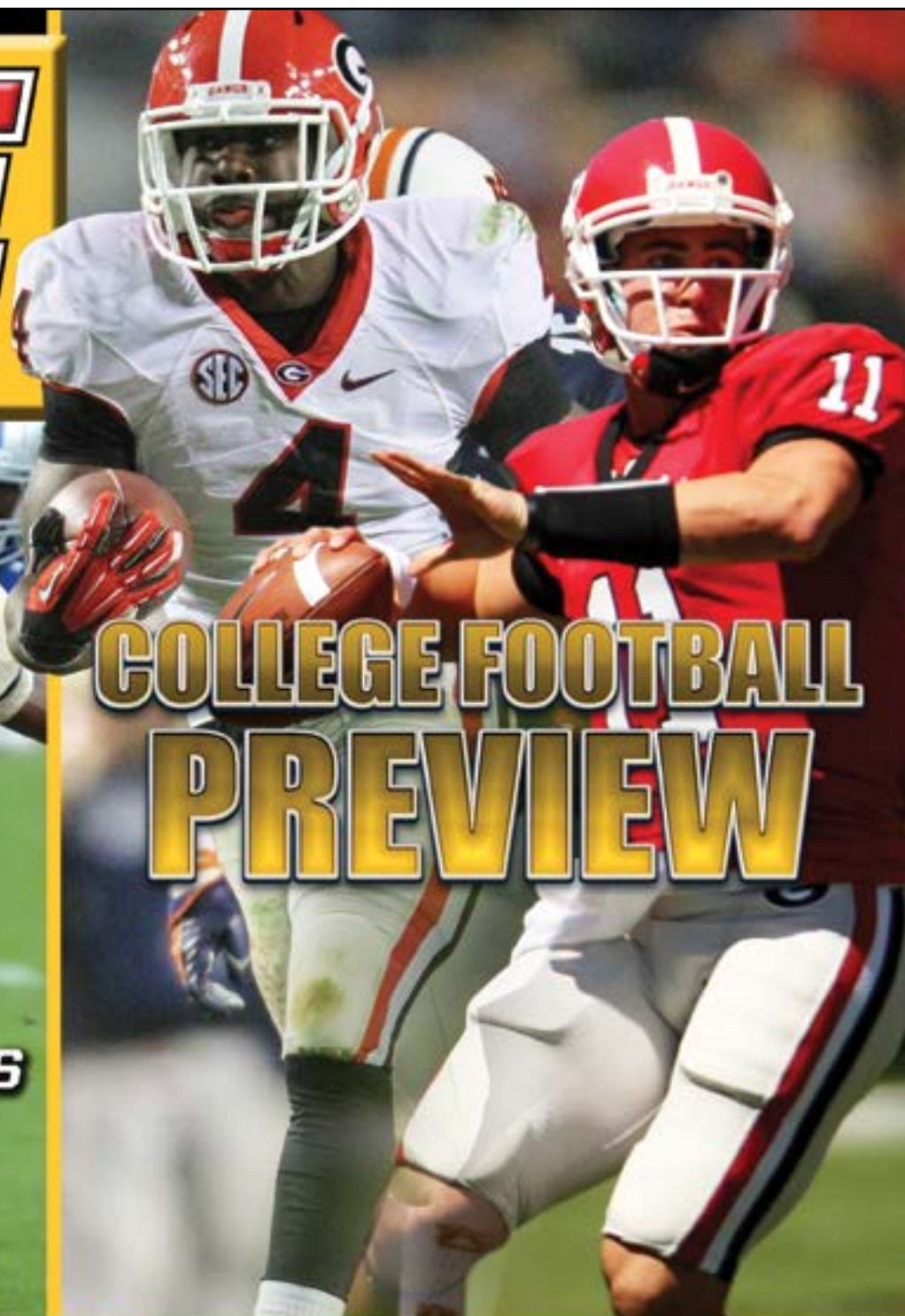


SCORE

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atlanta



COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW



**BATTLE
OF THE
BIG CHICKEN**



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PREDICTIONS**



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CAN'T MISS THIS WEEK

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- 5** In our special college football preview page, we give you some bold predictions for the 2013 season.
- 7** Craig Sager II points out the bigtime recruits to watch in the Battle of the Big Chicken.
- 12** On our colleges page, catch up on the latest from each local school as they enter the fall sports season.

TEAM SCOOP AND VOICES

COVER DESIGN BY DJ GALBIATI BLALOCK
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 JON BARASH AND ROB SAYE

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INSIDE AT SCORE

Score Atlanta is looking for writing interns. Please e-mail **Stephen Black** at sblack@scoreatl.com or call **404-256-1572** for more information.

SHOT OF THE WEEK...



RUSHING REFS: Colquitt County head coach Rush Propst discusses a call with an official during the Metro PCS Corky Kell Classic last week at the Georgia Dome. Propst's Packers won their game 21-6 over Grayson. Photo courtesy of Sonny Kennedy.

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LASSITER VS. MCEACHERN



Indians, Trojans strong at skill positions

By Stephen Black

Going by wins and losses, the top two Class GAAAAAA programs in Cobb County since 2009 have been Lassiter and McEachern. While the Indians have been on the warpath under coach Kyle Hockman in winning 38 of 46 games during that span, the Trojans have posted 37 wins over that same 4-year period.

So it only made sense when the Battle of the Big Chicken pitted the two cross-county foes together for the night-cap of the event.

McEachern, ranked No. 3 in the state, is coming off a rousing 31-10 drubbing of perennial-power Brookwood at the Metro PCS Corky Kell Classic in the Georgia Dome. Despite the big win, the Indians were a bit preoccupied with recovering with less than six days

rest before tonight. Their game, which kicked off Saturday night, actually ended on Sunday. But Hockman was encouraged by the fact that his team already got their first game out of the way while their opponent has yet to play.

"Lassiter hasn't played a game yet," said Hockman. "So we'll be a little tired and banged up, but they haven't played and will have their first-game jitters. So I think it will offset."

Hockman's tribe battered and bloodied their adversaries last week with a series of blows from skill position players on offense and a big and fast front seven on defense. Brookwood entered with a reputation of "ground and pound" football, but McEachern left knowing it can run the ball and stop the run.

Running back Taj Griffin and quarterback Ty Clemons combined to rush for 263 yards while the team as a whole produced 323 yards rushing. Meanwhile, defensive ends Henry Famurewa and McKenzie Billingslea led a strong Indians defense that held Brookwood to a paltry 70 rushing yards.

Lassiter, meanwhile, likes to throw the ball often out of its spread offense. After quarterback Eddie Printz graduated and left for the University of Missouri, the Trojans were in need of a signal-caller with experience. On the other side of the coin, former Wesleyan starter Will Anderson was looking for exposure to college scouts to fulfill his dream of earning a scholarship to a big-time football program.

So the Anderson family moved to east Cobb and Will enrolled at Lassiter. In two years at Wesleyan, Anderson set school records in career passing yards (4,260), completions (341) and passing touchdowns in a game (6). He competed with Russ Aarons, Lassiter's JV starter last year.

"Russ has done a great job for us," said Lassiter coach Jep Irwin. "The JV team went 6-1 last year. He got to play a little bit last year as a sophomore and he's certainly got experience in the system. Will has some starting experience at

Wesleyan for two years, and is a senior."

Despite being from the same county, the two power programs have met just one time on the gridiron, a 20-17 Lassiter win in the second round of the 2011 playoffs. While McEachern is one of the favorites to win the state title this year, Lassiter could earn a lot of respect by upsetting the Indians on their home field.

Photo courtesy of Sonny Kennedy. Black can be reached at sblack@scoreatl.com.



WALTON VS. HILLGROVE



First-ever game between Hawks, Raiders

By Sean Conway

When the Hillgrove Hawks and Walton Raiders meet in the Battle of the Big Chicken, they'll be making history in the second annual showcase. It is surprising that these two perennial winners have never faced each other despite being just 13 miles and a couple turns off Roswell Road from each other.

With each school's rich playoff history, you could easily have expected the teams to have met in the postseason. Hillgrove began playing football in 2006 and has been in the playoffs four of the last five years. Walton has been in the playoffs every year but one since 2002 (2009). The Hawks reached the state quarterfinals in 2010. Walton reached the state championship game in 2011.

Hillgrove cruised through its opening

game last week, a 26-6 home victory over Westlake. Quarterbacking the offense is head coach Phillip Ironside's son, Elijah. A back-up while recovering from an injury last year, Elijah operates a spread offense for the Hawks that features a lot of depth at wide receiver. Justin Denton appears to be the playmaker of the group. Denton scored on three passes from Ironside in the first half of the opener. Denton is joined on the outside by Omar Black and Zach Katz.

Running back Richardre Bagley, also recovering from an injury last year, seems set to pace the running game. He was the leading rusher against Westlake with 84 yards.

The Hawks' defense is led by defensive end/linebacker Bradley Chubb, an N.C. State

commit. In the opener, the defense held Westlake scoreless. (The Lions' only score came on a fumble recovery returned for a touchdown).

Walton had a tougher first week. The Raiders fell to Peachtree Ridge 23-17 in the Metro PCS Corky Kell Classic at the Georgia Dome. Head coach Rocky Hidalgo is turning his offense over to first-year starter Price Wilson. (Wilson did fill in as a starter in four games last year, winning three). In the Raiders' opener Wilson threw for two touchdowns in the first quarter against the Lions, one each to Maurice Gibson and Jordan McCray. Wilson, a Louisiana Tech commitment, is working behind a talented, but young, offensive line. Sophomore K.K. Brooks looks to be a workhorse in the backfield. The first-time varsity starter led the Raiders with 120 yards on 22 carries at the Dome.

On defense, Walton also possesses a combination of youth and talent. The strength of the team may be the safeties. D.J. Smith returns as a starter and is joined by converted cornerback Taquar Stewart. The Raiders' linebacking corps flashes some speed with the Williams boys, Dreyon and Zach, both seniors who are of no relation.

Even though the teams will be meeting for the first-time, there is some familiarity between the schools. Hillgrove principal Christian Suttle was a coach, athletic director and vice princi-

pal at Walton. Suttle and Hidalgo were assistant coaches together before Hidalgo was named the Raiders' head coach before the 2009 season. Hidalgo recently joked, "Unfortunately he is not playing in the game because if he was, I would probably run the ball right at him. ... but this is an important game against an excellent team and that's [the only thing] that is going to matter when we play."

Photo courtesy of Terrance Johnson. Conway can be reached at sconway@scoreatl.com.



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2013 FOOTBALL PREDICTIONS

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Our predictions for the 2013 season

By Score Atlanta

- Georgia will beat Clemson, but lose to South Carolina.
- Georgia Tech will play for the ACC championship, but lose to Florida State.
- Georgia will beat Florida for the third time in a row.
- Georgia State will score on both Alabama and West Virginia.
- Georgia will not play for the SEC Championship.
- GSU will win at least two games.
- Alabama will win another national championship, but it will be the last of the Saban era.
- Texas A&M's Johnny Manziel will make headlines regardless of if he plays or not.
- Auburn will have quarterback issues.
- LSU will struggle with quarterback Zach Mettenberger.
- South Carolina will lose to Alabama in the SEC Championship.
- Kentucky will upset an SEC opponent this year (someone good, not Missouri).
- Mississippi State will again make a bowl game for a fourth straight year, a school record.
- Vanderbilt will NOT make a bowl game this year.
- Texas will fire Mack Brown after another disappointing season.
- Oklahoma will lose its bowl game.
- Ohio State's Braxton Miller will win the Heisman Trophy, but the Buckeyes will not play for the national title.
- Stanford will again play in the Rose Bowl.
- New Arkansas coach Bret Bielema will wonder why he left Wisconsin for a mid-tier SEC program.
- Texas A&M coach Kevin Sumlin will regret not reigning in Johnny Manziel.
- Missouri will fire coach Gary Pinkel after the season.
- After early losses at Oregon and Florida, Tennessee will impress under coach Butch Jones.
- The natives will grow restless in Gainesville after another season without an SEC East title for Florida.
- Grayson graduates Denzel and Robert Nkemdiche will each make All-SEC teams after the season.
- Walton grad Tyren Jones will rush for more than 100 yards at Alabama this season.
- Alpharetta grad Michael Bennett will double his career high in touchdown catches (5) for UGA.
- Georgia Tech A-Back Robert Godhigh, a Harrison grad, will double his career rushing yardage (447).
- Clemson will wear orange pants against Georgia Saturday.
- Georgia will not wear black jerseys, pants or helmets this year.



Georgia Bulldogs

AUG 31	AT		CLEMSON TIGERS
SEPT 7			SOUTH CAROLINA GAMECOCKS
SEPT 21			NORTH TEXAS MEAN GREEN
SEPT 28			LSU TIGERS
OCT 5	AT		TENNESSEE VOLUNTEERS
OCT 12			MISSOURI TIGERS
OCT 19	AT		VANDERBILT COMMODORES
NOV 2			FLORIDA GATORS
NOV 9			APPALACHIAN STATE MOUNTAINEERS
NOV 16	AT		AUBURN TIGERS
NOV 23			KENTUCKY WILDCATS
NOV 30	AT		GEORGIA TECH YELLOW JACKETS



Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets

AUG 31			ELON PHOENIX
SEPT 14	AT		DUKE BLUE DEVILS
SEPT 21			NORTH CAROLINA TAR HEELS
SEPT 28			VIRGINIA TECH HOKIES
OCT 5	AT		MIAMI HURRICANES
OCT 12	AT		BYU COUGARS
OCT 19			SYRACUSE ORANGE
OCT 26	AT		VIRGINIA CAVALIERS
NOV 2			PITTSBURGH PANTHERS
NOV 14	AT		CLEMSON TIGERS
NOV 23			ALABAMA A&M BULLDOGS
NOV 30			GEORGIA BULLDOGS



Georgia State Panthers

AUG 30			SAMFORD BULLDOGS
SEPT 7			CHATTANOOGA MOCS
SEPT 14	AT		WEST VIRGINIA MOUNTAINEERS
SEPT 21			JACKSONVILLE STATE GAMECOCKS
OCT 5	AT		ALABAMA CRIMSON TIDE
OCT 12			TROY TROJANS
OCT 19	AT		TEXAS STATE BOBCATS
OCT 26	AT		ULM WARHAWKS
NOV 2			WESTERN KENTUCKY HILLTOPPERS
NOV 16			LOUISIANA'S RAGIN' CAJUNS
NOV 23	AT		ARKANSAS STATE RED WOLVES
NOV 30			SOUTH ALABAMA JAGUARS



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BY SEAN CONWAY

WHO'S HOT

THUMBS UP TO PIGSKINS



High school football openers

Last week, top teams from all over the state converged in the MetroPCS Corky Kell Classic at the Georgia Dome. This week, Sandy Creek travels to Tampa to play Plant and M.L. King travels to Pompano Beach to play Ely, both traditional Florida powers. And that is just a couple of the best matchups.

Opening week of college football

We're spoiled as college football fans here. Not only do the Bulldogs open up with old rival Clemson in the weekend's premier game, but Atlanta is also host to the best annual college showcase, the Chick-fil-A Kickoff. If you can't get fired-up about Georgia vs. Clemson and Alabama vs. Virginia Tech, you're not from around here.

The healing process

Like many baseball teams come late August, the Braves are flooded with injuries, pitcher Brandon Beachy being the latest, but the Braves are all but assured of a NL East Division title. That means Heyward, Maholm, Beachy and Uggla can take their time coming back. Hopefully, Freeman and Simmons can get a couple more days off, too.

Johnny Autograph

About the only downside to Texas A&M joining the SEC (for football) is all the attention Johnny Football has brought to the conference- off the gridiron. Seriously, Johnny, please behave. If not for yourself, your family or your school, control yourself so we can stop hearing about you.

Creampuffs

We love opening games like Georgia-Clemson, the Chick-fil-A Kickoff and LSU-TCU, but some off the big boys need to step it up. Florida fans shouldn't be excited about a glorified scrimmage with Toledo. How about Ohio State hosting Buffalo, and locally, Tech hosting the Elon "Fighting" Phoenix this weekend?

Final preseason games

Is there any "contest" in sports less fan friendly than the final NFL preseason games? Probably not. It's a big deal to the guys trying to make an NFL roster and the teams that are evaluating their final cuts, but the games are just awful. Let's hope no one gets seriously hurt.



WHO'S NOT

THUMBS DOWN TO MEANINGLESS GAMES

SCORE LIST

BY BRIAN JONES

1 DAWG NIGHT: Saturday marks the beginning of the Bulldogs' 2013 season when they face Clemson in a prime-time affair. Both teams are ranked in the top 10 and both want to get a win to start the season off on the right foot. Clemson is a tremendous football team, but I think the Bulldogs will be too much for them, despite playing at Death Valley.

2 RAMBLIN SATURDAY: Before the Bulldogs take the field Saturday night, Georgia Tech will be in action at noon when they host Elon College. This should be an easy win for the Jackets before they start the ACC schedule next Saturday. In a game like this, fans want to see Tech score early and often so the starters can get some rest and not get injured.

3 PANTHER FRIDAY: Before UGA or Tech kick things off, Georgia State will be in action on Friday night at the Georgia Dome when the Panthers face Samford. Many experts think the Panthers are the worst team in the FBS. It will be an uphill battle for the Panthers, so to all GSU fans, make sure to support the Panthers all year as they enter their first year of FBS competition.

4 PRESEASON OVER: The Falcons concluded their preseason on Thursday and it's now time for them to get ready for the regular season, which begins next Sunday. Fans have been critical of the Falcons during the preseason because the same problems they had in the playoffs showed up in the preseason games. I understand the concern from fans, but it's just the preseason.

5 BIG CHICKEN BATTLE: It's the first full week of high school football action and there is no other way to start it than having two great matchups in Cobb County. Walton will face Hillgrove while McEachern will take on Lassiter. Make sure to follow those games and all the other games across the state on ScoreATL.com. We'll run a live scoreboard and have recaps of the top 35-40 games in the metro area.

CRUNCHING THE NUMBERS

BY CRAIG SAGER II

198 Total points scored in the 2013 Metro PCS Corky Kell Classic

217 Yards rushing for Wheeler running back Devonte Jackson on his three carries against Sprayberry

323 Rushing yards by McEachern in its 31-10 win over Brookwood in the Corky Kell Classic

321 Rushing yards by Alexander RB Mikell Lands-Davis in last week's 41-14 victory over Bremen

7 Years since the Falcons last posted a winning record in the preseason.

1,931 Digs by Chattahoochee volleyball star Claudia Coco to set the GHSA's all-time career record

18 Penalties by Marietta in its 52-21 win over Newnan in Week 1

5 Touchdowns thrown by Marietta junior QB Brenton Martin in his varsity debut

5 State championship won by Rush Propst during his tenure at Hoover (Ala.)

6 Straight softball state championships for Buford

TRIVIA QUESTION

Going into this year's game, when was the last time Clemson beat Georgia in football?

Answer on Page 14

SANITY AT LAST

"Well, I think they play hard and when you do that you always have a chance. They've got two three-hundred pound tackles inside so they'll be a challenge."

- Georgia Tech coach Paul Johnson on season-opening opponent Elon.

OUR TWO CENTS

Our email newsletter is something we take a lot of pride in at Score. If you aren't familiar with it, it is a high school sports-heavy publication that we produce each day to fill in our readers on the latest happenings in Georgia prep sports. We send it out Monday through Friday throughout the year and Monday through Saturday during the fall.

Not only do we cover popular sports like football, basketball and baseball, we also cover every other varsity sport the GHSA fields. If you like Georgia high school sports at all, sign up for our email newsletter by visiting www.tinyurl.com/scorenewsletter and enter your email address(es) that you'd like added to the distribution list.





College recruits dot rosters in talent-filled event

By Craig Sager II

The Battle of the Big Chicken Friday at McEachern features a doubleheader with four teams full of talented prospects. All four programs were in the state playoffs last season in the GHSA's highest classification and each is a regular stop for college recruiters.

In the opening matchup, Hillgrove will play Walton for the first time in school history. The Hawks are paced by head coach Phillip Ironside's son, Elijah, the team's starting quarterback. The younger Ironside started as a sophomore in 2011, but had to sit the majority of last season after a preseason shoulder injury.

Ironside has one of the deepest receiving corps in the state to work with, as four receivers return that scored at least one touchdown in 2012. At running back, Richardre Bagley returns after missing last season with a leg injury. Ironside believes Bagley is the guy who

will get this team going.

On defense, 6-foot-2, 225-pound hybrid linebacker Bradley Chubb, an N.C. State commitment, leads the Hawks.

Walton's versatile athlete D.J. Smith makes plays running and catching the ball on offense while also playing safety on defense. Smith has offers from Clemson, South Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia and Kentucky. Walton quarterback Price Wilson saw extensive action last season after the starter, Parker McLeod, injured his ankle. Wilson committed to Louisiana Tech during the offseason. Defensively, Walton linebacker Dreyon Williams leads one of the fastest units in the state.

McEachern went undefeated last season in Region 4, which has become one of the state's most competitive. Indians head coach Kyle Hockman has senior quarterback Ty

Clemons and junior running back Taj Griffin, who are both dynamic playmakers who can spark the offense.

The mobile quarterback and the lighting-quick back routinely hit the 250-yard rushing mark as an underclassman last season as a tandem. Griffin, who has posted a 4.35 time in the 40-yard dash, recently impressed the UGA coaching staff by volunteering to run the 40 at Dawg Night. Griffin walked right up to the line and proceeded to post a 4.40 without warming up.

Clemons is being recruited as an athlete, and holds offers from Kentucky, Buffalo, Georgia Southern, Louisville and Massachusetts. Griffin has offers from Georgia, Ohio State, Arkansas, Auburn and Clemson. Defensively, Henry Famurewa is a 6-foot-2, 231-pound defensive end who is committed to Louisville. On the other side of the line, McKenzie Billingslea, a 6-foot-2, 250-pounder, carries offers from Ball State, Kennesaw State and Troy. The pair combined to lead a McEachern defense that shut down

run-happy Brookwood last week in the Metro PCS Corky Kell Classic.

Lassiter was Georgia's No. 1-ranked team heading into the postseason in 2012, and has a strong cast of players returning. The challenge will be stopping the Indians' ultra-fast offense. Protecting the perimeter for the Trojans is Arkansas commit Chris Murphy. The shutdown corner is one of the best in the state and will get a chance to showcase his complete skill set against the speed of McEachern.

Lassiter's last two quarterbacks have landed in the Southeastern Conference: Hutson Mason (UGA) and Eddie Printz (Missouri). In 2013, the spotlight will be on quarterback Will Anderson, who transferred in after spending his junior year at Wesleyan. Anderson will have running back Lane Jackman and receiver Blake Wilson to continue Lassiter's tradition of explosive play-makers.

Photos courtesy of Jon Barash and Lassiter HS. Sager can be reached at csager@scoreatl.com.



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HEAT ILLNESS



Tips on how to avoid heat-related issues

Young athletes have a lot on their minds—staying in shape, eating right, making it to practice and learning the right plays, just to name a few.

This time of year, however, they need to be aware of something else—heat illness. As the temperature rises in the summer months, the risk of heat illness grows, especially for young athletes practicing and training under the sun.

Heat-related illness is preventable. All it takes is basic knowledge about heat response and hydration in young athletes and how to recognize the early signs of heat injury.

There are three kinds of heat illness that young athletes, parents and coaches need to look out for:

- Dehydration and heat cramps—Thirst, fatigue, dizziness, light-headedness, muscle cramps and loss of energy may be signs of dehydration. The athlete should stop and drink water or a sports drink. Muscle cramps can be stretched and lightly massaged. Resume activity with caution only when all symptoms have cleared.
- Heat exhaustion—Dizziness, rapid pulse, headaches, nausea, vomiting, chills and loss of coordination may be signs of heat exhaustion. The athlete may be sweating profusely or the skin may be dry. Activity should be discontinued and the athlete should be rehydrated. If his level of consciousness does not allow oral hydration, transport him to a medical facility

- for intravenous hydration. Core body temperature should be measured. If this is not available, transport him to a medical facility for hydration and monitoring.
- Heat stroke—Call 911 immediately. Confusion, irrational behavior, drowsiness, nausea, vomiting and a dangerously high temperature (104°F and above) may be signs of heat stroke. This is a life-threatening medical emergency that requires rapid cooling by immersion in an ice bath. Ice bags on the neck and groin may help if a bath is unavailable.

The best thing a young athlete can do to prevent heat illness is to stay hydrated by drinking plenty of fluids throughout the day. This includes water and sports drinks, like Powerade and Gatorade. High-sugar and carbonated drinks, like energy drinks, can dehydrate athletes faster and should be avoided.

A simple guide to determine how much fluid a young athlete should drink is to divide his weight in half. That number is how many ounces of fluids he should drink. For example, if an athlete weighs 140 pounds, he should drink 70 ounces of fluids each day.

TIPS FOR EXERCISING IN THE HEAT

- Schedule workouts during the cooler times of the day.
- Allow children who are overweight, out of shape or unacclimated time to adjust to the heat.
- Schedule water and rest breaks every 30 minutes during activities. During these breaks, do not just encourage, but require children to drink. This also gives the coach or trainer a chance to monitor the athletes.
- Have shade, ice and a kiddie pool available for emergency treatment and rapid cooling.
- Have a cell phone (with a charged battery) available at all workouts for emergency contact.
- Wear sunscreen with sun protection factor (SPF) of at least 15. Apply it 30 minutes before going out in the sun and every 20 to 30 minutes if sweating or swimming.
- Wear hats with brims and light-colored, breathable clothing.

The fact that these athletes want to be working hard in the sun shows how dedicated they are to their sport. Let's encourage that dedication by keeping them safe.

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DREAM BEAT



Despite losing spell, playoffs still likely

By Joe Deighton

The last month of the regular season draws near and the Atlanta Dream's bid for a play-off spot is likely. However, the team's recent slide has quickly taken the Dream out of the top record in the WNBA and into second place in the Eastern Conference. The Dream have posted wins in just three of their past nine games.

Chicago came into Philips Arena with the best record in the Eastern Conference at 19-8 and won 67-56. Elena Delle Donne netted a game-high 25 points. Atlanta struggled slowing down the rookie forward, and could not keep pace with the Sky.

Angel McCoughtry scored a team-high 20 points, but the Dream shot 28 percent from the field (20-70). Erika de Souza grabbed 16 rebounds in the loss and added 12 points.

Coach Fred Williams attributed the bad shooting performance to fatigue and playing back-to-back games. "I think with our shooting, basically we've just got to get more quality shots," Williams told the team website.

INJURY REPORT...

One reason that Atlanta did not cut into the Chicago lead was the loss of guard Arminie Herrington. Just after halftime, Herrington sustained a head injury that could possibly be a concussion, but nothing was reported after the

game. The injury came on a play where Herrington was diving for a loose ball and ran into Delle Donne.

If Herrington cannot return for the next game, guard Tiffany Hayes will take her place in the lineup. Hayes did not play against Chicago, but has scored 56 points in her last three games. Atlanta will need a scoring punch down this last stretch of the regular season and Hayes might just be the punch the Dream will rely on.

ON THE DOCKET...

Three of the next four games will be at home where Atlanta is 11-2 this season. Washington comes to town and the Dream will be looking to avenge a loss to the Mystics last week.

Angel McCoughtry will have to focus more on defense than offense if she wants to lead Atlanta to a road victory.

L.A. will come into Philips Arena on Monday and will prove to be another tough match-up. The Sparks have already wrapped up a play-off spot and will be looking to capture the top spot in the west. The always-dangerous Candace Parker leads L.A. in scoring with 18 points per game. Parker will have to be stopped in order to have a chance at a win.

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BULLDOG BEAT



Dawgs approach challenging early schedule

By Chris Nieman

After a busy offseason, the fifth-ranked Georgia Bulldogs return to the gridiron to face the No. 8 Clemson Tigers on Saturday in a nationally-televised game on ABC. The last time both teams met was in 2003 when coach Mark Richt and the Bulldogs shutout the Tigers in Death Valley 30-0. The Dawgs and Tigers are certainly no stranger to one another having been rivals for years. The season opener marks the 63rd time the rivals have dueled with Georgia owning the all-time series 41-17-4.

The Georgia-Clemson game will also host ESPN College Gameday to kick off the 2013 season.

OFFENSIVE WEAPONS ...

The Georgia offense returns nine starters including star quarterback Aaron Murray, whom was voted as preseason first-team quarterback per SEC coaches. With Murray at the helm of the offense, the Bulldogs should be hitting on all cylinders the moment they take the field on Saturday.

Having two highly-talented and hard-working running backs in preseason All-American Todd Gurley and explosive Keith Marshall (both sophomores) will also create plenty of matchup problems for opposing defenses, including Clemson this weekend. The passing threat of

Aaron Murray as well as the two-headed monster at running back gives the Bulldogs a balanced offense and being able to run any play at any time is a testament to the offensive balance the Dawgs possess. The passing and running games should be primed for a big season in 2013.

Aaron Murray was quick to acknowledge the 2013 offense and its firepower.

"Oh yeah," said Murray. "The most dynamic our offense has ever been. A lot of receivers, tight ends, and running backs, but it all starts with the offensive line."

BOY OH BOYD ...

The Georgia secondary will face a tremendous challenge Saturday night as it faces one of the nation's top passing attacks in 2012. The Bulldogs have seen Josh Harvey-Clemons suspended, Paris Bostick, Corey Moore and Reggie Wilkerson out and Sheldon Dawson and Shaquille Fluker either doubtful or questionable out of the defensive backfield.

Clemson quarterback Tajh Boyd will test the remaining Bulldogs defensive backs severely. Georgia's suddenly thin secondary will have its work cut out for them Saturday.

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TECH BUZZ



Johnson tempers expectations in press conference

By Donnell Suggs

With the 2013 season set to open this Saturday with a visit from the Elon University Phoenix out of the Southern Conference, Georgia Tech head coach Paul Johnson held this season first press conference at the Edge Center in the heart of the Georgia Tech campus. Johnson and his staff had to rely solely on game film in preparation for Elon, because the two schools have never met in football. Georgia Tech has a new starting quarterback along with a challenging league schedule that will have them face Miami and Clemson on the road this season. Johnson tried to answer all of the key questions during the first of his weekly press conferences.

GAME WEEK ...

Johnson and the Jackets are excited to finally be in game week.

"It's always exciting to get into game week and finally get to play a team with a different color uniform and find out a little bit more about our team."

While Elon was likely scheduled to provide an easy win in the season-opener, Johnson made the Phoenix sound like a major rival in his press conference.

"[Elon is] out of the Southern Conference,

which is one of the better conferences in the country," he said. "They play good competition and it ought to be a good challenge to see where we are as a football team. [This game] says as much about Georgia Tech than it does about Elon in the opening game to try and see exactly where we are."

NEW BEGINNINGS ...

Redshirt sophomore Vad Lee will be making his first career start on Saturday after proving himself as a backup last year behind outgoing senior Tevin Washington. Lee will not be the only quarterback making his debut this weekend at Bobby Dodd Stadium, Phoenix quarterback Mike Quinn will be making his debut as well. The 6-foot-3 204-pound junior played sparingly as a sophomore but has earned the top spot during camp this year. Tech will be utilizing both Lee and redshirt freshman Justin Thomas behind center. Thomas will to play the role Lee played last year as Tech looks to keep opponents on their toes by rotating quarterbacks.

Georgia Tech kicks off against Elon University at noon on Saturday, August 31.

Suggs can be reached at 404-256-1572.

PANTHER PROWL



Miles set to lead new era of Panther football

By Chris Schutter

Trent Miles will debut as the Panthers' head football coach on Friday when Georgia State hosts Samford at the Georgia Dome. Miles was named Region Coach of the Year by the AFCA in both 2010 and 2012 at Indiana State, and he hopes to have continued success with Georgia State. This game is not only Trent Miles first game but also Georgia State's first game as an FBS team.

Although they are official members of the Sun Belt Conference, the Panthers are not eligible for the Sun Belt title or postseason bowl games until 2014. Wide receiver Albert Wilson will help make this a smooth transition. He has accumulated almost 4,000 all-purpose yards and was named to the preseason All-Sun Belt second team as both a receiver and kick returner.

The Panthers' initial FBS campaign will have some challenges as they play West Virginia on the road in Week 3 and at top-ranked Alabama in October, but Miles is focused this week against Samford and building this program for continued success. At his weekly press conference Miles said, "It's not just about Friday. We look big picture and look how things will be next year, two years, five, 10 years from now."

DIAMOND CUTS ...

On the diamond, baseball try-outs are upon

us. They will be held September 11 at 3 p.m. located at GSU Baseball Complex at Panthersville. Students planning on trying out must be currently enrolled at Georgia State and must have a GPA of at least 2.5. The GSU baseball office has tryout packets for those interested. The packets must be picked up by September 6. All of the required paperwork must be submitted before the day of the tryout in order for a student to be permitted to participate.

KICKIN' IT ...

Junior Nikki Fedele was named GSU's student-Athlete of the Week as she helped push the Panthers to a 2-2 double overtime tie at Mercer. Before scoring a goal in the second half, Fedele also helped by assisting Whitney Ravan with GSU's initial goal. Ravan also assisted on the goal by Fedele in the season opener, and both are looking forward to their next match. They have a challenge ahead of them as they'll travel to Alabama on Friday. The match is set to kick off at 8 p.m. ET. After 110 minutes of play on Sunday, this Panthers team will need some extra rest to make sure they are ready for what is sure to be a difficult Alabama squad.

Schutter can be reached at 404-256-1572.

OWL OUTLOOK



Lady Owls take conference opener

By Brian Jones

This past weekend marked the start of the 2013-14 season for the women's soccer team as they took part in the UTVOLS Tournament in Knoxville, Tenn. On Friday, the Lady Owls faced Tennessee Tech and won 1-0. Redshirt freshman Brittany Reed scored the lone goal 10 minutes into the second half.

KSU outshot Tennessee Tech 15-4 and freshman goalie Olivia Sturdivant came up with one save for the Lady Owls. It was the first time in three years KSU has won a season opener.

The Lady Owls looked to keep the momentum going on Sunday when they faced Oklahoma for the first time in school history. KSU fought hard for 90 minutes, but thanks to back-to-back goals by Oklahoma's Madison Saliba in the first half, the Lady Owls suffered a 2-0 loss.

"We got a lot of positives out of that match," head coach Rob King told ksuowls.com. "I was very pleased on the second half. We had a 0-0 performance in the second half with a lot of fight and I thought defensively we did a great job. We kept them out and were very organized. We had a little bit of difficulty connecting with our forwards in there to actually generate very good chances. We had one very good one on a breakaway that

we were not able to capitalize. Overall a good weekend, a win and a loss and lots of things learned."

The Lady Owls will be back in action this weekend when they take part in the Carolina Nike Classic at Chapel Hill, N.C. KSU will face Duke on Friday and North Carolina on Sunday.

FOOTBALL NEWS ...

The renovations for the space that will provide offices for the football coaches are a month in the process and the facility will be completed by Oct. 5.

The 29,500-square foot space will have 16 offices, 10 meeting rooms and film rooms, a 4,300-square foot weight room and a foot speed and agility area.

Seven ceiling-mounted projectors will be in the meeting rooms and six monitors will be available in the weight room. The facility will be located in walking distance of campus.

Another project going on with football is fans can vote on what the team's helmet should look like. The helmet will be officially revealed on Sept. 13 at the soccer game vs. Ole Miss.

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HAWKS HAVEN



Hawks starting five appears set

By Ricky Dimon

The Atlanta Hawks' offseason was a busy one, but perhaps not as busy as fans would like. General manager Danny Ferry went the way of the sleepers as opposed to be the big names. Dwight Howard and Chris Paul chose to sign elsewhere; Howard bolted L.A. for Houston and Paul stayed put with the Clippers. Josh Smith left Atlanta for Detroit to little argument from the front office or the fan-base. In the draft, Ferry opted not to parlay picks and trade up for a college superstar. Instead, with his first two selections he landed two foreigners whose time in the limelight may be several years down the road.

Now that the moving and shaking appears to be over, the Hawks' lineup has become clear. Al Horford is once again back at center, Kyle Korver has the inside track on starting at small forward, Lou Williams should recover from ACL surgery in time to start at shooting guard and Jeff Teague returns to run the offense at point guard after Atlanta matched his offer from Milwaukee.

Speaking of Williams, some might say that his recent release of a mixtape was the most exciting development of the Hawks' offseason. Going by "Lou Will," Williams' mixtape is entitled 'Here Goes Nothin' and 2 Chainz is among the artists featured in the 16 tracks.

NEWCOMERS ...

The newcomer among the starting five will be power forward Paul Millsap. Previously with Utah, the seven-year veteran has averaged 12.4 points and 7.0 rebounds per game throughout his career. Millsap scored 14.6 points and grabbed 7.1 boards per contest last season with the Jazz.

Among the other first-time Hawks likely to find their way onto the final roster are Elton Brand, Pero Antic, DeMarre Carroll and Dennis Schroeder. Brand, 34, averaged 7.2 points and 6.0 rebounds in 21.2 minutes as a Dallas Maverick in 2012-13. Antic, a 6'11" power forward from Macedonia, posted 6.4 points and 3.3 rebounds in 15.2 minutes per contest last year with Greek powerhouse Olympiacos. Both Brand and Antic can provide backup help at the forward and center positions. Carroll, Millsap's teammate in Utah, is coming off a season in which he averaged a career-high 6.0 points per game in 16.8 minutes. Schroeder, drafted 17th overall, is a 19-year-old German point guard who could emerge as Teague's primary backup for the upcoming season.

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FALCONS BEAT



Preseason standouts hopeful as cuts loom

By Craig Sager II

The Falcons 53-man roster must be finalized by the League deadline on Sunday. The target date sits just a week before the season kicks off in New Orleans. The preseason has answered a lot of questions, while creating others. Insecurities surrounding the offensive line came about when starting tackle Mike Johnson was sidelined for the season after injuring himself in a combined practice with the Bengals. Concerns grew as the unit struggled, and in the third preseason game the o-line surrendered six sacks to the Tennessee Titans. The result was a 27-16 loss and a 1-for-7 conversion rate on third down with the starting offense in the game. Lamar Holmes will continue to fill the starting role at right tackle, and undrafted free-agent rookie Ryan Schraeder, has become a much-needed piece to secure depth at the position.

UNSUNG HEROES ...

The Falcons returned just five linebackers from its 2012 roster, and the 2013 draft focused on improving the cornerback, safety, and defensive end positions. Undrafted rookies Joplo Bartu and Paul Worrirow were added and given trial runs this preseason at linebacker, and injuries to Sean Weatherspoon and Steven Nicholas increased their roles. The duo has flourished,

and both rookies head into the final cuts with confidence.

"Both of those guys [Bartu and Worrirow] have done a nice job," said coach Mike Smith. "I thought that Bartu did a great job [against Tennessee]. He had extensive time at the dime position and we wanted to get a good evaluation. Early in the preseason, [Worrirow] was very active tackling and making plays. Both guys are going to be guys that have a chance to make our roster and contribute on special teams."

Bartu finished with four tackles and a forced fumble that the Falcons recovered when Smith gave him the nod with the first unit.

"We wanted to see how he [Bartu] handled it; I thought he handled it pretty well," said Smith. "He did some things in coverage that we liked...I'm very impressed with the way he handled his role in our nickel package."

Covering the pass at the linebacker position is an invaluable skill that coordinator Mike Nolan and Smith have been focused on developing. As a freshman at Texas State, Bartu was a free-safety, and he has shown a natural ability to play the run and pass this preseason.

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CHOP SHOP



Injuries dampen enthusiasm over season

By Sean Conway

The Braves' clubhouse in late August is truly a tale of two teams. On one hand, the Braves have the best record in baseball and their magic number to clinch the National League East division is dipping in the teens. A division title is certain, even if manager Fredi Gonzalez won't state the obvious.

Despite the success, this is a ball club in flux due to injuries. The Braves' starting pitchers were remarkably consistent in the first half. Not just in their statistical performance, but also in their ability to simply take the post every fifth day. Now, Tim Hudson is out for the season, innings-eater Paul Maholm is just now returning from a rehab stint in Gwinnett and Brandon Beachy is back on the DL after making only five starts this summer.

Not that the position players have been much healthier. Second baseman Dan Uggla was so frustrated with his inability to see pitches, he went on the DL for LASIC surgery. Centerfielder B.J. Upton, who has struggled mightily in his first year as a Brave, hasn't done much since returning from his trip to the DL. And of course, outfielder Jason Heyward will miss the rest of the regular season recovering from a broken jaw.

The Heyward loss is likely the biggest

of these blows. He was heating up in August and flourishing since Gonzalez put him in the leadoff role. Heyward hit .348 with four home runs, 10 RBIs with six doubles in just 66 at bats this month.

PLUGGING HOLES ...

So, where to go from here? Fans can look into both dugouts for answers. Gonzalez will have to mix and match parts to win games, hopefully holding on the home field advantage for the playoffs. If last Sunday (and the season so far) when the Braves took the field with just three starters from their opening day lineup, is any indication, he's up to the task. Not only has Gonzalez managed a deep outfield rotation for much of year with the Uptons, Heyward and emerging Jordan Schaffer, he's also managed getting three catchers playing time.

And in the other dugout is the back of the bullpen, which has been simply masterful. Closer Craig Kimbrel has been himself with 42 saves and counting. Lefty set-up guy Luis Avilan has been brilliant as well, allowing just eight earned runs through 62 games.

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G-BRAVES BEAT



Uggla homers; Terdoslavich voted all-star

By Craig Sager II

The Gwinnett Braves wrapped up their final homestand this week against the Durham Bulls, and visit Charlotte (Aug. 31-Sept. 2) to finish the season in a three-game series.

Meanwhile, Dan Uggla was the latest Brave to rehab his way through Coolray Field. The second baseman went on the disabled list Aug. 13, hitting only .186 with an NL-leading 146 strikeouts. Uggla battled eye problems all season before deciding to have the Lasik procedure, and appeared in his first rehab start. This rehab stint with Gwinnett recorded Uggla's first Triple-A stint and only minor league rehab assignment of his career.

WE SEE YOU ...

In Uggla's second rehab start, he gave the Braves a 2-1 lead with a solo homer over the left-field fence. The homer snapped a 17-game homerless streak for Gwinnett. After the Uggla homer, lefty Sean Gilmartin struck out a season-high seven batters for Gwinnett. The Norfolk Tides atoned for the Uggla homer and strong pitching from Gilmartin, and went on to beat the Braves 4-3 in 12 innings.

Uggla's single to left in the seventh inning allowed him to finish him 2-for-4 with the homer and one RBI in the loss in his last

rehab start.

"My vision wasn't horrible [before surgery]," said Uggla. "But when you're trying to hit and recognize pitches and you're used to seeing 20/15 and then you can't, it's tough."

It has been a busy season in Gwinnett with 12 Atlanta Braves' joining the lineup at some point of this season. Uggla, Freddie Freeman, Brian McCann, Jason Heyward, Evan Gattis, Brandon Beachy, Jordan Schaffer, B.J. Upton, Gerald Laird, Jordan Walden and Luis Ayala all started in Atlanta, then moved to Gwinnett at some point.

Current Atlanta outfielder and former Gwinnett Brave, Joey Terdoslavich, was named to the 2013 International League Post-season All-Star Team. Before the 24-year old made his July 4 Major League debut with Atlanta, Terdoslavich ranked fifth in the International league in hitting with a .318 batting average. The switch-hitter played a total of 85 games with Gwinnett this season and has continued his production in the majors. In his first 36 major league games Terdoslavich has 16 hits in 57 at bats.

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