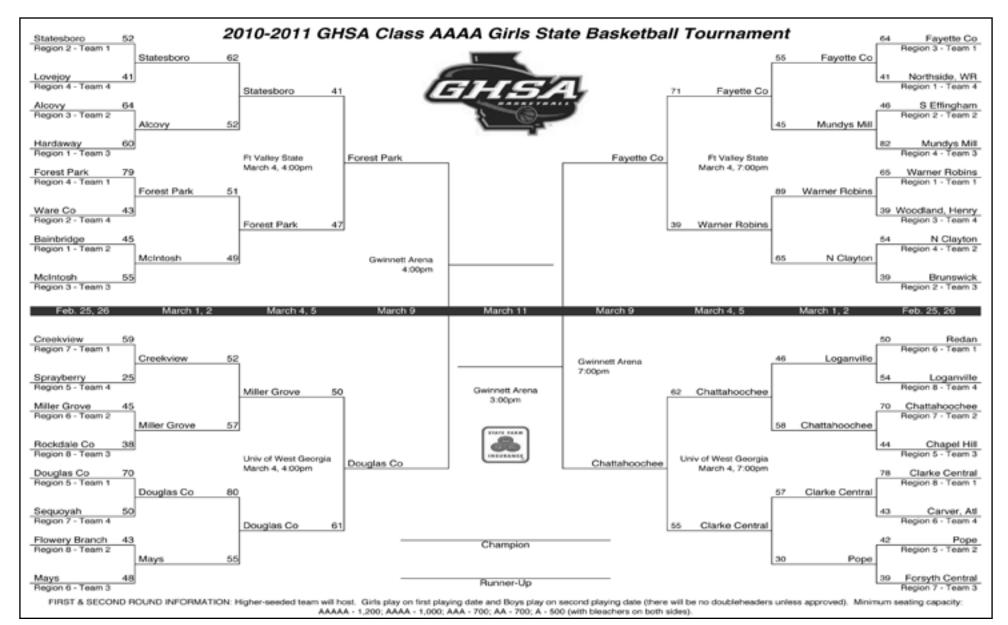




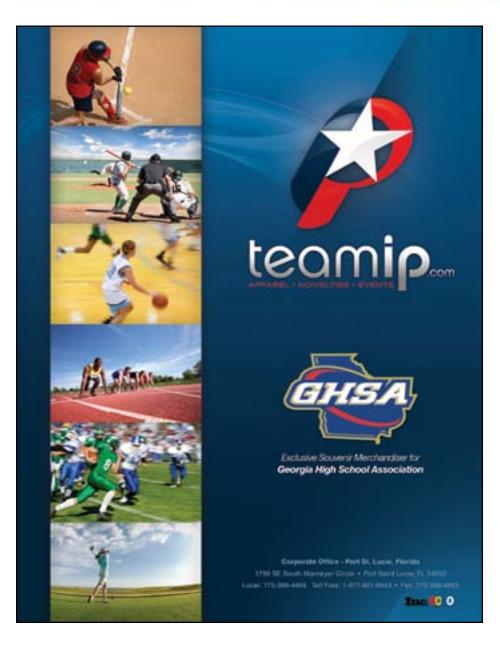




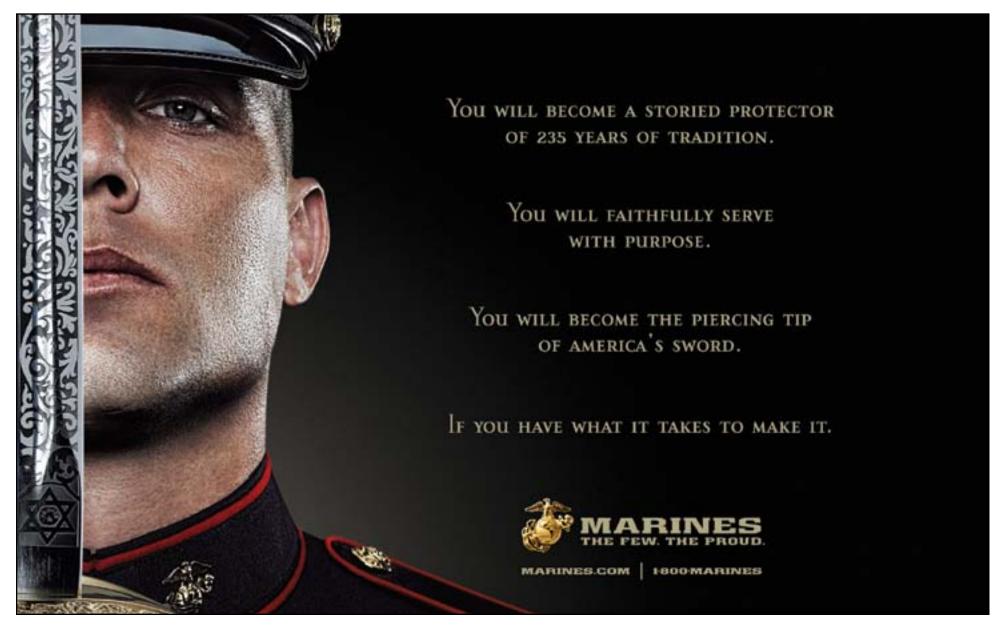




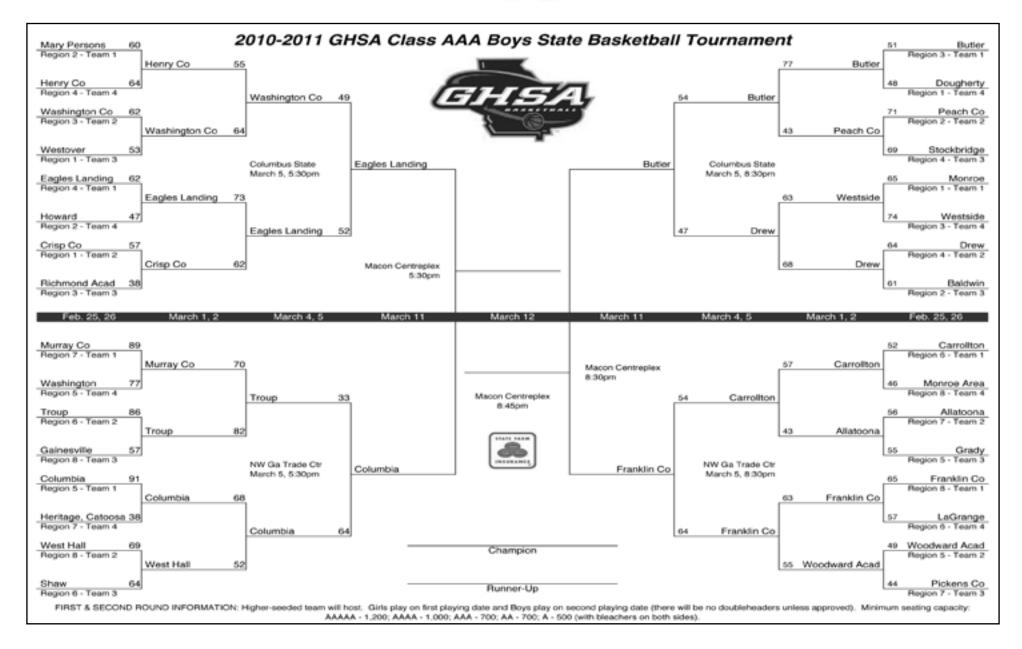


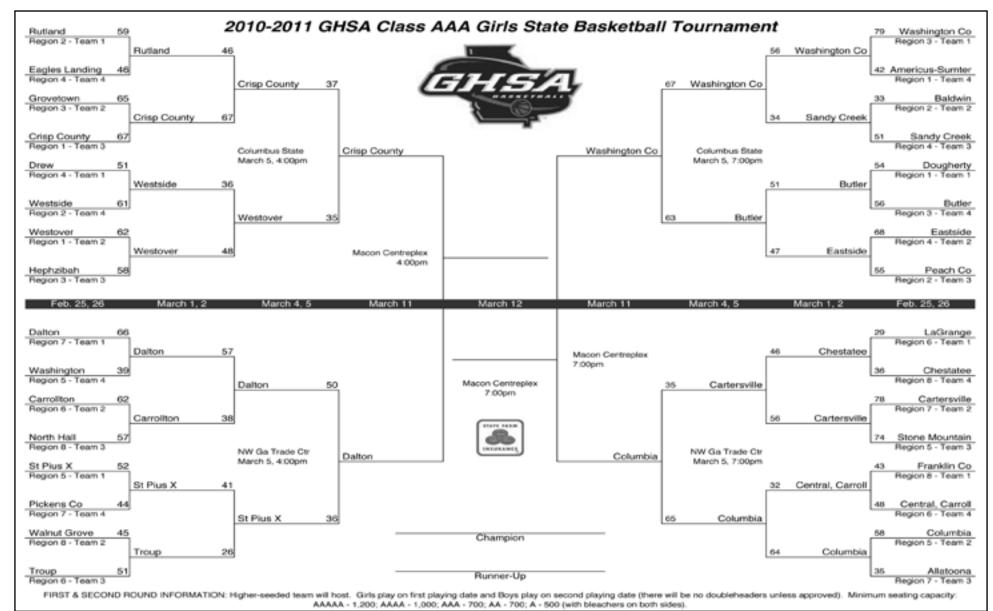














# HOOPS HISTORY

#### Milton boys latest in long line of dominant Georgia high school basketball teams

The rich got richer.

**SCOUTING REPORT ...** 

The Milton attack is

headed by Shannon Scott,

a dominating point guard

who, at 6-foot-2, can see the

floor well and has enough

The Milton Eagles, 2010 Class AAAAA boys champion, returned nearly all of their roster intact, having lost zero seniors, and even added a huge piece off of the bench to give the Milton faithful hope of a mythical national championship. Despite two losses early in the season, Milton is still the top-ranked team in the state's highest classification and is also ranked in the top five of several national polls as the team enters the 2011 GHSA state semifinals. The Eagles boast six players with Division I offers and a coach with five state titles. Milton has to be considered one of the best collections of talent ever to be assembled in the history of Georgia high school basketball but are they THE best ever?

break them down. ESPN.com's recruiting service has him receiving a grade of 96 and calls him "an excellent floor general (who) does a good job of running the team."

Scott is headed to Ohio State, where he should slide right up the list of top point guards during Thad Matta's tenure with the Buckeyes. The senior has been hailed as the top college prospect in the state of Georgia by Score Atlanta and GPB recruiting expert Scott Janovitz, who likes Scott's ability to glide to the hoop and his nice mid-range game. He also has a size advantage over nearly every defender he sees matching up against him. Scott will play in the McDonald's All-American game on March 30.

Who does Scott dump the ball to once the offense is initiated? For starters, how about Georgia Tech-bound power forward Julian Royal? Standing 6-foot-8, Royal can face up to the basket like few other players with his size, and this season, Royal has added a few back-to-the-basket moves that will benefit him at the next level. Royal is one of the top 60 players in the country, and he alone would be enough to make folks come out to the games if not for his uber-

talented teammates hooping it up beside him.

Scott is joined in the back-court by a defensive whiz name Dai-Jon Parker, who is heading to Vanderbilt next year. The 6-foot-2 off-guard has amazing athleticism and can jump out of the building. Parker had offers from most SEC programs before he decided on Vanderbilt. The defensive dynamo can score in bunches if his team needs it, but his intensity as a defender may very well lead to a stellar career in Nashville.

Another senior guard, Jordan Loyd, has signed with Furman. Loyd is sometimes forgotten about with Royal, Scott and Parker trotting around the court, but if you forget about him for too long, he makes you pay. It was Loyd who led the team in points and rebounds in its quarter-final victory over Mill Creek.

Then there's the juniors, who might be even better than the seniors. Shaquille Johnson is the first player off of the bench for Milton and Johnson is known across the southeast for his "prowess at leaping and dunking" according to one writer from the Hunts-ville Times. A YouTube video of Johnson breaking a backboard in an AAU

game was very popular earlier this year. Johnson is headed to Auburn and has grown into an all-around player, not just a thunder-dunker during his time with Milton.

Perhaps the best player currently on Milton's roster is junior small forward Evan Nolte, who as a sophomore was receiving interest from Duke, North Carolina and a host of other colleges. Nolte earned his stripes by knocking down 3-pointer after 3-pointer in last year's playoffs. At 6-foot-8, he is a matchup nightmare for opposing coaches and has a very special skill-set that is hard to match on the prep level.

#### **CREAM OF THE CROP...**

But is this team, coached by one of the nation's best in David Boyd, the greatest in Georgia history? Royal thinks you'd have to consider the Eagles because of their success against a tough schedule. "We (played) more of a national schedule, perhaps even (competed) for a 'national title," said Royal.

Some recent teams might have an argument or two though. The 2006 Norcross boys team went 28-4 en route to the school's first of three straight state titles in Class AAAAA. The squad was coached by the legendary Eddie Martin and starred eventual Kentucky standout Jodie Meeks, Georgia Tech star Gani Lawal and future NBA lottery pick Al-Farouq Aminu.

Another great team from the 2006 season was Columbia, which went 32-1 and won the AAAA state title. Jeremy Price and Travis Leslie went to Georgia, while Lance Storrs plays at Georgia Tech.

There would have to be some girls teams to also enter the discussion as best ever. The 2007 Collins Hill girls team went undefeated and was led to the school's third straight title by senior Maya Moore, who has since gone on to star at UConn. The 2010 Norcross girls were buoyed by two sensational freshmen Kaela Davis and Diamond DeShields as well as a fine supporting cast of juniors and seniors.

The Wesleyan girls program has also been a force for the last decade, winning at both the Class AA and A level. It is hard to single out one team but the 2009 Wesleyan girls were led by Anne Marie Armstrong, Grace Leah Baughn, Erin Hall, and Holli Wilkins, which might have been the most talented roster the Lady Wolves have ever assembled. Head coach Jan Azar has seen her squads win six state title in the past seven seasons.

But perhaps one other boys team should also be in the discussion for best ever. The 2011 Miller Grove Wolverines are bursting with talent including Devon Provost, Henry Brooks, Brandon Morris and dynamic junior center Tony Parker. In fact, Miller Grove is the only team from Georgia to have defeated Milton this season.

By Score Atlanta's Fletcher Proctor.





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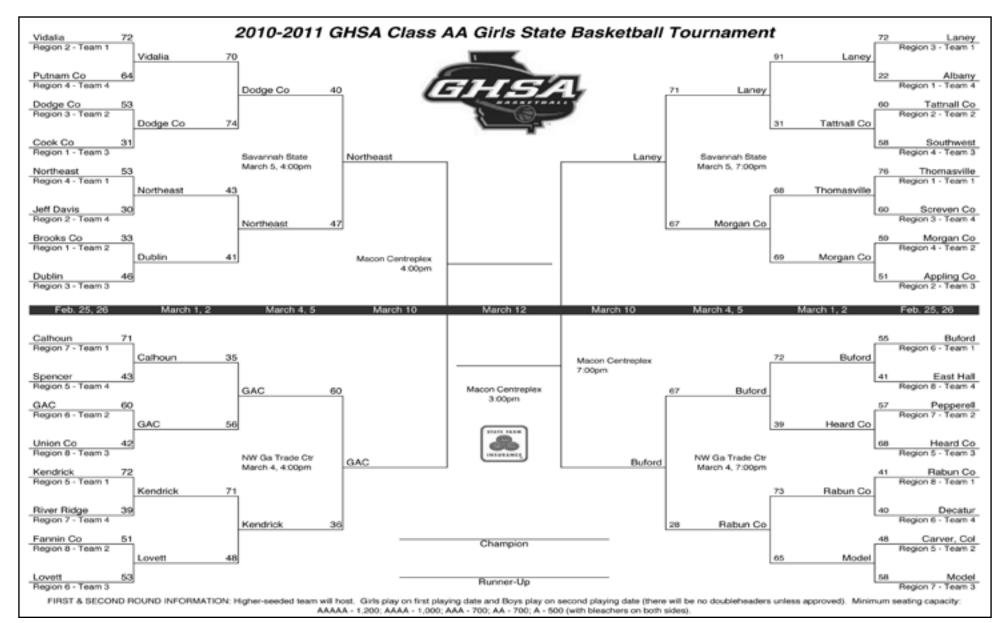
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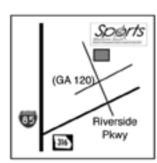


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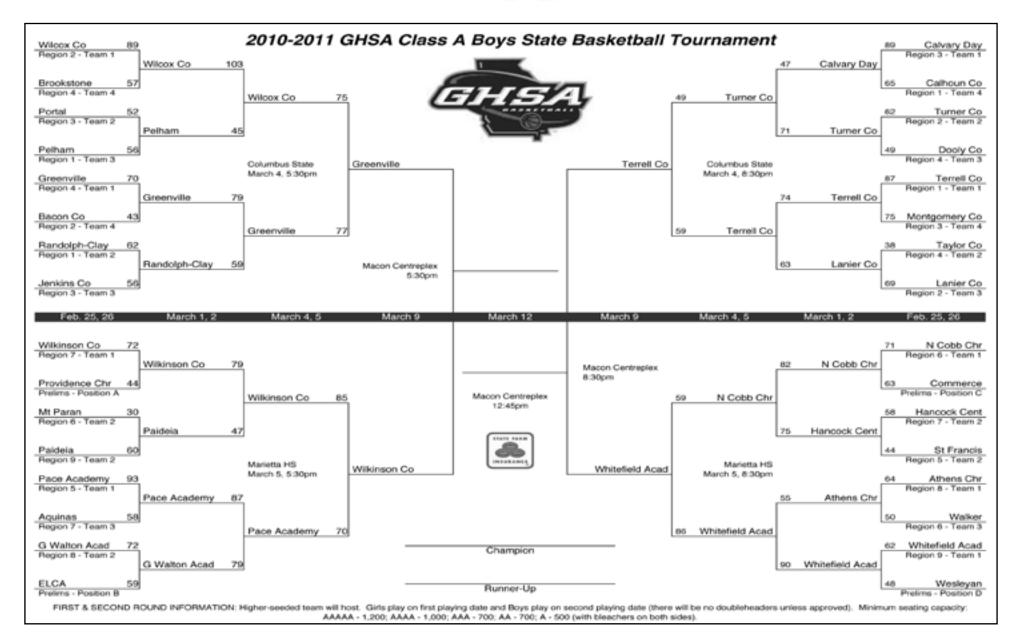


















2009

2010

Wheeler

Milton

**Miller Grove** 

Arlington GAC GAC



# PREVIOUS WINNERS

Year	AAAA	AAAA	AAA	AA	PIONS (SINCE 19	R
1970	-	AAAA	Decatur	East Rome	Early Co.	Hogansville
1971			Carver, Col.	Berrien	Roswell	Hogansville
1972			Savannah	Russell	Calhoun Co.	Hogansville
1973			SW, Macon	SW, Atlanta	Bacon Co.	West Point
1974			Savannah	SW, Atlanta	College Park	Hogansville
1975			SW, Macon	West Fulton	College Park	Monticello
1976			Savannah	West Fulton	College Park	Woodbury
1976			LaGrange	Brown	Arnold	GAC
1977				Peach Co.		
		CW Mason	SW, Macon		Josey Dacula	Clay Co.
1979	-	SW, Macon	SW, Atlanta	Arnold		
1980	*	Tompkins	Decatur	Lakeshore	Hoganville	
1981	•	Baldwin	West Laurens	Crawford Co.	Woodbury	
982	•	Campbell	Decatur	Crawford Co.	Central, Tal.	- \ - \ - \ - \ - \ - \ - \ - \ - \ - \
1983		Marietta	Gainesville	Randolph-Clay	Woodbury	•
1984		Douglas, Atl.	Gainesville	Terrell Co.	Woodbury	
1985	· ·	SW, Macon	Lee Co.	Central, Car.	Woodbury	A •
1986	· ·	Wills	Hart Co.	Randolph-Clay	Bible Baptist	•
1987	_ ·	Washington	(Forfeited)	Lakeshore	Clinch Co.	-
1988	-	Griffin	Madison Co.	Claxton	Richmond Hill	-
1989	-	SW, Macon	Marist	East Rome	Clinch Co.	•
1990	•	Southside	Westover	MitchBaker	Central, Tal.	-
991	-	Statesboro	Westover	MitchBaker	East Rome	-
1992	· /	Johnson, Sav.	Westover	Wash. Co.	Greenville	-
1993	-	Griffin	Westover	North Clayton	Richmond Hill	•
994		Wheeler	Marist	Wash. Co.	Richmond Hill	•
1995	-	Dunwoody	Westside	Dodge Co.	Atkinson Co.	
1996	-	Tift Co.	Tucker	Swainsboro	Hogansville	-
997	-	Roswell	Dougherty	Cedar Grove	Calhoun Co.	-
998	-	Savannah	Westover	MitchBaker	Seminole Co.	
1999	-	Marietta	Westlake	MitchBaker	Wilkinson Co.	
2000	-	Berkmar	Marist	MitchBaker	Wilkinson Co.	
2001	Berkmar	Dougherty	Westover	East Hall	Taylor Co.	-
2002	Wheeler	Westlake	Cross Keys	Wilkinson Co.	Taylor Co.	
2003	Wheeler	Griffin	East Hall	MitchBaker	Whitefield Acad.	
2004	S. Gwinnett	Mays	West Laurens	Randolph-Clay	SW Atl. Christian	
2005	Wheeler	Mays	Dunwoody	East Hall	Randolph-Clay	
2006	Norcross	Columbia	Dunwoody	Dublin	SW Atl. Christian	
2007	Norcross	Tucker	Jordan	Manchester	Wilkinson Co.	The state of the s
2008	Norcross	Columbia	Glenn Hills	Wesleyan	Hancock Cent.	
2000	Wheeler	Miller Creve	Courth Atlanta	Dublin	Whitefield Academy	

South Atlanta

Columbia

#### GIRLS PAST STATE CHAMPIONS (SINCE 1970)

Dublin

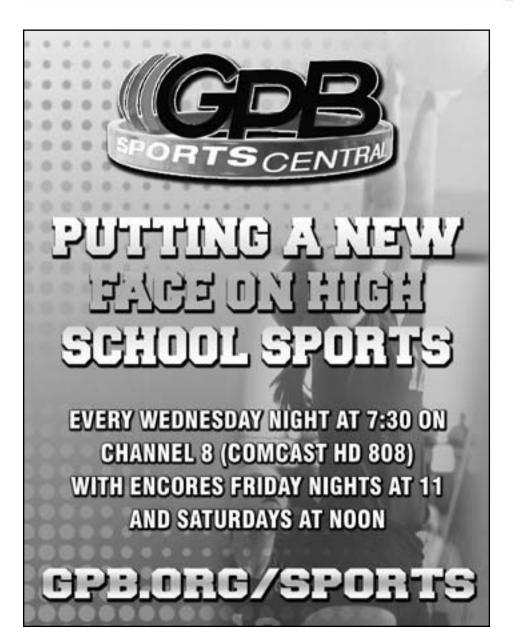
GAC

Whitefield Academy

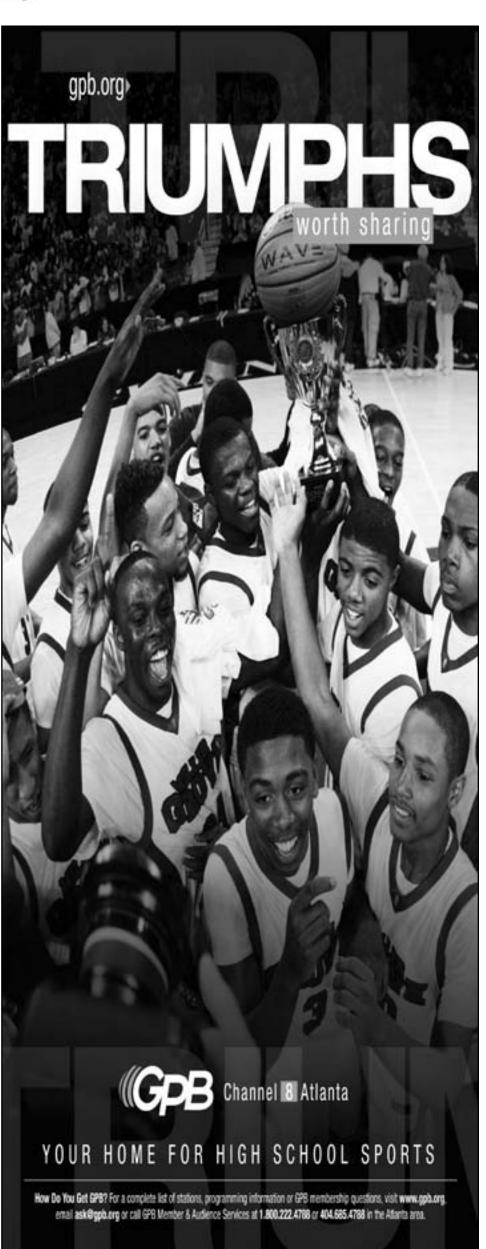
Wesleyan

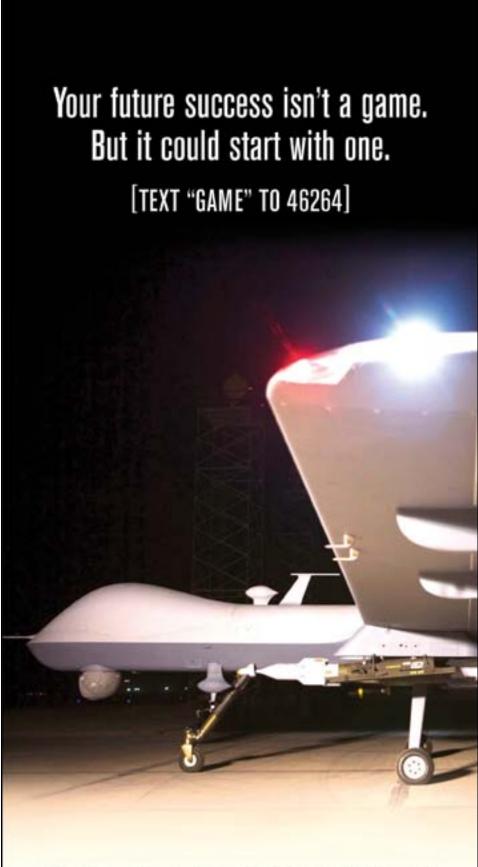
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Year	AAAAA	AAAA	AAA	AA	Α `	В	C
1970	Y JAN DE STORY	A	Forest Park	Berrien	Monroe Area	Mitchell Co.	Taylor Co.
1971	- M. 71/1	W /- 1 6-	Sequoyah	Sprayberry	Taylor Co.	Montgomery	Norman Park
1972	Activity English Company		Decatur	Berrien	Taylor Co.	Montgomery	GAC
1973			Cherokee	Monroe Area	Haralson Co.	Loganville	PSY JXC/V
1974		7	Waycross	Cairo	Pickens	GAC	LAPT.
1975	A STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR	Falls -	NE, Macon	Berrien	Haralson Co.	GAC	0.00
1976			Cherokee	Franklin Co.	Brooks Co.	Clinch Co.	THE RESERVE OF THE PARTY OF THE
1977			Lowndes	Brooks Co.	Irwin Co.	Miller Co.	DelTTAN-MINISTER
1978		Maria N	Lowndes	Waycross	Bowdon Co.	Temple	LITTING TO
1979	-	Lowndes	Berrien Co.	East Hall	Miller Co.		
1980		Lowndes	Coffee	East Hall	Miller Co.		
1981		NE, Macon	Madison Co.	White Co.	Warren Co.	/	N-5 W / N-
1982		NE, Macon	Cairo	Putnam Co.	GAC	AT AN AND STREET	TOP V AND
1983		LaGrange	Berrien	Morgan Co.	GAC		100
1984		LaGrange	Rockdale Co.	Seminole Co.	Central, Tal.		
1985		NE, Macon	Dodge Co.	Terrell Co.	Central, Tal.		6
1986	-	Baldwin	Rossville	Terrell Co.	Central, Tal.		
1987		Baldwin	Dodge Co.	Seminole Co.	Clinch Co.		
1988		Baldwin	Chattooga	Upson	Taylor Co.	NAME OF TAXABLE PARTY.	
1989		Morrow	Hart Co.	Seminole Co.	Hawkinsville	A second for	1
1990		Morrow	Hart Co.	Berrien Co.	Broxton-M. Hayes		
1991		Morrow	Hart Co.	Wash. Co.	Clinch Co.		
1992		Cedar Shoals	Hart Co.	Tri-County	Taylor Co.		
1993		Morrow	Hart Co.	Fannin Co.	Clinch Co.		
1994	_	Sequoyah	Hart Co.	Gainesville	Taylor Co.		
1995		S. Gwinnett	Woodward	Haralson Co.	Taylor Co.	1 -A	
1996	_	Sequoyah	Woodward	Randolph-Clay	Manchester		
1997		Stone Mtn.	Richmond Acad.	Thomasville	Pelham		
1998		Wheeler	Josey	Thomasville	Putnam Co.	Y .	
1999		Pope	Woodward	Fannin Co.	Holy Innocents'	-	
2000		Beach	North Atlanta	Randolph-Clay	Sav. Ctry. Day	-	
2001	Collins Hill	C. Gwinnett	Gainesville	GAC	Jefferson		
2002	Collins Hill	Glenn Hills	NE, Macon	GAC	Wesleyan	-	
2003	Parkview	Mays	Gainesville	Early Co.	Taylor Co.	-	3-1-2
2004	Stephenson	St. Pius X	Gainesville	Wesleyan	Hawkinsville	-	0 3
2005	Collins Hill	Etowah	Hephzibah	Wesleyan	Terrell Co.		. 7
2006	Collins Hill	St. Pius X	Avondale	Wesleyan	SW Atl. Christian		
2007	Collins Hill	St. Pius X	East Hall	GAC	Hawkinsville	_	-
2008	Stephenson	SW DeKalb	Kendrick	Wesleyan	Calvary Day	-	_
2009	Redan	SW DeKalb	Carrollton	Buford	Wesleyan		
2010	Norcross	SW DeKalb	Columbia	Buford	Wesleyan		
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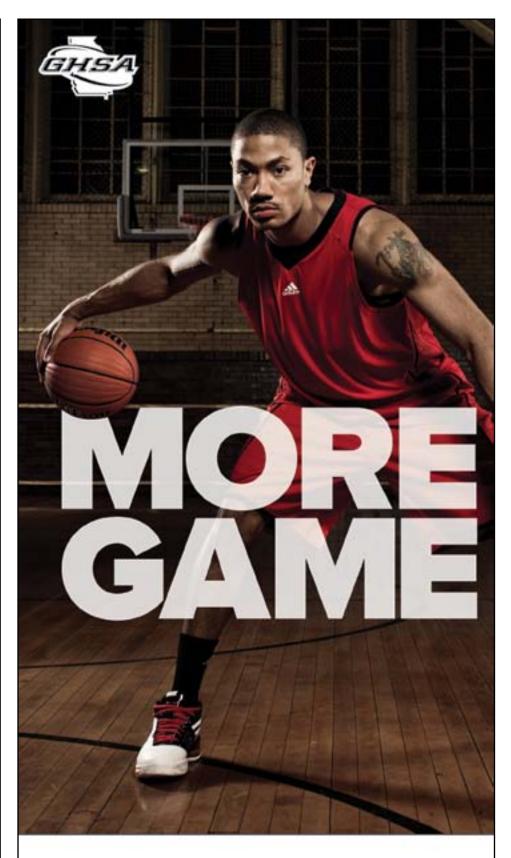




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