



# ATLANTA'S WEEKLY SPORTS PLUS NEWSPAPER



JUNE 10-23, 2011

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# SCORE Atlanta

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# IN THE MIX

## Braves living up to expectations in 2011



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**SHOT OF THE WEEK...**



**BUSINESS TRIP:** While the NFL players and owners are mired in a lockout, the Atlanta Falcons Cheerleaders have been hard at work. Okay, an offseason photoshoot in Bermuda may not be considered hard work by many, but at least the AFCs are in uniform and working! The photoshoot was for the 2011 Falcons Cheerleader Calendar, which will be released later this summer. Photo by Jay Adams/AtlantaFalcons.com

**CAN'T MISS THIS WEEK**

- 4** The Fletch writes about Mark Richt's and Paul Johnson's thoughts on oversigning in college football.
- 5** In our cover story, Jason Parker breaks down the Braves' season thus far.
- 7** Atlanta just lost its second NHL franchise, but Sean Conway argues that the city is still a great sports town in "The Inside Pitch".
- 9** The Dream tipped off their 2011 season last week and Brian Jones reviews their season opener.



GWINNETT  
 BRAVES  
 PITCHER  
 MIKE MINOR

**TEAM SCOOP AND VOICES**

COVER DESIGN BY DJ GALBIATI  
 COVER PHOTO COURTESY OF POUYA DINAT/ATLANTA BRAVES

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**ON THE INSIDE AT SCORE**

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## THE FLETCH

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SCORE



## Coaches sound off on oversigning; surprises in SI.com's top college coaching jobs list

Recruiting was in the headlines last week as the SEC Coaches were peppered about the issue before the SEC meetings took place and several rules changes were organized to be put into place. The issue of oversigning was on the front burner as the conference decided to cap the number of signings at 25, down from 28, in an effort to stop coaches (Cough-Nick Saban. Cough, cough-Steve Spurrier. Hacking cough-Houston Nutt) from going past the 85/100 magic numbers and leaving kids out to dry with potentially no scholarship. The AJC, as well as both of the local sports talk stations, were weighing in on the topic, though in some cases the host-writer wasn't exactly up on the rule. The AJC's Michael Carvell DOES know about the rules, as does my The Official Visit co-host Scott Janovitz, and it is a shame that those two weren't consulted more by the various outlets before information was passed along that wasn't always 100 percent in the correct.

## LOCAL VIEWPOINTS ...

The University of Georgia's Mark Richt seemed very willing to talk to the media, especially the AJC, though in one instance he came off as wishy-washy. In one piece, Richt was asked about the oversigning issue and he said that he had an opinion but he didn't want to give it until he heard the other coaches' viewpoints on it first. What? If you have an opinion on the topic, don't be afraid to put it out there. It doesn't matter if your opinion is different than everyone else's. Take a stand.

Georgia Tech's coach Paul Johnson is never one to shy away from giving an opinion. He said recently of the oversigning issue in an interview with the AJC, "We just don't do it. It makes it hard sometimes to hit your target number but it is what it is. I don't see how you can do that to kids, weed out guys

for whatever reasons. No matter what anybody says, if you're oversigning, some of that has to happen on occasion."

He was taking a stand on it but later in the piece came off a tad whiny. "It's just like you take 25 kids every year and then cut the ones you don't want," said Johnson. "You do the math. You have 85 scholarships. If you're signing 28 every year for four years, instead of 85, you have 112. It doesn't add up."

Johnson offered a solution that will surely never pass but still he is out there, something that Richt seemed afraid to do. "When you recruit a guy, and he says he's coming, you give him a scholarship and he signs it. As soon as he signs it, he counts — he's one of your 85. If you want to sign a kid who may or may not make it schoolwise, that's on you. You will have to try to find someone else in August if he doesn't make it. It would stop all this craziness, hat shows, verbal commitments, and all the foolishness that goes on with it. If the guy says they're coming, put the papers in front of him and let him sign. When you've got 85, you're through."

## WAKE-ING THE DEAD ...

If a tree falls in the woods but no one is around to hear it, does it make a sound? If a bar holds a wake for a soon-to-depart NHL franchise headed to Moose Country, Canada, and no one shows, does the wake still make news? The answer to the second question is YES. Why, because several local radio personalities were in attendance and discussed it on the air. Last week, Mike Bell of 790 The Zone's Pollack & Bell hosted a "wake" for the Atlanta Thrashers who will soon become the Winnipeg Somethingothers and apparently attendance was low to say the least. Jimmy Baron of Dave FM, who has spoken on the topic of the Thrashers leaving during

his morning drive show, attended the wake and laughed that no one was there. I guess all of the Hockey Diehards were too busy buying Florida Panthers/Carolina Hurricanes/Nashville Predators gear to show up...

Speaking of hockey, how great were the first two games of the NHL Stanley Cup Finals? You have a scoreless Game 1 won with 18.5 seconds left in regulation with an amazing goal then a Game 1 ending 12 seconds into overtime with a bouncing puck. I could not WAIT for Game 3. Too bad I could never find it on television. What? It was on the Versus Network? Huh? Versus? Why would the NHL put its championship series on the Versus Network? Don't they want people to watch? I guess Spike TV wasn't available because of Star Wars reruns and G4 was airing Web Soup? Versus? Did NBC not have room on its schedule? Was it the premiere of Biggest Loser Family Edition or something?

## TOP GIGS ...

Andy Staples, the often-questionable writer from Sports Illustrated compiled a top 20 list of the best jobs in college football. Not surprisingly, he had Texas as the top job in the country but Nos. 2, 3 and 4 were interesting. Staples had The Ohio State University second. Really? Is the job in Columbus that great of a gig? It seems like they ran John Cooper off for not beating Michigan enough, despite being one heck of a coach that played for national titles. Staples had Oklahoma ahead of Florida as the Sooners gig was No. 3 and the Gators No. 4, respectively. Hmmm. I would have put Florida at No. 2 based on the state that it is in, the conference it is in and the fact that Florida is seriously the BEST JOB OUTSIDE of Texas for the last two decades.

The Georgia Bulldogs position checks in at No. 5, ahead of LSU and Alabama,

CAN YOU BELIEVE...  
...HE SAID THAT?

*"And Auburn fans, be happy with what happened (in 2004). You would have been waterboarded if you had faced USC."*

That was 680 The Fan's Perry Laurentino saying last Tuesday on the Rude Awakening what I have been claimed for years. Yes USC had its 2004 title taken away, but let's be real here: the Trojans were still the champions from that season. If USC had played Auburn instead of OU, perhaps the score would have been 55-21 instead of 55-19. You love that you never played and lost. That way you can always say, "Yeah, but we would've...."

which is interesting. Athens is beautiful and the talent base is stronger than Louisiana and Alabama, but the tradition just isn't what Alabama is. I would think that the Bama job might be thought of a little higher. Other shocks included USC at No. 11 (too low), Michigan at No. 12 (way too low), and Arizona State (18) and Arizona (19) WAY TOO HIGH. Clearly this list was merely meant for people like me as well as the local radio shows to talk about Andy Staples, but is it worth people talking about you when they question your intelligence? I don't think so.

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# CHASING PHILLY

**SCORE**
**JASON PARKER**


## Despite weak hitting, injuries, Braves contending in National League East race

After the Braves' disappointing playoff-series loss to eventual World Champion San Francisco, the team, city, and nation had high expectations for 2011. ESPN had the Braves pinned at No. 6 on their preseason Power Rankings list. A handful of experts picked the Braves to finish on top of the National League. No one has felt this optimistically about the Braves heading into the season in over five years.

### PACING THEMSELVES ...

Similar to last year, the Braves got off to somewhat of a rocky start, and one can put almost all of the blame on the offense. Through 20 games, the Braves were four games below .500, and scratching out more than five runs in a game seemed only possible in a dream. While the team has started to play better – the team has moved to within three games of division-leading Philadelphia – the bats have still not come around. One ominous statistic highlighting the team's offensive woes is that the Braves have just one regular player batting over .280 in all star Brian McCann.

"It'll come around," McCann said recently about the team's struggles at the plate. "We've just got to stay the course. It's such a long season. You go through times where you know you're hot and you go through times when you're cold, and you've got to squeak out wins when things aren't going your way."

The Braves have certainly been able to do that lately, winning a plethora of low-scoring games to stay in the hunt. In mid-May, the Braves had a four-game winning streak in which they never surpassed five runs and only surpassed three runs once. They swept Pittsburgh in a series averaging three runs per

game. They beat the Florida Marlins with a meager two hits and one run. It's not a formula for consistent success, but considering the bats can't stay cool forever, the Braves seem to be in relatively good shape.

"We're not playing our best baseball right now, but we're getting a win here and there and we're staying close. We're still right there. We're three games back in the division, and right there in the wild card, so I don't think we need to panic about anything," explained McCann.

### THE NEW GUY ...

The biggest disappointment offensively for the Braves so far this season is offseason acquisition Dan Uggla. For Florida, Uggla belted at least 30 home runs every year since 2007 and, as recently as last year, hit a very respectable .287. Uggla has started at the opposite end of the spectrum this year, batting just .170 with seven home runs and a meager 16 RBIs. Considering Uggla's track record of poor starts, one can expect him to turn around this season at some point. While manager Freddy Gonzalez has recently moved Uggla down to seventh in the order and given him a few days to rest, by no means is Uggla's job in jeopardy.

"He's your every-day second baseman," Gonzalez said. "He can't break out of that stuff sitting on the bench. There comes a point where you just give him a little mental rest and then run him back in there, let him play. He's earned that."

The Braves also desperately need to get struggling and injured outfielders Jason Heyward and Nate McLouth back into the lineup as soon as possible. Both players have

a season average below .240, but that number seems likely to improve for both players with more at-bats.

On the positive note for the Braves' offense, Freddie Freeman has been on a tear lately, raising his average to above .270, which at one point was below .200 this year.

"My swing right now, I feel comfortable," Freddie explained. "I feel like I'm really confident up there, so I'm just trying to put good swings on it. [Things] are going my way right now. I've just got to keep going, hitting the ball hard and putting together some good at-bats."

### ON THE MOUND ...

The pitching side of things has been pretty darn good. Jair Jurrjens, who started the season on the disabled list, won NL Pitcher of the Month for the month of May. His season ERA is a brilliant 1.75, and he has recorded a solid seven wins for the ballclub. Jurrjens was injured during the playoff series with San Francisco in the fall and that disappointment has pushed him to work harder.

"The thing that motivates me... was being in the playoffs last year not being able to perform," explains Jurrjens. "That really pushed me to try to get stronger and try to stay healthy for the rest of the season, be able to play in October."

To record seven wins in 10 starts for a team that cannot seem to score any runs, Jurrjens must be dealing. Alongside Jurrjens, Tommy Hanson has been able to compile seven wins himself, with a not too shabby 2.59 ERA. Both pitchers are truly looking like Cy Young candidates, which has helped soften the blow the struggling Derek Lowe and Tim

Hudson have caused. Hudson finished last season with a 2.83 ERA and 17 wins, and he was clearly the ace of this potent staff. His ERA of 4.14 this season has been a huge disappointment. While Lowe's current ERA of 4.07 is consistent with his past success with Atlanta, the Braves still expect him to take on a bigger role in this rotation.

The bullpen has been much better than expected this season. Craig Kimbrel already passed the NL Rookie record for most saves before the all-star break with 18, sporting a 2.70 ERA, and Jonny Venters has been lights out, to say the least, with a just plain filthy ERA of 0.49 in 36.2 innings of work. Buster Olney of ESPN even went so far as to say that Jonny Venters' virtually unhittable two-seam fastball may be "a worthy heir to Mariano Rivera's cutter as the most dominant pitch in the majors." Eric O'Flaherty, George Sherrill, Scott Proctor and Cristhian Martinez all have ERAs at or below 3.10. The bullpen as a whole has a 2.55 ERA, which is second in all of baseball. Peter Moylan remains on the disabled list, and the sooner the Braves can get his arm back, the better.

With as dominant as the Braves' pitching has been all year, one would assume the Braves would be standing alone atop their division. Taking a different approach however, with as poor as the Braves' bats have been all season and the likelihood of a drastic second-half improvement, to be sitting just three games out of first behind the Phillies with four months of baseball to be played, the Braves have to like their chances of getting back to some October baseball.

*Parker can be reached at (404) 256-1572.*

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# SCORE LIST

BY BRIAN JONES

**1** **INCEPTION:** The Atlanta Dream opened its season last Sunday against the New York Liberty without star forward Angel McCoughtry. The Liberty defeated the Dream 94-88. The upside is Iziane Castro Marques scored 19 points while Sancho Lyttle added 18. It's only one game so the Dream have plenty of time to rebound and reach the finals for the second straight year.

**2** **DRAFT DAY:** The MLB Draft took place from this week and the Braves selected Florida State pitcher Sean Gilmartin with their first-round pick. Gilmartin went 12-1 in 17 appearances and had an ERA of 1.83 in 2011. Out of the first 30 selections for the Braves, three were from high school. Atlanta usually selects more high school players, but may have changed that philosophy.

**3** **LOCAL FLAVOR:** Georgia and Georgia Tech fared well in the MLB Draft. Tech's Matt Skole and Mark Pope were selected in the fifth round, while Georgia's Cecil Tanner and Michael Palazzone were selected in the 23rd and 24th round, respectively. Also, Richmond Hill High School standout Kevin Matthews was selected in the first round at No. 33 by the Texas Rangers.

**4** **PEACHY GOLF:** It was an all-Georgia NCAA golf championship as UGA took on reigning champion Augusta State. When it was all said and done, the Jaguars were able to top Georgia and win their second consecutive title. It was disappointing not to see Georgia win its third title since 1999, but congrats to Augusta State for achieving such a difficult feat.

**5** **MOVIN' ON UP:** Former Tech QB Joe Hamilton was on Georgia State's coaching staff last year as an intern. This year Hamilton will have a new job, as he will be the new running backs coach for the Panthers. This is a very good thing for Hamilton because he was hired as the player personnel assistant for Tech in 2008, but had to resign a few weeks later because he was arrested for a DUI. Good luck, Joe!

# CRUNCHING THE NUMBERS

BY SCOTT ST. LIFER

**3** Consecutive years in which Georgia Tech has lost at home in the NCAA baseball regionals.

**433** Amount of consecutive games LeBron James scored in double figures prior to the Game 4 loss in Dallas

**3** Participating schools from Georgia in the NCAA Golf Championship

**18** Saves by Craig Kimbrel, an N.L. record for rookies prior to the All-Star break

**3.02** The Braves' team ERA, best in baseball

**17** Minutes needed to sell-out tickets for Winnipeg's hockey team

**7** Games Jair Jurrjens has won, equaling his 2010 total

**22** Total games the Braves have scored two runs or less

**1** Total seasons the Atlanta Thrashers qualified for the playoffs in 11 years

**10** Players selected in the MLB Draft with Georgia ties through the first two days

# WHO'S HOT

## THUMBS UP TO FALCONS WORKOUTS



### Falcons Informal Workouts

No, they're not really accomplishing anything on the Buford High School football field. But that's okay. It's a smart move because the players usually train in the gym before the field sessions to do their conditioning, and the field stuff is one of the few positive PR moves during the lockout.

### Jason Terry

The Jet was an enigma during his time in Atlanta. Not enough of a handle to play point guard, and too small for a shooting guard. Or so the Hawks thought. In Dallas, he has become the No. 2 option on two Western Conference Champions and may grab a ring.

### Tennessee Athletics

We don't know what all the final penalties will be for the Vols athletic program yet, but cutting AD Mike Hamilton loose was the right thing to do. Starting the road to recovery before the NCAA makes you change your ways always pays off in the long run.

# WHO'S NOT

## THUMBS DOWN TO UNDER-DRESSED HITTERS



### Frenchy's Fashion Statement

Jeff Francoeur is enjoying a renaissance with the Kansas City Royals. If you read the Kansas City media, you'll find stories of a guy leading by example, not crying about being obscured by the dim lights of KC, but, taking BP in only pink cleats and underpants is not a good look.

### Secret Meetings

It's nice that the NFL and players had "secret meetings," but what if they don't make a deal? Then, will both sides revert to their eighth grade boy's locker room posturing? There are supposedly smart men on both sides of the table, but the best they can come up with is secret meetings? Really?

### The Terrelle Pryor Era

What a joke this is becoming. Jim Tressel signed the most prized quarterback in the country in four years ago, but their co-dependent relationship has now embarrassed Buckeye nation. Their combined accomplishments have become severely tainted. Looks like those two really were perfect for each other.

# TRIVIA QUESTION

**Before relocation, the Winnipeg Jets averaged under 14,000 fans per game in their final eight seasons. How many times did the Thrashers average under that amount in Atlanta?**

**Answer on Page 14**

# MY TWO CENTS

Everybody take a deep breath and relax. Dan Uggla is going to be okay. I know he's making a fortune and we all had high expectations for him, but let's see how the season plays out before we give up on the guy. He came here from Florida, a franchise known for playing in a football stadium and averaging less in paid attendance than a South Beach night club on an off night. Miami sports fans make Atlanta's seem rabid in comparison. Also, the Marlins have rarely been relevant since Uggla came up in 2006.

But here he is playing for "America's Team" in the heart of a fanbase so vast that virtually the entire southeastern United States has been branded "Braves Country." While the Braves don't sell out every game, they are still one of the most popular fran-



chises in baseball and have been contenders since the tenure of the elder President Bush.

Many had Uggla penciled in as an all star this year for Atlanta, while others had the Braves winning the wild card and seriously contending with National League-favorite Philadelphia in the East. Coming from the baseball desert that is Florida, that is some serious pressure.

The Braves are a step behind Philly right now in the first stage of the marathon that is Major League Baseball season.

There are peaks and valleys in every player's season. So let's give Dan a chance to peak before we throw in the towel on him.

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

# SANITY AT LAST

*"We liked the fact he wins, and the fact that he can pitch. Some of the other pitchers that we liked were gone. He was the next guy, the guy we wanted, so we took him."*

- Braves scouting director Tony DeMacio on first-round selection Sean Gilmartin

# THE INSIDE PITCH

**SCORE**
**SEAN CONWAY**


## Despite the loss of NHL hockey, Atlanta remains a diverse sports town

Before the first cardboard box was filled at the Thrashers facilities in preparation for their impending relocation to Winnipeg, the national sports media had already begun killing Atlanta as a “sports town.” No surprise. We’ve lost two hockey franchises in 30 years, and media types are trained to judge first and broadcast immediately thereafter. Accuracy and thoughtfulness have become woefully obsolete in the electronic era.

The “voices” on our screens, radio and, sometimes even in print, are wrong. Atlanta is a great sports town. To support this very unscientific proclamation, I’m not using measurable metrics like stadium size, world championships, etc. Since those rankings always add wiggle room for “editorial control,” anyway. I’ll just use some common sense and a keep an eye on the big picture.

### NOT OUR FAULT ...

First, let’s address the Thrashers’ exodus. Did anyone really want them to leave town? Absolutely not. But, their departure should not be an embarrassment. Thrashers fans were once passionate, loyal and plentiful. After a few years of poor draft picks and acquisitions, the fans simply became impatient. After a few more years, most fans got angry. Why would any fan with a discretionary dollar and a day-off support that product? Sports fans in Atlanta made a good choice to look in other places for their fix.

The foundation of our status as a premier sports town starts at the prep and youth level. High school sports here are among the nation’s best. Per capita, you can’t find better college football prospects in any state. There’s more than enough talent for Tech and

Georgia. The most famous and celebrated travel baseball program in the country is local, East Cobb Baseball, and the Jackets and Dogs hoops programs would’ve been better if the likes of Dwight Howard, Josh Smith and Louis Williams – all NBA players from around Atlanta – ever put on college uniform.

Coke, Home Depot, Delta and UPS are all Atlanta based. This makes the area an attractive destination for graduates of all the SEC and ACC

schools, church picnics and watering holes if they haven’t lived here. Because of our location, fans and alumni can leave Atlanta Saturday morning and arrive on a campus at lunchtime to begin their “pre-game” rituals at Tech, UGA, Auburn, Clemson, Tennessee, South Carolina, Alabama, Florida, Florida State, etc. We also host great preseason and postseason football match-ups in the Chick-fil-a Kickoff and the Chick-fil-a Bowl thanks to the Cathy family.

Professional sports teams obviously make up a piece of the subjective pie when talking about sports meccas as well. Thrashers aside, we’re in great shape (minus a couple of championships). Arthur Blank’s bankroll and leadership (not necessarily in that order) have helped the Falcons become consistent winners. Somehow, the Hawks have been postseason relevant for several years and should be for the near future. The Braves are simply a model of how to run a franchise on a moderate budget. We’ve also got the AAA G-Braves in Lawrenceville.

Our pro sports aren’t limited to team sports. Great golf is played annually at Augusta and East Lake with the Masters and the Tour Championship, respectively. In August, the Atlanta Athletic Club will host another major: the PGA Championship. The overflowing tennis community gets their pro sports fix when the ATP Tour comes to town annually. The less refined are not forgotten. Between Hampton, south of town, and Talladega, an hour and a half west, NASCAR fans have three chances a year to “watch ‘em turn left.”

### COMPARE AND CONTRAST ...

All of the above doesn’t include my favorite part about Atlanta as a sports town: There are ample opportunities for sports addicts that often display more enthusiasm than

expertise. Golf courses are everywhere and tee-times are precious. The Peachtree Road Race is the biggest 10K in the world. Adult recreational sports in Atlanta are often less organized, but even more visible than in other places. For example, drive around the metro area on a Sunday. Those guys laughing and playing soccer on the converted tennis courts, they help make Atlanta a great sports town.

Here are a couple of reasons other big cities can’t be great sports towns:

**Boston** - It’s now been overplayed, but have you seen the guy with the factory-faded Red Sox cap? If you’ve heard this guy coming in your direction, you probably went the other way to avoid seeing him.

**New York** - They invented the trend of franchises looking for greener pastures. See the Brooklyn Dodgers and San Francisco Giants as examples. And, the best playground high school hoops talent ever, Lew Alcindor/Kareem Abdul-Jabbar played his college ball as far from “the city” as he could get.

**Chicago** - Go watch About Last Night starring Demi Moore (pre-implants). Watch the softball scenes. The guys play softball with ball the size of a volleyball and James Belushi hits a home run. If Belushi hits a home run in your city, it ain’t a good sports town.

**Los Angeles** - Unless you count USC, they don’t even have a pro football team.

**Pittsburgh** is a cute story; downtrodden economy, fat guys drinking Iron City beer and all the pro teams uniforms have matching colors. But, who epitomizes the sports teams in that town? Georgia native Hines Ward.

I love Atlanta as a sports town, with or without an underachieving hockey franchise. I’m fine going out and playing a game of softball or hoops, a round of golf, taking a long run, or coaching my kids. Afterwards, I’ll find a cold beverage in a sports bar or in front of a friend’s big screen, watch the Braves and talk about my favorite sports town - Atlanta.

Conway can be reached at [sconway@scoreatl.com](mailto:sconway@scoreatl.com).



**SPORTS MECCA:** Say what you want about the Thrashers leaving, but Atlanta is still a first-class sports town. Unlike other publications, we look at more than just pro leagues to judge the best cities for sports. Atlanta’s unique combination of quality athletics from high school to college to the pros should put it at the top of any sports town rankings. Photo courtesy of Paul Abell/Atlanta Braves.

**“I love Atlanta as a sports town, with or without an underachieving hockey franchise. I’m fine going out and playing a game of softball or hoops, a round of golf, taking a long run, or coaching my kids. Afterwards, I’ll find a cold beverage in a sports bar or in front of a friend’s big screen, watch the Braves and talk about my favorite sports town - Atlanta.”**

schools, not to mention other schools nationwide. One reason our pro sports teams sometimes get overshadowed is because the fervor of the college rivalries. Anyone compiling a national list of great sports towns can’t understand the fiery debates over the best college sports in the southeast that are held non-stop at water coolers, swimming



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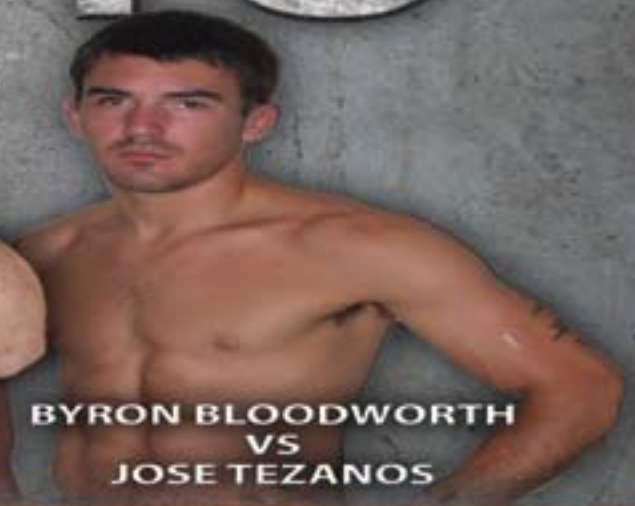
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# ON THE DREAM BEAT




BRIAN JONES

## Dream drops opener to New York; McCoughtry listed as day-to-day after spraining knee

The Dream opened their 2011 season on Sunday against the New York Liberty with expectations after reaching the WNBA Finals last season. However, the Dream was playing without star forward Angel McCoughtry and New York came away with a 94-88 win in overtime at Philips Arena.

"To not have her in the lineup certainly hurts us," Dream head coach Marynell Meadors told the AJC after the game. "It takes 25 to 30 points out and the defensive things she does and steals she gets, it affects the rest of the team."

The Dream had its chances to win, taking the lead twice late in the fourth quarter. But New York's Sidney Spencer hit a baseline jumper with less than a second remaining to tie the game at 79. New York then outscored the Dream in overtime 15-9.

There were a few reasons the Dream lost to the Liberty. The first has to be McCoughtry, because she is the key player who makes everything go. Iziane Castro Marques and Sancho Lyttle were able to pick up some of the slack, as they scored 19

and 18 points, respectively, but McCoughtry can give the Dream 25-30 points a night and she is also a solid defensive player.

Having McCoughtry out of the lineup could have affected point guard Lindsey Harding. Harding, who was acquired on draft day, committed three turnovers and scored two points with one assist in the first half. She was able to have a solid second half, scoring nine points with eight assists and committing only one turnover.

The Dream looked to bounce back on Thursday when they took on the Washington Mystics, but results were not available at press time. Their next game will be on Saturday when they face the San Antonio Silver Stars in their first road game of the season.

### ACROSS THE POND ...

Before the Dream began the season, they played their one and only preseason game against the Great Britain women's team in Manchester, England. The Dream won the game 82-51, and also became the first team in WNBA history to

play a game in Europe.

The team was there for five days and not only did they play their only preseason game, there were to hold clinics teach the people of Great Britain the game of basketball.

"They really just enjoy the art of the game," McCoughtry said to the AJC before the team went on the trip. "It's not about gender. I wish it was more like that over here, not about gender."

Despite losing to Seattle in the WNBA Finals last season, the Dream are a hot pick to return to the championships again. That was one of the reasons they were chosen to go to Great Britain and be ambassadors for the WNBA. Another reason was that the popularity of the team has risen, as season ticket sales increased by 30 percent compared to last year, which led the league.

### NEWS AND NOTES ...

McCoughtry had to miss the preseason game in Great Britain and the season opener against New York because she sprained her knee in training camp. This was something new

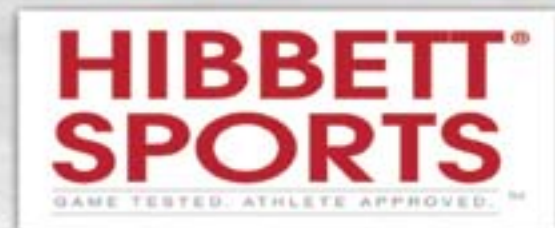
for McCoughtry because she has never been sidelined in her WNBA career due to an injury. As of Tuesday, she was listed as day-to-day.

In response to the injury to McCoughtry, the Dream signed guard Kelly Mazzante and waived guard Brittainey Raven. Mazzante has been in the WNBA for six years and has helped the Phoenix Mercury win a WNBA title in 2007. Mazzante was originally drafted by the Charlotte Sting in 2004 and played three seasons in Charlotte before heading to Phoenix. Mazzante was with the New York Liberty last year and was a member of the San Antonio Silver Stars this season, but was waived before the Silver Stars first regular season game.

"Kelly is the type of player that can step up and contribute right away," Meadors said. "It was a difficult decision to let Brittainey go, but I am excited about what Kelly brings to our team. She is a veteran leader and an outside scoring threat that can stretch the defense."

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

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SCORE MORE



## Hawks first pick in second round

Atlanta will add a new player to its squad on June 23, when the NBA Draft takes place. The Hawks do not possess a first-round pick this time around, as they shipped it to Washington in February's trade for Kirk Hinrich.

Drafting in the second round is an especially tough task, but a host of teams have made due on their second-round picks, where there are at times stars up for grabs (Manu Ginobili, Monta Ellis) or hard working role players that can fill up the stat sheet (Paul Millsap, DeJuan Blair).

NBADraft.net predicts the Hawks won't stray from downtown Atlanta with their pick, penciling in former Georgia Tech standout Iman Shumpert at No. 48. Their experts credit Shumpert for his offensive ability, calling him "scary in transition" and an "excellent slasher." But they also question his discipline and on-court mentality, issues that lead to inconsistency during his time at GT.

Mynbadraft.com has Atlanta going a different way, although once again the selection is a point guard in Demetri McCamey of Illinois. McCamey played four years under Bruce Weber, and could produce right away. Draftexpress.com thinks Rick

Sund will select Purdue guard E'Twaun Moore with his pick. Moore is the third leading scorer all time as a Boilermaker.

If the mock drafts are right, Atlanta has their eye on backcourt help in the second round. But who they actually select could be just about anyone.

### SUMMER CAMPS

The Hawks will be putting on a multitude of basketball camps this summer for kids across the metro area. The camps are intended for children ages seven through 16.

Several former and current Atlanta players will be running the sessions. Among them are Zaza Pachulia, who will help run a session at Life University on Monday and Tuesday. Also, former Hawk and NBA All Star Tom Gugliotta will be heading up two all-girls camps, with one taking place on June 17-18, and the other coming up June 22-23. The former power forward will also coach up the boys June 20-21. All of the sessions will take place at the Boys and Girls club on N. Druid Hills Rd.

Bagriansky can be reached at jbagriansky@scoreatl.com.



## Falcons press on amidst labor strife

The current NFL lockout is showing no signs of ending, but Falcons players are still keeping busy and preparing for what they hope will be a 2011 season. Up to 30 players at a time have been going through drills twice a week for the last two weeks. Team members often lift weights at various gyms and then congregate at the same field for a more organized session.

"It's a little bit of a contradiction," wide receiver Michael Jenkins told the Atlanta Journal Constitution about players eager to work out when coaches can't force them to do so. "You do get tired of the year-long process. But you want to do some stuff to stay in a football mode. It doesn't have to be three mini camps and 15 OTA practices. What we're doing now is pretty good."

Coaches and players are banned from working with each other under the guidelines of the current lockout. Pads and contact are also absent, as is privacy. The Falcons hold their activities in public places as opposed to their usual private facility at Flowery Branch.

"The only thing we're not doing that I

wish we were doing is hitting," safety William Moore told the AJC. "Maybe we can at least start playing flag [football]. Or may just take them (other players) down to the ground a little bit. You know. Just a tap."

### TWO MORE IN TOP 100 ...

The NFL Network has been counting down its list of Top 100 players in the league, and four Falcons now register on the chart. John Abraham (69th) and Matt Ryan (52nd) were joined last week by Tony Gonzalez and Michael Turner. Gonzalez came in at No. 46 and Turner is currently the highest-ranked Atlanta player at No. 42.

"He's got a body of work that's arguably the greatest of all-time at his position," Steelers head coach Mike Tomlin told the NFL Network of Gonzalez. "He's a matchup problem for anyone that's covering him. He's one of those guys that's created a type. Every year you hear guys going into the draft and people speculate that they are a 'Gonzalez type.' Usually they never are."

Dimon can be reached at rdimon@scoreatl.com.



## Braves select pitcher Gilmartin

The Braves used their first-round pick in last week's draft (No. 28 overall) on Florida State lefthander Sean Gilmartin. The 6-foot-2, 192-pound pitcher was 12-1 in 16 starts (17 appearances) for the Seminoles this season. He has struck out 122 in 113.1 innings of work this season with a 1.83 ERA. The team took shortstop Nick Ahmed in the second round, third baseman Kyle Kubitz at No. 115, righthander J.R. Graham at No. 146 and Nick DeSantiago, a catcher, at No. 176.

### RIVALRY RENEWED ...

Baseball always seems to be more fun when the Braves and Mets are playing meaningful games late in the season. While the New York franchise has been struggling thus far in the year, the Mets took two of three from Atlanta last weekend in Citi Field. The Braves used some late power to take Game 1 with Eric Hinske providing the Braves with the go-ahead run on a home run in the ninth. Atlanta would add some insurance before Craig Kimbrel set a National League rookie record with his 17th save before the All-Star break. Chipper Jones also homered to help spark the Braves comeback from down 3-1 entering the eighth inning in the 6-3

Braves win. Jonny Venters picked up his fourth win while Derek Lowe received a no-decision after six innings of work.

Jordan Schafer left in the fifth inning of the game after he bunted a ball off of his face. He would miss Saturday's 5-0 loss to the Mets. Jair Jurrjens, just days after being named NL Pitcher of the Month for May, shut out the Mets for the first six innings before New York exploded for five in the seventh. Jurrjens was charged with four runs, three earned in 6.1 innings of work. The Braves scoreless streak would continue into Sunday's game as Atlanta was held scoreless by New York's pitching staff until the seventh inning, 15 straight frames of zero before finally breaking through with a Brian McCann solo home run. Tim Hudson meanwhile gave up five earned runs in four innings of work. Diory Hernandez knocked a ninth-inning three-run home run to put some lipstick on the pig that was a 6-4 loss. Schafer returned for Sunday's game, going 0-4 with one strikeout. Atlanta won the first game of a set with the Florida Marlins 1-0. Alex Gonzalez hit a solo home run to provide the game's lone run.

Proctor can be reached at fproctor@scoreatl.com.



## Meet G-Braves ace Mike Minor

There's not much "minor league" about G-Braves pitcher, starting Mike Minor. The former Vanderbilt lefthander was drafted two years ago this week by Atlanta with the seventh overall pick in the Major League draft. Since, he's made the most of those 24 months. Called up/south to Atlanta late last summer, he won three games as a starter. Appropriately, Minor now lives between his future clubhouse at Turner Field and his temporary clubhouse at Coolray Field in Lawrenceville.

Coming off his second International League Pitcher of week — he's also made three spot starts for Atlanta over two call-ups - honors, Minor took a few minutes to speak with Score Atlanta. Here's a chance to get to know the 6-foot-4 southpaw before he joins Atlanta's rotation for good.

Minor on what's working for him this year: I'm basically throwing strikes, throwing inside a bit, throwing the fastball with location. Everything else is working off of that.

On his pitching repertoire: [My fastball is] topping out at about 95 on a good day. That's pretty much tops right there, high as I'm gonna get. Change-up is my best off-speed pitch, and right

now, I'm working on a slurve. That was working great the other day. They (the G-Braves coaches) made me throw it to every other hitter. That's been working good for me.

On if he takes his hitting very seriously like the Atlanta starters: I'm the same way. The other day I struck out. The guy was good, but it was low 90's, something I could handle. He gave it to me pretty much right down the middle, and I missed it. I was pretty upset about that. But, I did get my sac[rifice] bunt down and got a base hit in my first at bat.

On what he likes about living inside the Perimeter: I like the diversity of people because I come from a small town. You come here and there's all different types of people. I live in Buckhead, which is a wealthier area, but you still see homeless people and all the different ethnicities of people. The way they dress, the way they go about things is different to me.

On what kind of music a "small town" guy from central Tennessee prefers: I'm actually not a country music guy. I'm actually more of an alternative rock, R and B, rap kind of guy.

Conway can be reached at sconway@scoreatl.com.

SCORE MORE

# PANTHER PROWL



DAVE COHEN



## Former coach "Lefty" Driesell inducted into the Southern Conference HOF

Each time I talk to Coach Driesell I always kid around with him about retiring from coaching just 14 wins shy of 800. For whatever reason, 786 is not enough to get him elected into the Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Mass. but it's enough to get him into numerous other halls of fame around the country, including the Southern Conference hall, of which he was inducted into a couple of weeks ago over in Charleston, SC.

We, of course, remember fondly his five-year run here at Georgia State, but his connection to the SoCon goes back to his

early days as a head coach. His first job was at Davidson College where he spent nine seasons leading the Wildcats. By the time he left for the job at Maryland, he'd won five regular-season titles, three tournament titles, and took the Wildcats to the NCAAs in 1966, 1968 and 1969. He led his teams to the round of 16 in 1966 and reached the NCAA's final eight in 1968 and 1969. His overall record at Davidson was 176-65.

"I'm proud to be in the Hall of Fame in the Southern Conference," said Driesell. "You know why? Our first job was in the Southern

Conference. Some people might say we were lucky, but I had a philosophy that the harder you worked, the luckier you got."

Georgia State was lucky to have him for the five seasons he was here. I just wish he'd stayed long enough to get those dad-gum 14 wins!

### INDUCTION, PART II ...

Congratulations as well to Tim Singleton, the former Georgia State cross country coach, who will be inducted into the Atlanta Sports Hall of Fame on June

25 at the Roswell Cultural Arts Center. Singleton was the founder of the famous Peachtree Road Race in 1970 and, back in the day, used many GSU staff members and students as volunteers to assist in getting the July 4 race started. Singleton also created the first Peachtree t-shirt in 1971, and that shirt has since become one of the most coveted and famous clothing items of Atlanta.

*Dave Cohen is in his 28th season as the "Voice of Georgia State Athletics" on WRAS-FM (88.5) and WCFO-AM, Newstalk 1160.*

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**Club Sport, "Where Atlanta Comes To Play!"** Registration Ongoing - Men's League plays on Sunday evenings at the Brookhaven Boys & Girls Club. For more info or to register visit [www.usclubsport.com](http://www.usclubsport.com)

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

**Roundtable Fundamental Basketball Camp Boys and Girls.** Rising 6th-10th Graders (Current 5th-9th Graders) June 7-11. 9am-2pm. St. Francis High School, Alpharetta. Contact Coach Huff [sfrancisball@yahoo.com](mailto:sfrancisball@yahoo.com).

## BASEBALL

**Braves.** June 10 at Houston 8:05 PM. June 11 at Houston 7:05 PM. June 12 at Houston 2:05 PM. June 13 at Houston 8:05 PM. June 14 vs. New York Mets 7:10 PM. June 15 vs. New York Mets 7:10 PM. June 16 vs. New York Mets 7:10 PM. June 17 vs. Texas 7:35 PM. June 18 vs. Texas 4:10 PM. June 19 vs. Texas 1:35 PM. June 20 vs. Toronto 7:10 PM. June 21 vs. Toronto 7:10 PM. June 22 vs. Toronto 1:05 PM.

**Gwinnett Braves.** June 10 at Toledo 7 PM. June 11 at Indianapolis 7:05 PM. June 12 at Indianapolis 2:05 PM. June 13 at Indianapolis 7:05 PM. June 14 at Indianapolis 7:05 PM. June 16 vs. Durham 7:05 PM. June 17 vs. Durham 7:05 PM. June 18 vs. Durham 7:05 PM. June 19 vs. Durham 2:05 PM. June 20 vs. Syracuse 7:05 PM. June 21 vs. Syracuse 7:05 PM. June 22 vs. Syracuse 7:05 PM. June 23 vs. Syracuse 7:05 PM.

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

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

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

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

**Jack City Sports Center.** Indoor T-Ball League being offered at Jack City Sports Center. 10 game season with games on Sundays. \$125 per player. Team rates available and questions can be directed to 770-513-4121.

## FOOTBALL

**Force.** June 11 at Cleveland 7 PM. June 17 vs. New Orleans 8:05 PM.  
**Collins Hill Athletic Association.** Ongoing. Accepting applications for qualified coaches in all age groups. For information email Craig Deneau at [deneauc@charter.net](mailto:deneauc@charter.net)

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

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

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

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

## HOCKEY

**Thrashers.** April 8 vs. Carolina 7:30 PM. April 10 vs. Pittsburgh 3 PM.  
**Peachtree Booster Club.** Ongoing - Pickneyville Roller Hockey Rink. Fees: \$95 for 12-game season, \$30 out-of-county fee. For information visit [www.pbcsports.org](http://www.pbcsports.org).

## SOCCER

**Challenged Soccer.** Ongoing. For mentally and physically disabled youngsters. For information call Ken Higgins at 770-985-0434.

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

## TENNIS

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

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

## LACROSSE

**Lacrosse.** Ongoing. Registration for 1st-8th grades. For information call 404-216-5870, email [jasona@bagatawaylacrosse.com](mailto:jasona@bagatawaylacrosse.com) or visit [www.bagatawaylacrosse.com](http://www.bagatawaylacrosse.com).

**Double Stix Lacrosse.** Ongoing - Leagues, Travel Teams and Tournaments for youth, high school and adult's boys and girls. More information about the best lacrosse programs in Georgia can be found at [www.dobletstixlacrosse.com](http://www.dobletstixlacrosse.com) or by contacting Chris Smith at [chris@dobletstixlacrosse.com](mailto:chris@dobletstixlacrosse.com) or 404-550-5322.

## RUNNING

**Dash4Dad 5K.** Jun. 18. Sandy Springs, 8:00 AM. 678-638-6388.  
**7th Annual Blake Gammill 10.5K/5K/Mile.** Jun. 18. Douglasville, 7:30 AM. 678-873-6720

**19th Annual S.W.A.T. Trot 5K & 1K.** Jun. 18. Snellville, 8:00 AM. 770-513-5405.

**33rd Annual Possum Trot 10K & Fun Run.** Jun. 18. Roswell, 7:30 AM. 770-992-2055 ext. 226.

**The Garden Gallop 5K.** Jun. 18. Kennesaw, 7:30 AM. 770-919-0248.  
**2nd Annual Holtzclaw Hustle 5K & 10K.** Jun. 18. Cumming, 8:00 AM. 404-387-8556.

**Miles for Monica 5K & 10K.** Jun. 18. Flowery Branch, 9:00 AM. 678-617-0308.

## CAMPS

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

**Club Sport, "Where Atlanta Comes To Play!"** Registration Ongoing for Sand & Indoor Leagues and Tournaments League games played every day and night at the Brookhaven Boys and Girls Club. For more info or to register visit <http://www.usclubsport.com/>

**Jack City Baseball.** Ongoing. Atlanta Braves pitcher Vladimir Nunez is now conducting pitching lessons. To schedule a lesson, call 770-513-4121.

## VOLLEYBALL

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

## SWIMMING & DIVING

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

**Dynamo Swim School.** DynaBabies, Preschool, Grade School, Adult Classes. Youth Swim Team. Call us (770) 457-7946 Ext 16 [www.dynamoswimschool.com](http://www.dynamoswimschool.com)

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

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

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

## YOUTH REGISTRATION

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Corpus Christi Youth Basketball League** Registration is now underway for our 29th season! Boys and girls ages 5 through 14, any skill level, are welcome. Cost: \$90 per child/\$85 for siblings. Fee includes uniforms, field trips, skills clinics, 9 games and more! Register while space is still available Saturdays October 11 & 18, 2008, 10 AM to 12 PM. Location: Corpus Christi Church Sports Arena, 600 Mountain View Drive, Stone Mountain, GA 30083. For info, call 770-469-0395, email [czyb1@gmail.com](mailto:czyb1@gmail.com) or visit the league's website ([www.czyb1.net](http://www.czyb1.net)).

## SOFTBALL

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

## GYMNASTICS

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

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

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

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

## RACING

**Friday Night Drags & MCR Safety Show-N-Shine.** June 10 at Atlanta Motor Speedway

**Dale Jarrett Racing Adventure.** June 11-12 at Atlanta Motor Speedway

**Thursday Thunder.** June 16 at Atlanta Motor Speedway

**Friday Night Drags & MCR Safety Show-N-Shine.** June 17 at Atlanta Motor Speedway

**SpeedTech Racing School.** June 18-19 at Atlanta Motor Speedway

**Thursday Thunder.** June 23 at Atlanta Motor Speedway

**NASA.** June 17-19 at Road Atlanta

## OFFICIATING

**9RCorp Sports Officials.** Ongoing. Provider of sports officials for multiple sports including basketball, flag football, & softball. Looking for additional officials. For information call Dennis Reagan at 404-213-0588 or email [9rcorp@150mail.com](mailto:9rcorp@150mail.com).

**Georgia Lacrosse Officials Association.** Needs boys youth and High School officials for 2010 season. Games are played Spring, Summer, and Fall. Great way to earn extra money and get some fun aerobic exercise. For more information, please visit [www.GALAXREF.com](http://www.GALAXREF.com) or email [recruit@galaxref.com](mailto:recruit@galaxref.com).

**Atlanta Peachstate Football Officials Association.** High School Football Officials needed. We are in need of people who want to officiate high school football in the Atlanta Metro area. No experience is necessary. We have weekly training sessions. For more information go on our web site [www.apfoa.com](http://www.apfoa.com) or call Keith @ 678.592.1194.

## ATLANTA SPORTS COUNCIL

**Chick-Fil-A Bowl.** Dec. 31, 2011. Georgia Dome. For tickets, call 404-444-4444. To reach the Atlanta Sports Council call 404-586-8510 or visit [www.atlantasportscouncil.com](http://www.atlantasportscouncil.com).

## MISC.

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

**GOkickball "Atlanta's Premier Social Experience".** Providing social, co-ed adult kickball leagues throughout metro-Atlanta centered around having a good time, meeting new people, and playing recreational games of kickball at local parks. Registration is open now for summer season. Join the fun! For more information and to register, go to [www.gokickball.com/atlanta](http://www.gokickball.com/atlanta).

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# BULLDOG BEAT

STEPHEN BLACK



## Baseball season ends in Corvallis; golfers finish No. 2

It was a familiar refrain for the Diamond Dawgs, who went 2-2 in the Corvallis Regional and were eliminated by Oregon State in the finals. Georgia ends their baseball season at 33-32 as, for much of the season, they seemed to win – and lose – just enough to stay around .500.

The host Beavers clinched the regional with a 6-4 win over the Bulldogs Sunday night. Georgia leadoff batter Levi Hyams went 3-for-4 in the loss, while shortstop Kyle Farmer was 2-for-4 with three RBIs.

With the game tied at four in the eighth, Oregon State took the lead on a sacrifice fly before tacking an insurance run in the top of the ninth. A bank of lights went out in the bottom of the ninth causing a 15-minute delay before Georgia was retired to end the game.

“Oregon State had an answer every time we scored; we just didn’t have any shut down innings and that’s a credit to them,” said Georgia coach David Perno. “We had a few chances early but came up short a couple of key hits and were a little thin on relief pitching after our first game when 11 innings.”

In order to make the finals, Georgia had to bounce back from a loss to No. 2 seed Creighton on Friday in the opener. In that game, Michael Palazzone was the hard-luck loser, giving up just two earned runs in eight innings. The Dawgs lost 2-1, and had to defeat Arkansas-Little Rock 7-4 on Saturday to stay alive.

Prior to playing Oregon State on Sunday, Georgia got revenge by eliminating Creighton with a 5-4 walkoff win in 11 innings. Backup catcher Brandon Stephens singled in

Peter Verdin for the game-winning run.

### ON THE LINKS ...

Also on Sunday, the Georgia men’s golf team fell 3-2 to Augusta State in the NCAA Championships in Stillwater, Okla. at Karsten Creek Golf Course. Senior Russell Henley and sophomore Bryden McPherson each won their matches, but it was not enough as the Jaguars took their second straight national title.

“The guys fought hard and they never gave up,” Georgia coach Chris Haack said. “It was a pretty tight match all the way around. I’m proud of these guys. They represented us well. The represented the ‘G’ and everybody should be really proud of them.”

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

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# TECH TALK

THOMAS WATSON



## Jackets fall in Atlanta Regional; third such exit in a row

The Yellow Jackets’ baseball season ended in disappointment as Danny Hall’s team again lost at home in the regional round of the NCAA tournament. The No. 9 Yellow Jackets (42-21) fell 7-3 to Mississippi State (37-23) in the final round of the regional. The Bulldogs advance to play No. 2 Florida June 10-13.

The Jackets put themselves behind the eight-ball when they dropped the first game of the regional to Austin Peay 2-1 on Friday. The bigger loss was that All-American Mark Pope tweaked his back in pregame warmups and only lasted 1 2/3 innings. Hall said afterwards he actually hurt it Thursday in a routine throwing session he does every Thursday before starts.

Matthew Grimes came in unexpectedly

and was stellar, only giving up two earned runs in 6 2/3 innings, but left with the loss after the Governors held the Yellow Jackets to only a single run. “I can’t say enough great things about Matthew [Grimes], he was pushed in during the middle of the game and he was outstanding,” said Hall. “It’s disappointing he didn’t come out with the win.”

The next day, Georgia Tech made quick work of Southern Miss, eliminating the Golden Eagles 6-2 after scoring five runs in the second inning. On Sunday, the Yellow Jackets avenged their opening game defeat by flattening Austin Peay 12-2 as Buck Farmer pitched a complete game and improved his record to 11-3.

“I thought that we played a pretty good

game all the way around,” said Hall. “Buck (Farmer) was very dominant (today), it was a great performance by him and a great performance by our team.”

After that victory, the Yellow Jackets ran out of pitching and defense. In the loss to Mississippi State, Georgia Tech committed five errors and only one of the Bulldogs seven runs in the final game was earned. “This was definitely a disappointing loss,” said Hall. “I want to congratulate Mississippi State, I think they are playing very well and I thought they played very well here tonight. I don’t think we played particularly well. I just looked here and saw that we gave up one earned run.”

Watson can be reached at 404-256-1572.

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