

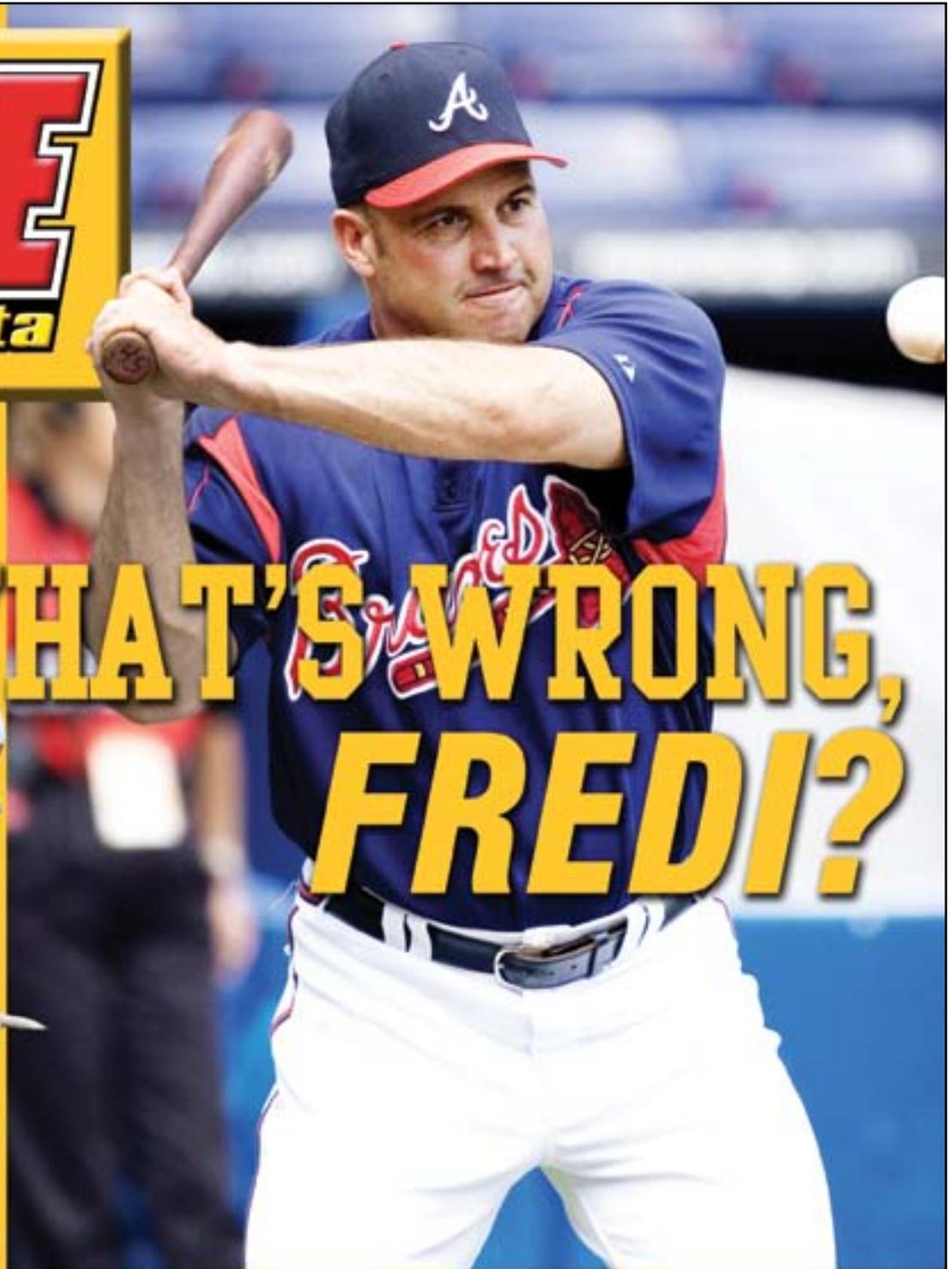
# SCORE

Vol. 8 | Iss. 11 | June 1-14, 2012

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AAAAA - Parkview  
AAAA - Loganville  
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### GOLF

AAAAA - Milton  
AAAA - Marist  
AAA - Gainesville  
AA - North Oconee  
A - Brookstone

### LACROSSE

AAAAA - Milton  
A-AAAA - Lambert

### SOCCER

AAAAA - Collins Hill  
AAAA - Lambert  
AAA - Woodward Academy  
AA - Westminster  
A - Aquinas

### TENNIS

AAAAA - Alpharetta  
AAAA - Johns Creek  
AAA - Woodward Academy  
AA - Westminster  
A - Whitfield Academy

### TRACK & FIELD

AAAAA - Brookwood  
AAAA - Kell  
AAA - Carrollton  
AA - Putnam County  
A - Athens Christian

## GIRLS

### GOLF

AAAAA - Milton  
AAAA - Lakeside Evans  
AAA - Gainesville  
AA - Greater ATL Christian  
A - Athens Academy

### LACROSSE

AAAAA - Milton  
A-AAAA - Westminster

### SOCCER

AAAAA - Milton  
AAAA - McIntosh  
AAA - Allatoona  
AA - Greater Atlanta Christian  
A - First Presbyterian

### TENNIS

AAAAA - Roswell  
AAAA - Johns Creek  
AAA - St. Pius X  
AA - Blessed Trinity  
A - Mount Pisgah

### TRACK & FIELD

AAAAA - Walton  
AAAA - Redan  
AAA - Monroe  
AA - Greater Atlanta Christian  
A - Athens Christian

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**CAN'T MISS  
THIS WEEK**

- 4** Ryan Caiafa debuts his "Ryan's Rant" column, while the Fletch gives his usual media analysis.
- 5** In our cover story, Fletcher Proctor discusses the Braves' problems that led to their recent losing streak.
- 7** Craig Sager writes about the Regions Directors Cup winners from the three classes that have completed their seasons.
- 8-9** In our baseball, lacrosse and soccer beats, our writers give you the rundown on each sport's state finals.

**TEAM SCOOP  
AND VOICES**

COVER DESIGN BY DJ GALBIATI  
 COVER PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE ATLANTA BRAVES  
 AND SONNY KENNEDY

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**13** Braves, Falcons, G-Braves, Hawks

**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](mailto:ijrosenberg@scoreatl.com). For writing internships, e-mail Stephen Black at [sblack@scoreatl.com](mailto:sblack@scoreatl.com). For graphic design internships, e-mail DJ Galbiati at [djgalbiati@scoreatl.com](mailto:djgalbiati@scoreatl.com). Feel free to call 404-256-1572 to speak with someone about any of these positions.

**SHOT OF THE  
WEEK...**

**PARTY AT PARKVIEW:** The Panthers swept arch-rival Brookwood in the Class AAAAA state finals over the weekend to win their second straight baseball state championship. Matt Olson homered in each game as well as winning Game 1 as the starting pitcher. Photo courtesy of Sonny Kennedy.

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# THE FLETCH



## Local newspaper not holding back

By Fletcher Proctor

One thing that radio talking heads in our fair city joke about constantly is the lack of accountability the AJC holds the professional franchises to on a regular basis. Despite years of coming up short of a second World Series title, the AJC never took a swipe at Bobby Cox as radio personalities such as 790 The Zone's Mike Bell did. Despite early postseason exits, the paper never took the Falcons or the Hawks to task.

That has seemingly changed over the last few weeks. After the Hawks were bounced from the playoffs and the ownership decided to bring back Larry Drew, the new AJC hatchet-man Mark Bradley bemoaned keeping Drew with a story that said "in light of this

offseason's first big move, there's no reason to hold out hope. We've again been reminded that these are the Atlanta Hawks."

Bradley then moved his target upon the Atlanta Braves and the team's recent eight-game losing streak. The team had struggled since sitting atop the NL East as recently as two weeks ago, and Bradley jumped at the chance to turn the heat up on the Turner Field tenants.

"The team that believed it had great starting pitching doesn't have very good starting pitching," said Bradley in his piece.

Of course he backed up his blog's bold proclamation with numbers and statistics, but he neglected to point out that the team's skid coincided with a Brian McCann illness. The

loss of a starting catcher will affect any pitching rotation.

Bradley wasn't the only writer ripping the Braves. Jeff Schultz took a swing at the team, asking if the team could manage a "little less slapstick" in order to improve. Schultz was a little more forgiving in allowing for injuries, but his headline also noted that the Braves were suddenly lacking a clue.

In most other cities the professional franchises are held accountable for their actions, and it is nice to see Atlanta trying to catch up with the Bostons, Chicagos, Philadelphias and New Yorks. It is just going to be startling to see the transformation of our OTHER local paper in the process.

### A LITTLE CROWDED ...

Have you checked out 790 The Zone's new midday show The Red Zone, weekdays from 11-2? If you haven't, perhaps you should. I am a bit torn as to how I feel about the show. I like more of Chris Dimino on Friday as he talks baseball, but the constant shuffling in and out of "panelists" or co-hosts (not sure what to call them) is a bit confusing. I know Ryan and Doug Stewart from their days as the 2Live Stews, but the other people can-

not find a rhythm because they are in then out seemingly before you can blink. I will be glad once, hopefully, Wes Durham and Tony Barnhart are back talking college football this fall.

### SPRING FOOTBALL UPDATE ...

Have the dog days of summer already caught up to you as you are anxiously awaiting the arrival of football season? Score Atlanta is here for you. We have been providing spring football recaps and 2012 season previews over the last few weeks. If you have missed any of them on [www.scoreatl.com](http://www.scoreatl.com) or in the Score High School Sports Newsletter, you can check them out at [www.gaprepnews.com](http://www.gaprepnews.com). We have added a special spring football recap section complete with our own original articles as well as articles from newspapers across the state, breaking down how teams' practices have gone as well as what they will be working on over the summer leading up to August kickoff. Be sure to check out the spring football section on [www.gaprepnews.com](http://www.gaprepnews.com) today. You will also see coverage of Championship Month all over the site and recruiting news.

*Proctor can be reached at [fproctor@scoreatl.com](mailto:fproctor@scoreatl.com).*

# RYAN'S RANT



## No panic necessary for Braves and Hawks

By Ryan Caiafa

Another familiar scenario has unfolded once again in Atlanta. The Hawks have been handed another early playoff exit and the Braves are struggling after another promising start. While it remains hard to be optimistic as the playoff failures continue, it should be noted that neither team seems to be regressing despite not being able to take that next step into their respective league's elite. As we look toward the remainder of the 2012 season for the Braves and next season for the Hawks, there is still reason to believe that both of these teams can remain competitive for years to come without any major changes to be made.

### WHAT GOES UP ...

After a fast start to the season, the Braves

have fallen on hard times. A multitude of injuries to players like Freddie Freeman, (dry eye), Brian McCann, (flu-like virus) and Chipper Jones, who is on the disabled list after a ground ball injured his leg on May 18, have seemingly disrupted a team that many thought could remain atop the National League standings until October. Still, we are still early in the season and this could simply be a bump in the road in a very long season.

Every team in the NL East has its question marks. The Nationals, who are currently enjoying their place at the top of division, lack the experience factor. With young players such as Bryce Harper and Stephen Strasburg, the future in Washington is bright, but are they ready for the big stage? Last year's

division champion, the Phillies, are currently floundering at the bottom of the division with decimating injuries to several key players such as Roy Halladay, Cliff Lee, Ryan Howard, and Chase Utley. There may not be enough time in the season for Philadelphia to return to its 2011 dominance.

While the Braves do have questions surrounding their rotation, with Tim Hudson slowly recovering from back surgery and Tommy Hanson struggling to find consistency, both guys have the ability to regain their form in order to keep the Braves in contention. Combine them with MLB ERA-leader, Brandon Beachy, and the rotation remains formidable. Injuries to the lineup remain a concern, but when it's at full strength, the team thrives and the bats are on. Michael Bourn has consistently remained one of the game's best leadoff hitters, Martin Prado is enjoying a renaissance year and Jason Heyward seems to be regaining his 2010 form. Atlanta fans must remember that this is a sprint, not a marathon, and that, when healthy, the Braves can consistently be the team that started out this 2012 season scorching hot.

### BUILD AROUND AL ...

Regardless of what anyone will tell you, Al Horford is the backbone of the Atlanta Hawks. Yes, the Hawks made the playoffs and had

home-court in the playoffs, but imagine where the team would have been if Horford had remained healthy. We could have been looking at a possible third-seed for the Hawks, which, this year, would have meant a first-round matchup with a depleted Orlando Magic squad.

For the Hawks to take that next step, Al needs to move to his natural position, power forward, and the team needs to work to find a legitimate center so that Al can be most effective at the four-spot of the lineup. Zaza Pachulia and Jason Collins have been serviceable to the lineup for years but in order to compete with the NBA's best frontlines, an upgrade is necessary. The Hawks are certainly strapped for cash, so in order to add a formidable replacement, the dreaded amnesty clause may need to be used and the most-likely candidate would have to be Marvin Williams.

While many would call for Joe Johnson to be the amnesty casualty, that seems improbable due to his stature within the franchise. If Williams is amnesty'd, the Hawks would have roughly eight million to spend on an upgrade at the center position and, along with the mid-level exception, can upgrade the team's enough to not only keep the team in contention, but to compete at the upper-echelon of the Eastern Conference.

*Caiafa can be reached at [rcaiafa@scoreatl.com](mailto:rcaiafa@scoreatl.com).*



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# BRAVES DIAGNOSIS



## Atlanta in tailspin after fast start

By Fletcher Proctor



What a difference eight days makes. When Atlanta left Tampa Bay to head north to Cincinnati on May 20, the Braves had just taken two of three from one of the American League's best teams in a building where visitors rarely find success. The Braves were winners of three of their previous four with just a four-game series against the Reds blocking an extended home stand.

The Reds, however, swept the four-game set with the Braves, and then the Nationals took three straight from Atlanta in Turner Field. St. Louis ensured it was a bad Memorial Day by taking out Tommy Hanson and the rest of the pitching staff 8-2 this past Monday.

What has happened to the Braves to go from first place in the NL East with a 1.5-game lead to dead last in the NL East in a stretch of just eight days? How did things turn so quickly that Braves fans feel like they are drinking expired milk whenever the home

team takes the field? Unfortunately, there is no short answer to solve the riddle that is an eight-game losing streak.

### PITCHING WOES ...

Many people looked at the Atlanta rotation entering the season and thought this would carry the team all the way to the postseason. The rotation had former all-stars Tim Hudson and Jair Jurrjens headlining with Hanson backing them up as a strong No. 3. Brandon Beachy tasted some success last year and Mike Minor looked sharp throughout all of spring training. The fans were even excited about Randall Delgado, who was pitching like he didn't want to call Gwinnett home ever again.

The script was quickly rewritten and not for the better.

Jurrjens was demoted to Class AAA-Gwinnett after posting an 0-2 record with a

9.37 ERA in four starts. He was roughed up repeated in his starts and averaged four innings per appearance. Opponents were crushing the 2011 all-star to the tune of a .411 batting average and 17 runs in just 16.1 innings of work.

Jurrjens wasn't the only culprit though. Mike Minor has gone 2-4 in 10 starts with a 6.98 ERA. Minor has surrendered 13 home runs in his 58 innings of work this year.

Even Hanson hasn't been his dominating self this year. He leads the team with five wins, but he was shelled on Memorial Day and has four losses to go with his five wins.

Beachy and Hudson have been the bright spots for the rotation this year as Hudson has won half of his starts while Beachy has five wins. But both have lost during this losing streak as neither has gotten much help in terms of run support. Beachy has also seen his league-best ERA increase from 1.33 to 1.77 after giving up three home runs against Cincinnati. Hudson, meanwhile, gave up seven runs in a loss to Washington.

The bullpen has also struggled after appearing to be a strength entering the year. While 2011 NL Rookie of the Year Craig Kimbrel has converted 14-of-15 save opportunities, Jonny Venters has struggled to find the strike zone. The filthy left-handed set-up man has appeared in 21 games, but has been shelled for a .329 average and a 1.85 WHIP. Venters has surrendered nine walks and 25 hits in his 18.1 innings of work. Chad Durbin has earned the ire of Braves fans by posting a 5.60 ERA in 17.2 innings of work over 22 appearances. Durbin has allowed 11 runs this year, surpassed by Livan Hernandez's 12 earned runs and .303 average in 29.1 innings of work. Hernandez has given up 33 hits. Cristhian Martinez is also struggling with a 4.05 ERA.

### INJURY BUG ...

It would be easy to point the finger at the injury bug that has bitten the Braves hard of late, but that is no excuse as every team experiences injuries throughout a 162-game schedule. The injuries have all come at once for Atlanta, though it seems. Chipper Jones was the first to go down for an extended period of time after taking a line drive off of his ankle. Jones had been missing games due to travel and a balky knee, but the ankle injury recently required surgery to help alleviate the pain for Jones. The team is 19-5 with Jones in the lineup this season.

Freddie Freeman also was relegated to the bench after suffering corneal abrasions during the Colorado series. He has been suffering from blurred vision and dry eyes. When he has played, Freeman has struggled, going 1-for-17 with six strikeouts during the losing streak. Freeman is awaiting prescription goggles before his full-time return to the lineup.

Brian McCann has also been under the weather, missing six games in the process. He returned to the lineup Monday after backup David Ross was forced out due to an injured groin.

The injuries all mounted at once, and with so many regulars on the bench with various ailments, the deep bench that general manager Frank Wren put together was suddenly sapped with backups forced into regular action. Eric Hinske has spent time in the outfield and at first base during the losing skid, though he is hitting just .246 this season.

### MOVING FORWARD ...

So what happens now? How do the Braves shake this funk they sit in and once again challenge for a spot in the postseason? One thing to remember is that the Braves sit just four games out of first place. The team has struggled at home this season, but how often do you see a team consistently tank at home throughout the course of a season? The team has a nine-game homestand approaching the week of June 10, so perhaps the Braves can start winning again on that extended stretch.

Despite the recent cold spell, the Braves still have a positive run differential, which cannot be said about two teams that currently sit ahead of the Braves in the NL East standings.

The offense should receive a boost now that McCann has returned to the lineup. McCann is a six-time all-star that also won the last four Silver Slugger awards for National League catchers and five of the last six. Assuming Freeman finally receives his prescription goggles, the Braves first baseman will look to return to his pre-condition form when he was hammering balls out of the park and registering a .303 batting average.

The onus is on manager Fredi Gonzalez to weather the storm and ride out this rough patch. If Gonzalez can keep the staff cobbled together until the offense returns to full strength, perhaps the Braves can still be within striking distance of a playoff berth come September.

*Photo of Brian McCann and Tim Hudson courtesy of the Atlanta Braves. Proctor can be reached at [fproctor@scoreatl.com](mailto:fproctor@scoreatl.com).*

# WHOS HOT

## THUMBS UP TO CONSISTANT HITTERS



### Martin Prado

With Michael Bourn in a slump and big bats missing (see below), Prado has been the Braves' steady offensive force lately. Prado is the consummate No. 2 hitter with patience, a little pop and a little speed. His defensive versatility is also a huge plus and saves a roster spot.

### Tech Baseball

The Yellow Jackets barely qualified for the eight-team ACC tournament. Then, all they did was go out and grab the big trophy in Greensboro. This week they face a tough regional with top-seeded Florida as host. Tech won't be intimidated after going undefeated last weekend, though.

### Coaches on Playoffs

With the SEC football meetings concluding in Destin this week, coaches from the nation's premier power conference are suggesting a playoff that rewards excellence on the field, not based on geography. College fans need a playoff done the right way. For much of the last decade, the SEC has had at least two of the country's elite teams. Reward us.

### NHL Playoffs

In case you weren't paying attention, the NHL finals are going on now. One team is playing another team in a best-of-seven series ... we're pretty sure. The Winnipeg Jets (formerly the Atlanta Thrashers) didn't make the playoffs. For your hockey fix next winter, check out the Gwinnett Gladiators of the ECHL up I-85.

### The Unsigned Contract

Head Dog Richt and the guys with the big wallets still haven't finalized the coach's latest contract extension. The ongoing talks don't seem to be a big deal, but after awhile, you start to wonder what's really going on behind the curtain. Get it done, and let the Bulldog Nation move forward.

### Braves Star Power Outage

The Braves have really been missing their stars of the past, present and future in the lineup. This lineup won't scare anybody with Chipper on the disabled list, McCann's mystery virus, and Freddie Freeman looking for help with his eyes. Here's to hoping all the team's injuries are resolved in early June.



# WHOS NOT

## THUMBS DOWN TO HOT SLUMPS

# SCORE LIST

BY BRIAN JONES

- 1** **FINAL FIVE:** The GHSA baseball state championships took place this past weekend which marked the end of an exciting 2011-12 season for high school sports in Georgia. Congratulations to Parkview, Loganville and Columbus for bringing home championships. And congratulations to all the state champions from this past season. It has been a wild ride and it's only going to get crazier next year, especially with a new classification making its debut.
- 2** **BACK TO WORK:** The Falcons were back on the field this past Tuesday as they took part in their first OTA session. The story had to be Asante Samuel, who energized the team with his play. He had a couple of picks during the workout and was talking smack in the process. This could be the piece the Falcons' defense needs in order to take the next step. Samuel brings a swagger to the defense, which is something it needs to earn respect from the rest of the league.
- 3** **WHAT'S WRONG?:** That's the questions fans have been asking about the Braves. They did beat the Cardinals on Tuesday to break an eight-game losing streak, the longest for the franchise in two years. The main reason for the struggles is the pitching has not been as good as it was at the start of the season. But also Chipper Jones, Brian McCann and Freddie Freeman have been fighting injuries, which takes a lot of power and runs out of the lineup. Let's hope they can turn it around real soon.
- 4** **REALLY DONTE?:** Another Georgia athlete is arrested. This time, it's basketball player Donte Williams who was arrested last weekend for possession of marijuana. Williams was with a friend in a black Dodge Charger near Lenox Mall and officers noticed the smell of marijuana in the car. Both Williams and his friend said they were smoking marijuana and were arrested shortly after. I know it's just a misdemeanor, but Williams has to be smarter than that. It looks like he will miss a few games when the 2012-13 season begins for the Bulldogs.
- 5** **FORCEFUL WEEKEND:** After spending the last two weeks on the road, the Georgia Force will be back at the Gwinnett Arena this weekend to face the New Orleans Voodoo and will also have another home game next week when they face the Jacksonville Sharks. The Force are currently in first place in the American Conference South Division, and would love nothing more than to get on a run to end the regular season. For tickets to an upcoming game, go to Georgiaforce.com.

# CRUNCHING THE NUMBERS

BY RICKY DIMON

- 8** The Braves' longest losing streak (ended on Tuesday) since April of 2010 (nine)
- 40** Combined games missed by Chipper Jones, Freddie Freeman and Brian McCann
- 5** Home runs hit this season by Michael Bourn, already matching his career high
- 1.77** Brandon Beachy's ERA, still the best in all of Major League Baseball
- 3-9** The Braves' record against National League East opponents this season
- 1** No. 8 seeds that have won the ACC baseball tournament (GT last weekend)
- 5** Georgia Tech's winning streak heading into the NCAA baseball tournament
- 6** Years since Georgia Tech made its fourth and most recent CWS appearance
- 20** Consecutive wins for the Spurs after beating Oklahoma City in Game 2
- 0** Teams that have gone undefeated throughout the NBA playoffs

# TRIVIA QUESTION

**Which state of Georgia recruit received 52 letters from Georgia Tech in the same day?**

**Answer on Page 14**

# SANITY AT LAST

*"I think it's hard for me to think about a conference game that doesn't count."*

- SEC commissioner Mike Slive on Steve Spurrier's idea of making inter-divisional games not count in the conference standings.

# 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.*

After a very successful spring practice, we are now working on our conditioning each morning with some 7-on-7 tournaments quickly approaching. I have also been busy solidifying the coaching staff, including one interesting hire that should help our program and give us an advantage that many programs aren't able to have.

We recently added Mike Engle to



our staff. Coach Engel has been coaching on the high school level for over 35 years. He has coached offensive line, defensive line and linebackers and has served as an offensive coordinator and a defensive coordinator. His coaching resume includes stops in Iowa, Kansas and Georgia. Coach Engel will hold several titles including Coaching Staff Administrative Assistant, Huddle Coordinator, Recruiting Coordinator, Video and Scouting Coordinator. Perhaps the most interesting thing about Coach Engel is that he lives in Kansas.

We are proud to have him on our staff and know he will do much to help the Knights brand grow.



## Directors Cups handed out in three classes

By Craig Sager

It's the end of another competitive year of Georgia high school sports and that means it's time to crown our state's top athletic programs. The Regions Directors Cup is a marathon of state titles, combining the success of each sport for the whole school year to decide the winner in each class: A-AAAAA. Since the cup's creation in the 1999-2000 school year, we have seen Georgia's high schools battle it out for the right to call themselves powerhouses.

There are 25 GHSA sports that count in the standings each school year. Each school's eight-highest scoring sports for each gender are counted in the Regions Directors Cup standings. The sports that have under the minimum of 65 schools participating receive half points. After the year ends there is a boys, girls and an overall winner for each class based on these points. In a state bursting with

talent and athleticism, the Directors Cup has become the flagship for school-wide athletic brilliance and achievement.

In AAAAA, Brookwood took its second straight overall title. The Walton boys finished second behind the Broncos and the Walton girls won the AAAAA cup over Brookwood in part due to their state championships in girls cross country, track and volleyball. The Brookwood boys cross country and track won state championships and, ultimately, Brookwood's 1242.5 total points edged out Walton's 1189.5 overall points total. In 13 years, Brookwood and Walton have combined for eight Directors cups, with Walton owning five of them. The two schools have also won five of the past six cups.

The 2012-2013 school year will start off with the two Class AAAAA athletic power-

houses facing off on the gridiron. Walton, which received 90 points for being the state runner-up in football this past year, will face the Brookwood Broncos Aug. 25 in the late game of the 2012 Corky Kell Kickoff Classic at the Georgia Dome. The Broncos beat the Raiders 27-10 in 2010 when they last matched up in the event.

The 2011-12 school year presented Marist with a 12th straight overall title. In Class AAAA Marist finished first overall, first in boys, and second in girls over Johns Creek which was second overall. Marist won state titles in boys golf and girls cross country, and pooled with their consistent winning sport-to-sport, they are on top once again.

St. Pius X, which had won the Class AAA overall Directors Cup the past three years, was beaten by Woodward Academy which claimed its first Directors Cup. Only 52.5 points separated the two schools in the end, but state championships by Woodward Academy in boys tennis and boys soccer contributed valuable points towards the Atlanta private school's first title.

## NOT DONE YET ...

Eleven-time overall Directors Cup winner Westminster holds a commanding lead over Blessed Trinity for the Class AA overall title, and Wesleyan leads the standings in the A overall title race over Darlington. Westminster's girls cross country and swimming as well as the boys cross country, tennis and soccer have contributed to and built the Wildcats' lead.

The boys cross country and swimming as well as the girls basketball team at Class A Wesleyan has built its lead in the standings over Darlington and have the Wolves looking for their fourth straight overall title.

The Class A and AA baseball state champions were not completed at press deadline, so the Directors Cup points will not be finalized until then.

The competition created by the Regions Directors Cup has advanced Georgia's high school athletics since its beginning and continues to grow just as the high schools and talent do.

*Photos courtesy of the GHSA. Walter Pinion and Ty Freeman Sager can be reached at 404-256-1572.*

# BASEBALL NEWS



## Parkview defends Class AAAAA title

By Fletcher Proctor

It was an all-Gwinnett final four in the Class AAAAA semifinal round as Parkview faced Mill Creek and Brookwood tangled with Grayson. The Panthers swept Mill Creek to advance to the finals, but Brookwood required a Game 3.

In the finals, Parkview defended its Class AAAAA baseball championship with a two-game sweep over Brookwood. Matt Olson tossed a complete game in Game 1, allowing just two unearned runs on five hits. He provided a spark at the plate, crushing a two-run home run. Ryan Blanton provided two hits and an RBI.

Lucas Sims threw a complete game for Brookwood, giving up three earned runs on seven hits with seven strikeouts. In Game 2 Sims knocked a home run early for the Broncos, but A.J. Davis blasted a two-run shot in the fourth to give Parkview the lead. The Broncos rallied with three straight doubles to tie up the game in the sixth, only to see Parkview recapture the lead with three in the top of the seventh. Olson finished the day with three RBIs and two home runs as well as the victory from Game 1.

### LOGANVILLE LONG BALL ...

Loganville took advantage of the long ball to capture the Class AAAA baseball championship. David Mayo blasted a fifth-inning, three-run home run to help the Red Devils rally to take Game 1 of the best-of-three series. Loganville fell in the second game despite two more deep balls from Clint Frazier as Greenbrier bashed four homers.

In the rubber match, Loganville clubbed three more home runs. Mayo struck again as did Garrett Ford and Brandon Moncrief. The two-run home run off of the bat of Moncrief ended the series as Loganville won 14-4 via the mercy rule.

### HISTORY REWRITTEN ...

At press deadline, the Class A baseball championship series had not yet begun, once the series began, Providence Christian's

Christin Stewart had a chance to pad his new Georgia career home run record. In the semifinal round, Stewart blasted home run No. 69 to tie Gainesville legend Micah Owings' career mark. If Stewart, who signed with Tennessee, leaves the yard once more, he would own the all-time mark. The mark could be short-lived, however, as Loganville's Frazier has 45 entering his senior year and could pass Stewart with another season like his junior year, when he hit 23 home runs.

### 2013 OUTLOOK ...

The 2012 GHSA baseball season was loaded with superstar talent like few we have ever seen before. Players such as Appling County's Byron Buxton, Columbus' Kyle Carter and J.T. Phillips and Brookwood's Sims headlined a senior class that could have as many as six players taken in the first round of the MLB draft this June. Buxton, named the Georgia Gatorade Player of the Year, could be the first overall pick in the draft.

What will next year hold for high school baseball in the state of Georgia? Who will be the stars and the teams that warrant following? Grayson could be right back in the thick of the championship hunt as Austin Meadows enters his senior season. The outfielder stands 6-foot-3 and is ranked by ESPNHS as the top outfield prospect in the Class of 2013. He is No. 2 on the ESPN Super 60 and has committed to Clemson. Grayson had 14 juniors on this year's team that reached the Class AAAAA semifinals. Taylor Burnett could also make some noise as a rising junior.

Parkview will lose Matt Olson, but the return of Ryan Blanton and Josh Hart could keep the Panthers in the conversation for a three-peat. Fellow Gwinnettian Logan Moseley is one to keep an eye on as well. The Mill Creek rising junior is a shortstop with plenty of potential.

Redan's Wesley Jones is the No. 31 player on the ESPN Super 60 list, and the shortstop is one of three players committed to the University of Georgia, joining Loganville's

Frazier and Walton's Stephen Wrenn, an outfielder. Alpharetta's Connor Jones is also a part of the UGA signing class. Jones is ranked by ESPNHS as the No. 21 pitching prospect in the country.

Marist missed out on the Class AAAA crown this year, but could be in the hunt for another title next year with Anthony Sherlag behind the plate for the War Eagles. Sherlag stands 6-foot-3 and is listed as the No. 8 catcher in the country by ESPNHS.

*Photos courtesy of Sonny Kennedy. Proctor can be reached at [fproctor@scoreatl.com](mailto:fproctor@scoreatl.com).*



# SOCCER NEWS



## Metro Atlanta dominates finals

By Fabianna Blanco

In the GHSA soccer finals, eight out of the 10 victorious teams were from metro Atlanta. The girls champions included GAC, Allatoona and Milton from the metro area while Collins Hill, Lambert, Woodward Academy and Westminster claimed titles on the boys side.

Northview and Milton met in the Class AAAAA girls soccer championship game. Milton finished with three goals in the final 17 minutes to take out Northview 4-0. The title was the first for the program and Milton's sixth state championship for the 2011-2012 school year. In the Class AAAAA boys soccer championship game, Collins Hill beat Centennial 3-1 for the school's third title in four years. Amiri Abraham scored the game-winning goal and Emmanuel Raji added an insurance goal with 18 minutes remaining. This was Collins Hill's fifth consecutive appearance in the state final.

McIntosh defeated Whitewater 5-4 in PKs

after a 1-1 tie in regulation to win the Class AAAAA girls soccer championship. Whitewater came into the game with high hopes after an unbeaten season, but after a nerve-racking contest, McIntosh was able to get its second championship. McIntosh was defeated by the Lady Wildcats twice in the regular season, 2-0 on Apr. 24 and 3-1 on Mar. 9. Bakawu Kinteh scored four to help Lambert claim the Class AAAAA boys state championship. It was the first state championship in just Lambert's third year of play.

### TWO TAKES IT ...

Allatoona beat Columbus 2-1, claiming the first girls Class AAA title in program history. Willough Davis found the netting with 31:35 remaining to break a scoreless tie. Kristy Wise added what would be the winning margin with a goal 13 minutes later.

Woodward Academy outlasted Gaines-

ville 2-0 in the Class AAA boys soccer championship game. War Eagles goalkeeper Alex Robinson came up with seven saves in the second half to lead his team to victory. Cameron Moseley scored both goals for Woodward Academy.

### CLOSE CALLS ...

Greater Atlanta Christian defeated Blessed Trinity 1-0 in the Class AA girls championship game. Spartan freshman Danielle Marcano scored the only goal six minutes into the first half.

Westminster edged Blessed Trinity in PKs after the two teams ended overtime tied 1-1. Wildcat goalkeeper Andrew Freschi won the game with two key saves to help win the Class AA boys soccer championship game.

First Presbyterian ended up as GHSA Class A girls champion, taking the title back to Macon. Viking center-defenseman Kim-Caitlin Alderman scored the winning goal in the first half of the game, leading her team to a 1-0 victory.

Atlanta International school was defeated by Aquinas 3-2 in the Class A boys soccer championship final. Aquinas scored the three goals in the first half, then held on as Atlanta International scored two midway through the second half. Matt Moser led the way for Aquinas with two goals. Marcus Wade added another for the Fighting Irish.

*Photo courtesy of Mauricio dos Santos. Blanco can be reached at 404-256-1572.*



# LACROSSE NEWS



## Metro teams sweep championships

By Patrick Tighe

The Milton girls lacrosse team throttled the Roswell Hornets 18-4 in the Class AAAAA girls lacrosse state final May 19. The Eagles clinched their seventh state title in eight seasons. After Roswell jumped out to an early lead, Milton went on a 14-1 goal-scoring run.

Milton proudly sends off seven girls to play collegiate lacrosse, as Amanda Lockwood will play at Vanderbilt, Annie Ruland will play at Southern Cal, Elizabeth Bunn at Limestone College, Heather Harmon at Penn State, Lauren Ragsdale at Notre Dame College of Ohio, Lydia Cassada at Northwestern and Melissa Teel at Richmond.

In Class A-AAAA action, the Westminster Wildcats clinched their third straight title in thrilling fashion. The Wildcats took out McIntosh 10-9, after rallying from a 6-3 deficit to send the contest into overtime. However, West-

minster will have a tall order to repeat next year as the program loses 11 seniors to graduation.

### BOYS LACROSSE ...

Transitioning to boys lacrosse, Milton achieved a state title in boys lacrosse thanks to a heart-stopping 10-9 victory over the Lassiter Trojans.

Lassiter made a mad dash to knot things up at seven after being down 7-3 for the majority of the contest. In overtime, Evans Lockwood whipped a shot home to win another title for the Eagles. Ironically, Lassiter senior Garrett Shank led all players in the match with four goals.

Milton finished with the top ranking and a 97.1 power rating on laxpower.com.

The Class A-AAAA brackets brought lacrosse euphoria back to Forsyth County. Lambert is turning into a juggernaut of Georgia

high school lacrosse. The Longhorns finished with a 22-0 record and knocked off Pope for the second consecutive season, this time 10-7. Score Atlanta's own, Stephen Black did a feature story in April on the burgeoning dynasty that is Lambert boys lacrosse.

The Longhorns squad is manned by a team of community coaches who started this novice program only a matter of years ago. Head coach Josh Sagel leads the team but in charge of X's and O's is assistant coach Rich Wehman, a Navy All-American lacrosse star.

"We've been with the seniors for five years," said Wehman. "We have a good nucleus of talent and they are hard-working, good kids. I tell people we have good coaches, support from the administration and help from the parents, but what really matters is talented kids," said Wehman.

Lambert will not shy away from any opponent. They scheduled three out-of-state powers this season and even played some of the top-ranked teams in the nation according to laxpower.com.

In the two state title games combined, Lambert has outscored Pope 24-17. The Longhorns hold the nation's longest lacrosse winning streak with 42 consecutive victories.

*Photo courtesy of Rich Wehman. Tighe can be reached at ptighe@scoreatl.com. Stephen Black contributed to this story.*



# DREAM NEWS



## Dream looking to bounce back

By Joe Deighton

The Atlanta Dream have struggled to a 1-2 start through the first three games of the season. Both losses came against Indiana, which looks like the top team in the WNBA so far. The concern is how the Dream will compete against good teams.

Atlanta has made the WNBA Finals the past two seasons, so the team is very much the "hunted" team in the Eastern Conference. Every team that faces the Dream this year will be looking to knock them off their pedestal. However, in 2011, Atlanta lost its first three games and nine of its first 12, only to recover and make a run to the Finals.

### HOME OPENER ...

The Dream raised their 2011 Eastern Conference championship banner before facing the visiting New York Liberty at Philips Arena in the home opener last Friday night.

From start to finish, the Dream dominated New York and notched their first win of the season 100-74. Atlanta jumped out of the box to take a 15-point halftime lead behind guard Angel McCoughtry, who finished the game with 23 points, seven assists, five rebounds and six steals. McCoughtry's overall game carried the Dream to the blowout win, and she feels the team must get out to fast starts in every game.

"We're a running team," McCoughtry told the AP. "We're athletic. Once we're on a roll, I think we'll be unstoppable."

Point guard Lindsey Harding added 19 points, five rebounds and three assists. Harding also believes that the Dream have to run and get points quickly in order to win.

"Our motto is run with the Dream, and that's something we do very well," Harding told the AP. "We create a lot of offense off of our defense. If we can get rebounds, if we

can get stops and we can get steals, we can get easy transition points because we have some of the fastest people in the league on this team."

The 100 points were the most scored by the Dream in the regular season since July 27, 2010 when they scored 105 against Tulsa.

### WINNING FACTORS ...

The turnover battle has been the overriding factor so far this season. In the win over the Liberty, Atlanta caused 22 New York turnovers while giving the ball up just 15 times. In both losses to Indiana, the Dream lost the turnover margin. Even though the Dream came out with a win in the home opener, 15 turnovers are too many and that has to be adjusted going forward.

As both McCoughtry and Harding mentioned, the transition game is very important to Atlanta's game. Fastbreak points are key, and in the win over New York, both McCoughtry and Harding were getting easy layups throughout the game. Atlanta scored 17 points in transition off turnovers.

Laurie Koehn was signed as a free-agent this year for one reason and that was her stellar outside shooting. Against New York, Koehn hit 3-of-5 three-point shots and finished with nine points. One of the three-point bombs was so far out, it would have

been good from NBA range. Koehn has a talent and it needs to be utilized more. So far this season, the 30-year-old has played limited minutes, but when she gets her chance to shoot, she has been successful.

### HOME STRETCH ...

The schedule will be kind to the Dream over the next few weeks. Six of their next eight games will come at Philips Arena. Both of the road games come against very beatable teams in Connecticut and New York.

Atlanta will welcome the Chicago Sky on Saturday. Last year, Atlanta won three out of four against Chicago, including both home matchups. Chicago's roster has two names familiar to college basketball fans in Swin Cash and Ruth Riley. Cash starred at the University of Connecticut, leading the Huskies to NCAA titles in 2000 and 2002. She has been one of the WNBA's best players since entering the league in 2002, winning two WNBA All-Star MVPs.

Riley is the greatest player in Notre Dame women's basketball history. She finished her college career as the school's all-time leader in points, rebounds, assists and blocks. Riley and Cash were teammates in Detroit, winning titles in 2003 and 2006.

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# ATLANTA HAWKS SUMMER CAMPS

## DATES & TIMES

### MAY 28 - JUNE 1 (9am - 4pm)

- Stephenson High School, Stone Mountain, GA
- South Cobb Recreation Center, Austell, GA
- Fair Oaks Recreation Center, Marietta, GA
- Allatoona High School, Acworth, GA

### JUNE 4 - 8 (9am - 4pm)

- Berkmar High School, Lilburn, GA
- Fowler Park, Cumming, GA
- Hebron Christian Academy, Dacula, GA
- Sprayberry High School, Marietta, GA

### JUNE 11 - 15 (9am - 4pm)

- Milton Center, Milton, GA

### JUNE 18 - 22 (9am - 4pm)

- Emory University, Decatur, GA
- Old Atlanta Park, Suwanee, GA

### JUNE 18 - 22 (9am - 2:30pm)

- Shiloh High School, Snellville, GA

### JUNE 18 - 22 (12:30am - 5pm)

- North Cobb Christian Academy, Decatur, GA



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# PANTHER PROWL



## CAA honors diamond standouts

By Brian Jones

The baseball team did not have the season they desired, but there were a few standout players that will be key to the Panthers' success moving forward. Junior third baseman Drew Shields was named to the Sports Madness All-Colonial Athletic Association second team and freshman shortstop Caden Bailey was named to the CAA All-Rookie team last week.

Shields batted .303 on the year with 60 hits, 17 RBIs and 34 runs scored. In his last two seasons, Shields has hit .311 for the Panthers. Bailey led the Panthers with a .315 batting average, a .376 on-base percentage, while also driving in 16 runs and scoring 28 times. He is one of five players named to the All-Rookie squad that batted over .300 this past season.

### TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE ...

The softball team had better success than the baseball team, finishing in second place in the CAA Tournament and finishing 75th out of 289 teams in the final RPI standings. A number of players were honored for their hard work as well. Paige Nowacki made the NFCA All-Mid-Atlantic Region first team while Callie Alford made the second team. Lauren Coleman made the All-CAA first team while Callie Alford, Ashley Christy and Kait-

lyn Medlam made the second team. Coleman, Christy and Nowacki also made the CAA All-Rookie team.

The Lady Panthers finished with a 38-18 record, their seventh consecutive winning season. Their .679 winning percentage is the second-best in school history behind only the 1993 season when the Lady Panthers went 39-16 (.709).

### THE MASTER PLAN ...

Georgia State fans got good news this past week. The officials submitted the NCAA application to reclassify from FCS to FBS. Also, a master plan is in place for new athletic facilities, which will be officially announced over the summer.

The FBS packet that was mailed to the NCAA included an invitation from the Sun Belt Conference, a copy of the strategic plan and a check for \$5,000, which is required. The NCAA will go over the plan in July, and Georgia State hopes to have an answer by the end of that month.

The strategic plan can be viewed on the school's website.

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

# OWL OUTLOOK



## Owls reach Atlantic Sun title game

By Chris Lionetti

The Diamond Owls made school history when they reached the Atlantic Sun Championship game against Belmont over the weekend. The Owls fell 10-4 to the Bruins, who sealed their second consecutive title. Kennesaw's offense was powered by Max Pentecost and Ronnie Freeman, who got the team on the board with their first two runs of the game. The tide would turn in the fifth inning when the Bruins scored four runs to gain a 6-2 lead that they would not relinquish.

Even though the season ended in a loss, the team can take solace in the fact that it notched a program-record 34 wins this season. Freeman, who batted .300 during the course of the tournament, received A-Sun All-Tournament honors along with two of his teammates. Aaron Dobbs batted .409 during the conference tournament to garner his place on the squad and Andy Christaden set a tournament record with seven RBI against FGCU to receive his place on the all-tournament team.

### HURDLER QUALIFIES ...

The Kennesaw State track and field programs enjoyed a successful weekend at the 2012 NCAA Outdoor Championships East Preliminary Rounds but no one more than Kendal Parks. Parks finished ninth in the 110

meter hurdles with a time of 13.75 to qualify for the NCAA Championships in Des Moines, Iowa. The time was also a school record. The Owls Men's 4x100 relay time narrowly missed qualifying for the championship with a time of 40.34. The time was a school record but fell .27 seconds short of a qualifying time.

### LLANES HIRED ...

The Owls recently named Kristina Llanes the first coach of their women's lacrosse team. Llanes comes to the Owls with seven years of coaching experience and was most recently the head coach at Presbyterian College. She spent three years at Presbyterian and churned out four National Lacrosse Conference All-Conference selections and seven All-Academic selections. She also coached the Blue Hose to the best record in the program's history in 2011.

The team will begin play in the spring of 2013 and play in KSU Stadium, a facility that was named a "Facility to Check Out" by the NCAA.

Finally, Kennesaw State alumnus Matt Nagy won his first professional golf tournament, claiming the Open Golf Atlanta Heron Bay Tournament last week.

Lionetti can be reached at 404-256-1572.

# BULLDOG BEAT



## Diamond Dawgs end on sour note

By Stephen Black

The Diamond Dawgs were left out of the NCAA baseball tournament as the selection committee announced its 64-team field Monday. Georgia (31-26, 14-15) ended the season with four straight losses, including two in a row that eliminated them from the SEC tournament.

In the tournament, Vanderbilt gave Georgia its first loss of the event with a 4-1 defeat. The Commodores went on to the final, where they lost to Mississippi State. Coach David Perno's team managed just six hits against two Vandy pitchers.

In the Bulldogs' second game of the tourney, Auburn eliminated Perno's club 3-2 in yet another frustratingly close loss. Georgia fell behind 3-0 early, then scored twice in the eighth to remain close. Connor Welton and Nelson Ward each had RBIs for the Bulldogs.

"I'm encouraged with what we have coming back, and we'll see how many veterans return after the draft," Perno said. "I think we'll have a good nucleus, and we'll need to find a way to get the most out of what we got and hopefully have no setbacks."

Georgia had four baseball players honored by the SEC Tuesday, as Alex Wood, Curt Powell, Hunter Cole and Kevin Ruiz received awards. Powell and Wood each made the All-SEC second team, Cole made the All-Fresh-

man team and Ruiz was named to the Community Service squad.

### SOFTBALL FINISHED ...

The Georgia softball team fell in three games to No. 7 Tennessee in Knoxville over the weekend.

The Bulldogs dropped Game 1 3-2, putting themselves in a deep hole to make up on the road against a quality team. Georgia found itself down 3-0 after four innings, but rallied late to close the deficit to just one run. Christine Olney and Niaja Griffin each had RBIs for the Bulldogs. Erin Arevalo threw all six innings, giving up three runs on six hits.

Arevalo was the star of Game 2, as the senior from Lathrop, Calif., gave up just two hits in tossing a shut out. Georgia got the only run it would need in the third inning when Macie Couey scored from third after a Volunteer error.

The rubber game was another tightly-contested affair as the Bulldogs took a 1-0 lead in the fifth inning when Gracie Goulder scored on a wild pitch. But the hosts would score two runs in the six and hold on for the win. Tennessee advanced to the Women's College World Series.

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

# TECH TALK



## Baseball team wins ACC title

By Patrick Tighe

The Georgia Tech Yellow Jacket baseball program has accomplished many feats over its lengthy team history. Danny Hall and his squad added to that history, becoming the first No. 8 seed to win the ACC conference tournament. Tech swept all four games and clinched the school's 26th NCAA Tournament berth with an 8-6 victory over the Miami Hurricanes. This is the eighth tournament title in program history, one short of Clemson, who has won the most.

After a strong pitching performance as well as a big series with his bat, Jake Davies joins a fraternity of seven other Yellow Jackets to be named the ACC Tournament MVP, with the most recent winner being shortstop Tyler Greene in 2005. Davies was named the National Louisville Slugger Player of the Week going 7-for-16 at the plate with four home runs and 11 RBIs. He pitched a career-high six innings, allowing two runs against the Hurricanes.

"I'm just so proud of my team," said Hall, who improved to 4-1 in ACC title games. "I thought they played great baseball all week. This is, in my mind, one of the toughest tournaments in the country when you have eight great teams fighting for the championship. To

get through that thing 4-0 coming in as the eight-seed just says a lot about my team and what they did this week. I can not be more proud of a group of guys."

### BIG HITS ...

One of the biggest hits of the series came from sophomore Zane Evans. In seventh inning with Tech leading 6-5, Evans blasted a two-run single to place Tech on top 8-5. Evans then posted the save for the Jackets.

"I didn't anticipate putting him in that early," said Hall. "But when he went in the game, the game was over. He dominated the game on the mound and his two-run single gave us some breathing room. You could just feel the air go out of their dugout when he started throwing."

The Yellow Jackets will enter the Gainesville region as the No. 2 seed and will face the No. 3 seed College of Charleston Cougars. No. 1 Florida is lurking down the road, but Tech must win its opener. Tech is 2-0 all-time against the Cougars, defeating them twice during the Super Regional at Russ Chandler Stadium in 2006.

Tighe can be reached at 404-256-1572.

# HAWKS HAVEN



## Hawks bringing back Larry Drew

By Robby Kalland

The Hawks made their first move of the offseason when the team decided to exercise the option on head coach Larry Drew for the 2012-2013 season. Drew will return for his third season at the helm of the Hawks after taking the reins from Mike Woodson in 2010. The Hawks are 84-64 in the regular season under Drew's watch but have just an 8-10 record in the playoffs, never getting past the conference semifinals. Atlanta hopes that Drew's third season will be the charm to take the next step and get into the conference finals for the first time since 1970.

### BENCH CHANGES ...

The Hawks have a number of questions entering the offseason, and the makeup of the bench is near the top of the front office's to-do list. The Atlanta bench was one of the team's strong points this past season, when a number of players stepped up into major roles, even starting roles, due to injuries. The average age for the Hawks bench this past season was 31.9, and the bench struggled against the Celtics in the playoffs to produce the same way as it did during the regular season. Aside from Zaza Pachulia, the other nine bench players'

contracts have expired and major contributors like Tracy McGrady, Ivan Johnson and Kirk Hinrich are all free agents.

While the Hawks only have six players currently under contract, they remain over the cap and will be forced once again to fill the remaining nine roster spots using veteran minimums and what remains of the team's mid-level exception. Hinrich would need to take a severe pay cut from the eight million he earned last season if he is to return, and it seems unlikely that the Hawks will extend contracts of the aging Eric Dampier, Vladimir Radmanovic or Jerry Stackhouse. McGrady, Johnson, Willie Green and Jannero Pargo each played well enough to deserve another contract for next season. Jason Collins is likely to receive yet another deal to keep a warm body on the bench to provide an emergency option behind Al Horford and Pachulia. The team could also add bodies during the NBA draft as the team will select once in the first round with the No. 23 pick and once in the second round with the No. 43 pick from Phoenix. The team traded its No. 52 pick to Golden State.

Kalland can be reached at [rkalland@scoreatl.com](mailto:rkalland@scoreatl.com).

# FALCONS FLIGHT



## New Falcon brings some swagger

By Sean Conway

Maybe because these birds never seem to sleep, the Falcons began their voluntary organized team activities (OTAs) on Tuesday in Flowery Branch. Now, Falcons fans are one step closer to September.

The OTAs are voluntary, but absences are usually frowned upon. The notable Falcons missing this week are tight end Tony Gonzalez and defensive end John Abraham. Considering these two stars have played in (and put their bodies through) 27 seasons and 16 Pro Bowls between them, they're better off away from the practice facility.

The bigger story early on in OTAs is the entrance of cornerback Asante Samuel. Samuel is setting the tone with brash talk, and he's backed it up by making two interceptions (one off starting quarterback Matt Ryan) in the first workout. Expect the four-time Pro Bowler to give the defense an "attitude" and also increase the level of competition on the practice fields.

After his first practice Samuel defended his playing personality. "That's what you've got to do, put the bullseye on your shoulder and step up to the plate. That's how you get better."

### STADIUM UPDATE ...

In all likelihood, a deal for a new sta-

dium will get done for a new retractable roof facility to be built in the next five years. The stadium will be on the property of the Georgia World Congress Center. The Georgia Dome will eventually be torn down.

The estimated cost of the new building is just shy of \$950 million, but many experts agree that the actual cost will approach \$1 billion. Atlanta hotel taxes would contribute about one third of the cost to develop and build. Arthur Blank and the Falcons would have to come up with the remainder. Traditionally, this money would come from naming rights to the stadium (a little help but not much) and the team.

The Falcons make money every year, so they have some cash. They can raise more money by increasing prices for tickets and concessions. Personal Seat Licenses (PSLs) are an option as well.

No matter how this deal gets done, you can expect Blank to be a responsible, considerate community leader. Expect the Falcons organization to look at the big picture, and that certainly includes providing a comprehensive pay-forward plan to neighborhoods and communities most affected.

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

# CHOP SHOP

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## Braves shake up starting lineup

By Fletcher Proctor

The Atlanta Braves entered Tuesday's home game against the defending World Series champion St. Louis Cardinals having lost eight straight games, including four in a row at home. The Braves' woes began with a four-game series sweep in Cincinnati before the Washington Nationals swept a three-game set at Turner Field. The Cardinals then ensured a sad Memorial Day ride home for Braves fans in Game 1 of a three-game set.

The losing streak was snapped when Atlanta took advantage of home runs from Michael Bourn and Dan Uggla to defeat the Cardinals 5-4. The victory also ensured the Braves the season series with St. Louis after Atlanta recently swept the Cardinals on the road. Randall Delgado picked up his third win of the season, going 5.1 innings, allowing three runs. Jonny Venters' struggles continued as he gave up one run on three hits while pitching the seventh inning. Eric O'Flaherty pitched a perfect eighth inning before Craig Kimbrel struck out two batters to record his 14th save of the year.

The game was significant not only because it snapped the losing streak, but also because manager Fredi Gonzalez shuffled the lineup a bit, batting Delgado eighth and putting Jose Constanza in the No. 9 spot. Constanza was 1-for-3 with a run scored.

### ROSTER MOVES ...

The team tried to shake up a struggling bullpen and short bench by sending Kris Medlen down to Class AAA-Gwinnett and promoting Constanza to the Major League club on Tuesday. Constanza spent some time with Atlanta last season and could see some action in right field after current starter Jason Heyward had hit just .200 in the seven games leading up to the Constanza promotion. In 2011, Constanza appeared in 42 games for Atlanta, racking up 33 hits in 109 at-bats (.303 batting average) and scoring 21 runs.

### NEW ARM ...

Meanwhile Medlen was optioned down, not as a demotion but rather to prepare his arm for a potential move into the starting rotation. Medlen recorded a 3.86 ERA in 2010 when Atlanta won 13 of his 14 starts. Mike Minor, who has been in the Opening Day rotation, has a 6.98 ERA in 10 starts and has allowed 64 hits and 47 runs in his 58 innings of work. Delgado has worked into the seventh just once since going eight innings against the Philadelphia Phillies on May 3.

Proctor can be reached at [fproctor@scoreatl.com](mailto:fproctor@scoreatl.com).

# GWINNETT BRAVES



## Remarkable comeback keeps train rolling

By Ryan Caiafa

Down five runs entering the ninth inning, the Gwinnett Braves completed what could be described as a Memorial Day miracle, rallying to beat the Lehigh Valley IronPigs 9-8 at Coolray Field. After Julio Teheran was roughed up for six runs in just three innings, Gwinnett responded with eight unanswered runs behind the bats of Lance Zawadzki, who went 3-for-5 with five RBIs and capped the rally with a walk-off home run, and Ernesto Mejia, who also went 3-for-5 and scored two runs.

Playing in just his sixth game with the G-Braves, Zawadzki has started to make his case to become a mainstay in the lineup, with six RBIs in six games for the team, while Mejia continues to hit at a scorching pace, leading the team with a .314 batting average and 37 RBIs to go along with eight home runs. The comeback victory was Gwinnett's fifth walk-off win of the season and also matched its largest come-from-behind victory of the season, as the G-Braves also rallied from eight runs down to beat Norfolk on April 11.

Despite a red-hot Charlotte Knights team on their heels, the G-Braves continue to keep a strong-hold on the South Division Lead. Gwinnett is trying to keep pace

with the Pawtucket Red Sox for the best record in the International League, which of course means home-field advantage during the postseason. The team is currently in the midst of a 10-game homestand at Coolray Field, where they have been among the best home teams in the league.

### PAIR HONORED ...

Gwinnett pitcher Todd Redmond and first baseman Mejia were named International Pitcher and Batter of the week, respectively on May 21 for their performances for the week of May 14-20. Redmond posted a 2-0 record and a 0.69 ERA during that span and took home the honor for the fourth time in his career. Mejia became the second G-Brave this season to claim the Batter of the Week award, with Stefan Gartell being the other recipient for the week ending on May 6. Mejia hit a league-best .464 during the week, which boosted his team-leading average past the .300 mark, while also driving in seven runs. The sweep of the two weekly awards is the first in Gwinnett Braves history.

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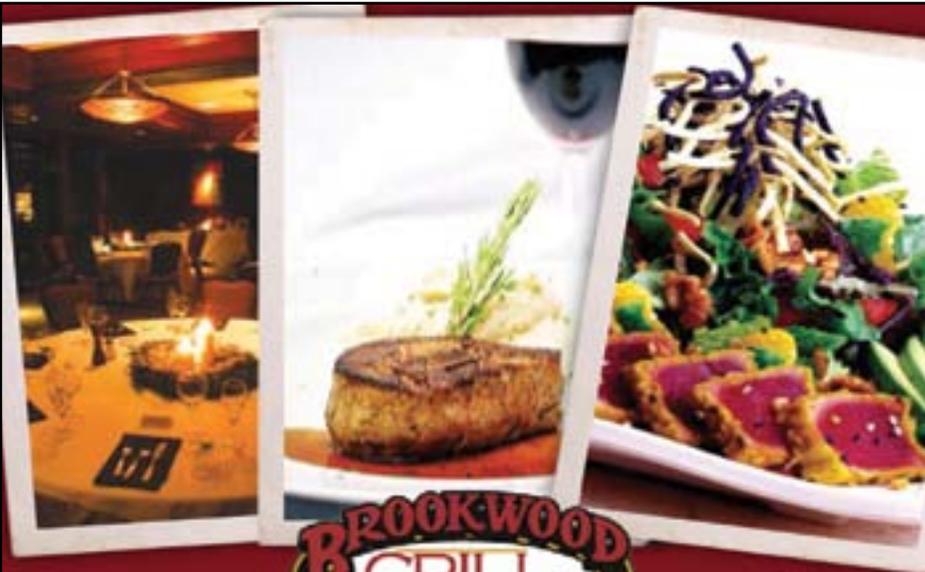
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# REGIONS

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Regions Bank supports high school athletic achievement through sponsorship of the GADA Directors Cup. For the latest updates on current region standings, go to [GADAonline.net](http://GADAonline.net) and click on "Regions Directors Cup."

## OVERALL STANDINGS

CLASS A & AA NOT FINAL DUE  
TO BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

### CLASS AAAAA

- |               |                    |
|---------------|--------------------|
| 1. Brookwood  | 6. Harrison        |
| 2. Walton     | 7. Peachtree Ridge |
| 3. Mill Creek | 8. Alpharetta      |
| 4. Milton     | 9. North Cobb      |
| 5. Lassiter   | 10. North Gwinnett |

### CLASS AAAA

- |                |                    |
|----------------|--------------------|
| 1. Marist      | 6. McIntosh        |
| 2. Johns Creek | 7. Lakeside, Evans |
| 3. Pope        | 8. Chattahoochee   |
| 4. Lambert     | 9. Kell            |
| 5. Starr's Mil | 10. Greenbrier     |

### CLASS AAA

- |                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. Woodward Acad. | 6. Gainesville   |
| 2. St. Pius X     | 7. Oconee County |
| 3. Allatoona      | 8. Veterans      |
| 4. Columbus       | 9. Dalton        |
| 5. Carrollton     | 10. Eastside     |

### CLASS AA

- |                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Westminster     | 6. Calhoun         |
| 2. Blessed Trinity | 7. Morgan County   |
| 3. GAC             | 8. Bleckley County |
| 4. North Oconee    | 9. Pierce County   |
| 5. Lovett          | 10. Buford         |

### CLASS A

- |                   |                        |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Wesleyan       | 6. Aquinas             |
| 2. Darlington     | 7. Holy Innocents'     |
| 3. Savannah Chr.  | 8. First Presbyterian  |
| 4. Brookstone     | 9. Mt. Paran Christian |
| 5. Athens Academy | 10. Calvary Day School |