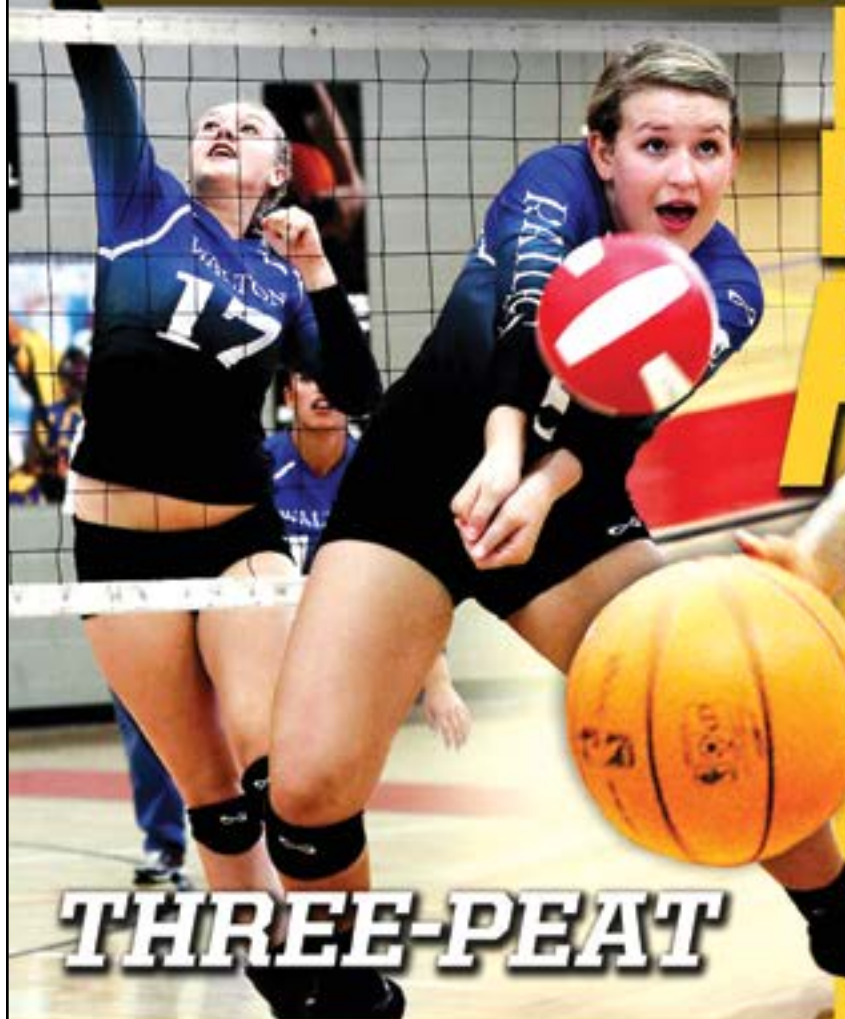


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Vol. 8 | Iss. 21 | November 9-22, 2012

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CAN'T MISS THIS WEEK

- 4** Georgia State football has struggled of late, but Ryan Caiafa knows how to fix it! Check out this week's Call of Caiafa.
- 5** Ricky Dimon has been closely following the new-look Hawks and reports on the outlook of this year's bunch in today's cover story.
- 7** In our prep cover story, Stephen Black reviews the volleyball state championships.
- 8-10** We give our final rankings for softball and volleyball while updating the latest football and cross country polls.

TEAM SCOOP AND VOICES

COVER DESIGN BY DJ GALBIATI BLALOCK
 COVER PHOTOS COURTESY OF TREY SCHWARTZ
 AND WALTER PINION

- 6** Score List - Numbers
- 12** GSU, KSU, UGA, Tech
- 13** Braves, Falcons, Gladiators, Hawks

INSIDE AT SCORE

ON THE Score Atlanta is looking for writing and graphic design interns. For writing internships, e-mail Stephen Black at sblack@scoreatl.com. For graphic design internships, e-mail DJ Galbiati at djgalbiati@scoreatl.com. Feel free to call 404-256-1572 for more information.

SHOT OF THE WEEK...



HOT SPOT: The Georgia Dome was the place to be in the world of pro football Sunday night as a national audience watched the Falcons beat the Cowboys. NFL commissioner Roger Goodell graced the Dome with his presence and is seen here being interviewed by ESPN's Sal Palantonio. Photo courtesy of Jimmy Cribb/Atlanta Falcons.

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THE FLETCH



The Fan makes changes; The Game debuts

By Fletcher Proctor

Goodbye Colin, hello Dan. Atlanta sports fans riding around in their cars from 10 a.m. until noon will no longer hear ESPN Radio's Colin Cowherd on 680 The Fan as the radio station has ended its affiliation with ESPN radio. Listeners will now hear former ESPN star and current NBC analyst Dan Patrick's radio show right after the Rude Awakening and before Buck & Kincade. 680 The Fan has also switched its overnight and weekend syndication to Fox Sports from ESPN Radio. By January, the Fan will also air some CBS/Cumulus sports syndication.

John Kincade of the Buck & Kincade show has filled in for Cowherd and other ESPN evening programming in the past and has his own Sunday morning show. It will be

interesting to see if this affects his deal with the four-letter network or if he chooses to leave the station once his contract is up.

It will also be interesting to see if 790 The Zone jumps at the chance for rights to ESPN radio programming or if it sticks with Yahoo Sports Radio. 92.9 The Game is live and local 24 hours each and every day.

NEW GUY ...

Have you checked out the new sports talk station in town that happens to reside on the FM dial? Recently, 92.9 The Game made its debut with an interesting collection of sports personalities mixed with some veteran Atlanta talent.

Randy Cross and Rick Kamla have done

a nice job so far in the mornings. Cross is not afraid to put an opinion out there as he did last week by proclaiming Hall of Fame Dolphins quarterback Dan Marino was not an elite quarterback. Kamla does a nice job or running point on that show, allowing Cross to speak his opinions on football, the sport that is currently driving the show.

Jamie Dukes has also done a nice job of using his former NFL Network connections to land some big guests early on. He and Jerome Jurenovich offer an interesting local alternative to 680's Dan Patrick and the tail end of 790's Mayhem in the AM.

It bears keeping an ear on the maturation of several of these former sports stars as they transition into radio. It took David Pollack a little while to do so on 790, same with Chuck Smith, but with practice comes results, so just give these guys a little time to work on the timing and the chemistry needed for a successful radio show and station.

Speaking of 92.9 The Game, be sure to tune in Fridays during the football season as Score's I.J. Rosenberg will preview some of the top high school football games during the drive home at 5:30 p.m. and Fletcher Proctor hosts the Georgia High School Football Scoreboard Show. Last week, Proctor heard from Camden County head coach Jeff Herron

just minutes after the No. 1 Wildcats scored a huge victory over previously-unbeaten Lowndes to clinch Region 1-A-A-A-A-A-A. Each week, reporters, coaches and GPB and Score personalities will be heard on the scoreboard show, which takes place from 10 p.m. until midnight.

BRANCHING OUT ...

790 The Zone's Steak Shapiro has been talking food for years on sports radio - why, we aren't so sure of - but now the Mayhem in the AM co-host is going to have an official platform to discuss food on 790's sister station, Star 94. Shapiro will appear on "Atlanta Eats," Tuesdays on Star 94 to discuss some of Atlanta's best places to grab a bite to eat. He will also take part in a 30-minute television show also entitled Atlanta Eats.

"Anybody who knows me will tell you I have two passions in my life," Shapiro told Atlanta Magazine. "Sports and restaurants and food. On the morning show, we've always talked about restaurants a lot."

Perhaps with an outlet for Shapiro to discuss where he likes to dine on steaks or tasty subs, maybe Shapiro will stick to discussing Matt Ryan on Mayhem. Well, one can hope.

Proctor can be reached at fproctor@scoreatl.com.

CALL OF CAIAFA



Curry exits as questions surround GSU

By Ryan Caiafa

Saturday's football game at Maine marks the final game as a Panther for seniors such as Emmanuel Ogbuehi and Roosevelt Watson, who have been with the program since the first practice in 2009. It also marks the end of the Bill Curry era, the man who was named the program's first head coach in 2008 and has helped the program grow through nearly three seasons of existence.

Georgia State football was once considered an improbability, as many felt that there would be little to no chance that a team could generate the interest necessary to be successful in a state with programs such as Georgia, Georgia Tech and Georgia Southern, which have all achieved some national success.

TAKING OFF ...

As supporters pushed for students, alumni, and faculty to get on board with the idea, it finally went from a survey in 2006 to gauge the interest in a program, to its inception on April 17, 2008, when Curry was announced as the program's first head coach. While the team's first game wasn't until Sept. 2, 2010, the buzz surrounding the program was sustained for the two-year wait, with ESPN even featuring the program in an online mini-series and also on the cover of ESPN The Magazine. With national attention given to the program before its first game and also a matchup against the defending national champions and Curry's former team, Alabama, in its inaugural year, the optimism and excitement about Georgia State football was skyrocketing.

The Panthers' first game against Shorter drew a crowd of more than 30,000, which still remains the program's highest attended game. Despite losing the season finale in Tuscaloosa, GSU finished with a 6-5 record, with the bulk of those wins coming against lower-level FCS programs.

State upped its competition for the 2011 season and unfortunately the losses began piling up for the inexperienced Panthers, who finished with a 3-8 record. Another glaring issue for the program was the monumental drop in attendance. Athletics director Cheryl Levick and others associated with the program looked for ways to generate new interest in a program that had seemingly vanished from its peak in the inaugural season.

MOVING UP ...

The school announced on April 9, 2012 that it would be moving from FCS to FBS and joining the Sun Belt Conference beginning with the 2013 season. As the 2012 season began, the hope from the leaders of the program was that the news that the Division I-A opponents would generate new interest, but as the losses continued to pile up, the attendance numbers continued to dwindle. There is a feeling amongst the fan base that the program may be in serious jeopardy with the low attendance numbers and lack of funding.

As Curry prepares to coach his final game in the Georgia Dome, the questions surrounding the program's future are unavoidable. A new voice will be leading the Panthers next season as they make the jump to FBS and the Sun Belt Conference, and while it still may take a few years to bring the team to prominence within the conference and nationally, there are those who still believe that a team at Georgia State University can be successful.

Unfortunately, there may be several difficult seasons ahead as the new coaching staff looks to build a winning program. One positive for the program ahead is the big non-conference schedule that includes a trip back to Tuscaloosa and also trips to West Virginia and Oregon. These games not only bring national relevance to the team, but also bring in significant revenue that the program desperately needs.

Patience must be preached to the doubters who don't believe that this team can succeed and that despite a few more seasons of struggle and development loom, optimism should still be present. If the team's many remaining supporters can stay patient and not give up on the program that some have unfortunately written off, there is still plenty of reason to believe in Georgia State football.

Caiafa can be reached at caiafa@scoreatl.com.



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Hawks poised to win now and later

By Ricky Dimon



The wait is over. The 2012-13 NBA season is here. It's time to find out what the new-look Atlanta Hawks are all about.

In the past, you didn't even have to wait for the regular season to know what this team would deliver. The Highlight Factory was by no means a bore, but the end result was always the same. Consider the Hawks' recent finishes, starting with the 2008-09 campaign: 47-35 record, fourth place in the Eastern Conference, lost in the second round of the playoffs; 53-29, third in the East, lost in the second round; 44-38, fifth in the East, lost in the second round; 40-26, fifth in the East, lost in the first round. Atlanta was a respectable ballclub, but nowhere near elite and with no direction toward ever becoming elite.

Finally, however, a change has come. Gone are six-time all-star Joe Johnson and his max contract, relative bust of a No. 2 overall pick Marvin Williams, plus veteran backups Jason Collins, Kirk Hinrich, Tracy McGrady and Vladimir Radmanovic. Joining the fray are Devin Harris, Kyle Korver, Anthony Mor-

row, DeShawn Stevenson, Louis Williams and rookies John Jenkins and Mike Scott.

THE FUTURE ...

Speaking of former No. 2 overall picks, one is the new brains of the Atlanta Hawks operation. Danny Ferry, a former Duke standout who was selected in the second spot of the 1989 draft by the Los Angeles Clippers, hopped on board in late June to become Atlanta's new general manager.

Former GM Rick Sund did a nice job putting together a solid roster, but he was obviously content with his team being somewhere between mediocre and good. It's just as obvious, however, that Ferry cannot stand the thought of mediocrity. In fact, Ferry could not even tolerate that culture for more than one week.

The former NBA champion (2003 with San Antonio) was hired on June 25 and by July 3, both Johnson and Williams had been shipped out of town. In exchange for sending Johnson to Brooklyn, Ferry and the Hawks received—among others—Morrow and Ste-

venson. Atlanta fans likely would have been content to see Williams leave without getting anything in return, but Ferry landed the extremely capable services of point guard Devin Harris from the Utah Jazz.

As if Ferry's mentality was not evident enough from the moves themselves, he spelled it out in no uncertain terms during an August interview with grantland.com.

"We had a good making-the-playoff run, but we hadn't had a good playoff run, if that makes sense," he explained. "And the goal is to have a good playoff run. That was going to be hard to sustain with how we were set up.... The best we could do was status quo, and that wasn't good enough for anybody. We recognized that to get better, some changes had to happen."

QUICK CONTRIBUTIONS ...

While Ferry's ultimate goal may be freeing up cap space for the flexibility with which to build a contender of the future for years and years to come, some of his transactions appear to be paying immediate dividends. Take the incoming Williams, for example. The South Gwinnett alum is averaging 20.5 points, 4.5 assists and 2.5 steals through two games as of Wednesday. He also played every single second of the first two fourth quarters and scored 27 of his 41 total points in those frames, continuing his "Mr. Clutch" role that he also seized during his tenure with the Philadelphia 76ers.

"Over the past four or five years of my career, the fourth quarter has probably been my best," Williams told the Atlanta Journal Constitution after winning at Oklahoma City last Sunday. "I've always gotten off to slow starts for whatever reason. I just pick it up in the fourth quarter. It's something I've done in the past and something I want to bring to this team."

Stevenson, meanwhile, poured in four three-pointers in six attempts in a season-opening loss to Houston. He added two more from long range in the Josh Smith-less upset of the Thunder, including the game-clincher with the Hawks leading 97-91 and little more than one minute remaining. Morrow, who also has Atlanta ties—along with Williams—having played college ball at Georgia Tech, made both of his field-goal attempts against the Thunder and had three of the team's 12 steals in just 14 minutes of action.

OUTLOOK ...

Although the Hawks did well to battle back from a constant deficit to take a brief, fourth-quarter lead against Houston, their season-opening loss was a bit of a disappointment. But they could easily have been 0-2 after last Sunday, facing the defending West-

ern Conference Champions without Smith, arguably their best player. That a shorthanded Atlanta squad went on the road and stunned one of the NBA title favorites speaks volumes about this team's depth.

So far, contributions have come from every which way—from the old to the new. Smith went for 18 points, 10 boards and three blocks against the Rockets, Zaza Pachulia added 13 and eight, Al Horford recorded a double-double in game two and Williams was stellar in both contests.

"That is fine," starting point guard Jeff Teague told the AJC, referring to Atlanta's fourth-quarter focus on Williams. "We are all here to win. Whatever we have to do to get a win, we are all with that. Lou had it going (against the Thunder) and we were all rooting for him. We were all excited to get a win. There are going to be nights like that. I might have it going. Lou, Devin, it doesn't matter. We all want to win. We are all Hawks. It doesn't matter who is playing."

That is a refreshing mindset, especially with this city having endured an era of isolation set after isolation set for Johnson. It's a mindset that started at the top and is already funneling through the whole organization. It's a mindset that will pave the way for future success, and one that might even allow the Hawks to start winning right now.

Photos courtesy of Walter Pinion. Dimon can be reached at rdimon@scoreatl.com.



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WHO'S HOT

THUMBS UP TO QUALITY COACHING



Stubborn Smitty

Falcons head coach Mike Smith does things his way. He shut down linebacker Sean Weatherspoon (with a gimpy low ankle sprain) early last week, and against the Cowboys he insisted on pounding the football with Michael Turner. The Falcons got by without Spoon and a 43-yard Turner run sealed the game for the Falcons. Trust Smitty.

Lou Williams

Williams, a former South Gwinnett star, was second in the voting for the NBA's sixth man award after last season. Now, the hybrid guard has come home to the Hawks and has given the team some instant offense in leading the squad with over 20 points per game. Dude is pouring it in.

Aaron Murray

Sometimes you have to give credit where credit is due. The junior Georgia quarterback has beaten Florida - even though the stats weren't real pretty - twice and is poised to put the Georgia in the SEC championship in back-to-back seasons. The current SEC co-offensive player of the week has also thrown three touchdowns to every interception this fall.

Dan Radakovich

Wow. This guy bolts Tech in the middle of a disappointing football season and lands at rival Clemson up I-85. Radakovich didn't leave a memorable legacy at The Flats. The bell-cow sports like men's football and basketball aren't any better after his six-year tenure and he failed to rally alumni. C'est la vie, Danny-boy.

Departed Hawks stars

Does anyone miss former Hawks stars Joe Johnson and Marvin Williams? No and no. Both guys were "adequate" here, helped the Hawks get to the playoffs for a few years and were good citizens in the ATL, but they just weren't worth their crazy high salaries. The Hawks are trending up.

New Orleans Saints

Let's face it. The Saints are still the big kids on the block, for now. They won Super Bowl XLIV after the 2009 season and took the NFC South crown again last year. The Falcons need to stomp them in the Superdome Sunday to effectively destroy the Saints' season and the "Who-Dat" cheers.



WHO'S NOT

THUMBS DOWN TO THE AINTS

SCORE LIST

BY BRIAN JONES

1 **TURN IT UP:** After earning a big win Sunday night against the Cowboys, the Falcons now set their sights on Drew Brees and the New Orleans Saints. This is always a close game no matter the records. After a rough start for the Saints, they have won three of their last four. The Falcons are showing no signs of slowing down, making me believe they will leave New Orleans 9-0.

2 **BATTLE AT AUBURN:** Another rivalry game features Georgia and Auburn, and this should be a game where the Bulldogs put a number on the Tigers. This is a crucial game for the Dawgs because a win on Saturday clinches the SEC East title. While the Tigers are hungry for their first SEC win, it won't happen Saturday. The Bulldogs will be too good on both sides of the ball.

3 **SMITH UNDERRATED:** How can a coach of an undefeated team be underrated? That is the case for Falcons head coach Mike Smith, who is tied with Gary Kubiak as the most underrated coach in the NFL according to a Sporting News poll. Smith has compiled a 51-21 record since 2008 and is the winningest coach in Falcons history.

4 **END OF AN ERA:** Georgia State will take part in its final game of the 2012 season Saturday against Maine. This marks the end of Bill Curry's coaching career as he has decided to retire. Curry has achieved a lot as a coach and as a player, and he can add creating the Georgia State program to his incredible resume. Congrats coach and have a great retirement!

5 **THE FINAL WEEK:** The high school football regular season will come to an end this weekend and there are a few huge games for fans to sink their teeth into. Gainesville and Flowery Branch will face each other for the Region 8-AAAAA title while Allatoona will take on East Paulding for the Region 5-AAAAA title. To get those scores as well as scores from across the state, go to scoreatl.com.

CRUNCHING THE NUMBERS

BY FLETCHER PROCTOR

\$13.3 Million the Braves offered free agent center fielder Michael Bourn as part of a one-year qualifying offer for 2013

\$27.5 Million the Braves shelled out to exercise the 2013 options of Brian McCann, Tim Hudson and Paul Maholm

9 Teams that have started 8-0 and have gone to the Super Bowl since 1978.

8 League ranking of the Falcons' passing offense at 376.5 yards per game

25 League ranking of the Falcons' rushing offense at just 88.5 yards per game

27 Receptions through nine games for UGA receiver Marlon Brown, tied for the team lead

55 Career receptions for Brown after the senior tore his ACL, ending his college career

132.9 Rushing yards per game for UNC's Giovani Bernard, tops in the ACC. Georgia Tech faces UNC Saturday

2 Number of extra point attempts missed out of five by Georgia Tech kicker David Scully in Tech's win over Maryland

3 Number of sacks reigning ACC linebacker of the week Jeremiah Attaochu recorded against Maryland, a career-high

TRIVIA QUESTION

Prior to Green Bay last season, what was the last NFL team to start the season 8-0 and how far did they go in the playoffs?

Answer on Page 14

SANITY AT LAST

"This is the 116th time that we're going to play Auburn, and they lead the series 54-53 with eight ties. That's an awful lot of games to have that even of a series, and it's for good reason because it's a very heated rivalry."

- Georgia coach Mark Richt on the Auburn game.

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.

Our regular season came to a close last night on WSB-TV, but we are proud of the way we battled back during the second half of the season. To come from where we were four weeks ago to where we are now, it's just exciting. The kids are walking down the hall with their heads held high again.

I can't really pinpoint one thing or one

moment that led to the turnaround, I just know that we were 0-5 and everyone was miserable. We had two options at that point. We decided to buckle down over the bye week with two great weeks of practice, but we also tried to make things fun again.

After three straight wins, we lost last week to Alpharetta, but we still had a chance at the postseason as Chattahoochee visited on Senior Night. We planned to honor not just the senior football players, but also the cheerleaders, the trainers and seniors from our school's other fall sports.





Six metro-Atlanta programs capture state titles

By Stephen Black

The volleyball state championships concluded Monday at McEachern as Walton won the Class AAAAAA title over Harrison and Whitewater took the Class AAAAA trophy by beating McIntosh. At the Class A-AAAA state volleyball championships at Marietta High School Saturday, Sandy Creek, Blessed Trinity, Lovett and Landmark Christian claimed state titles.

ARCH RIVALS ...

It was the fourth meeting of the season between Whitewater and Area 4 rival McIntosh, and the Wildcats prevailed yet again. Coach Valerie Jones' squad beat its Fayette County neighbor all four times this season, and concludes the year 52-3. It is the second state championship ever for Whitewater with the other coming in 2009.

"We executed well at crucial times," said Jones. "We were down 7-1 in the second set, and battled back. We lost the set, but it showed we were not going down easily."

Whitewater profited from star performanc-

es by Georgia Tech commitment Teegan Van Gunst, who had 24 kills, while twin sister and fellow Tech pledge Annika had 14 kills. Junior setter Kait Steele had 51 assists while senior libero Abby Baker, a South Alabama commitment, led the Wildcats with 22 digs.

McIntosh was led by Breana Jones, an Arkansas commit who had nine kills and 6.5 blocks, and Rhana Mitchell, who made 19 digs.

The championship is Walton's third in a row and eighth overall since the GHSA began handing out state championships for indoor volleyball in 1993. The Raiders (34-7) were led by senior setter Tori Ferguson's 19 digs and two aces. Freshman setter Celeste Fitzgerald starred with 47 assists, while Chloe Cook had 24 kills, Jessica Sloan had 15 kills and Leah Jackson contributed seven kills.

TREMENDOUS TITANS ...

Class AAA No. 1 seed Blessed Trinity completed its magnificent season that saw coach Paul

Stevens' Titans win 54 of 56 matches, including a streak in the area and state tournaments in which they did not lose a single set. However, Stevens himself admitted his team's three-set win over St. Pius in the finals was tough.

"It was a match that will go down as a sweep, but you can't have a closer three-set match," said Stevens after the match. The Titans won each set by the minimum of two points.

Junior Molly McAlvany and senior Jessica Holler led the Titans with 12 kills each while Holley also contributed a team-best 2.5 blocks. Sophomore setter Maggie Rick had 34 assists and Amber MacDonald compiled 17 digs. Sister Ashley MacDonald dramatically came off the bench for the final serve, which led to Blessed Trinity's match-clinching point.

CINDERELLA STORY ...

In Class AA, Lovett completed its Cinderella-esque run through the final four by beating neighborhood rival Westminster in the finals in five sets. It was the first time in three matches the Lions had defeated the Wildcats this season. Coach Mary Buczek's successful squad rallied from a 9-4 deficit in the fifth and final set to win 15-13. The Lions won nine straight points to lead 13-9 behind senior setter Gayle Jenks' serv-

ing that had the Wildcats back on their heels. Westminster knotted the match at 13, but junior outside hitter Mary Bethany Vincent clinched the match for Lovett with a kill. Despite being the lowest-seeded team to make the semifinals in Class AA, Buczek's squad was confident it could win due to competitive matches with semifinals opponent Wesleyan and Westminster throughout the season.

"All four coaches in the semifinals knew it was anybody's championship," said Buczek after the match. "It was there for the taking."

In Class A, Landmark Christian won its third state title and first since 2003 after a 3-1 win over top-seeded Walker. In the finals, the victorious War Eagles were led by senior outside hitter Tiffany Creamer, who had 25 kills, 18 digs and four blocks in the match while freshman libero Jenny Luckie contributed 23 digs, Lilly Kessler dug 22 balls and junior setter Ellen Anderson had 43 assists. Kiersten Cummano had four blocks in her last match as a War Eagle. After beginning the season 26-14, Landmark Christian reeled off 15 straight wins to end the season.

Photos courtesy of Peggy Davenport and Georgia Photographics. Black can be reached at sblack@scoreatl.com.

GPB TV

SOUTH GWINNETT VS. PARKVIEW

Comets meet Panthers in Region 8 dual

By Stephen Black

They say success lives in Gwinnett County. And in the world of high school sports, that is especially true. The two Class AAAAAA regions made up predominantly of Gwinnett programs are like the Eastern and Western Divisions of the SEC, where the good teams are among the best in the state and the middling teams are good enough to win many other regions.

HEATED COMPETITION ...

In keeping with that reputation, Parkview and South Gwinnett were locked in a four-team tie for first place in Region 8 prior to last week's games against Berkmar and Brookwood, respectively. The Panthers have already knocked off what is considered by many to be one of the best teams in the country in Grayson. The Comets, on the other hand, have won all of their six games by more than 13 points and their two losses were to Grayson and Norcross, two of the top five teams in the state.

South Gwinnett is led by quarterback Jordan Ramey and running back Josh Boyd. In a win over Archer on Oct. 26, Ramey threw for a score and ran for another.

Senior running back Chris Carson leads Parkview with 1,037 yards and 11 touch-

downs on the ground. Carson missed the Central Gwinnett game due to an injury, but returned last week for the Berkmar game.

Also returning to the Panthers' sideline in the Berkmar game was quarterback Rob Youngblood, who missed all but the first three games of the season after breaking his collarbone.

GO WITH FLOWE ...

Parkview coach Cecil Flowe had to get medical attention in the loss to Central Gwinnett, but stalked the sideline last week and will be back again this week. Flowe had surgery in 2006 for an abnormal heartbeat and suffered similar symptoms during the game against the Black Knights.

The Panthers owned this rivalry, winning 10 in a row from 1993-2006, but South Gwinnett has won three of the last five. Parkview, however, took last year's meeting 20-7. The Panthers lead the all-time series 20-9. Flowe's program has won four state titles while the Comets have been to the playoffs in two of the past three seasons under coach John Small. South Gwinnett, however, has not yet won a state championship.

Black can be reached at sblack@scoreatl.com.

SCORE FOOTBALL

atlanta RANKINGS WEEK 10

Class AAAAAA

1. Camden County
2. Lassiter
3. Grayson
4. Norcross
5. Lovejoy
6. North Gwinnett
7. Lowndes
8. McEachern
9. West Forsyth
10. Langston Hughes

Class AAAA

1. Sandy Creek
2. Marist
3. Burke County
4. Monroe Area
5. Griffin
6. Jonesboro
7. Carver-Atlanta
8. Cairo
9. Stockbridge
10. Westside-Macon

Class AA

1. Calhoun
2. Brooks County
3. Vidalia
4. Lamar County
5. Jefferson
6. Heard County
7. Fitzgerald
8. Cook
9. Screven County
10. Washington-Wilkes

Class AAAAA

1. Northside-WR
2. East Paulding
3. ML King
4. Thomas Co. Central
5. Kell
6. Allatoona
7. Whitewater
8. Flowery Branch
9. Ware County
10. Gainesville

Class AAA

1. Thomson
2. Carver-Columbus
3. Cartersville
4. Buford
5. Peach County
6. Pierce County
7. Washington County
8. St. Pius X
9. North Oconee
10. North Hall

Class A

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

SOFTBALL RANKINGS

Class AAAAAA

1. Archer
2. Kennesaw Mtn.
3. Collins Hill
4. East Coweta
5. Lassiter
6. Mill Creek
7. Hillgrove
8. Harrison
9. Alcovy
10. North Gwinnett

Class AAAAA

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

Class AAAA

1. NW Whitfield
2. Madison County
3. West Laurens
4. Wayne County
5. Columbus
6. South Effingham
7. Rutland
8. Lumpkin County
9. Heritage-Catoosa
10. Marist

Class AAA

1. Buford
2. Ringgold
3. Central-Carroll
4. Jackson County
5. Chapel Hill
6. Pike County
7. Jackson
8. Blessed Trinity
9. Pierce County
10. Franklin County

Class AA

1. Dade County
2. Wesleyan
3. Heard County
4. Bremen
5. Harlem
6. Vidalia
7. Bacon County
8. Jeff Davis
9. Cook
10. Calhoun

Class A

1. Gordon Lee
2. Mt. Pisgah
3. Georgia Military
4. Prince Avenue Chr.
5. Savannah Christian
6. Mt. Zion-Carrollton
7. Schley County
8. Seminole County
9. Darlington
10. George Walton Acad.

VOLLEYBALL RANKINGS

Class AAAAAA

1. Walton
2. Harrison
3. Johns Creek
4. North Cobb
5. Mill Creek
6. South Forsyth
7. Woodstock
8. Chattahoochee
9. Roswell
10. Brookwood

Class AAAAA

1. Whitewater
2. McIntosh
3. Lakeside-DeKalb
4. Starr's Mill
5. Northgate
6. Greenbrier
7. Harris County
8. Northside-Columbus
9. Pope
10. Allatoona

Class AAAA

1. Sandy Creek
2. Columbus
3. Southwest Whitfield
4. Marist
5. Veterans
6. Woodland-Henry
7. Carrollton
8. River Ridge
9. Heritage-Catoosa
10. South Effingham

Class AAA

1. Blessed Trinity
2. St. Pius X
3. Woodward Academy
4. Oconee County
5. Buford
6. Sonoraville
7. Cartersville
8. Ringgold
9. Islands
10. North Murray

Class AA

1. Lovett
2. Westminster
3. Wesleyan
4. GAC
5. St. Vincent's Academy
6. Westside-Augusta
7. Calhoun
8. Kendrick
9. Spencer
10. Rabun County

Class A

1. Landmark Christian
2. Walker
3. Savannah Christian
4. Hebron Christian
5. George Walton Acad.
6. Holy Innocents'
7. ELCA
8. Savannah Country Day
9. Brookstone
10. North Cobb Christian

FRIDAY NIGHT PREVIEW

HILLGROVE VS. MCEACHERN

Indians, Hawks seek playoff positioning

By Fletcher Proctor

The Hillgrove Hawks and McEachern Indians will face off with major Region 4-AAAAAA implications hanging in the balance. After the Indians began the year 0-2 with losses to last year's Class AAAAA state champion Grayson and runner-up Walton, Kyle Hockman's squad has rallied to win seven straight region games.

Hillgrove, meanwhile, was expected by many to perhaps make it two straight region titles with plenty of firepower returning on defense and two strong quarterbacks running the offense. The Hawks dropped an early contest to Lassiter then fell to Marietta and North Cobb in region play, but Phil Ironside's team has rebounded with a big win over South Cobb last week. With just McEachern remaining, the Hawks need to finish strong to assure themselves of a spot in the Class AAAAAA bracket.

FLYING INDIANS ...

Since managing just 12 points against Grayson's tough defense, the Indians have averaged 39 points per game and have gone for at least 42 in each of the last three contests. Ty Griffin and Ty Clemons have excelled carrying the ball from the quarterback spot while Taj Griffin and Clemons can also throw the ball.

Tight end Chris Okeh is a remarkable target in the same mold as former Indian Rory Anderson. Clemons will split out wide when Griffin is under center.

HAWKS REBOUNDED ...

Hillgrove has played a pair of quarterbacks this season as Elijah Ironside and Troy Thompson have played well, finding Omar Black, Evan Enggram and Richardre Bagley enough to replace the loss of running back Kenyan Drake, who went on to sign with Alabama. Bagley and Bakari Oxendine have done a nice job of running the ball from the tailback position while Thompson has been a force running from the quarterback position. Thompson rushed for 86 yards and a pair of scores in Hillgrove's win over Kennesaw Mountain before Ironside threw for three scores in Hillgrove's victory over Harrison.

Tolando Cleveland has also been a force for the Hawks in the special teams game as well as on defense. Travon Simmons, Justin Haney, Eric Jackson and LeMarkus Bailey are several other playmakers that have delivered impact performances from Hillgrove's back seven.

Proctor can be reached at fproctor@scoreatl.com.

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CROSS COUNTRY RANKINGS

BOYS

GIRLS

Class AAAAAA

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| 1. Mill Creek | 6. Etowah |
| 2. Marietta | 7. Harrison |
| 3. Walton | 8. North Cobb |
| 4. Peachtree Ridge | 9. Milton |
| 5. Brookwood | 10. Norcross |

Class AAAAA

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. McIntosh | 6. Starr's Mill |
| 2. Lakeside-Evans | 7. Lakeside-DeKalb |
| 3. Pope | 8. Union Grove |
| 4. Winder-Barrow | 9. Bradwell Institute |
| 5. Flowery Branch | 10. Dunwoody |

Class AAAA

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| 1. Marist | 6. Dalton |
| 2. Perry | 7. Eagle's Landing |
| 3. Wayne County | 8. Pickens County |
| 4. Alexander | 9. Northwest Whitfield |
| 5. Sandy Creek | 10. Hephzibah |

Class AAA

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Woodward Academy | 6. Blessed Trinity |
| 2. St. Pius X | 7. Oconee County |
| 3. North Hall | 8. Cartersville |
| 4. North Oconee | 9. Chapel Hill |
| 5. Hart County | 10. Grady |

Class AA

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Westminster | 6. Benedictine |
| 2. Wesleyan | 7. Lovett |
| 3. Bleckley County | 8. Riverside Military |
| 4. Model | 9. GAC |
| 5. Murray County | 10. Pepperell |

Class A

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Athens Academy | 6. Athens Christian |
| 2. Darlington | 7. Whitefield Academy |
| 3. Landmark Christian | 8. Lakeview Academy |
| 4. Mt. Pisgah | 9. Holy Innocents' |
| 5. Galloway | 10. Georgia Military |

Class AAAAAA

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| 1. Walton | 6. Etowah |
| 2. Milton | 7. Lowndes |
| 3. Roswell | 8. North Cobb |
| 4. Peachtree Ridge | 9. Centennial |
| 5. Harrison | 10. Woodstock |

Class AAAAA

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Flowery Branch | 6. Lakeside-DeKalb |
| 2. Lakeside-Evans | 7. East Paulding |
| 3. McIntosh | 8. Whitewater |
| 4. Winder-Barrow | 9. Starr's Mill |
| 5. Dunwoody | 10. Union Grove |

Class AAAA

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Marist | 6. Lanier |
| 2. Alexander | 7. Westover |
| 3. Heritage-Catoosa | 8. Eagle's Landing |
| 4. Chestatee | 9. Veterans |
| 5. Pickens County | 10. Grady |

Class AAA

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Blessed Trinity | 6. Chapel Hill |
| 2. St. Pius X | 7. North Oconee |
| 3. White County | 8. Central-Carrollton |
| 4. Woodward Academy | 9. West Hall |
| 5. North Hall | 10. Oconee County |

Class AA

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Westminster | 6. Bremen |
| 2. Wesleyan | 7. Union County |
| 3. Lovett | 8. Thomasville |
| 4. Jefferson | 9. Pelham |
| 5. Bleckley County | 10. Coosa |

Class A

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Landmark Christian | 6. First Presbyterian Day |
| 2. Providence Christian | 7. Paideia |
| 3. Darlington | 8. Athens Academy |
| 4. Mount Pisgah | 9. Mount Paran |
| 5. Pace Academy | 10. Towns County |

A black and white photograph of an Atlanta Falcons player in his uniform, wearing a helmet and jersey with the number 56. The player is looking upwards with a determined expression. The background is dark and textured, with a bright light source behind the player, creating a silhouette effect and highlighting the edges of his uniform and helmet. The word "FALCONS" is visible on the front of the jersey above the number.

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BULLDOG BEAT



Dawgs seek to clinch East against Auburn

By Chris Lionetti

The fifth-ranked Georgia Bulldogs head to Auburn this weekend to take on the Tigers in their final SEC game of the season. A win would mean a return trip to Atlanta for the Dawgs and a possible date with No. 1 Alabama.

Known as the Deep South's Oldest Rivalry, there has always been a great deal of passion involved with this game. However, the two teams enter the game on opposite sides of the spectrum.

ONTO THE PLAINS ...

Georgia is ranked fifth in the BCS standings and is coming off a comeback victory against Ole Miss, in which the Bulldogs scored 37 unanswered points. Quarterback Aaron Murray, who is enjoying a career year, threw for 384 yards and four touchdowns against the Rebels. Also enjoying a great performance was a Georgia defense that held the Rebels scoreless in the second half. Saturday's game marked the second consecutive successful appearance by a defense that was previously much-maligned for its underperformance.

"I'm just glad that now it looks like everybody is really gaining confidence and everybody is playing with a lot of intensity," said Georgia head coach Mark Richt about

the recent play of his defense. "There are guys flying to the ball. We're getting more turnovers because of it in my opinion. We're just having more fun."

While Georgia is firing on all cylinders and in the midst of an SEC championship run, Auburn finds itself in the figurative cellar of the SEC. The Tigers are coming off a 42-7 thumping of New Mexico but still own a 2-7 record on the season. Auburn has been through three quarterbacks this season, settling on true freshman Jonathan Wallace as the team's starter.

Having not won an SEC game all season, Auburn is a game some have Georgia already winning, but the Bulldogs are not foolish enough to overlook their opponent.

"They're going to come out and be pumped," said Murray of the atmosphere at Auburn. "It's a 7:00 game, the crowd will be rowdy and we'll be dealing with crowd noise. Those guys are playing for respect and they're trying to ruin our season, so I know they'll be excited. We're definitely going to have to be ready to go and we know we have a huge challenge ahead of us."

Lionetti can be reached at clionetti@scoreatl.com.

TECH BUZZ



Jackets rout terrapins, prep for UNC

By Ryan Caiafa

Coming off a disappointing homecoming loss to BYU, Georgia Tech knew it had to rebound in a big way against Maryland, which had become the victim of bad luck surrounding its quarterback situation.

After losing four quarterbacks due to injuries throughout the season, Maryland had to rely on a linebacker-turned-quarterback, Shawn Petty, to help guide their offense. Despite passing numbers that were better than expected, the Terrapins were no match for the Jackets, who stifled the nation's fourth-ranked run defense into allowing 370 rushing yards and soundly defeated Maryland 33-13 in College Park.

Orwin Smith led the way with 89 yards and a touchdown, while backup quarterback Vad Lee added two scores to go along with 60 rushing yards. Lee received the bulk of the snaps over starter Tevin Washington after the latter's rough start against BYU. Washington, however, did find the endzone for the Jackets, adding to his team-leading total of 16 rushing touchdowns. The team utilized a multitude of backs in gaining its 370 yards on the ground, with Synjyn Days, Robert Godhigh and Washington also amongst six Jackets to

eclipse 30 rushing yards. Next up for the 4-5 Yellow Jackets is a trip to Chapel Hill to take on the North Carolina Tar Heels, who will enter the game with a 6-3 record.

HOOPS SEASON ...

Nov. 9 will be a historic day for the Georgia Tech basketball program as the newly-opened McCamish Pavilion will host its first regular-season game when the men's team will take on Conference USA's Tulane to kick off the 2012-13 campaign. Brian Gregory's team enters the season returning several key members from last year's squad, including Mfon Udofia and Daniel Miller, and also welcoming highly-touted freshman Robert Carter Jr., who was amongst the top centers in the 2012 recruiting class out of Shiloh.

Coming off an 11-20 season last year, expectations are for the team to show vast improvement as Gregory will be leaning heavily on his veterans such as Udofia and Miller, along with Carter. A new go-to scorer will also be needed to replace Glen Rice Jr., who was dismissed from the program last season.

Caiafa can be reached at rcaiafa@scoreatl.com.

PANTHER PROWL



Curry honored as retirement approaches

By Brian Jones

The Panthers had their final home game of the season last Saturday and it wasn't the finale they wanted as they fell to Old Dominion 53-27. Old Dominion quarterback Taylor Heinicke, who played high school football at Collins Hill, passed for 351 yards and three touchdowns in the win. As for the Panthers, the biggest highlights came from Albert Wilson, who set two school records.

Wilson returned a kickoff for a 110-yard touchdown midway through the third quarter, the second of his career. He returned a kick for a score in 2010 against Alabama.

"He was not supposed to bring that ball out," Panthers coach Bill Curry said after the game. "It's the longest kickoff return I've ever been a part of. What he does is just (he) uses his supernatural ability and it is amazing to see what he does. Those are really fast people chasing him, and you just can't catch him."

Wilson also caught a 93-yard touchdown pass from McLane early in the fourth quarter, the longest scoring reception in GSU history.

The Panthers will play their final game of the regular season against Maine this Saturday at 2 p.m.

CURRY HONORED ...

The game against Old Dominion also

marked the final home game for Curry. Before the game, Georgia State announced the locker room and the football team's practice facility will be named in Curry's honor.

"It absolutely stunned me," Curry told georgiastatesports.com about the honor. "It's the only time today. I had no intention in choking up. These amazing act of kindness towards me today, I don't even have words."

Curry has been the head coach of the Panthers since their inception in 2008. However, he started his head coaching career in 1980 when he took over Georgia Tech. Curry then went on to coach at Alabama and Kentucky before heading to ESPN in the late 90s.

WILSON'S FUTURE ...

Wilson looks like a player that could be taking that next step in the very near future. Whether he'll make that jump is another story because he's said that he'll wait at the end of the season to decide if he wants to come back for his senior year or enter the NFL draft.

Wilson, 5-foot-9, 190 pounds, leads the conference in all-purpose yards and is the Panthers top receiver, averaging 87 yards per game.

Jones can be reached at bjones@scoreatl.com.

OWL OUTLOOK



Owls looking to soar on the hardwood

By Brian Jones

The men's basketball team will begin the 2012-13 season with a big test against Tennessee tonight. The Owls played just one preseason game leading up to the game, pouncing on Piedmont 82-43 at the Convocation Center last week. Markeith Cummings scored a game-high 23 points and recorded nine rebounds. Yonel Brown scored 16 points and added six assists. The Owls never trailed and out-rebounded Piedmont 43-31.

"I think the first and most important thing was the fact that we were rebounding the ball in the second half, especially when they out-rebounded us by four in the first half," head coach Lewis Preston told ksuowls.com. "I think our defensive intensity in the second half picked up, especially between the 16-minute mark and all the way down. I had a goal for them to score 42 and they scored 43."

After the Owls take on the Vols, they will travel to South Carolina State on Monday, then take part in the Eastern Kentucky Tournament next Friday.

HELLO LADIES ...

Let's not forget about the women's team as the Lady Owls face Middle Tennessee State in the season opener tonight. The Owls enter the

game with some momentum after coming away with a 79-75 overtime exhibition victory over Southern Poly. Bria Young led the Lady Owls with 17 points while Kristina Wells added 16.

"It feels great to get the first win," new head coach Nitra Perry told ksuowls.com. "We came out and fought really hard like I expected us to do. The game went back-and-forth in runs, but overall I think it was a great game to prepare us. We played a really strong opponent and when it came down to it, we did what we needed to do."

Overtime was all Lady Owls as Shadelly Guzman put in a layup at the 3:18 mark to take a lead Kennesaw State would never relinquish.

WINDING DOWN ...

The volleyball season is coming to an end and the Owls are on a skid as they have lost their last five matches. On Tuesday, the Owls took on East Tennessee State and lost 3-1. With that loss, KSU was eliminated from playoff contention, falling to 5-12 in Atlantic Sun Conference play. Their final match was on Thursday against Mercer, but results weren't available at press time.

Jones can be reached at bjones@scoreatl.com.

HAWKS HAVEN



Hawks snag early-season signature win

By Ricky Dimon

The Hawks' 2012-13 season got off to an inauspicious start when they lost at home to Houston last Friday night. Newly-acquired Rocket James Harden went off for 45 points to help the visitors withstand an Atlanta charge. The Hawks trailed most of the way only to take an 88-87 lead early in the fourth quarter before Houston pulled away for a 109-102 victory.

Atlanta's second game of the season may have gone relatively unnoticed by this city's fans, as it took place simultaneously with the Falcons' Sunday Night Football showdown against Dallas. But it cannot be overlooked. The Hawks traveled to Oklahoma City facing the prospect of an 0-2 start, as they were battling the defending Western Conference Champions without Josh Smith (sprained ankle).

Instead, a determined Atlanta squad went into Chesapeake Energy Arena and silenced the heavily-favored Thunder with a 104-95 upset victory. Larry Drew's crew, which outscored Oklahoma City 29-21 in the fourth quarter, got a double-double from Al Horford (23 points and 12 rebounds) and 19 points from Lou Williams. Jeff Teague chipped in 16 points and had three of the Hawks' 12 steals.

"If you look at it before the game probably a lot of people didn't give us any kind of chance,"

Horford told the Atlanta Journal Constitution. "It just shows the character of this team. This was a team effort we are pretty proud about."

SWEET LOU ...

Williams, a South Gwinnett alum, is back in Atlanta and already playing some of the best basketball of his career. The former Philadelphia 76er preceded his performance against Oklahoma City with a 22-point showing in the season opener. He is also averaging 4.5 assists per game, 2.5 steals per game and he has been to the free-throw line 16 times (made 14).

Although Williams' uniform has changed, his propensity for late-game heroics has not. Previously Philadelphia's go-to guy in the fourth quarter, Williams is up to more of the same tricks in Atlanta. He has played every single second of the two final frames this season (through two games as of Wednesday) while scoring 27 of his 41 total points. He is 11 for 11 from the charity stripe in fourth quarters.

"From a coaching standpoint, you are going to ride the hot hand," Drew told the AJC. "I don't care who it is. In a situation where somebody is playing well, somebody is in a rhythm, somebody is having a good quarter, you ride that."

Dimon can be reached at rdimon@scoreatl.com.

FALCONS BEAT



Falcons prepare for trip to New Orleans

By Craig Sager II

The Falcons took care of the Dallas Cowboys 19-13 in a primetime Sunday Night showdown while boosting their season record to a perfect 8-0, putting a wrap on an untarnished first half to the season. There is electricity and a wealth of talent on both sides of the football that has been on display during the continuing historic run, but as Mike Smith alluded to in his post-game press conference, the biggest strength of this team has been its ability to adapt and share the spotlight week to week.

"You do not know who it is going to be each week but this is the NFL and every guy on this team knows his role and that when he is out there that he is expected to be the guy," said Smith.

THE BURNER ...

Michael Turner got his turn on Sunday to be that guy by scoring the Falcons' lone touchdown and adding 102 yards on the ground that put Atlanta in control of the ball game in the second half.

"Our offensive line really did a great job tonight against a strong and talented Dallas front, and now we just need to keep improving together," said Turner.

When it was not Turner it was Jacquizz Rodgers shaking the dome and defenders with his explosive bursts or Julio Jones and Roddy White winning their battles out wide. Matt Ryan once again out-dued a counterpart on the primetime stage, by going for 342 yards on 24 of 34 passing against Tony Romo.

A pair of missed field goals from the Falcons' 11-year pro kicker Matt Bryant, and several drives that stalled short of the end-zone, were not enough to shield Smith from applauding a lustrous team effort on Sunday.

"I really like the way our team played in all three phases of the game," said Smith. "We still made a lot of mistakes, but they are all correctable and we have a really good football team here."

The Falcons hold a four-game lead over the .500 Buccaneers in the NFC South, but out of six total division games Atlanta has only played one: a last-second win over Carolina.

Ryan is a well-deserving choice for MVP this season, and Sunday will be a big moment when he goes toe to toe with one of the league's best in Drew Brees.

Sager can be reached at csager@scoreatl.com.

CHOP SHOP

PRESENTED BY



Heyward honored; Braves bring back Schafer

By Fletcher Proctor

While most Braves fans will remember the team throwing the ball around three times in the NL Wild Card playoff game, Atlanta's defense was stellar in 2012 and four players were finalists for Gold Glove Awards this year. Braves first baseman Freddie Freeman was up for the honor as were all three starting outfielders, Martin Prado, Jason Heyward and Michael Bourn. The Braves had the second-most finalists in the National League behind Cincinnati's six.

Heyward won the Gold Glove for National League right fielders, becoming the first Brave since 2007 to claim the defensive honor. Heyward was also recently recognized as the 2012 Fielding Bible Award winner as the best defensive right fielder in baseball based on statistical analysis. His nine-inning range factor and full-game range factor were higher than the league average, and he committed just five errors in 347 chances.

Prado played multiple positions this year, but made 111 starts in left field, so MLB put him up for the award at that position. Prado also made 20 starts at third base, 11 starts at shortstop, eight at second and four at first. He committed just four errors all season with nine assists from the outfield. Bourn won a pair of Gold Gloves with Houston in 2009 and 2010. He had just two errors in 388 chances and sported a

.995 fielding percentage, dwarfing the league average of .989. Freeman posted a fielding percentage of .991 while committing 12 errors in 1381 chances. He posted 74 assists and turned 122 double-plays. His range factor per nine innings and range factor per game were better than the league averages.

TEST THE MARKET ...

The Atlanta Braves made a qualifying offer to Bourn last week, meaning he can either accept the one-year/\$13.3 million or he can leave for another team. If he does leave, Atlanta would receive a compensatory draft pick between the first and second rounds of the upcoming MLB draft. The \$13.3 million was the average of the top 125 salaries in baseball from the previous season. The team hedged its bets by acquiring Jordan Schafer off waivers from Houston. Schafer was part of the package sent to Houston in 2011 for Bourn.

Tim Hudson, Paul Maholm and Brian McCann were all brought back for 2013 as the team picked up each player's option. The team also announced that J.C. Boscan, Erik Cordier and Robert Fish were outrighted off the team's 40-man roster.

Proctor can be reached at fproctor@scoreatl.com.

GWINNETT GLADIATORS



Three wins nets first place for Glads

By Joe Deighton

The Gladiators took control of first place in the ECHL's South Division with three straight home victories over quality opponents last week. Gwinnett defeated Orlando, South Carolina and Atlantic Division-leading Elmira to add six points in the standings. The Glads have won six of their last seven games and four in a row to up their record to 7-3-1-0.

Goaltender Ryan Zapolski started his second game of the season against South Carolina on Sunday and picked up his second win. Zapolski made 16 saves to help the Glads to a 3-2 win. Defenseman Dallas Jackson put Gwinnett on top 1-0 in the first period with his second goal of the year. Kyle Lawson, who assisted on the Jackson goal, scored on a slap shot at 12:06 of the opening period. Forward Evan Bloodoff finished off the first-period onslaught on a one-timer that found its way through defenders and into the net to put the Gladiators up 3-0.

Zapolski had to hold off a South Carolina comeback in the second period, as the Stingrays scored twice to pull within one goal. The second-year goalie held the Stingrays scoreless in the third period and Gwinnett earned its 15th point of the season.

POINT STREAKS ...

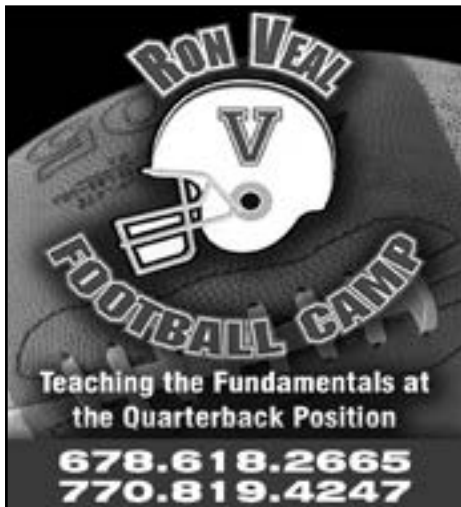
Bloodoff has continued to shine for the Glads, as he added five points in four games last week. Bloodoff scored two goals and added three assists. The 22-year old has eight points in seven games this season and has tallied at least one point in the last four games.

Casey Pierro-Zabotel has a four-game point streak as well. Pierro-Zabotel has notched eight points (two goals, six assists) over the last five games. The 6-foot-2 forward leads the team with 17 points in 11 games this year. Pierro-Zabotel is a plus-12 on the year, which is a great mark for a forward. His 13 assists are good enough to rank second overall among all players in the ECHL.

NEXT UP ...

Gwinnett will play Orlando three times in five days with another game at the Florida Everblades in between. The Glads beat the Solar Bears 4-1 last week in the teams first-ever game against one another. Orlando forward Nick Peterson is tied with Gwinnett forward Casey Pierro-Zabotel for the league lead in points with 17.

Deighton can be reached at jdeighton@scoreatl.com.



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**GEORGIA WORLD
CONGRESS CENTER
BUILDING C**

**FRIDAY,
NOV. 30 • 1-6PM**

**SATURDAY,
DEC. 1 • 9AM-4PM**

OVER 300,000 SQ. FT. OF



PURE FOOTBALL



EXCITEMENT!

ADULTS: \$10

KIDS: \$5
12 AND UNDER

BRING THIS AD AND RECEIVE \$3 OFF AN ADULT ADMISSION!
(REDEEMABLE AT FANFARE TICKET BOOTH)



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