



AAAAA - Brookwood at Parkview | AAAA - Greenbrier at Loganville

AAA - Columbus at Ringgold | AA - Pierce Co. at Appling Co.

A - Providence Christian at Charlton County

MAY 26, 28



WELCOME FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

RALPH SWEARNGIN Greetings, GHSA baseball fans!

Welcome to the 2012 GHSA Championship Series for Baseball, the final GHSA event of this school year. Four weeks ago these teams began the journey through the playoffs, and now they are poised for the final challenge – competing for the State Championship. The Georgia High School Association is proud of the commitment to excellence that these players and coaches have demonstrated throughout the season, as the quality of play in high school baseball in Georgia continues to grow.

We hope that you, the faithful fans,

will enjoy these games, and that you will demonstrate the highest levels of sportsmanship as you positively encourage "your team" toward victory.

The GHSA is grateful for the generous contributions of our corporate partners who enable us to provide these events. As you see the list of these partners around the field, please support them at every opportunity.



Ralph Swearngin GHSA Executive Director

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GHSA BASEBALL CHAMPIONS

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Star power the theme of this year's finals

By Stephen Black

If your team is still playing, smile. Out of the more than 400 GHSA baseball programs in the state, only 10 remain.

All 10 teams have had ups and downs and all 10 have had to fight to get to this point. This weekend is about realizing how far these teams have come, and also seeing which five can survive to call themselves "state champs."

CLASS AAAAA ...

Brookwood at Parkview

It's a neighborhood rivalry for the state championship as two Gwinnett County power programs meet for all the marbles. The two teams met twice this season during Region 8 play, and the Broncos took both meetings behind Lucas Sims' pitching.

Sims, a Clemson signee, is one of two players in this series expected to be taken high in this year's Major League Baseball Amateur Draft. The other, Parkview senior Matt Olson, is a Vanderbilt signee, but like Sims, he will need to decide between the MLB Draft and college when this weekend's series comes to a close.

The Panthers are no stranger to the finals, having won it all last season and four times total. Brookwood, meanwhile, last won the state title in 2008, and also in 1986.

CLASS AAAA ...

Greenbrier at Loganville

The Red Devils advanced past Johns Creek to make the finals in one of the most dramatic series in recent state history. Loganville fell behind early in each game, giving up runs to the Gladiators in the first inning of all three games

The final two games came down to the last at-bat, as the Red Devils overcame 1-0 deficits in the final inning of both games. In dramatic fashion, Loganville walked off with the series in the bottom of the seventh inning of Game 3 when Clint Frazier singled in two runs.

Greenbrier also had to go to three games to finish off Whitewater. The Wolfpack, fivetime state champs, had no such drama in their Game 3 by tagging Whitewater for 15 hits and 15 runs. Georgia Tech signee Jordan Hunt leads a talented Greenbrier pitching staff, while senior centerfielder Spencer Duffy leads a potent lineup.

CLASS AAA ... Columbus at Ringgold

In direct contrast to each other, the Ringgold Tigers are stalking their first-ever state baseball championship while the Columbus Blue Devils are trying to bring home their 12th. But while the Tigers are short on tradition in this matchup, they may have an edge in motivation.

The town of Ringgold was devastated by tornadoes almost a year ago exactly, and the Tigers want nothing more than to bring a state championship home for their community. Ringgold will be led by Austin Parrish, who threw a complete game in the semifinals, and Andy Mocahbee, who homered twice in the Game 3 clincher

Columbus is headlined by some familiar names to state of Georgia baseball fans. The

Blue Devils are led by Kyle Carter, J.T. Phillips and John Lester, who starred for the city's 2006 Little League World Series champions. In their last series together as teammates, the trio would like nothing better than to bring home the school's third straight state title.

Pierce County at Appling County

If you are looking for star power, this matchup provides it with one name: Byron Buxton. The University of Georgia signee may be the first player in the state selected in the upcoming MLB Draft.

Buxton has led his band of Pirates through the playoffs at the plate and on the

mound. In the semifinals series against Brantley County, Buxton pitched in both games (Appling County swept) and also had a bases-clearing triple.

Pierce County meanwhile. advanced past Lovett in the semifinals in three games. Starting pitcher Will Lowman tossed a nohitter in Game 1, while Drew Taylor and Nate Gay homered in Game 3 to key an avalanche of offense by the Bears.

The winner of this series will claim its first state championship in program history.

CLASS A ... Providence Christian at Charlton County

The state's quaintest classification also features two programs looking for their first state championship in baseball. Each team

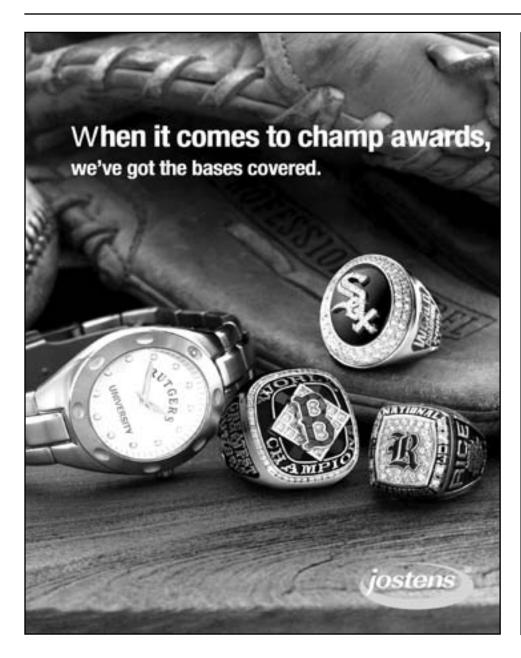
won their respective semifinals series in three

Providence Christian relies on powerhitter Christin Stewart, who drilled a staterecord 69th career homer in the semifinals. The Stars edged Savannah Christian in the semifinals with a Game 3 7-6 win.

Charlton County rolled past George Walton Academy in Game 3 of the semifinals behind 4 2/3 innings of scoreless relief from pitcher Chris Smith. Jacob Baxter had two RBIs for the Indians while Richard Dasher was 2-for-3 with an RBI.

Photo of Christin Stewart courtesy of Providence Chr. HS. Black can be reached at sblack@scoreatl.com.







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CHAMPIONSHIP BASEBALL ROSTERS

AAAAA - Brookwood at Parkview
AAAA - Greenbrier at Loganville
AAA - Columbus at Ringgold
AA - Pierce County at Appling County
A - Providence Christian at Charlton County

	CLASS	AAAA	1	5	Steven Maier	11	0F	24	Matthew Crownover	12	P/OF		Appling Count	y Pira	tes
Brookwood Broncos				6	Jordan Hunt	12	Р	25	Adam Weldon	12	IF/P		Head Coach: Je	•	
	Head Coach:	Rick Howa	rd	7	Taylor Glover	11	C		Brandon Dycus	10	OF/P	1	Josh Barber	12	SS/P
1	Cedric Mullins	12	0F	8	Spencer Duffie	12	2B	33	Corey Kafka	12	IF/P	2	Justin Javis	12	0F
2	Tre Lawrence	11	0F	9	Trey Koenig	11	C		•			3	Byron Buxton	12	P/OF
3	Allen Tokarz	12	Р	10	Clint Hardy	11	Р		Columbus Blue	Dev	rils	4	Cole Simmons	11	P
4	Brock Baughcum		2B		Connor Hoover	10	2B		Head Coach: Bobb	у Но	oward	5	Guner Sellers	11	C
5	Blake Schuck	12	2B		Chris Michals	10	 P	2	Luke Thompson	11	OF/P	8	Josh Deen	11	OF/P
6	Jordan Dykes	11	0F		Rhett Stanley	12	0F	3	Spencer Draws	12	INF	12	Gage Patton	10	3B
8	Nick Fonseca	11	C		Adam Grice	11	1B	4	Josh Lester	12	INF	13	Colby Griffin	12	0F
10			0F		Adam Sasser	9	1B	10	Ryan Lang	12	0F	14	Kyle Miller	12	1B
	Matt Aycock	11	P	_	Brett Lillis	9	C	11	Nick Poskey	10	INF/P	15	Devin Causey	12	1B
	Michael Ranieri	11	P		Christian Hill	11	P	12	Anthony Dalponte	11	IF/P	16	Tyler Sapp	10	P/2B
	Zach Moon	11	C	_	Austin Robinson	11	Р	13	Christian Wiggs	10	INF/P/C	22	Dylan Hutchinson	12	0F
	Patrick Riley	12	P		71401111 11051110011	•	•	16	Will Kilgore	10	INF/P	23	Mathew Shumans	12	OF/P
	Ryan Woodard	12	Р		Loganville Re	d Devi	le	17	J.T. Phillips	12	INF/P	25	Jeremy Ammons	12	P/2B
	Clint Carr	12	C		Head Coach: Je			18	John Weekley	11	C/OF	28	Zack Smith	11	OF/SS
	Stephen Wray	12	P	1	David Chabut	9 9	MI	22	Alonzo Jones, Jr.	9	INF/OF				
	Jonathan White	9	2B	2	David Mayo	11	MI/P	24	Pierce Ressmeyer	12	C		CLASS	S A	
	Lucas Sims	12	P	5	Chandler Downing	10	OF/P	25	Anthony Young, Jr.	11	OF/P	Pr	ovidence Christian	Acad	emy Stars
	Michael Gouge	12	3B	6	Andy Clay	11	MI	26	Avery Seckinger	12	P/INF		Head Coach: Ada	am Ca	ntrell
	illionaci adago		OB	9	Clark Califf	10	OF	27	Keith Sims	12	0F	1	Tyler Brown	12	0F
	Parkview	Panthers		1N	Logan Mattix	10	MI/P	29	Reeves Sheffield	11	0F	3	Patrick Smith	12	P
	Head Coach: Chan Brown			11	_	10	OF/P	31	Jackson Wells	11	INF	4	Justin Brew	11	0F
1	Jake Hipple	11	 2B		Garrett Ford	12	OF/P	32	Hunter Swilling	11	INF/P	5	Josh Carter	12	2B
2	Jeff Ronpirin	12	2B		Brandon Stewert	11	C	33	Harrison Kurtz	10	C	6	Austin Loyd	12	SS
3	Jack Esmonde	12	P		Daniel Milligan	11	3B/P	36	Kyle Carter	12	OF/P	8	Erich Stahl	11	3B
4	Ryan Blanton	11	OF		Coty Stewert	12	ов/1 Р	38	Russell Forthofer	9	P/INF	9	John Bailey	12	0F
5	JP Chamblee	10	C		Clint Frazier	11	3B/P	40	Robin Geven	11 (OF/P/INF	10	Michael Shealy	11	P
6	Austin Fisher	12	P		Brandon Williams	10	C	42	Anthony Padron	12	OF/P	11	Austin Smith	12	0F
7	Edwin Arias	12	SS	_	Kyle Hall	11	MI	44	Greg Lewis	12	P	13	Christin Stewart	12	C
8	Zach Langley	11	0F		Royce Harrison	10	C	45	Chandler Stutzman	10	OF/P	21	Charlie Scott	11	C
11	•		3B		Brandon Moncrief	10	OF	48	Joey Brown	12	P		Max Broom	11	SS
	Mason Caskey	11	P		Eric Boss	12	C						Steven Slaughter	12	1B
	Mac Marshall	10	P		Brandon Pergantis	12	OF/P		CLASS				Matt James	11	3B
	Jordan Kelly	10	P		Josh Nelson	12	OI/F P		Pierce County			44	Zach Meier	10	Р
	Josh Hart	11	OF		Christian Miller	12	OF/P		Head Coach: Gi	•	-				
_	Jarrett Freeland	11	C		Avery Fagan	11	OF/P	1	Codi Dixon	12	0F		Charlton Coun	•	
	AJ Davis	12	0F			10	1B/P	2	Vince Elliott	11	SS		Head Coach: Tha		
	Matt Olson	12	ог 1В	J4	Tyler Mixon	10	ו ט/ וי	3	Will Lowman	12	P	1	Jesse King	10	P/OF
	Jesse Foster	12	OF		CLASS	^ ^ ^	\	4	Will White	12	P	2	LJ Talley	9	SS/P
	Jim Wagner	10	2B		Ringgold T		_	5	Cole Dowling	11	2B	3	Jacob Popham	11	0F/2B
	Micah Finley	11	OF		Head Coach: Br	-	ckor	6	Austin Allen	9	0F	4	Scott Birchall	9	P/OF
	Sam McCoy	11	UF P	1	Slade Dale	10	ir IF	7	Nate Gay	12	C	5	Ryan Turner	12	P/1B
	Hunter Thornton		C	1 2	Wright Hackett	12	OF/IF	8	Michael D'Ambrosio		P	6	Ryan Young	11	2B/1B
	Trevor Brown	9	SS	3	Ethan Dalton	9	C	9	Drew Taylor	12	0F	7	Chris Smith	12	P/3B
31		9 11	33 1B	J E		9 12	C/IF		•	9	C	8	Drew Gowan	12	C/OF
_			OF		Andy Mocahbee		-		Brian Barefield	12	0F	9	Josh Crosby	10	0F/3B
33	Michael Craig	10	Uľ	6 7	Caleb Peters Read Walden	10	OF OF		Harrison Hart	11	1B		Brad Baxter	10	C/OF
				<i>1</i>		12	_		Jordan Handley	11	SS		Jacob Baxter	11	SS/P
CLASS AAAA Greenbrier Wolfpack				9	Austin Parrish	11	OF/P		Stetson Smith	9	3B		Hampton Huling	10	1B/P
Greenbrier Woitpack Head Coach: Chris Wilkins		ne		Alan Mocahbee	12 0	IF IE/D		Rod Kennedy	11	0F		Dylan Turner	10	2B/P	
4					Zach Morris	9	IF/P		Cody Harris	12	P		Richard Dasher	10	P/3B
ı	Hunter Boose	12 12	SS		Gabe Rich	11	C/P		Brandon Popham	12	P		Brandon Dell	9	3B/P
2	Tyler Fournier	12	SS		Mark Fairbanks	12	OF OE/D		Tim Huff	12	OF		Scott Beasley	11	C/P
3	Zack Metcalf	11 10	0F		Andrew Douglas	11	OF/P		Terry Carter	12	0F		Derek King	12	C/OF
4	Knox Marchman	10	3B	23	Logan Baldwin	10	OF/P	30	Brandon Aldridge	12	Р	29	Will Gowen	10	DH/OF

PHENOMENA



Georgia's five top prospects prepare for draft

By Fletcher Proctor

s the 2012 GHSA baseball season prepares As the 2012 OHOA obscorn the to declare its five champions, many Major League Baseball scouts will be watching the championship series to see just how the standouts fare and whether the cream that rises to the top may be ready to rise to the top of the draft boards.

For years Georgia high school players such as Jason Heyward, Tim Beckham, Delino DeShields Jr. and others dating back to Mike Ivie (1970) and Ron Blomberg (1967) have been taken in the first round straight out of the prep ranks and thrust into professional baseball. This year's crop of talent could surpass the 2010 season, when five high school talents were taken in the first round.

BLASTIN' BYRON ...

The first Georgia high school player expected to be selected could be the first player taken overall in the draft. Appling County's Byron Buxton is an outfielder with all of the tools that MLB teams covet from a potential No. 1 selection. Buxton stands 6-foot-2, weighs 180 pounds and while his home run numbers haven't popped eyeballs, his blazing speed has scouts drooling. Buxton recently knocked just his third home run of the year, but his speed was on display against Blessed Trinity as the speedy Buxton registered a stolen base and later scored the winning run in Game 1 from second on a single. In the semifinals, he knocked a bases-loaded triple to clinch a ticket to the Class AA finals.

Buxton's defense is also a major reason why he could be taken No. 1 overall by the Houston Astros. According to Keith Law of ESPN, Buxton is the top high school player in this year's draft, and Law has given Buxton's defense a perfect 80 rating. Law also saw fit to give Buxton an 80 as a runner. He projects "big future power" for the outfielder.

In addition to serving as an outfielder, Buxton has been called upon to pitch for Appling County. Buxton started Game 1 of his team's quarterfinals series victory over Blessed Trinity and then came on in relief to close out the Titans in Game 2. He also pitched in both games as Appling County closed out Brantley County in the semifinals.

Appling County coach Jeremy Smith said that Buxton is more than just an outstanding player. Smith noted that Buxton leads by example. "He's a tremendous kid, very humble and team-oriented.'

Smith did concede that Buxton has some incredible gifts as a baseball player. "If there was only one part of his game to watch, I'd like to watch him run," said Smith.

According to Smith several scouts including one from the Boston Red Sox have timed Buxton as getting from the batters box to first base in 3.7 seconds.

GWINNETT STARS ...

Several Class AAAAA prospects have made college declarations, but two could end up leaving Clemson and Vanderbilt at the altar if their names are

called early enough in the first round. Brookwood's Lucas Sims signed with Clemson and was still undecided about his future plans entering the playoffs. That may have changed, though, as Sims has been fantastic through the early rounds of the GHSA playoffs.

Sims went the distance in Game 1 of Brookwood's best-of-three quarterfinals series against Harrison, striking out eight in the 11-2 win. Sims would also come through with his bat in Game 3, keeping a rally alive to help Brookwood take down the Hoyas. Sims had previously dominated Colquitt County with 10 strikeouts after striking out seven North Gwinnett batters in five innings. He also pitched a complete game shutout against Grayson in the semifinals.

ESPN lists Sims as the No. 12 high school player in America and projects Sims as landing in the top half of the first round of the draft. Jason Churchill believes Sims has a "plus fastball and curveball. The breaking ball sits in the low 80s with good shape, depth and late break."

Meanwhile reigning Gatorade Player of

the Year Matt Olson has a future at Vanderbilt if he wants it, but Parkview's Olson could too be selected early in the first round of the MLB draft. Olson came through for the Panthers in Game 3 of the quarterfinals

against Hillgrove. The pitcher/ first baseman was 2-for-3 with a double and two RBIs after hitting a home run and driving in three in the Panthers' Game 2 win.

Churchill noted on Olson's ES-PNHS profile that Parkview prospect "has big-time raw power."

TERRIFIC TEAMMATES ...

The Columbus Blue Devils are no strangers to extended GHSA playoff runs as the Blue Devils have taken the last two Class AAA crowns. This year's squad boasts a pair of players that could hear their names called early in this June's MLB draft.

Kyle Carter has a smooth left-handed stroke, and the outfielder/pitcher was on full display last December in Phoenix. Carter bashed 14 home runs to win the 6th annual Power Showcase Home Run Derby at the Diamondbacks' Chase Field. Carter set the Columbus single-season home run record with 22 one year ago while maintaining a .467 batting clip. He was nearly unhittable on the mound, winning nine games with 97 strikeouts. He has been just as good on the bump this season, recently striking out 18 batters in a second-round game against Harlem and going the distance in a win over Troup in the semifinals.

It will likely be Carter's prowess at the plate, though, that will get him drafted in the first round. In a piece written by Score Atlanta's Stephen Black, Columbus head coach Bobby Howard gushed over his star.

"There aren't too many hitters like Kyle," said Howard. "He's been good for a long time He's pretty special."

and has been able to live up to expectations. Pitchers have shied away from throwing to Carter much this season, choosing

to intentionally walk the six-foot-one, 195-pound phenom. The strategy hasn't paid off, however, as the rest of the team, including J.T. Phillips, has stepped up with some big numbers. Phillips, who has signed

with Georgia, could also

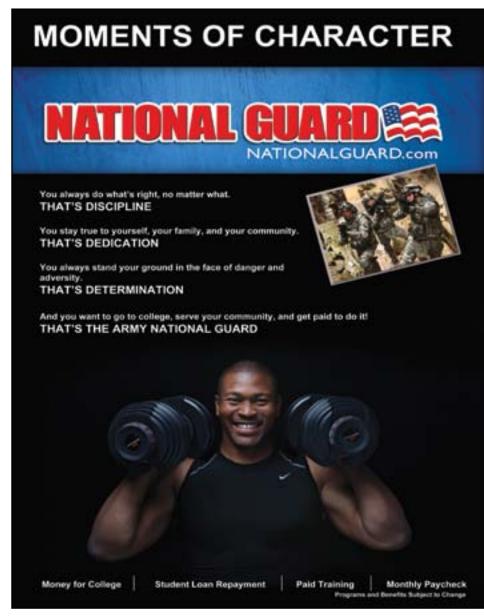
hear his name called early enough in the MLB draft to skip his time in Athens. Phillips stands 6-foot-3, 200-pounds and could project as a third baseman in college or the pros, though he has been manning the shortstop position for the Blue Devils. He also has been lighting up radar guns off the mound for Columbus this season after returning from a back injury that forced him to miss part of the early non-region schedule.

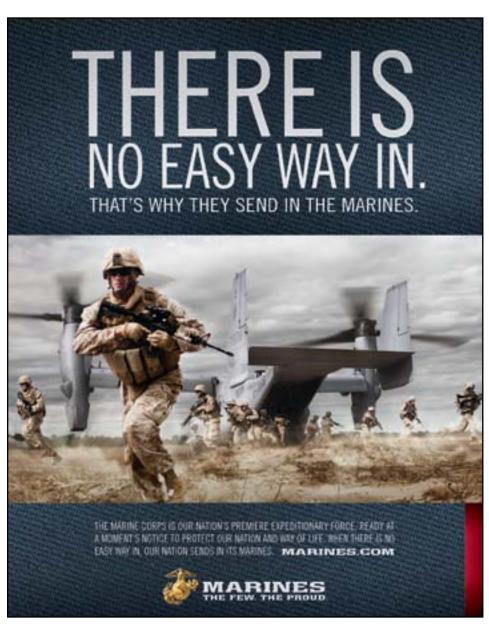
The state of Georgia has been called one of the top four states in terms of producing football talent every National Signing Day, and schools across the country annually raid the Peach State for basketball talent. The baseball talent from Georgia is strong this year and Major League Baseball scouts have taken notice of these Georgia gems. Get a good look at these high school stars now because soon they will be making an impression at the major league level.

Photo of Byron Buxton (left) courtesy of Janet Patton/Appling County, amd Matt Olson (right) courtesy of Parkview HS. Proctor can be reached at fproctor@scoreatl.com.

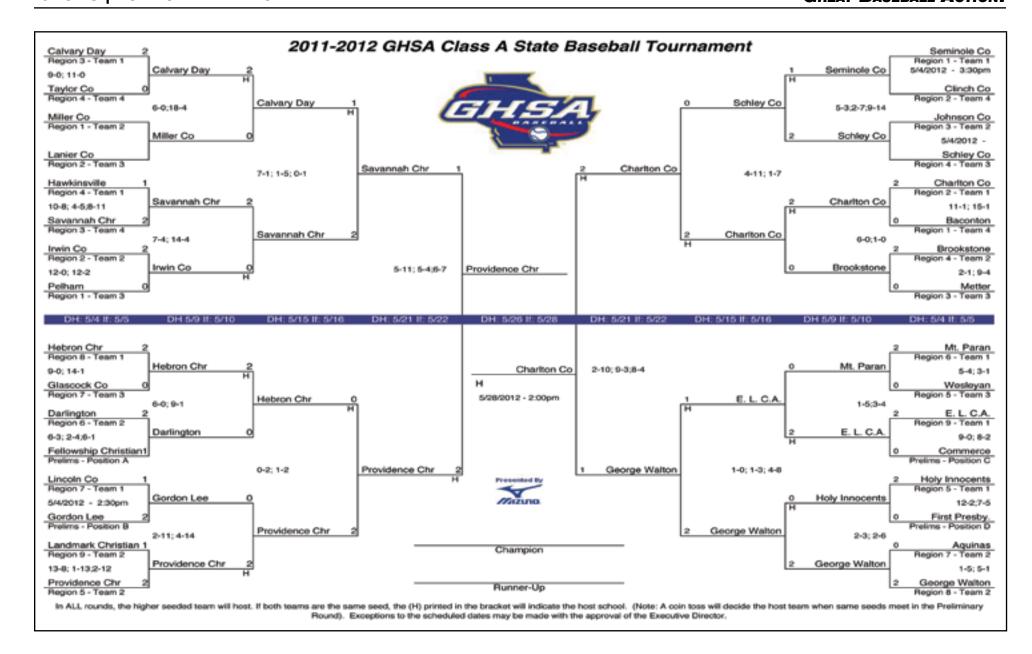


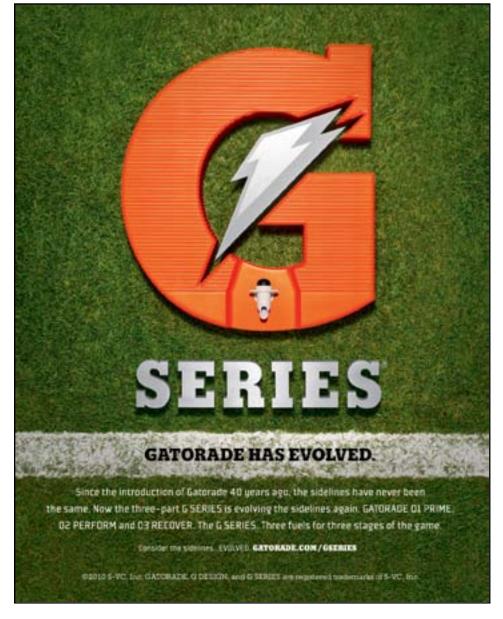






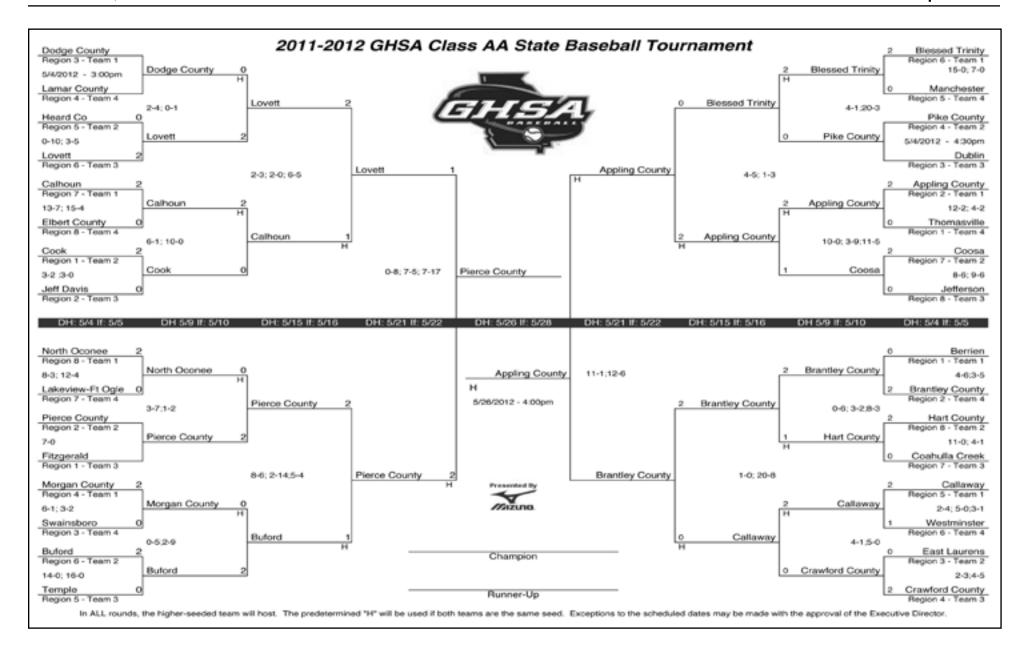


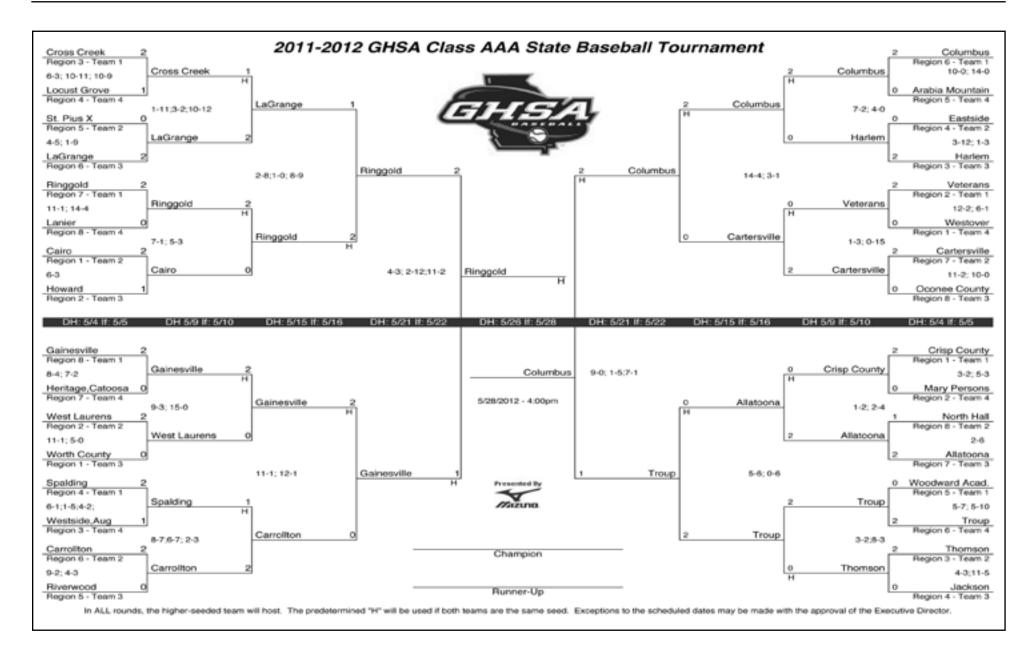


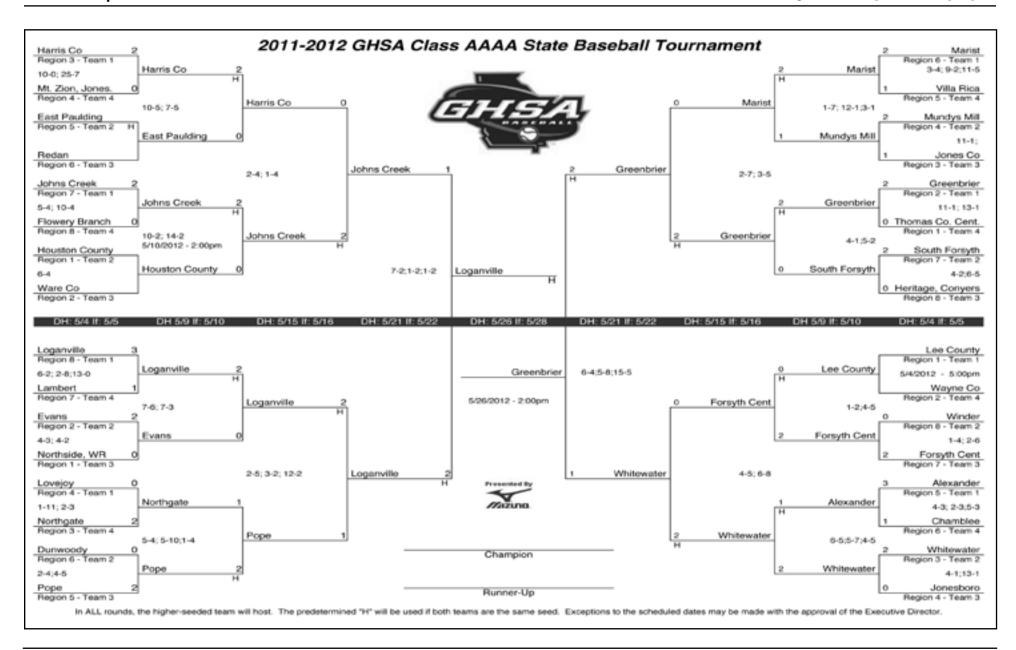


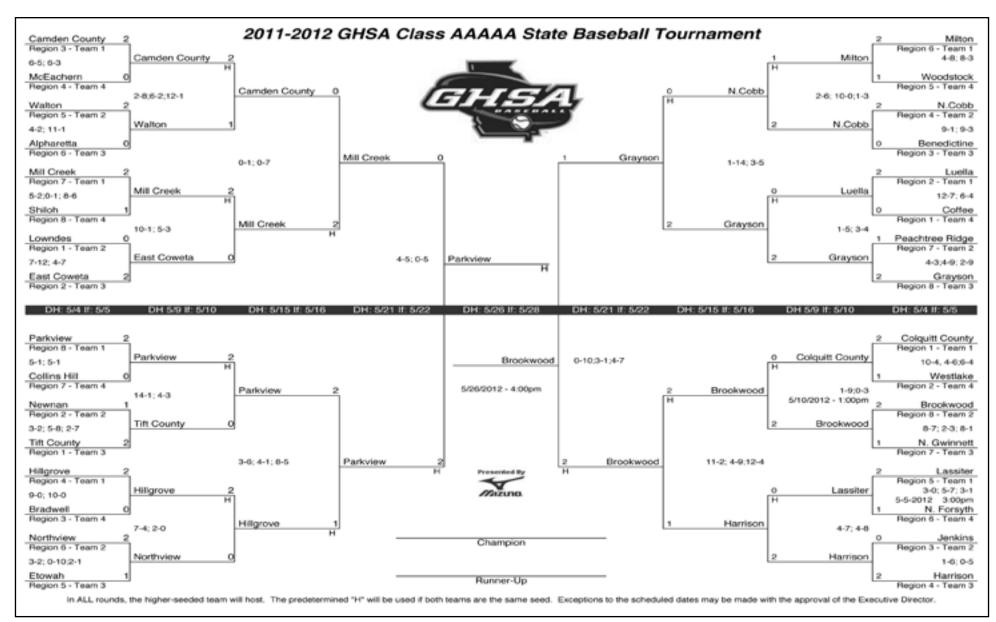


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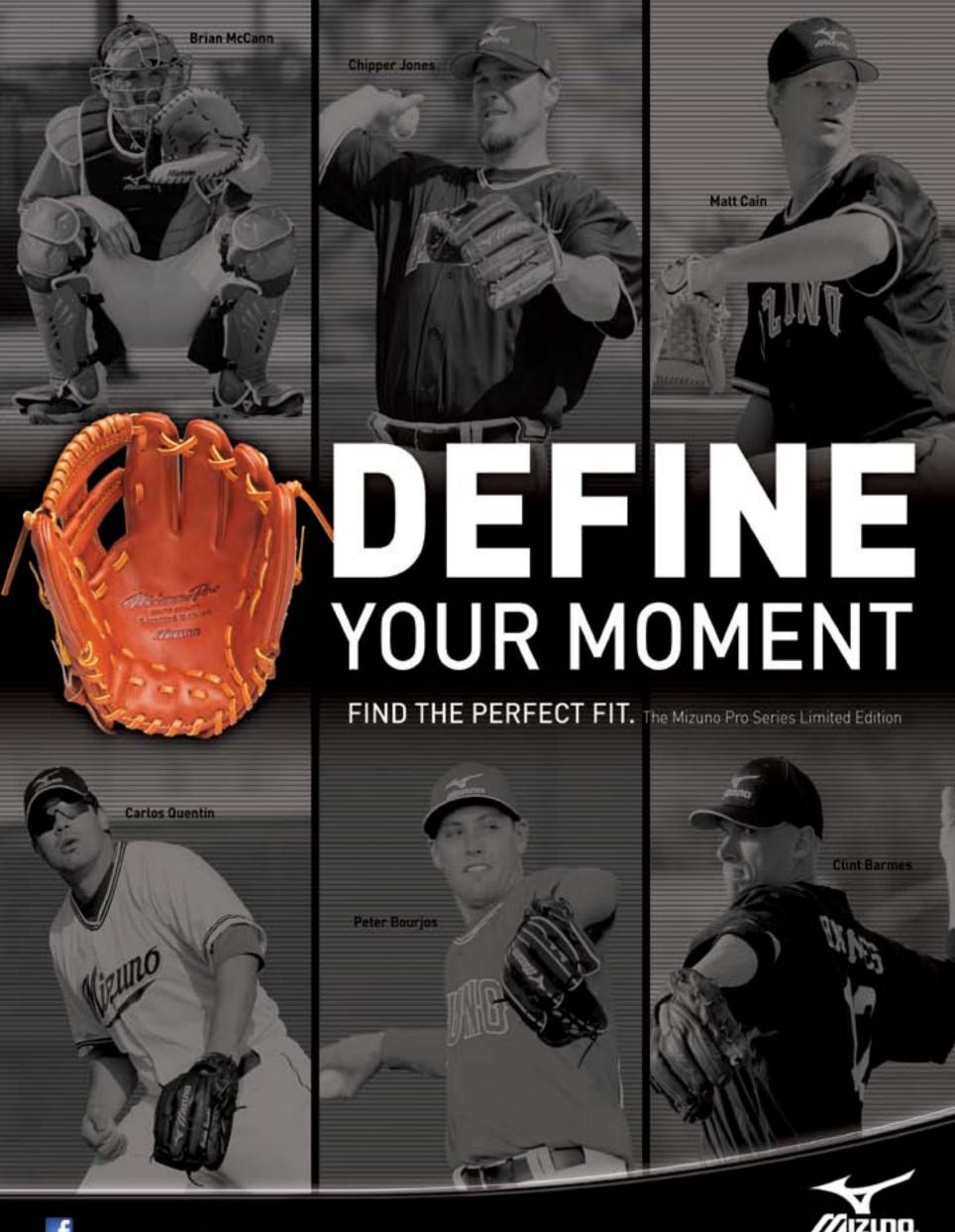


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