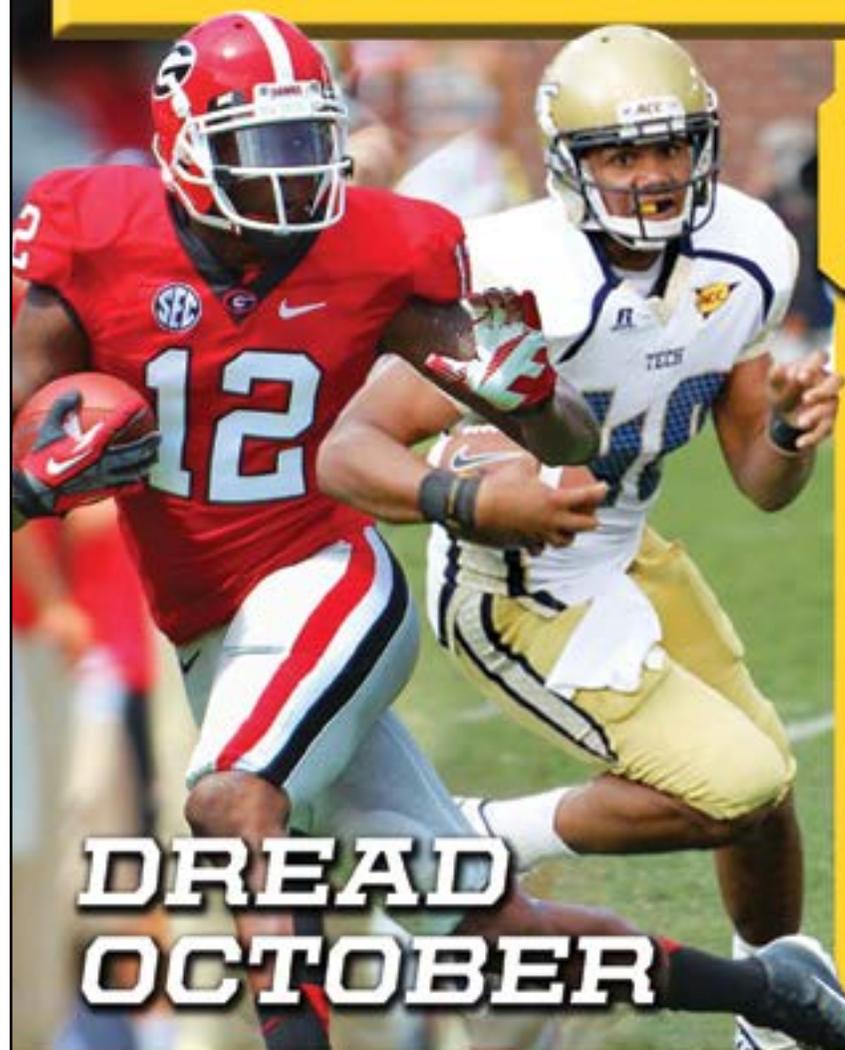


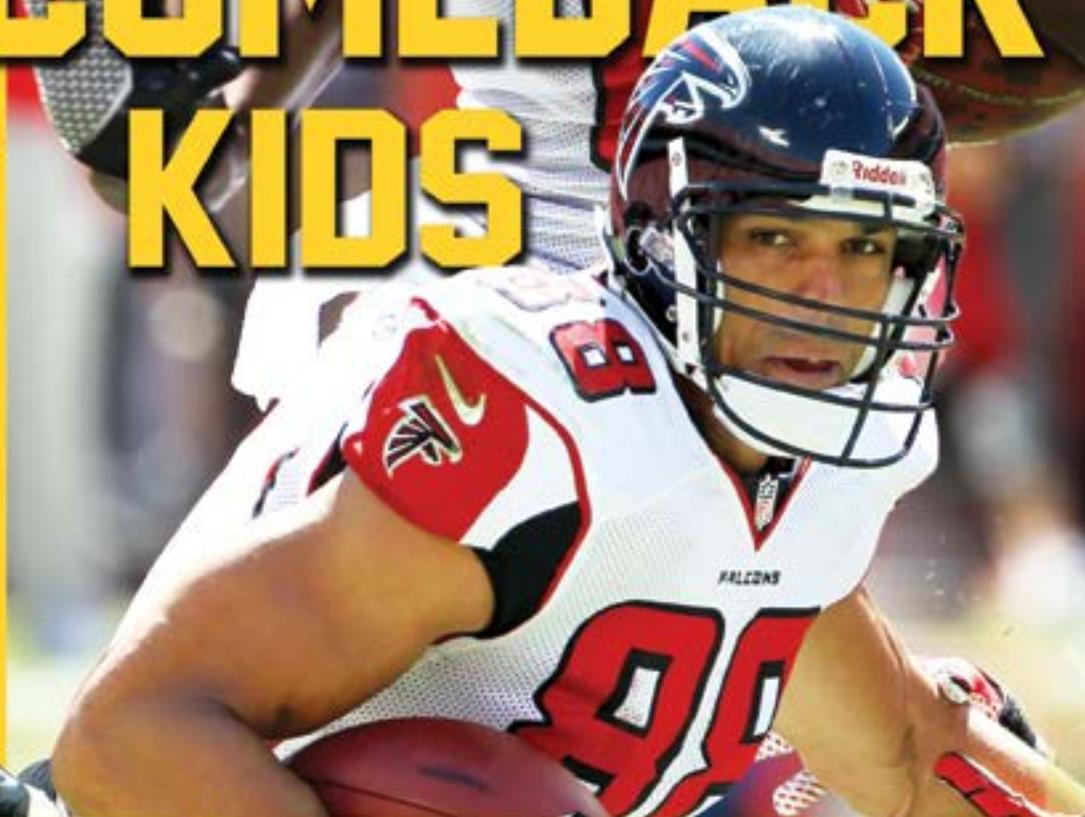
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Vol. 8 | Iss. 19 | October 12-18, 2012



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CAN'T MISS THIS WEEK

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- 5** Chris Lionetti reflects on the nightmare weekend for Atlanta-area sports fans.
- 7** In our prep feature story, Stephen Black spoke with coaches of two top-ranked softball teams on the cusp of the state playoffs.
- 8** We preview the GPB Games of the Week: Lassiter at Milton and Southwest DeKalb at Tucker.

TEAM SCOOP AND VOICES

COVER DESIGN BY DJ GALBIATI BLALOCK
 COVER PHOTOS COURTESY OF ROB SAYE, JON BARASH AND
 JIMMY CRIBB/ATLANTA FALCONS

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INSIDE AT SCORE

ON THE Score Atlanta is looking for new sales associates as well as writing and graphic design interns. For sales positions, e-mail IJ Rosenberg at ijrosenberg@scoreatl.com. For writing internships, e-mail Stephen Black at sblack@scoreatl.com. For graphic design internships, e-mail DJ Galbiati at djgalbiati@scoreatl.com. Feel free to call 404-256-1572 to speak with someone about any of these positions.

SHOT OF THE WEEK...



WRESTLING RAMBO: Georgia's Baccari Rambo lost this battle with South Carolina wide receiver Damiere Byrd, and the Bulldogs lost the war in Columbia Saturday night in a 35-7 woodshedding. This sequence pretty much symbolized the whole night for Mark Richt's Bulldogs. Photo courtesy of Rob Saye.

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THE FLETCH



Many different angles on Milton investigation

By Fletcher Proctor

It is always big-time news when a major program such as the Milton boys basketball team is investigated by its own school and county school system, and Tuesday's ruling by the GHSA was certainly covered by media outlets across the state. Back on Sept. 11, four different television stations as well as the AJC and Score Atlanta covered a press conference in front of the school when the Fulton County Schools athletic director Dr. Steven Craft and Milton principal Clifford Jones shared certain details of the investigation and commented on former coach David Boyd's resignation.

During the press conference, the pair announced that they had turned the findings of an investigation over to the GHSA for a ruling. The Georgia High School Association

ruled this past Tuesday that the Milton boys basketball program was placed on probation, fined and banned from postseason play for the 2012-13 season. The GHSA released the ruling in a statement on its website with the note that typically the governing body doesn't make these rulings public.

It was interesting to follow the coverage Tuesday as first several news sites were running with the press release and little more. Then Score and the AJC came out with stories on the issue after doing some background work. The AJC was able to snag a few comments from GHSA executive director Ralph Swearngin in a side story in addition to revealing some findings from the investigation.

Score was able to get in contact with the

GHSA, Milton's AD and the executive director of communications for Fulton County Schools. Samantha Evans was quite candid in saying that Fulton County fully supported the GHSA's ruling. For more from Ms. Evans, visit scoreatl.com.

VOTE OF CONFIDENCE ...

Georgia Tech head coach Paul Johnson lost his buffer earlier this week when he removed Al Groh as Yellow Jackets defensive coordinator. The Georgia Tech defense had been shredded in recent weeks, and the recent losing streak was the final straw for Groh in Johnson's eyes.

As with any big move such as this, state media outlets were all over this as 680 The Fan personalities, 790 The Zone personalities and AJC columnists began weighing in immediately. The AJC's Mark Bradley noted that while Groh's defenses were giving up big yardage and plenty of points, perhaps a lack of talent is the biggest issue on The Flats. "To fault the defensive coordinator for everything that has gone wrong at Georgia Tech would be a gross overstatement," noted Bradley in a Monday column.

Jeff Schultz called Groh and Georgia Tech a mistake, a disaster and a problem.

"He was Paul Johnson's mistake," wrote

Schultz. "It took about 2.5 years for the Georgia Tech head coach to realize that."

Schultz did stick up for Johnson towards the end of his column, noting that Johnson has been taking abuse recently, but it was not because of the offense but rather the defense.

The biggest part of the story was Schultz's Tuesday column when he got Georgia Tech AD Dan Radakovich to give Johnson the (dreaded) vote of confidence.

"I have confidence in Paul," said Radakovich to Schultz in the piece. "He's the right person for this job, and he will continue to move the program forward."

Typically an affirmation like this is the kiss of death. Unless Tech turns things around in a hurry, Johnson will likely begin the 2013 season on a scorching seat.

BAD NIGHT ...

ESPN's Kirk Herbstreit did not hold back last Saturday night when he called Georgia's performance against South Carolina "shocking" in how bad it was. He railed against Georgia during the fourth quarter, for good reason, but the Georgia fans that were still watching the blowout were likely cursing Herbstreit for adding insult to injury.

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DIMON CLUB



Falcons salvage weekend for Atlanta fans

By Ricky Dimon

Last weekend came dangerously close to going down as arguably the worst weekend in the history of Atlanta sports. Anyone who has lived in this city for an extended period of time knows that's saying quite a lot. How bad was it? Let's just say that I don't even have enough space here to discuss Georgia, which lost to South Carolina 35-7!

The weekend will still live in infamy; there's no doubt about that. But thanks to the Falcons (what's new?), it at least ended on a much-needed positive note.

THE GOOD ...

I think I speak for the rest of this city when I exhale and say, "Thank God for the Falcons." They simply saved the weekend gone by with another nail-biting victory, this

time on the road in Washington, 24-17.

For the first time in franchise history, Atlanta is 5-0. Is Mike Smith's squad, which leads the NFC South by an outrageous 3.5 games, a convincing 5-0? Maybe not. The Falcons would have lost to Carolina if Cam Newton had just held on to the football and they might have fallen to the Redskins if RG3 had not been concussed in the third quarter. But who cares? Making a little luck go a long way is the sign of a championship team.

They say it's better to be lucky than good. But it's even better to be both. These Atlanta Falcons are.

THE BAD ...

There's bad...and then there's the Georgia Tech defense. Tech has allowed more than

40 points in three consecutive games (all losses) and a total of 138 in that span to Miami, Middle Tennessee (!!!) and Clemson. Those three opponents amassed an average of 573.3 yards per contest and combined to convert a shocking 31 of 46 third downs. Not too surprisingly, it resulted in the firing of defensive coordinator Al Groh on Monday.

"I think it's a call to everybody—the coaches, the players, myself, everybody—that we need to do better, that we're not giving up on the season and the way we've played is not acceptable," head coach Paul Johnson told the Atlanta Journal Constitution. "I didn't want to give up the rest of the season. I still think we can come back and have a good season. That's why I did it now."

Wow. Equating the retention of Groh to giving up on the season is some kind of harsh. Does Groh deserve what he got? Yeah. But did Johnson also need to find a scapegoat as his own seat continues to heat up? Probably so.

THE UGLY ...

Hollywood could not write a script for a horror movie more nightmarish than what transpired last Friday night at Turner Field. Consider... first, the Braves headed into the one-game playoff against St. Louis having won a league-record 23 straight games started by Kris Medlen. Secondly, under the previous postseason format they would have won the

NL's lone wild card by six games and coasted into the divisional round of the playoffs. Finally, this was the final season of Chipper Jones' illustrious Hall of Fame career.

None of that mattered to the baseball gods. Instead, they decided to further curse Atlanta with one of the most bizarre calls in the history of the sport. Nor did common sense matter to umpire Sam Holbrook. In the past three seasons, six infield flies had dropped to the ground. The longest of those was measured at 178 feet from home plate. Andrelton Simmons' fly ball (yes, "fly ball") landed exactly 225 feet from the plate. In other words, Simmons' "outfield fly" traveled a whopping 47 feet farther than the previously longest ball that had been ruled an infield fly.

The usually tame Braves fans promptly voiced their displeasure by delaying the game 19 minutes, trashing the field mostly with beer cans. I can promise you that most fanbases would never have stopped, ultimately causing their teams to forfeit (something that was threatened several times over the Turner Field PA system). That doesn't make what the crowd did right, but it does mean the incident should not stain Atlanta fans with an undeserved black eye. Friday's antics notwithstanding, our old stigma ("apathetic") is still closer to the truth.

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ROUGH WEEKEND



October not very welcoming to local fans

By Chris Lionetti



The month of October is one of the best times of the year to be a sports fan. Major League Baseball begins its playoffs in October, conference play intensifies in college football, the NBA season begins and, of course, the National Football League cannot be forgotten.

Atlanta and its fans often enjoy October because it means playoffs for the Braves, conference play for Georgia and Georgia Tech and the return of the Hawks. However, the month of October has put a sour taste in the mouths of Atlanta sports fans this year.

INFIELD CRY ...

The last season of Chipper Jones' career was supposed to end with a deep run in the playoffs. The Braves sealed a playoff berth late in September, but were pushed out earlier than expected and, once again, it was the St. Louis Cardinals that did it.

Unrest began among Braves fans at the start of the month after the team dropped two games to the Pittsburgh Pirates in the final

series of the season. Sports talk radio shows in Atlanta took calls from fans that likened the past series to the Braves' collapse in 2011, though there was a silver lining for fans. The team had a date with the Cardinals at home at the end of the week and white-hot pitcher Kris Medlen was toeing the rubber for the Braves.

The Braves would end up losing the game but in typical Atlanta sports fashion, they lost the game in the worst way. Known as the best fielding team in the majors, the Braves made three errors against the Cardinals. Even worse was an eighth inning call that drew the ire of fans.

Atlanta had two runners on with Andrelton Simmons at the plate with one out. Simmons hit a ball to left field that seemed to be a fly out, but the ball dropped between the shortstop and outfielder. Normally that would result in a single, but the left-field umpire ruled that it was an infield fly.

Braves fans were sent into an uproar

at the call, which was widely debated in the baseball world. The fans were so miffed at the call that they threw trash onto the field, causing a 19-minute delay.

DAWGS DOMINATED ...

"Like I told the guys, we took a whipping, but the good news was that we all took it together," said Georgia Bulldogs head coach Mark Richt after the team's 35-7 loss to South Carolina.

Seen by many to be a national title contender at the beginning of the season, the Bulldogs laid an egg in their biggest game of the year thus far. South Carolina dominated the Dawgs from the first snap and never allowed them to get back into the game. The win puts South Carolina in the driver's seat for the SEC East crown and leaves Georgia praying that the Gamecocks stumble twice on their way to Atlanta.

Not everyone expected Georgia to pull out a victory in Columbia, but fans would have taken a three-point loss over Saturday's debacle. The Bulldogs have consistently not shown up for big games and Saturday's game just continued the trend. Just like their Braves brethren, Georgia fans needed an outlet for their frustration, but a small minority would take it a step further than their peers.

When quarterback Aaron Murray returned home early Sunday morning, he and his roommates were welcomed by a home covered in eggs and toilet paper. The act was clearly of the angered fan variety, which had linebacker Christian Robinson asking if fans were on the same "team" as the players in a twitter post.

Discontent in the Bulldog Nation did not erode away after the weekend as callers called in to radio shows to voice their opinion on whether or not Richt needs to be fired. They also asked what happened to a defense that was expected to be among the best in the country.

This feeling often arises among Georgia fans after the team loses a game, but this scenario may have more credibility than others. Fans have come to expect their team to lose the big games, a reoccurring trend in recent years, but after being lambasted with promises of a championship-caliber team, they have become tired of mediocrity.

The Bulldogs seemed to lack fire on Saturday and often that boils down to how their head coach prepares them. Richt's head is not on the chopping block as of now, but if Georgia loses to Kentucky or Florida, things may change.

TECH TANKS ...

The Yellow Jackets ended the month of September with an abysmal showing against Middle Tennessee State. A member of the Sun Belt conference, the Blue Raiders scored 49 points against the Jackets to send them reeling into their next game against the rival Clemson Tigers.

Georgia Tech typically plays the Tigers tough and that was the case again this year. The teams exchanged leads for the first three quarters until Clemson scored 17 points late to pull away from Paul Johnson's team.

At 2-4, Georgia Tech has not been as good as advertised. After the Clemson game, Tech had allowed teams to put up 40-plus points in three straight games. Johnson's seat has begun to feel the heat and, as a result, he fired defensive coordinator Al Groh. Though the defense has been horrible in 2012, Groh may have been a scapegoat for Johnson's underachieving season as head coach.

Yellow Jacket fans may not have expected to defeat Clemson, but the fact that they had victory within their grasp makes it that more frustrating.

FALCONS SOAR ...

Though they had to rally in the fourth quarter to defeat the Washington Redskins, the Falcons have been the lone bright spot for Atlanta-area fans thus far in the month of October.

Matt Ryan has taken his game to a different level in 2012 under the tutelage of new offensive coordinator Dirk Koetter, and it has the Falcons flying high.

In the past, Atlanta fans most likely expected the team to lose once it was down against the Redskins, but these Falcons are resilient. They showed it against the Panthers with a comeback victory with under a minute left in the game and showed it again against the Redskins.

Currently atop the NFL power rankings, Ryan and the Falcons are being hyped as possible Super Bowl contenders. If the team plows through the competition as it has through the season's first five weeks, anything is possible.

However, Atlanta fans most likely do not want to think of a possible championship as they have been let down by their other teams. For now, citizens of Atlanta should enjoy the success of the Falcons and not think of the future.

Photos courtesy of Pouya Dianat/Atlanta Braves. Lionetti can be reached at clionetti@scoreatl.com.

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WHOS HOT

THUMBS UP
TO SMITTY



Mike Smith

The Falcons head coach was feeling some heat in January after three playoff appearances in four years netted zero postseason victories. General manager Thomas Dimitroff didn't go nuts in the draft or free agency, but it was Smith that made adjustments to his staff and now the Falcons are 5-0 for the first time ever. Kudos.

Chipper's career

What this guy did on the diamond for the Braves over the past two decades is amazing. One legend, one team. Chipper walks away from the game among the greatest third basemen and greatest hitters ever. Jones never wanted to play anywhere else since signing with then general manager Bobby Cox out of high school. Thanks, Chip.

Postseason players

Sad about the Braves, the Bulldogs or Tech's disappointing weekend? Buck up. Enjoy all the playoff action in your neck of the woods. From youth soccer to fall baseball to high school volleyball, softball and cross country, there are plenty of championships at stake near you ... right about ... now.

Corrupt athletic programs

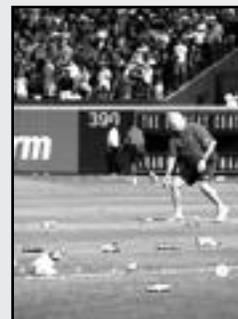
The Milton High basketball program has been slapped with a playoff ban this winter for exhibiting "undue influence" on potential players wishing to transfer into their district. It's unfortunate that some schools feel so compelled to parallel the AAU summer experiences to the prep seasons. What happens to the loyal families that build those school's junior programs?

One and done

In hindsight, this Braves team was just not ready for prime time. The gaffes last weekend made the wild card moment utterly forgettable. By the way, the Braves did plenty to lose the game before the whole infield fly rule debacle began. Fans then began the embarrassing bottle throwing contest, which could have gotten someone hurt.

Gutless fans

Yes, Georgia was beaten down in a most inhospitable way by Steve Spurrier's Gamecocks last week and the Braves had a questionable call go against them, but that does not call for vandalism. Egging houses and pelting the field with debris gives the whole state a bad name.



WHOS NOT

THUMBS DOWN
TO VANDALISM

SCORE LIST

BY BRIAN JONES

- 1** **CONTROVERSIAL ENDING:** The Braves fell to the Cardinals in the wild card playoff game, but a questionable call had everyone up in arms. The Braves were trying to rally in the eighth inning when a questionable infield fly rule was called. Did it cost the Braves the win? Maybe, but you cannot commit three errors against the defending champions and expect to win.
- 2** **GAMECOCK BITE:** The Bulldogs could not muster a better weekend as they fell to South Carolina 35-7. Believe it or not, though, UGA still has a very good chance of winning the next six games and reaching the SEC title game. Before that happens, Mark Richt has to get a ton of things corrected during the bye week.
- 3** **GROH GONE:** The Yellow Jackets suffered another tough loss as Clemson ran over the Tech defense. Because of the defensive struggles, coordinator Al Groh was relieved of his duties. Fortunately, the Jackets have a bye this week, which gives Paul Johnson and company time to come up with a new defensive plan before they have to face Boston College.
- 4** **STILL UNDEFEATED:** It was not pretty by any means, but the Falcons improved to 5-0 over the weekend after getting past the Washington Redskins. Matt Ryan was solid, but credit has to go to the defense. The Falcons will look to get better when they face a hapless Oakland Raiders team this Sunday at the Georgia Dome.
- 5** **PRIVATE FRIDAY:** It will be a private school showcase tonight on GPB-TV as GAC takes on Westminster. Another private school will be featured on the web game as Blessed Trinity take on Decatur. Plenty of public school games also share in the spotlight as Tucker faces Stephenson, Fitzgerald takes on Brooks County and Lowndes meets Valdosta in the Winnersville Classic.

CRUNCHING THE NUMBERS

BY FLETCHER PROCTOR

- 12** Georgia natives in the University of South Carolina's 2012 recruiting class
- 9** Georgia natives already in South Carolina's 2013 recruiting class
- 6** Senior members of Grayson's defense currently committed to BCS programs
- 4** Starters returning to the UGA men's basketball team from last year's 15-17 squad
- 2** Times that Tyren Jones has not scored a touchdown in 21 games with Walton
- 21** Scores this season for Burke County's Donquell "Gator" Green, a member of the Score 24 2Look4
- 2** Straight games Brooks County's Malcolm Parrish has passed for four touchdowns
- 4** Touchdowns in five offensive touches for Ridgeland safety Vonn Bell
- 82** RBIs this year for Braves right fielder Jason Heyward, a new career high
- .303** Career batting average for Chipper Jones, who will retire after 19 seasons in Atlanta

TRIVIA QUESTION

What was Georgia Tech's rank in total defense at the time of Al Groh's departure?

Answer on Page 14

SANITY AT LAST

"Nothing special at all. It was just lack of focus. When that happens, it is easy for a team to make a big play and that's what they did."

- Georgia DB Sanders Commings responding to a question about what South Carolina did to put the Bulldogs down 21-0 in the first half.

COACH'S DIARY

New Centennial football coach Jeffrey Carlberg is quickly putting his fingerprints all over the Knights' program, and he has invited Score along for the ride during his first year at the helm. Here are highlights from last week

The bye week came at a good time and there was no practice for the varsity team on Friday night, ensuring that everyone could rest up and get ready for the second half of the regular season. The JV and freshman teams played last week, but the varsity was able to rest up.

This week is Homecoming and Lam-

bert is our opponent. The Longhorns have a strong team, but we know it will be nice to play in front of the Centennial community at the Fortress. We have only played at home once this year and it will be nice to be at home for three straight games.

Several of our players are on the homecoming court, which is always a good thing. Hopefully our fans will pack the Fortress to support our team and hopefully we can produce a memorable game for them on what figures to





No. 1 teams prepare for state tournament

By Stephen Black

Buford and Kennesaw Mountain are sitting in the proverbial “catbird seat” right now in the world of high school softball. Each team is ranked No. 1 in its respective classification (AAA for the Wolves and AAAAAA for the Mustangs).

But Kennesaw Mountain coach Lisa Chapman and Tony Wolfe of Buford know that rankings don’t mean much come October.

“Rankings are nice, you know?” said Chapman. “But the final rankings at the end of October are what really matters. So we try to emphasize to the girls the importance of playing at our level every game and not looking past any opponent.”

While playing well this time of year means a lot, Wolfe pointed to the process that leads up to the playoffs being as important as the actual state tournament.

“I think it’s a process from August to October, and you can’t wait until October to get ready,” said Wolfe. “You try to play a great schedule and try to improve every day at practice. We try to practice on the things we’re going to have to do over and over in playoff games and try to be as prepared as we can for them.”

WOLFE’S WOLVES ...

Buford has had success in the state tournament many times. The Wolves have won the last five Class AA state titles and are now looking for their first in AAA. In fact Buford recently won its 300th game as a program, a big accomplishment considering how recently the fast-pitch program was started.

“It speaks volumes about the program,” said Wolfe. “We started playing fast-pitch in 2002 and, basically, this is Year 10 or 11 that

we’ve been able to get to 300. Coach Brandon Manders is the guy who converted the program from slow-pitch to fast-pitch, and to get to 300 wins so quickly says a lot about the job he did.”

Now in the postseason, Wolfe said that one position tends to matter quite a bit in determining what teams have success.

“It starts in the circle for each and every team,” he said.

Buford has one of the top pitchers in the state in Bria Bush, a sophomore who is 15-2. As a freshman, Bush helped the Wolves to their fifth consecutive state title.

“Bush has been really good for us again this year,” said Wolfe. “Her ability, her poise and her competitiveness make her a special pitcher and she gives us a chance pretty much every night she goes out.”

In the Region 7-AAA championship game against Fannin County, Bush tossed a complete game for her 15th win of the season. Sophomore Jordan Deep hit a two-run homer and junior Niki Cook stole three bases.

MUSTANG MAYHEM ...

Meanwhile, Kennesaw Mountain recently accomplished a milestone of its own. The Mustangs compete in the highly-competitive Region 4-AAAAAA in Cobb County and, while being one of the top programs in the region year after year, Chapman’s club just won its second region tournament title in 13 years.

“It was a pretty big deal for us,” said Chapman. “It was something that we work toward every year. We’ve been region runner-up on several occasions, so it was definitely something. One of our goals this year was to get a region championship, so it’s always an exciting time for our school and community when you can win a region championship.”

The Mustangs are led by pitcher Bekah Farris, a senior who is 17-2 with a 1.11 ERA in the circle. At the plate, Farris sports a .344 average with eight triples. Junior shortstop Malea Bell is hitting .425 and leads the team with 37 doubles and 32 RBIs while second baseman Chandler Stooksbury has 35 doubles and 29 RBIs.

Black can be reached at sblack@scoreatl.com.

GPB TV

SW DEKALB VS. TUCKER

New coach meets legend in DeKalb showdown

By Stephen Black

No. 1 Tucker has not missed a beat with new coach Bryan Lamar, who has stepped in to fill Franklin Stephens' rather large shoes. The Tigers are 5-0 going into tonight's game with Stephenson, and have not played a close game all season. Arabia Mountain fell to Tucker 39-20 in Week 4 in the closest game the Tigers have had all year.

TALENTED TIGERS ...

The Tigers are led by running backs Yusuf Minor and Dallas Rivers, each of whom is averaging more than 100 yards rushing per game behind 6-foot-3, 280-pound offensive lineman Alexander Hayes. Athlete Juwaan Williams also gets touches and is capable of breaking a big play. Minor, a senior, is averaging a DeKalb County-best 118.3 yards per game and has three scores while Rivers, a junior, is rushing for 100.2 yards per game along with a county-best nine scores.

Tucker's offense is averaging 368 rushing yards per game in leading the county in rushing offense and total offense (424.6). The Tigers' defense gives up about 154 yards per game, second-best in the county behind M.L. King.

While Tucker is flourishing in the first year of a new regime, Southwest DeKalb is still going strong under legendary coach Buck Godfrey. According to GHSFHA.org, Godfrey is 17th in

the history of the state in wins as a head coach with a whopping 269. This season marks Godfrey's 30th coaching the Panthers, who have been to the playoffs 25 times in Godfrey's tenure with one state title and 13 region championships.

POWERFUL PANTHERS ...

Godfrey's squad comes into Saturday's game with North Atlanta at 3-2. The Panthers looked good in shutting out Pebblebrook in the season opener, but got skunked twice themselves by M.L. King and Stephenson. Wins over Lakeside-DeKalb and Mays give Southwest a winning mark.

Running back Robert Brice and quarterback Marquis Gilmore are the players to watch in the Panthers' offense. Gilmore has thrown for 208 yards and three scores while Brice has run for 271 yards and two scores.

Southwest is allowing 215 yards per game defensively while averaging 249 on offense.

Tucker leads the all-time series between the two programs 11-6-1 and has won four of the last five, including two straight. This matchup will go a long way in deciding the pecking order in Region ^-AAAAA.

Dimon can be reached at rdimon@scoreatl.com.

GPB.ORG

MILTON VS. LASSITER

Eagles look to slow down prolific Trojans

By Fletcher Proctor

The Lassiter Trojans feature an explosive offense that has produced plenty of firepower all year; however, the Milton defense boasts one of the nation's best defensive ends. Milton's Carl Lawson will line up against Lassiter's offensive line boasting 13.5 sacks through the team's first five games. Lawson is listed No. 5 in the ESPN 150, and the future Auburn Tiger isn't the only weapon Milton trots out each week. Jerrell Knight and Marshall McConnell each add plenty of support on the defensive side of the ball.

POWER RUNNING ...

Offensively, Milton boasts one of the state's best rushing attacks and it starts with the offensive line. Josh Harris and Cory Helms are both headed to Wake Forest next year and Eason Fromayan has pledged to TCU, but sophomore Nick Wilson may be the best talent on the line despite his age. Peyton Barber and Trayvon Paulk have been able to find plenty of holes, and when those two aren't carrying the load, look for quarterback A.J. Bush to look up top for Malik Mitchell.

LOADED OFFENSE ...

Lassiter head coach Jep Irwin is also pleased with his offensive line, telling Score recently that he's been pleased with the line play thus far this

year. The line has been able to keep quarterback Eddie Printz relatively clean throughout the early part of the season. Printz has plenty of weapons in Juwan Dickey, Ryan Jenkins, Blake Wilson, Hakim Shahid and Willie Police. Entering the Walton game, Police was the team's leading receiver as he plays mostly in the slot but sometimes comes out of the backfield.

"(Police) is one of the most valuable players on our offense even though he doesn't have a lot of accolades," said Irwin. "Obviously, you need your quarterback to play pretty well in the offense we run and not that any of our guys are not important, but we've gone back and analyzed it: when Willie is really effective, we're much more explosive on offense."

QUIET STANDOUTS ...

Lassiter's defense doesn't have many five-star guys, but Patrick Levandoski made several crucial plays in a win over Walton on Oct. 5 and Trent Ganft is an important piece up front in the Trojans' 3-3-5 attack. For the second straight season, Lassiter's defensive secondary is perhaps the team's biggest strength with Robert Dowling, Chris Murphy, Clay Roelle and Zach Spies joining Levandoski.

Proctor can be reached at fproctor@scoreatl.com.

PREP NOTEBOOK



Softball playoffs approach; Raiders sweep

By Stephen Black

Marist won the Region 6-AAAA softball tournament with shutouts against Chamblee (13-0) and twice against Redan (12-0, 13-0). Junior second baseman Kendall Chadwick homered in all three games for the War Eagles. Marist was set to play Region 7-AAAA No. 4 seed Cedartown in a best-of-three series in the first round of the state playoffs Wednesday, but results were not available at press deadline.

Class AAA No. 1 Buford (24-2) won the Region 7 tournament after a 5-3 win over Fannin County. Sophomore pitcher Bria Bush (15-2) earned her 15th win of the season after hurling a complete game. Bush gave up seven hits and three earned runs while striking out four. Another sophomore, Jordan Deep, hit a two-run homer in the third inning and scored twice. Junior Noah Sudderth drove in two for the Wolves and junior Niki Cook stole three bases. Buford was set to face fourth-seeded St. Pius from Region 6-AAA in the first round of the state playoffs.

COBB SHAKEUP ...

Formerly top-ranked Lassiter dropped two

games in the Region 5-AAAAA tournament: to Cherokee (1-0) Wednesday and Etowah (3-1) Thursday. Now ranked No. 6, the Trojans had to open up the state playoffs by traveling to No. 3 Brookwood for a best-of-three first-round state playoff series. New Class AAAAAA No. 1 Kennesaw Mountain beat South Cobb twice to win Region 4. The Mustangs hosted Coffee in the playoffs.

In a bit of an upset, Westminster (13-15) won the Region 6-AA tournament and were set to host Pepperell in the playoffs. The Wildcats dropped the opener of the region tournament to Greater Atlanta Christian only to beat the Spartans later in the same day. Westminster then knocked off Lovett and No. 2 Wesleyan to win the tournament. Senior pitcher Michelle Bonnot became the winningest pitcher in school history with her 47th victory.

RUNNING WILD ...

Walton swept the Cobb County Championships in Acworth last Saturday by winning both the boys and girls meets. The Raiders edged Marietta in the boys race while the Lady Raiders

overwhelmed the rest of the field, which was led by runner-up Lassiter. The No. 4 Raiders placed four boys in the top 16 racers and five in the top 27. Meanwhile, Marietta's Ben Pleak won the boys race and was followed by Patrick Fleming of Pope and Blue Devil teammate Jake Bagwell. In the girls race, Lassiter's Morgan Ainslie won her fourth meet of the season with a time of 18:45.87. No. 2 Walton placed six racers in the top 12 overall to sprint away with the county championship.

North Paulding won the boys Paulding County Cross Country Championship meet by placing seven harriers in the top 12. However, Jacob Robinson of Hiram won the race and was followed by Michael Williams of South Paulding. Cory Hancock was the highest North Paulding finisher, coming in third. No. 6 East Paulding won the girls portion of the event with seven finishers in the top 10, led by overall winner Lilly Kidane. Ashley Taylor of North Paulding came in second and was followed by East Paulding's Leah Sikorski.

NEW NO. 1 ...

Class AAAA No. 2 Sandy Creek beat both East Coweta and Columbus last week during the Patriots' Senior Night celebration. Tennessee-Chattanooga commitment Allie Davenport has set school records for Sandy Creek with more than 1,300 career kills, 410 career aces and 531 kills in 2012 to break the single-season school mark. Junior middle blocker and Georgia Tech commitment Sydney Wilson had 17 kills in the two games.

Class AAAAAA No. 1 Harrison has won nine straight matches heading into the Area 4 tournament. Junior Taylor Haskins leads the Hoyas with a .357 hitting percentage and is second on the team with 215 kills. Sophomore Caroline Ostman has 234 kills and senior Kelly

Scott has 488 assists, averaging 6.4 per game. The Hoyas managed to slip past Walton, who had held the No. 1 mark for most of the year.

Class AAA No. 3 St. Pius X upset Class AAAAAA No. 1 Whitewater last week 2-1. It was only the Wildcats' second loss of the season and first since Sept. 8. After a win over Hillcrest (S.C.) Saturday, Whitewater was set to play in the Area 4 tournament which began yesterday.

Photo courtesy of Peggy Davenport. Black can be reached at sblack@scoreatl.com.





TV GAME OF THE WEEK

SW DeKALB PANTHERS

Head Coach **Buck Godfrey**



TUCKER TIGERS

Head Coach **Bryan Lamar**

#	Name	Gr.	Pos.
1	Jalen French	12	DB
2	Marquise Gilmore	12	QB
3	Marques Ealey	12	WR
5	Gerard Owens	12	LB
6	Antonio Taylor	11	QB
7	Markell McRae	11	WR
8	Yaovi Baraba	12	K
9	Bryant Thomas	12	LB
10	Joshua Patrick	12	LB
11	Jacoby Riley	10	WR
13	Chase McGhee	12	DB
16	Gabriel Richardson	10	DE
17	Samuel White	11	WR
18	Taron Graham	12	WR
20	Terrius Durden	11	DB
21	Justin Mincey	12	DB
22	Brandon Dumbuya	12	LB
23	Trevonte Durham	12	DB
24	Lafayette Kemp	12	DE
25	Timerik Cook	10	LB
26	Robert Brice	12	RB
27	Clayton Davenport	12	RB
28	Malik Wright	12	RB
29	Destin Middleton	11	RB
30	Quinton Bridges	11	
31	Cameron Strickland	11	RB
32	Aaron Walker	11	RB
34	Roman Coats	12	FB
35	Kameron Neal	11	RB
39	Marvin Ellis	11	K
41	Kevin Latham	10	S
42	Damon McKenzie	11	DB
43	Ashaud Moore	10	LB
45	Jontavious Johnson	12	DE
47	Khyree Reynolds	11	DB
50	Kyle Bailey	12	OL
51	Gregory George	12	DL
52	Ramel H Crawford	11	LB
54	Jaylen Fareed	12	OL
55	Andrew Potter	11	C
56	Montavious Coleman	10	C
57	Russell Dawkins	11	LB
58	Brandon Wiggs	10	LB
60	Corey Cone	11	DB
61	Henri Henson	10	C
66	Terrence Walters	10	OT
85	Kameron Scott	11	WR
90	Baron Poole	12	DL
93	Gerriel Gilmore	12	NT

#	Name	Gr.	Pos.
1	Travon Owens	12	WR/LB
1	Juwaan Williams	12	QB/DB
2	Yusuf Minor	12	RB/DB
3	Charles Bush	12	WR/DB
4	Blair Lampkin	12	RB/LB
5	Dominick Sanders	11	WR/DB
6	Stephen Reynolds	11	WR/DB
7	Anthony Lewis	12	WR/DB
8	Joseph Proby	11	WR/LB
9	Detrick Dukes	11	TE/LB
10	Fred Tinsley	12	WR/DB
11	Corey Hunter	12	WR/DB
12	Kirk Tucker	11	WR/DB
13	Joseph Farrar	11	RB/DB
14	Austin Benton	12	WR/DB
15	Takori Byrd	10	QB/DB
16	Nekyle Lundie	10	TE/DB
17	Chauncy Rivers	10	TE/DE
18	Xavier Shugars	10	RB/DB
19	Kazim Aminu	12	WR/DB
20	Jalen Pearson	11	WR/DB
22	Demetrius Smith	11	RB/DB
23	Davanta Reynolds	11	RB/DB
25	Dallas Rivers	11	RB/LB
26	Quentin Woodard	11	RB/DB
27	Tryee Stark	11	WR/DB
28	Devin Towns	11	RB/DB
29	Chandler Williams	12	WR/DB
31	Malik Jones	11	WR/DB
32	Justin Hughes	11	RB/LB
33	Malik Campbell	11	RB/LB
34	Rashad Hunter	11	RB/DB
35	Aaron Perry	11	RB/DB
37	Vernard Covington	10	RB/DB
38	Elijah Blackwell	11	WR/DB
40	Elijah Sullivan	10	RB/LB
41	Tyler Toombs	10	WR/DB
42	Yaqui Shelley	10	RB/DB
43	Reginald Calhoun	11	WR/DB
44	Raquan Rush	10	RB/DB
45	Malick Jerrells	10	RB/LB
46	John Brooks	10	WR/DB
47	Cole Crenshaw	10	WR/DB
48	Josiah Sayde	12	K
49	Steven Duffy	12	K
50	D Marco Flournoy	11	OL/LB
51	Jamal Paxton	11	OL/DL
52	Jalen West	11	OL/LB
53	Chris Brown	10	OL/DL
54	Ian Rigby	12	OL/DL
55	Solomon Jackson	12	OL/DL
56	Venturi Scales	12	OL/DL
59	Santario Alexander	11	OL/DL
61	Dillon Davis	12	OL/DL
64	Johnathan Connor	12	OL/DL
65	Ryshawn Bray	11	OL/DL
66	Jeffrey Reed	11	OL/DL
70	Elisha Shaw	11	OL/DL
71	Deandre Bailey	11	OL/DL
72	Alex Holloway	11	OL/DL
75	Alexander Hayes	12	OL/DL
76	Evan Clay	12	OL/DL
77	Jerelle Leveritte	10	OL/DL
80	Nyonkorr Karlar	12	K
81	Devon Johnson	10	RB/LB
82	Jawara Hardnett	12	WR/DB
83	Dawit Hagos	10	WR/DB
85	Corey Mohale	12	WR/DB
87	Justin Magee	10	WR/DB
88	Jonathan Magee	10	WR/DB
89	Trayvon Johnson	11	WR/DB
99	Eric Webber	11	K



WEBCAST GAME OF THE WEEK

MILTON EAGLES

Head Coach **Howie DeCristofaro**



LASSITER TROJANS

Head Coach **Jep Irwin**

#	Name	Gr.	Pos.
1	Treyvon Paulk	11	RB
2	Chris Purgura	11	RB/DB
3	Michael Schweinbeck	12	RB / LB
4	John Hardie	12	DB
5	Jerrell Knight	12	DB
6	AJ Bush	11	QB
7	Joe Phillips	12	DB
8	Peter Bodunrin	12	WR
9	Brett Barnett	12	WR
10	Grant Smith	12	LB
11	Eric Abbott	12	TE
12	Zack Spiezio	11	DB/WR
13	Jamie Jennings	12	DB
14	Quarte Sapp	10	LB
15	Malik Mitchell	12	WR
16	Taylor Smith	12	WR
17	Cody Sant	11	QB
18	AJ Noegel	12	QB
19	Jacob Nedza	12	WR
20	Lucas Nedza	10	DB
21	Quincy Leake	12	LB
22	Chase Polkow	11	DB/WR
23	Joseph Guilbaud	11	WR
24	Toluwani Adebisi	12	DB
25	Peyton Barber	12	RB
26	Scott McDougal	12	DB
27	Daryl Booker	11	WR
28	Lane Allison	10	DB / K
29	Tyler Blaine	12	LB
30	Rion Martinez	11	DB
31	Chauncey Hazelton	11	LB
32	Mitch Williams	12	DE
33	Micco Brisker	10	RB
34	Balon Compton	10	DB
35	Jordan Parisian	10	DB
36	Grey Davis	11	DB
37	Zane Malas	10	DB
38	Nathan Cranor	10	RB
39	Clint Winter	10	LB
40	Austin Mcleod	10	QB
41	Nick Machan	11	LB
42	Erik Peterson	11	DB
44	Christian Keeney	10	LB
45	Noah Allen	12	DL/LB
46	Christian Sanders	12	LB
47	Charles Mills	10	LB
48	Devyn Wilkins	10	DB
49	Charlie Fault	10	LB
50	Charly Teel	10	DL
52	Carl Lawson	12	DL
53	Marty Horan	10	DL
54	Grant Peagler	11	LB
55	Nick Anderson	11	DL
56	Michael Collins	10	DL
57	Ryan Kanzo	10	DL
58	Max Moorman	10	OL/DL
59	Aaron Mimms	12	OL
61	Grant Middleton	10	OL / SN
63	CJ Riddell	10	OL
64	Dan McCann	11	OL
65	Ryan Wolfe	12	OL
66	Connor Harp	12	OL/DL
67	Marshall McConnell	12	DL/OL
68	Jason Carter	11	DL
70	Noah Nutter	10	OL
71	Josh Harris	12	OL
72	Cory Helms	12	OL
73	Jacob Mulligan	11	OL
74	Eason Fromayan	12	OL
75	Tyler Perry	12	OL
77	Griffin Hardy	12	DL
78	Leighton Weatherby	10	OL
79	Nick Wilson	10	OL
80	Chad Van Renesse	11	WR
81	Tyler Noegel	11	WR
82	Mike Spruill	11	WR
83	Jonathan Cistrunk	10	TE
84	Jeremy Phillips	11	WR
85	Jake English	10	TE
86	Austin Lake	12	DE
88	Tryone Gibson III	10	WR
89	Holden Fromayan	10	TE
90	Jesse Fanz	10	TE
91	Storm Walker	10	WR
92	Vince Olsen	10	DL
93	Matthew Gibson	11	DL
94	Matt Moskowitz	11	K/P
95	Chandler Pope	11	DL
96	Nick Steinhaus	10	DL
97	Mitch Angelucci	10	K/P
98	Christopher Mills	12	K/P
99	Jordan Genovese	11	K/P

#	Name	Gr.	Pos.
1	Hakim Shahid	12	SS/RB
2	Juwan Dickey	12	WR
3	Duby Nwabui	11	WR
4	Morgan McDaniel	11	WR
5	Willie Police	12	WR/RB
5	Grant Daniels	10	RB
6	Zaran Smith	10	WR
7	Eddie Printz	12	QB
8	Peter Brignac	11	RB/DL
9	Quincy Perdue	11	WR
10	Blake Penter	11	WR/RB
11	Josh Danforth	12	LB/RB
11	Sam Keller	10	DB
12	Russell Aarons	10	QB
13	Tyler Pintur	12	LB
13	Martin Liss	10	DB
14	Antonio Gallante	10	DB
15	Eric Perdue	12	S
15	Tyler Branch	10	TE
16	Luke Hardin	11	K/P
17	Chris Murphy	11	CB
17	Tommy Heneghan	10	WR
18	Tom Barre	11	DB
19	Zach Wittes	10	QB
20	Robert Dowling	12	DB
20	Oris Lawhorn	10	WR/RB
21	Derion Cannon	11	RB
22	Blake Wilson	11	WR/RB
23	Devontae Moore	12	DB
23	A.J. Pelletier	10	DB
24	Patrick Levandoski	12	DB
25	Clay Roelle	11	DB
26	Blake Richardson	11	DB
27	Nick Spies	10	DB
28	Daniel Fabiniak	11	DB
29	Jahat Oramas	11	DB
30	Matt McAllister	10	WR/RB
31	Zack Lettis	10	K/P
32	Emmanuel Nwakaeze	11	DB
33	Lane Jackman	11	RB
34	James Rowe	12	LB
34	Torian Henry	10	RB
35	Bear Brown	10	DB
36	Parker Styles	11	CB
37	Bryndon Peacock	11	LB
38	Alex Adams	9	LB
39	Nitin Jain	10	DB
40	Trenton Gantt	12	OL
40	Dylan Bass	10	K/P
41	Benedict Louis	11	LB
42	Jack Marchand	11	LB
43	Ryan Gildea	12	LB
43	Connor Bell	10	LB
44	David Long-Daniels	10	LB
45	Zach Spies	11	LB
46	Daniel Evans	12	S
47	Brian Crigler	12	CB
48	Pierce Smith	10	P
50	Marco Bramlett	10	LB
51	Austin Cheatum	11	DL/OL
52	Stephen Curran	11	OL
53	Philip Murray	10	OL
54	Gregg Wentz	10	OL
55	Raul Aguirre	11	OL
56	Kory Gildea	10	LB
57	Sam Wood	11	OL
58	Michael Freeman	11	OL
59	Luke Smithwick	10	OL
60	Brian Macdonald	10	LB
63	George Poitevin	11	OL
65	Brett Horton	10	OL
66	Jake Chambers	10	OL
68	Michael Davis	10	OL
69	Adam Hamilton	12	OL
72	Luan Pereira	11	OL
73	Daniel Chow	11	OL
75	Michael Heard	10	OL
76	Aveus Anderson	11	DL
78	Logan Dear	12	OL
79	Christian Clark	12	OL
80	Ryan Jenkins	12	WR
81	Tyler Montour	10	WR
82	Zach Beaverson	11	WR
83	Tom Cantrell	10	DB
84	Nick Sewak	12	LS/TE
85	Steven Beasley	12	WR
86	Michael Bridgers	10	WR
87	Pearson Vanhorn	10	WR
88	John Branks	11	DL
89	Matthew Norton	10	WR
90	Connor Shields	10	DL
91	C.J. Amann	12	DL
92	Moe Nyang	11	DL
93	Danny Appiah	12	DL
94	Ahmad Alexander	11	DL
95	Corey John	11	DL
96	Michael Ballard	10	DL
97	Linden Riedlinger	10	DL
98	Cameron Peebles	10	DL
99	Darius Reese	12	DL

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FOOTBALL RANKINGS WEEK 7

Class AAAAAA

1. Camden County
2. Lassiter
3. Grayson
4. Lowndes
5. Norcross
6. Lovejoy
7. West Forsyth
8. North Gwinnett
9. Parkview
10. Johns Creek

Class AAAAA

1. Tucker
2. Northside-WR
3. Stephenson
4. East Paulding
5. ML King
6. Gainesville
7. Thomas County Central
8. Kell
9. Lee County
10. Allatoona

Class AAAA

1. Sandy Creek
2. Marist
3. Burke County
4. Monroe Area
5. Grady
6. Statesboro
7. Washington
8. Carrollton
9. Griffin
10. Jonesboro

Class AAA

1. Peach County
2. Washington County
3. Buford
4. Thomson
5. St. Pius X
6. Carver-Columbus
7. Cartersville
8. Gordon Central
9. Blessed Trinity
10. Pierce County

Class AA

1. Calhoun
2. Brooks County
3. Vidalia
4. Fitzgerald
5. Lamar County
6. Cook
7. Heard County
8. Benedictine
9. Jefferson
10. Bleckley County

Class A

1. Aquinas
2. ELCA
3. Lincoln County
4. ECI
5. Calvary Day
6. George Walton Academy
7. Athens Academy
8. Prince Avenue Christian
9. Wilcox County
10. Walker

SOFTBALL RANKINGS WEEK 8

Class AAAAAA

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Kennesaw Mtn | 6. Lassiter |
| 2. East Coweta | 7. Archer |
| 3. Brookwood | 8. Peachtree Ridge |
| 4. Alcovy | 9. Lowndes |
| 5. North Gwinnett | 10. Collins Hill |

Class AAAAA

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Union Grove | 6. Whitewater |
| 2. Allatoona | 7. Pope |
| 3. Greenbrier | 8. South Paulding |
| 4. Northgate | 9. Loganville |
| 5. Heritage-Conyers | 10. Dunwoody |

Class AAAA

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. NW Whitfield | 6. Carrollton |
| 2. Madison County | 7. Walnut Grove |
| 3. Columbus | 8. West Laurens |
| 4. Wayne County | 9. Crisp County |
| 5. Heritage-Catoosa | 10. South Effingham |

Class AAA

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Buford | 6. Central-Carroll |
| 2. Ringgold | 7. Dawson County |
| 3. Jackson | 8. Tattall County |
| 4. Blessed Trinity | 9. Dodge County |
| 5. Pierce County | 10. Franklin County |

Class AA

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| 1. Cook | 6. Bremen |
| 2. Wesleyan | 7. Bowdon |
| 3. Heard County | 8. Calhoun |
| 4. Bacon County | 9. Jefferson |
| 5. Harlem | 10. Berrien |

Class A

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Gordon Lee | 6. Mt. Pisgah |
| 2. Seminole County | 7. Johnson County |
| 3. Telfair County | 8. Miller County |
| 4. Savannah Christian | 9. ELCA |
| 5. Calvary Day | 10. Prince Ave. Chr. |

VOLLEYBALL RANKINGS WEEK 8

Class AAAAAA

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. Harrison | 6. Johns Creek |
| 2. Walton | 7. North Cobb |
| 3. North Gwinnett | 8. South Forsyth |
| 4. Mill Creek | 9. Camden County |
| 5. Hillgrove | 10. Lambert |

Class AAAAA

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| 1. Whitewater | 6. Greenbrier |
| 2. Pope | 7. Ola |
| 3. McIntosh | 8. Union Grove |
| 4. Northview | 9. North Paulding |
| 5. Northgate | 10. Apalachee |

Class AAAA

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Veterans | 6. Jonesboro |
| 2. Sandy Creek | 7. South Effingham |
| 3. Woodland-Henry | 8. Walnut Grove |
| 4. Southeast Whitfield | 9. Shaw |
| 5. Heritage-Catoosa | 10. Marist |

Class AAA

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| 1. Blessed Trinity | 6. Oconee County |
| 2. Woodward Acad. | 7. East Hall |
| 3. St. Pius X | 8. West Hall |
| 4. Sonorville | 9. North Oconee |
| 5. Hart County | 10. Cartersville |

Class AA

- | | |
|----------------|------------------------|
| 1. Westminster | 6. Kendrick |
| 2. Wesleyan | 7. St. Vincent's Acad. |
| 3. GAC | 8. Westside-Augusta |
| 4. Calhoun | 9. Coosa |
| 5. Jefferson | 10. Lovett |

Class A

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Walker | 6. Savannah Christian |
| 2. George Walton Acad. | 7. ELCA |
| 3. Savannah Ctry Day | 8. Providence Christian |
| 4. Landmark Christian | 9. Strong Rock Chr |
| 5. Hebron Christian | 10. Gordon Lee |


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BULLDOG BEAT



Dawgs use bye week to heal, prepare

By Chris Lionetti

In recent years, the bye week for the Georgia Bulldogs has come before or after their game with the Florida Gators. The addition of two teams to the SEC has changed the schedule that the Bulldogs are used to, shifting their bye week to the middle of October. Though not what they are accustomed to, Georgia's bye week has come at the perfect time.

Fresh off a devastating 35-7 loss to South Carolina, the Bulldogs will use their bye week to figure out what exactly happened in Columbia and reassess their season.

"I feel like we came back strong, ready to get better and fix all the mistakes we had in the game," said freshman linebacker Jordan Jenkins after the team's first practice since the loss. "We just need to look over everything, all the mistakes we've had over the season, and fix all those things in the extra week we have."

At 5-1 (2-1 SEC), the Bulldogs may be behind the eight ball in regards to winning the SEC East crown. Their best shot of winning the division is to do what they did last year after losing to the Gamecocks - win out and hope that Steve Spurrier's team falters. However, to do so Georgia must find out what has plagued a defense that was expected to be one

of the nation's best.

The team will also use its bye week to not only heal the mental wounds but the physical ones as well. Tuesday's injury report was the largest since the second week of the season. The player of most importance to the Dawgs on the injury report was All-American linebacker Jarvis Jones. The linebacker suffered an ankle sprain against the Gamecocks and is now on crutches. No timetable has been provided for his return, but Jones is not expected to practice at all this week.

KENTUCKY CAPTAINS ...

Though a week away, Mark Richt announced his captains for Georgia's game against Kentucky on Tuesday. Offensive guard Chris Burnette is the offensive captain, defensive lineman John Jenkins and Abry Jones will serve as defensive captains, and freshman safety Josh Harvey-Clemons will be the special teams captain.

"It's rare that a true freshman becomes a captain, but the staff and I felt he did the best," said Richt.

Lionetti can be reached at clionetti@scoreatl.com.

TECH BUZZ



Groh out following Clemson loss

By Ryan Caiafa

After keeping the game close for three quarters, Georgia Tech's defense simply could not hold Clemson at bay in the fourth quarter, ultimately leading to the Tigers' 47-31 win. The loss was the Jackets' fourth of the season.

Not only did the loss prolong the team's struggles, it also ended defensive coordinator Al Groh's tenure with Georgia Tech. After the defense surrendered 601 total yards to Clemson and more than 40 points for the third consecutive game, the decision was made to relieve Groh of his duties Monday.

Secondary coach Charles Kelly has been named the interim defensive coordinator for the remainder of the season, and he will have the daunting task of helping turn around a defense that simply could not get timely stops in its current 3-4 scheme. Kelly will be auditioning to take over the role full time and will use the team's bye week in order to figure out what works with the current pieces.

With the defense currently in limbo, the offense continues to be a strong point for the Jackets despite the team's losing record. Tevin Washington continued his strong quarterback play against Clemson, passing for 144 yards and a touchdown while also rushing for 104 yards and two scores. With two touchdowns, Wash-

ington increased his season total to 13, which currently leads the nation. With Washington and A-back Orwin Smith helping lead the offense to an average of 37.8 points per game, much of the responsibility rests on the shoulders of the defense. The bye week couldn't have come at a better time for the Jackets, who are looking for ways to salvage their disappointing season in the second half of the year.

NEW HOOPS DIGS ...

With full practices beginning today, the Georgia Tech men's basketball team began squad workouts in the newly-finished McCamish Pavilion. After splitting their home schedule between Philips Arena and the Arena at Gwinnett Center in Brian Gregory's first year on the Flats, the players and coaches will breathe a sigh of relief knowing that their home games will be at one location for the 2012-13 season. The team closed out Alexander Memorial Coliseum with a 66-57 victory against Miami in March 2011. McCamish Pavilion will host its first men's regular season game Nov. 9 against Tulane and the women's team hosts the Tennessee Volunteers two days later.

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PANTHER PROWL



Quarterback issues plaguing Panthers

By Brian Jones

It was another rough day at the office for the Panthers as they fell to New Hampshire 44-21 last Saturday at the Georgia Dome. Despite losing their sixth consecutive game, the Panthers had their best offensive performance of the season. Quarterback Ben McLane came off the bench and threw for 169 yards and two touchdowns. Receiver Albert Wilson had 105 yards and two touchdown receptions.

The game was tied at seven in the first quarter after starting quarterback Ronnie Bell threw a 54-yard touchdown pass to Wilson. But it was downhill for the Panthers after that as New Hampshire scored the next 31 points to take control of the game. The Wildcats ran 83 plays on offense and netted 624 yards while limiting the Panthers to 299 yards of total offense on 59 plays. The Panthers also committed three turnovers, all interceptions. Bell threw two picks early in the game and McLane threw one later after he came in for Bell.

"We had a chance to drive up and down the field tonight and stopped ourselves repeatedly," Panthers head coach Bill Curry told reporters after the game. "When we did start to drive, it was too little too late and once again the tendency when the defense did make a stop ... we go on the field and almost immediately find a way to

turn the ball back over."

The Panthers will look to break the losing streak when they travel to Rhode Island on Saturday at 1 p.m. The Rams are in the same boat as the Panthers as both teams enter the game winless on the year. The Rams average slightly more than 200 yards per game on offense and surrender 447 yards per game on defense.

QB DRAMA ...

One of the problems for Georgia State is the same problem that plagued the team in 2011: inconsistent quarterback play. McLane has seen the majority of snaps, but Bell has held the starting job the last few games. Because McLane has played in one more game, he has more yards and more touchdowns, but both players are completing just 49 percent of their passes and have thrown a combined 14 interceptions.

"We have confidence in both quarterbacks," Curry said after the New Hampshire game. "They've both done some good things."

As of Wednesday, Curry had not made a decision on whether McLane or Bell will make the start on Saturday against Rhode Island.

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OWL OUTLOOK



Softball coach announces retirement

By Brian Jones

It's a big week for Kennesaw State. The Owls will celebrate Homecoming Week with "Flight Night" this Saturday, an event that tips off the men's and women's basketball season.

Saturday will begin with the volleyball team taking on Mercer at 3 p.m. and will conclude with a fireworks display. Between those two events, there will be a homecoming parade, the debut of the Kennesaw State dance and cheer teams and the unveiling of a new "Scrappy" mascot. The basketball teams will be introduced before a concert featuring J-Dash and the Yin-Yang Twins takes place on the Campus Green.

Fans will have a chance to take part in a three-point shooting contest and watch a scrimmage from both basketball teams. For people planning to attend the event, parking will be available in the east parking lot or the central parking deck. The east parking deck will be closed for the fireworks show.

STILL KICKING ...

The soccer team will be part of the homecoming action with games against North Florida tonight and Jacksonville on Sunday. The Owls could not come home at a better time as the team is riding high on a three-game winning streak.

Last weekend, the Owls took down Lipscomb 3-2 thanks to a fast start in the first half. Katrina Frost scored her fifth goal of the season in the ninth minute before Liz Blackburn and Kelsey Barr scored in the 33rd and 35th minutes, respectively.

"It was good we got the result," head coach Rob King told ksuowls.com. "Obviously 3-0 at halftime and they battled really hard. Lipscomb battled really hard in the second half minutes and made it difficult for us. We knew it was going to be a battle and got the results we wanted this weekend, so we are very pleased."

WHITLOCK RETIRES ...

After 28 years with the softball program, head coach Scott Whitlock will call it a career after the 2013 season, an announcement he made last Saturday at the alumni game and circle of honor ceremony.

Whitlock has been the head coach for 27 years after spending one year as an assistant. During his career, Whitlock has won two national titles, 13 regional titles and numerous personal accolades. He will be replaced by Wes Holly Jr., who will be the co-head coach during the 2013 season.

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HAWKS HAVEN



Hawks topple Heat in preseason opener

By Robby Kalland

The Hawks opened up their preseason schedule Sunday at Philips Arena with a 92-79 victory over the Miami Heat. Josh Smith led the team with 21 points and Lou Williams added 18 in his Atlanta debut. After a sloppy start, the Hawks settled in and began building some much-needed confidence and chemistry with one another. This showed in the ball movement and execution of their offensive sets after the first quarter.

Head coach Larry Drew toyed with a lot of different lineups, as he plans to do all pre-season, in an attempt to find which combinations work best. Smith and Williams seemed very comfortable together, playing a lot of productive minutes in the second half. The two appear to be a very dangerous and potent pick-and-roll pair.

TOUGH TIMES ...

The defense looked a little ragged, as expected, but the Hawks showed flashes of their potential. Atlanta forced 23 turnovers, including 13 steals, and turned them into 27 points. The quickness of their perimeter players allows the Hawks to harass ball-handlers and jump passing lanes more because of their recovery speed.

Al Horford was stout on the defensive end, rejecting four Heat shots and deterring Miami's guards from getting in the lane. Atlanta still has

work to do, especially on pick-and-roll defense. This has to do with the lack of familiarity with each other and the occasional communication breakdown. The inexperience led to easy buckets for the Heat, including some thunderous LeBron James dunks.

PRESSING ISSUES ...

The situation at small forward is still murky, but it does appear as though a few guys have stepped up as Drew had hoped. Kyle Korver, DeShawn Stevenson, Damion James, Anthony Tolliver and Josh Smith all saw action at the three. All five showed they can help at that spot, and with Korver, Stevenson and Smith all playing other positions, this can be the expected group that will play during the season.

Smith took on the challenge of LeBron and did very well thanks to his new, slim physique. Korver and Stevenson create a lot of space on the offensive end because of their shooting, while Tolliver is a long defender. The biggest surprise was James, who was very productive on both ends of the floor with six points and eight rebounds, which led the team. James showed a physicality that could make him one of Drew's favorites off the bench.

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FALCONS BEAT



Falcons not beating themselves

By Craig Sager II

Before Atlanta's 5-0 start and the excitement that continues accumulating with the best start in the franchise's history, a frustrated Mike Smith reiterated the importance of the little things following an inconsequential loss to the Bengals this preseason.

"You cannot win games with double-digit penalties," said an adamant Smith. "That is not the type of team we are, and we have to get this cleaned up and changed right away."

Entering Week 6, the undefeated Falcons sit in first place in the NFC South and are the least penalized team in the league by a wide margin. Through their first five games, the Falcons have committed just 16 penalties and the team's sharp attention to detail and combined effort on both sides of the ball has been the formula to the early success. The offensive firepower that has been commanded by Matt Ryan with Roddy White, Julio Jones and Tony Gonzalez has been matched with an equally notable defensive effort.

The defense is the best in the league in forced turnovers with 14. Safety Thomas DeCoud leads the team with four interceptions, tied for the league high after he iced the game with a late pick in last Sunday's win in Washington. The Falcons have tallied eight intercep-

tions and six forced fumbles on the year. The team's four total turnovers puts the team at a comfortable league-best plus-10 in turnover margin. This favorable ratio combined with a polished effort each week is testament to how this team continues to find ways to win.

RAIDER INVASION ...

The 1-3 Oakland Raiders will come to the Georgia Dome Sunday fresh off a bye week that followed a 37-6 hammering by the Broncos. This has been an uncharacteristic Oakland team through the first five weeks as the Raiders are dead last in the league with only 60.8 rushing yards per game. Even more unexpected could be that the Raiders are second in the league behind Atlanta with only 19 penalties.

They have played one less game than the Falcons, but Oakland's total is quite the turnaround from the 2011-12 team that committed an NFL record for most penalties in a season. The Falcons can expect this Oakland team, desperate for a win, to start playing more aggressively and with a higher sense of urgency. Smith's Falcons will just have to continue not beating themselves.

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CHOP SHOP

PRESENTED BY



Braves come up short in playoffs

By Fletcher Proctor

All signs pointed to the Braves taking out the Cardinals in a one-game playoff at Turner Field for the right to advance to face Washington in the NLDS round. Atlanta sent ace Kris Medlen to the hill, the force behind an MLB record 23-game winning streak in Medlen starts, but his defense let him down as the Braves fell 6-3. Medlen did not allow a hit through the first three innings and was given an early 2-0 lead on a David Ross home run.

In the fourth, Chipper Jones, playing in the final game of his 19-year Braves' career, committed a crucial error on what would have been a double-play. After being one of the best defensive teams all season, the Braves committed three costly errors to tag Medlen with five runs (two earned) in the loss.

Despite the errors, the Braves had chances in the seventh, eighth and ninth innings but could not plate the sufficient number of runs needed. Jones left two on in the seventh, but the real drama came in the eighth, when Ross and Dan Uggla reached with one out and Andrelton Simmons sent a ball just beyond the infield that fell to the turf but was ruled an out via the infield fly rule. Fans erupted with boos and tossed trash

onto the field, forcing a delay while the mess was cleaned up. Brian McCann would walk to load the bases with two outs, but Michael Bourn would strike out the end the threat.

Uggla grounded out with two on in the ninth to end the Braves' season.

MOVING FORWARD ...

Atlanta will now enter the offseason needing to replace Jones at third base and possibly Bourn in center. If Frank Wren chooses, the team could move Martin Prado from left field to third, but then a hole in left field would need plugging. The team could choose to bring back Reed Johnson after bringing him over from Chicago at the trade deadline, but he is better suited to come off the bench for a spot start.

A decision must also be made on whether to pick up options on McCann, who will miss the next 4-5 months, and Tim Hudson. McCann's team option is \$12 million with a \$500,000 buyout. Hudson's team option is \$9 million with a \$1 million buyout.

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DREAM BEAT



Postseason awards flood in for Dream

By Joe Deighton

First-year guard Tiffany Hayes was named to the WNBA all-rookie team on Monday. Hayes was one of just five rookies in the league to receive such an honor. The award is made even more special, because Hayes' basketball peers in the WNBA do the voting. Twelve head coaches tallied nine votes for Hayes, as she became the first member of the Dream to be named to the all-rookie team since Angel McCoughtry in 2009.

HAYES AMAZES ...

Hayes had a solid initial campaign for Atlanta by averaging 11.9 points per game in 17 starts. Perhaps her best game in 2012 happened on the road against Phoenix on July 7. Hayes poured in a team-high 23 points in the 100-93 double-overtime victory. A key aspect to the 23-year-old's game is a good outside shot. Hayes ranked fourth on the team with 21 three-point baskets on a total of 77 attempts. The second-round pick out of Connecticut played in 34 games for Atlanta and got her first taste of playoff basketball in a first-round loss to Indiana. In three postseason games, Hayes turned in an average of 4.3 points, 2.3 rebounds and 1.7 assists. Those numbers were far below her regular season statistics, but with a year of experience

behind her, look for big things ahead in 2013.

DEFENSE WINS ...

Forward Sancho Lyttle was named to the WNBA's all-defensive first-team after leading Atlanta in rebounds. Lyttle ranked sixth in the league with 7.6 boards per game and averaged just under a block per contest. The eight-year veteran also ranked second in the league in steals behind teammate McCoughtry. This was the first time that Lyttle had been named to the all-defensive first team after earning second-team honors the past three seasons.

For the second straight season, Arminie Price was named to the WNBA's all-defensive second team. Price swiped an average of 2.33 steals per game, good enough to rank third on team that tallied more steals than any team in the league. Price is one of the more respected defenders in the WNBA, as she tends to create turnovers without fouling. Price only fouled out of just one game this season.

The Dream did not finish the season like they wanted to, but Atlanta fans can be proud of the regular season awards that were earned by this defensive-minded team.

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