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CAN'T MISS THIS WEEK

Fletcher Proctor weighs in on the Sports Champions of Greater Atlanta banquet that will be held this week.

Craig Sager gives you his thoughts on Milton's quarterback A.J. Bush transferring to Norcross.

- In our prep cover story, Fletcher Proctor studies some of the most successfull lacrosse teams since its debut to the GHSA in 2005.
- **8-11** We present the latest rankings for high school baseball, lacrosse and soccer.

TEAM SCOOP AND VOICES

COVER DESIGN BY DJ GALBIATI BLALOCK COVER PHOTOS COURTESY OF IJ ROSENBERG AND ELCA

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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.



EYEING TITLE: Paideia boys soccer look to win their first state soccer title in school history this weekend. They have won 10 straight games including three straight destructions in the playoffs. They square off against Hebron Christian who have won 13 straight games. Photo courtesy of Nill Toulme.

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COVER STORY



By Fletcher Proctor



This Thursday at the Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre, the Sports Champions of Greater Atlanta will hold its 10th Annual Banquet to honor high school seniors and coaches that have helped make a positive impact on the world. Sports Champions of Greater Atlanta recognizes seniors that have excelled on the playing field, achieved a high level of excellence in their scholastics and shown great character. Coaches who compile an extraordinary record over at least six years to help produce championships while also reflecting outstanding leadership ability to help develop good character among his or her athletes are also recognized at the event.

This year, 23 people will be honored as 10 young men, nine young women and four coaches will be recognized at the banquet. The Sports Champions of Greater Atlanta received more than 150 nominees from athletic directors and principals from schools in the Greater Atlanta area including Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Fulton and Gwinnett counties, as well as the city of Atlanta and Buford city schools. From these nominations, a selection committee made up of 12-14 people from the advisory board and council then score the athletes independently before reconvening to tally up the scores. The council is comprised of 40 individuals who share the Sports Champions of Greater Atlanta's vision.

As a result of the banquet and the Sports Champions of Greater Atlanta sponsors, the organization is able to provide financial support for under-funded athletic programs across the Greater Atlanta area. The funds go to the counties of the winners and the teams of the coaches to provide assistance to underfunded teams.

"The funds are given to the county athletic director to determine the best use for the money," said Vickie Huddleston of Sports Champions of Greater Atlanta.

The Atlanta Public Schools athletic department is one recipient of the grant money and Athletics Program Director Jeff Beggs said that the Sports Champions of Greater Atlanta has been a tremendous benefactor for the sports department.

"The monies and grants we received have been used to purchase equipment and uniforms for programs that cannot afford to get new ones," said Beggs. "We are in dire need of additional funds every year for our athletic programs, but Sports Champions of Greater Atlanta has been a huge factor in being able to supply our schools and our programs with the necessary replacements each season. They have been just tremendous."

Other counties such as Gwinnett and Clayton have used the money for equipment such as basketballs and softballs. In a very special case, Cobb County bought an AED defibrillator for Lassiter to be used on site at track and field events. The Cobb County athletics department took a survey and found that several schools needed a second AED for their sports departments and Lassiter High School received an AED thanks to the Sports Champions of Greater Atlanta grant.

The defibrillator would actually help save the life of a jogger that was using the track one morning. Several coaches assisted the jogger and saved his life.

Huddleston noted that the county athletic directors are invited the the organization's kickoff events to tell about how the money was used and to offer a look at how the entire process works.

In February 2001, George Wright, the founder of the Sports Champions, wanted to create an event to not just recognize outstanding high school athletes and coaches but also to help provide assistance to athletic programs in the under-funded schools of the Greater Atlanta area so that all sports would be allowed to thrive in the area. Over the next few years, Wright would engage in talks with Billy Henderson, Billy Payne and Jim Kennedy. After securing the "Sports Champions of Greater Atlanta" name, Wright and his advisory council and board of directors began to hold meetings to discuss criteria and nominations. The Sports Champions of Greater Atlanta had corporate support from Cox Communications and Georgia Power as well as Coca-Cola, the Piedmont Charitable Foundation and the John & Mary Franklin Foundation. In 2004, the organization held its first banquet at Cobb Galleria where 10 athletes and three coaches were recognized. In total, 121 athletes and 33

coaches have been honored.

Athletes such as Maggie Horne (Marist, 2004), Michael Tucker (Buford, 2005), Christian Robinson (Greater Atlanta Christian, 2008). Christie Leverette (Marietta, 2008). Mikal Abdul-Saboor (Alpharetta, 2011), Mariah Stackhouse (North Clayton, 2012) and Brice Croxton (North Gwinnett, 2012) have won the award. Several including Horne and Tucker have gone on to serve on the advisory board. Previous coaches that have been recognized include Bill Thorn (2004), Ron Gartrell (2004), Ed Dudley (2005), Chuck Stines (2005), Gerry Romberg (2006), Kathy Richey Walton (2008), Eddie Martin (2009), Jess Simpson (2010), James "Friday" Richards (2010), Gene Durden (2011), Sharman White (2012) and Bill Holleman (2012).

This will be the first year the event will be held at the Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre. The voice of the Atlanta Falcons and Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets, Wes Durham, will emcee the event.

Since 2004, Sports Champions of Greater Atlanta has given out more than \$230,000 to the five counties and City of Atlanta schools to help with under-funded athletic programs.

This year's winners include Josh Brickell (Peachtree Ridge), Harrison Butker (Westminster), Elijah Cantrell (North Clayton), Jonathan Conner (Tucker), Grant Hall (Buford), Douglas Legg (Mount. Paran), Ronald McCullough (Jackson-Atlanta), Chase Rosenberg (Centennial), James Rowe (Lassiter), Kivon Taylor (Grady), Taylor Allen (Brookwood), Andrea Brown (Pope), Kourtney Keegan (Blessed Trinity), Lindy Long (Landmark Christian), Amy Martin (Centennial), Nicole Stafford (Westminster), Emily Swift (Kell), Melissa Turvy (Peachtree Ridge), Amber Weber (North Atlanta), and coaches Terry Blish (Marist swimming), Derek Cook (Kell football), Ted Russell (Wesleyan volleyball) and Paul Stevens (Blessed Trinity volleyball). Sports Champions of Greater Atlanta looks for athletes who are the "embodiment of body, mind and spirit," as well as coaches who are role models "on and off the field." The 2013 winners can certainly say they meet those standards.

Proctor can be reached at fproctor@scoreatl.com.



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Milton QB Bush transfers to Norcross

By Craig Sager II

Norcross won the 2012 Class AAAAAA title going a perfect 15-0 while trusting the leadership and consistent play of quarterback Joseph Wilber. With Wilber graduated the Blue Devils are still loaded with talent. making them a favorite to claim the 2013 title. Replacing their senior QB was a question Norcross was going to have to answer heading into spring practice, but the arrival of Milton quarterback A.J. Bush changed that. Bush transferred the week before spring ball to play his senior season with the Blue Devils.

The 6-foot-4 dual threat quarterback is reported to have offers from Kansas State, Marshall and Troy. Bush led a Milton offense that averaged 34 points per game last season. Although the mid-semester move seemed sudden, Milton head coach Howie DeCristofaro explained that they had been prepared for this to happen.

"He [Bush] did not live in the [Milton] district and was given a third deadline and ultimatum by the county to move, or he would no longer be allowed to attend [Milton]. Finally the week before spring practice the decision was made," explained DeCristofaro. "We knew for three or four months that this would be a possibility.'

Filling in at quarterback for Bush will be Cody Sant, Austin McLeod or Clint Winter who all shared reps in spring.

We were hoping that one would separate himself," said DiCristifaro "Summer will be huge for all of them."

With a quarterback competition brewing rising senior Joseph Guilbaud's role this summer will be one of the many that are increased, as the wideout catches from the three different candidates.

The 2013 Milton backfield is the strength of the team next year with RB Treyvon Paulk, who committed to Tennessee this past March, and rising junior RB Micco Brisker sharing carries.

"Our fans have spoken. The fan base is obviously excited be-

cause General Manager Thomas Dimitroff and Head Coach Mike

Smith have turned out team into

a perennial playoff contender."

- Falcons' Senior Vice President of Sales and Marketing Jim Smith on the club recently breaking franchise

record in season ticket sales

On Aug. 16 Milton travels to Camden

County for a scrimmage that will give the new starting quarterback a chance at quality reps before the season-opener against Alpharetta.

"Last year in the playoffs we were wideeyed heading in," admitted DiCristifaro on his team's 27-20 loss to South Gwinnett.

"In the second half we finally played how we were capable of playing. This scrimmage will simulate that challenge for us."

Battle testing his team and new quarterback before the season is something the head coach believes will benefit them. Last year Milton held a 42-0 lead in their preseason route over Forsyth Central, so a trip down to Camden County should definitely provide a bigger challenge.

DeCristofaro, who enters his third year as Milton head coach, has a background as an Olympic strength coach. He has quickly turned Milton into one of the strongest teams in the state since taking over, and Bush was one of the guys benefitting from the heavy lifting. Bush combines his sub 4.60 speed with a 400-pound squat max and has the type of athleticism that Norcross is familiar with. Bush played basketball as a two-sport athlete at Milton.

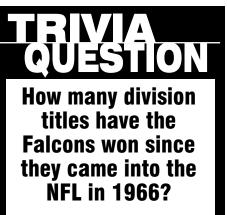
Before making the move, Bush was in attendance at the Rivals Camp Series held at Marietta High School on April 7. The Camp invited the best players from the southeast (GA, AL, FL, TN, SC). A total of seven Ea-

gles attended, including Bush, Quarte Sapp, Chris Purpura, Brisker, Paulk, Nick Wilson and Chauncey Hazelton. The seven teammates impressed scouts and had recruiters ready to head to Alpharetta to monitor spring practice and see the group again. With winter workouts done, and spring practice a week away, it was released that Bush would be taking his talents to Norcross. Safety Hazelton is a rising senior and joined Bush in the move. Hazelton is 6-foot, 180-pounds and just recently started making noise on the scouting radar at offseason camps. Hazleton's father is overseas and while living with Bush, district rules kept Hazelton from participating last season at Milton.

Norcross opens its season on Aug. 24 hosting Washington Miami, Fla. All eyes will be on Bush in his new role, as ESPN2 broadcasts the matchup. Playing on a national stage is something Bush got an opportunity to do last season. On ESPNU in 2012, Bush and Milton fell 27-7 to Walton in a late-season loss.

There have already been surprise transfers this offseason, with Wheeler's Emmanuel Beal going to Hillgrove and Wesleyan quarterback Will Anderson heading to Lassiter. The season is less than three months away, but more transfers could still happen. It was July last year when Chris Murphy of Harrison made his move to Lassiter.

Sager can be reached at csager@scoreatl.com.



Answer on Page 14

Do you follow spring high school sports? Do you enjoy baseball, golf, lacrosse, soccer, tennis or track and field? We've got you covered. Our partnership with the Atlanta Journal Constitution brings readers unprecedented coverage of the spring sports season including blogs, notebooks, rankings, scores, playoff brackets and schedules. If you're looking to see if you favorite team advanced, check AJC.com or ScoreATL.com for the latest spring playoffs scores. If you want to check out the best upcoming playoff matchups, go to either of those sites and we will have your answer. We will follow up the playoffs with final rankings in baseball, boys and girls lacrosse and boys and girls soccer. If you happen to attend your team's playoff game, you can help report the score to us. Call us at 404-256-1572, tweet to @scoreatlanta, emil to scores@scoreatl.com or post it on our Facebook page. Follow-ing the night's action, the remaining playoff schedules and brackets will be updated on AJC.com. There is no better place to be for GHSA spring sports coverage than AJC.com or ScoreATL.com.



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Handful of programs claim success

By Fletcher Proctor

For years, lacrosse has been known as the fastest sport on two feet. Some of the state's best athletes whip the ball across the field at extremely high rates of speed while trying to avoid defenses that would make some football players take pause.

The state of Georgia has seen just a handful of programs claim the top prize since the GHSA started officially recognizing state champions in 2005.

Reclassification certainly made the 2013 lacrosse playoffs interesting as Lambert and Milton, the two reigning boys champions, squared off in the second round. Lambert defeated Milton 11-10 to put an end to Milton's title defense. Fans, however, should have suspected that the Longhorns could pull out the win on the road after the program received nation acclaim for running off 43 straight victories dating from February 2011 until earlier this season.

The Longhorns have 13 seniors on the roster, but it was junior Sean Carruthers that netted five goals in Lambert's victory over Hillgrove in the first round of the Class AAAAAA playoffs. Sophomore Garret Gomez is a force in goal for the Longhorns. Centennial only lost once all regular season to a team from the Peach State, defeating playoff teams Chattahoochee, Roswell, Johns Creek, Harrison, East Coweta and Mill Creek in the regular season. Centennial was able to topple East Coweta once again as well as Lassiter in the first two rounds of the playoffs. Sophomore attackers Nathan Solomon and Brendan Spence have proved to be tough to stop for opposing defenses.

Westminster can claim plenty of boys la-

crosse tradition, having won the title in 2007 and then the AAAA-A crown in 2010, the first year the GHSA split the classifications into two brackets. Northview eliminated Mc-Intosh and Pope in the first two rounds of the AAAAA-A playoffs begore taking out threetime champion Lovett in the A-AAAAA semifinals.

Perhaps no team has benefited more from the GHSA's decision to split teams in the highest classification away from the rest of the field than Westminster. In addition to the boys title in 2010, the Westminster girls have won three straight dating back to 2010. Westminster has eight seniors on the roster including Caroline Heys, who started the 2013 season on fire. She is joined on the attack by freshman Cabel Zakas. Ansley Walker also does a nice job setting the table from her post in midfield. Westminster has won at least a share of the last four Dogwood Classic titles, an event that pits some of the state's best against some of the top teams from across the country.

McIntosh eliminated Northview in the fproctor@scoreatl.com.

A-AAAAA semifinals and is chasing its first GHSA state title.

When it comes to championship pedigree, though, it is tough to top Tim Godby's Milton Eagles. Milton has only lost four games to opponents from Georgia since 2005 with three of those losses coming in 2009, the only year Milton failed to win a GHSA state title. Senior Caroline Youngs was mentioned as one of Lacrosse Magazine's Top Performers earlier this year as the goalkeeper has proved dominant in the net for the Eagles. Fellow senior Lydia Cassada is a threat to score at all times and she will suit up for Northwestern next year. Milton has also been ranked as the No. 1 high school team in the country this year by Lacrosse Magazine and laxpower.com.

Lassiter can score at will (16.5 goals per game), as evidenced by the 18-2 victory over a very talented and previously-undefeated Centennial team in the quarterfinals.

Proctor can be reached at fproctor@scoreatl.com.



Single A prepares to crown two champs

By Craig Sager II

The 2013 season marks the inaugural crowning of both Class A-Public and Class A-Private champions. In Class-A Public, Charlton County (27-2) is paired with Gordon Lee (29-2). In 2012, both Gordon Lee and Charlton County had their championship hopes ended by Providence Christian, which went on to win the title. Gordon Lee fell to the Stars in the second round, and Charlton County lost to them in the state championship.

This season looks to be different, as both teams are well equipped with lineups that are red-hot and capable of bursting into a five- or six-run inning at any point. Gordon Lee has outscored its opponents 84-11 leading up to the championship and Charlton County had a 53-10 run advantage in its trio of playoff sweeps.

Gordon Lee is yet to be tested besides an early hiccup in Game 1 of the semifinals against Treutlen. Visiting Treutlen opened up a five-run top of the first, but the Trojans regained the momentum before the Vikings could get up to the second inning. Gordon Lee outscored them 33-3 from that point in the series. Adam Vandiver is the leadoff man and gets support throughout the lineup. Tanner Sexton recorded five hits and five RBIs in the sweep over Treutlen. Daniel Brooks, Adam Vandiver, Conner Coakley, Kyle Rosen and Brad Cammack all had multi-hit games to erase the 5-0 deficit in the semis.

For Charlton County, it has been a collective effort to get back into the title game. Last year's ace Chris Smith graduated and left a vacancy in the Indians' rotation, and Ryan Young has come in and filled it seamlessly. Young rested an aggravated throwing arm last season and did not pitch, but has five wins on the season and combines it with his potent .376 batting average that includes 21 RBIs. A total of 10 players possess batting averages upward of .300. Leadoff man Jacob Baxter is hitting .457 and sophomore L.J. Talley is batting .508. Baxter and Talley are dangerous baserunners and the two have combined for 30 stolen bases on the season. Jesse King had a broken hand last season, but the junior has remained healthy this season and is batting cleanup at .449 with a team-high 36 RBIs.

Class A-Private sets up a playoff rematch from a year ago with Mt. Paran Christian and Eagle's Landing Christian. The Chargers swept Mt. Paran in the second round before losing in three games to George Walton in the semis. This year Mt. Paran finds itself in the championship after sweeping George Walton in the semis. Mt. Paran gave up just one unearned run in the two games and showed to be playing its most polished ball of the season. Pitchers Jordan VerSteeg and Colton Cannon are the No. 1 and No. 2 starters. VerSteeg pitched a complete-game shutout in the 5-0 Game 2 win, and Cannon pitched six innings giving up no earned runs in the Game 1 8-1 decision. Matt Mackenzie, Hunter Rice, Tyler Flowers. Landon Faulkner and Jake Palomaki are all excellent hitters. Mt. Paran's last championship appearance was in 2005.

Darlington took Eagle's Landing Christian to a Game 3 in the semifinals, but that does not mean this team has weaknesses. The Chargers are a well-built team loaded with athleticism, power and experience. The pitching and defense of Mt. Paran will be put to the test against the bats of Jacob Heyward and the Chargers. In their Game 3 win over Darlington, their ability to produce runs was in full display to a level that has been unmatched this postseason. They scored 17 runs off of 14 hits in the sixth inning to close their 24-5 win. *Photo courtesy of Alicia Dellinger. Sager*

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	CLASS AAAAAA		CLASS AAA				CLASS AAAAAA			CLASS AAA					
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	Lambert	9. 10.		4. 5.	Woodward Acad.	9. 10.		4. 5.	Harrison		Hillgrove	4. 5.	Woodward Acad.		Cartersville
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	McIntosh Glynn Academy Starr's Mill Houston County Heritage-Conyers	6. 7. 8. 9. 10.	Allatoona Clarke Central Lithia Springs Lakeside-Evans Greenbrier	1. 2. 3. 4. 5.	GAC Calhoun Westminster Westside-Augusta Coosa	6. 7. 8. 9. 10.	Thomasville Atkinson County Benedictine Murray County Lovett	1. 2. 3. 4. 5.	Northview Heritage-Conyers Whitewater Starr's Mill Lakeside-DeKalb	6. 7. 8. 9. 10.	McIntosh Glynn Academy Houston County North Paulding Gainesville	1. 2. 3. 4. 5.	GAC Calhoun Westminster Oglethorpe Co. St. Vincent's Acad.	6. 7. 8. 9. 10.	
CLASS AAAA				CLASS A					CLASS AAAA			CLASS A			
	Dalton	6.	Alexander	1.	Atlanta Intl.	6.	Galloway	1.	Marist	6.	Chestatee	1.	First Presb. Day	6. 7.	Holy Innocer
	Chestatee Carrollton	7. 8	Grady Spalding	2. 3.	Paideia Hebron Christian	/. 8	Fellowship Chr. Holv Innocents'	2. 3.	Heritage-Catoosa Locust Grove	7. 8.	Alexander Spalding	Z. 3	Hebron Christian Mount Paran	7. 8.	Providence C Calvary Day
	NW Whitfield	0. 9.	Mary Persons	3. 4.	Pacelli	0. 9.	Savannah Chr.	4.	Cairo	0. 9.	Veterans	3. 4.	Savannah Ctry Day	9.	Paideia
	Johnson-Gainesville	•••	SE Whitfield	5.	Pace Academy	10.		5.	Columbus	•••	Grady	5.	Strong Rock Chr.		Fellowship C

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Children's teaches kids how to prevent ACL injuries

The knee is arguably the most important joint in young athletes. From basketball players to cross country runners, just about every athlete needs a healthy knee to be able to compete.

More kids are competing in sports than ever before and the number of knee injuries in young athletes has steadily been on the rise. This is especially true for injuries involving the anterior cruciate ligament (ACL), which is located in the middle of the knee and stabilizes the joint. Most ACL tears, either full or partial, occur without contact.

Because more and more athletes are participating in sports at all levels, the focus for many physical therapists has shifted from the treatment to the prevention of ACL injuries.

The Children's Healthcare of Atlanta ACL Injury Prevention Program is designed to reduce knee injuries in young athletes while also improving their sports performance.

Statistically speaking, male athletes experience more sports-related injuries than females, but ACL injuries occur five to six times more often in females. One out of every 100 high school females suffers an ACL injury each year.

This is often attributed to their different skeletal anatomy, including a wider pelvis and bones that are not perfectly aligned. Differences in how males and females train also contribute to the high rate of ACL injuries in young female athletes.

Each of these differences can be addressed and improved upon with an organized training program designed by knowledgeable physicians, therapists and certified athletic trainers.

The Sports Medicine team at Children's features an experienced, multidisciplinary team that includes orthopaedic surgeons, sports medicine physicians, certified athletic trainers and physical therapists. In 2012, they managed more than 38,000 sports physical therapy patient visits.

Created by the Sports Medicine team, the ACL Injury Prevention Program provides a collection of tips, exercises and stretches to both male and female athletes. It aims to improve young athletes' speed, strength and agility while teaching proper mechanics for sports-related activities.

The team's goal is not just to get young athletes back on the field, but to get them back on the field and playing better than ever.

Visit choa.org/ACL for more information about the Children's ACL Injury Prevention Program.

This is general information and not specific medical advice. Always consult with a doctor or healthcare provider if you have questions or concerns about the health of a child.

Some physicians and affiliated healthcare professionals on the Children's Healthcare of Atlanta team are independent providers and are not our employees.





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HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

BASEBALL RANKINGS

Columbus

Eastside

Veterans

Alexander

Lanier

Griffin

Class AAA

Buford

Blessed Trinity

North Hall

Cartersville

Pierce County

Woodward Acad.

St. Pius X

Chapel Hill

North Oconee

Appling County

Stephens County

Redan

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Class AAAAAA

- McEachern 1. 2. **Parkview**
- 3. **Johns Creek**
- 4. Milton
- 5. Walton
- 6. Marietta
- 7. Mill Creek
- **East Coweta** 8.
- 9. Grayson
- 10. South Gwinnett

Class ΔΔΔΔΔ

- 1. Gainesville
- 2. Greenbrier
- 3. Loganville
- 4. Whitewater
- 5. Starr's Mill
- 6. Dunwoodv
- **East Paulding** 7.
- Winder-Barrow 8.
- 9. McIntosh
- 10. **Houston County**

- **Class AAAA Crisp County** Marist
- Jefferson 1. 2. Lovett

Class AA

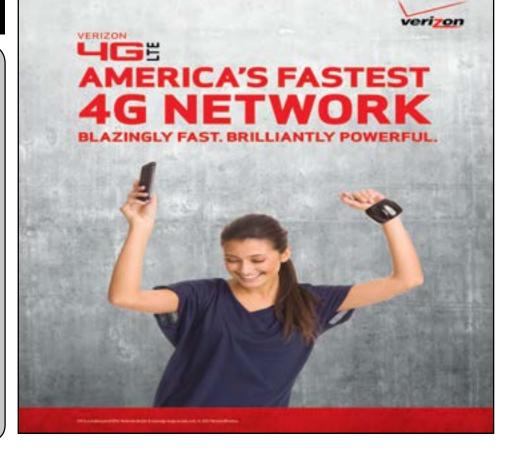
- 3. Westminster
- 4. Pepperell 5. Bremen
- 6. **Benedictine**
- 7. Berrien
- 8. Lamar County
- 9. Cook
- Calhoun 10.

Class A- Private

- George Walton Aca. 1.
- 2. ELCA
- 3. First Presbyterian
- Mount Paran 4.
- 5. Holy Innocents'

Class A- Public

- 1. **Gordon Lee** 2. ECI
- 3. **Charlton County**
- **Baconton Charter** 4.
- **Johnson County** 5.



LACROSSE RANKINGS **GIRLS** BOYS

Class AAAAAA

- Milton 1.
- 2. Lassiter
- North Gwinnett 3.
- 4. Centennial
- Chattahoochee 5.
- 6. Mill Creek
- 7. Walton
- Lambert 8.
- 9. Harrison
- 10. Roswell

Class A-AAAAA

- 1. Decatur
- Westminster 2.
- Northview 3.
- 4. **Blessed Trinity**
- Lovett 5.
- Whitfield Academy 6.
- Holy Innocents' 7.
- Allatoona 8.
- **McIntosh** 9.
- 10. Marist

Class AAAAAA

- Milton 1.
- 2. Centennial
- 3. Walton
- 4. Mill Creek
- West Forsyth 5.
- Kennesaw Mountain 6.
- Chattahoochee 7.
- 8. Lassiter
- **Peachtree Ridge** 9.
- 10. Alpharetta

Class A-AAAAA

- Westminster 1.
- 2. **Northview**
- 3. Cambridge
- 4. Kell
- 5. McIntosh
- Woodward Academy 6.
- 7. Starr's Mill
- 8. Marist
- 9. St. Pius X
- **Blessed Trinity** 10.



THE PREP TENNIS BEAT

Milton QB Bush transfers to Norcross

By Fletcher Proctor

The Brookwood boys and Walton girls L each claimed the Class AAAAA state titles in 2011, only to come up short in 2012. For Walton, the loss snapped a streak of eight straight titles. Walton was able to beat Peachtree Ridge by taking both doubles points before pulling out a win at No. 3 singles when Johanna Keeline won 6-0, 7-5 to clinch the title. Walton has won 11 titles since 2001. For Brookwood, the championship is the second in three years and the sixth since 1996, the most for a single program competing at the highest GHSA classification in that time span. The Broncos earned both doubles points before Zach Jennings clinched the title at No. 2 singles against North Cobb's Andre Canino. ... Starr's Mill traveled to Clayton County eyeing a Class AAAAA sweep and the boys blanked Union Grove 3-0, but the girls came up just short with a 3-2 loss to Lakeside-Evans. It was the first state title for the Lakeside-Evans girls tennis program as Anneliese Leahy rallied from down one set to take the 2-6, 7-6, 6-4 win. ... Columbus is known for success on the baseball field and soccer pitch, but now the boys tennis team can put a GHSA state title in the trophy case after beating Madison County 3-1 for the AAA title. Parker Bray's victory in singles play clinched the win after Columbus snagged both doubles points off Madison County. ... The Marist girls have had to live in the shadow of the Walton title streak in recent years, but the War Eagles won their fourth title in five years with a 3-0 win over LaGrange. Marist has won 16 titles since 1995, including an incredible run of 12-straight from 1995-2006. ... Blessed Trinity pulled off the sweep of Class AAA with the girls winning the program's fifthstraight crown and the boys taking their first since 2010. ... Westminster also managed

a sweep in Class AA as the girls beat out Lovett 3-1 and the boys blanked Wesleyan 3-0. For the boys, it was the program's 12th title in the last 13 years. Blessed Trinity's win in 2010 was the only year since 2000 that the Wildcats have failed to win a tennis crown. The Westminster girls had not won a title since 2003. ... Marion County and Walker won the boys Class A titles while Walker and Baconton Charter won the girls titles. The Baconton Charter victory was the school's first state title in any sport.

Photo courtesy of John Garnder. Proctor can be reached at fproctor@scoreatl.com.







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