

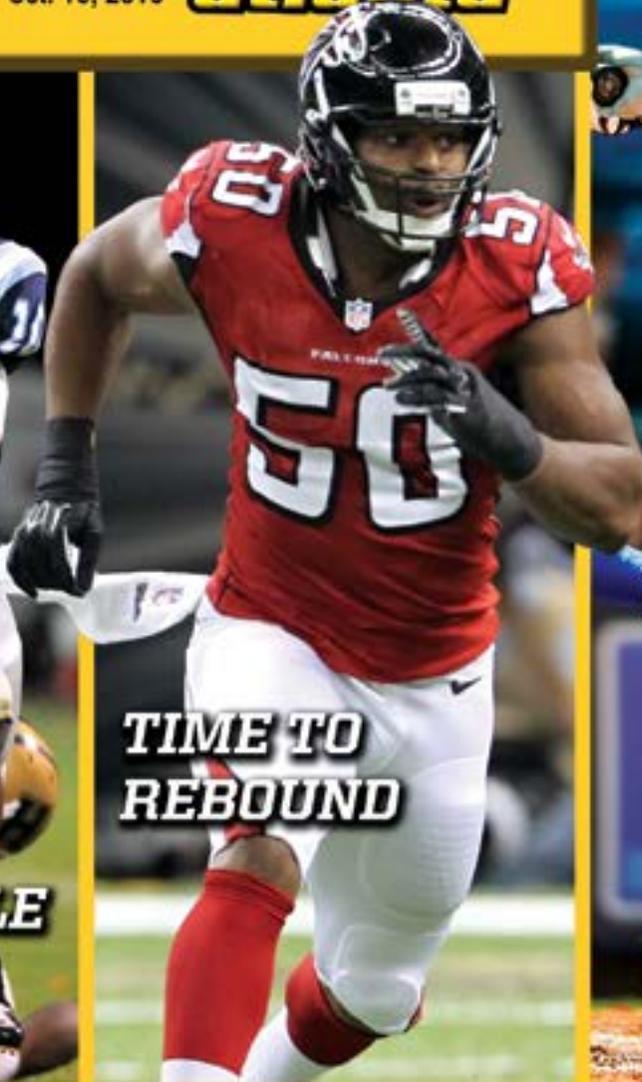
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Vol. 9 | Iss. 18 | Sept. 27 - Oct. 10, 2013

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## CAN'T MISS THIS WEEK

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- 5** Ricky Dimon honors the Braves for winning their first division title since 2005 in this week's cover story.
- 8** In our prep section, we break down the latest and greatest from the worlds of softball, cross county and volleyball.
- 9** Check out the latest Score Atlanta/AJC volleyball rankings here.

## TEAM SCOOP AND VOICES

*COVER DESIGN BY DJ GALBIATI BLALOCK  
 COVER PHOTOS COURTESY OF PERRY MCINTYRE, JIMMY CRIBB/  
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## INSIDE AT SCORE

Score Atlanta is looking for writing interns. Please e-mail Stephen Black at [sblack@scoreatl.com](mailto:sblack@scoreatl.com) or call 404-256-1572 for more information.

ON THE NO

## SHOT OF THE WEEK...



**SPARTAN STRONG:** GAC QB Rafe Chapple scrambles for a big gain against Apalachee earlier this season. The Spartans are 4-0 and ranked No. 2 in Class AA. Photo courtesy of Lauren Roberts.



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# PREP REVIEW



## Lions off to torrid start; Alpharetta looks promising

By Stephen Black

I have picked against Lovett all four weeks so far, and for good reason. The Lions were going up against progressively better competition each week, but kept on winning. Coach Mike Muschamp's bunch has beaten Blessed Trinity, Woodward Academy, Class AAAA No. 7 Marist, and most recently, Class AAA No. 2 St. Pius X (although the Lions dropped to No. 7 in this week's poll).

We ranked Lovett's schedule No. 1 in AA due to its toughness. But the Lions have made minced meat of it thus far going into a long road trip at Fort Payne (Ala.) this Friday. After that, Lovett hosts Class AAA No. 4 Washington County. No rest for the weary.

Valdosta continued to impress by easily dispatching Newton, which was fresh off a major upset of Lowndes last week. The Wildcats, now ranked No. 5, exploded for a 31-0 half-time lead and cruised from there.

Valdosta looked flawless in its final non-region tuneup. Next week, it gets tougher as the Cats travel to 3-1 Camden County, which was off this past weekend.

Milton improved to 4-0 for the first time since 1999 with yet another dominant performance, this time over ancient rival Roswell 33-3. The Eagles have four solid running backs who can tote the rock, including Tennessee-commitment Treyvon Paulk, Micco Brisker, Chris Turn-

er and Chad Toliver. Paulk left the game with sprained knee, but should return later this year.

The Eagles have scored at least 31 points in each game and look like Walton's chief competition in Region 5.

Lovejoy escaped with a dramatic 39-35 win over East Coweta Friday night in a game we had on upset alert in a story on ScoreATL.com. The No. 10 Wildcats trailed 35-21 in the third quarter only to rally and score 19 consecutive points to close out the game. Lovejoy lost several key components off its state finalist squad of 2012, but QB Quintarius Neely and RB Jeremiah Kirkland form a formidable duo in the Wildcats' backfield.

Lincoln County, at 1-2, has its worst record after three games since the Red Devils were 0-3 to start the 2005 season. Coach Larry Campbell's group lost 39-35 to Ninety-Six (S.C.) Friday, its second straight loss after losing to Washington-Wilkes Sept. 6. The Devils begin region play next week against First Presbyterian, which is no push-over.

What a start by Benedictine, which is now 4-0 after dominating previously-ranked Vidalia 28-0 Friday. The Cadets have moved up to No. 8 and look like a darkhorse state champi-

onship contender in AA, a classification that has no clear-cut favorite at this time.

Danny Britt's team may have just won its toughest test of the regular season and should roll to a 10-0 finish. The Cadets have given up just 14 points all season.

Look at Central-Carrollton. The Lions, who are regularly overshadowed by county neighbor Carrollton, are off to their best start (4-1) since 2005. Rico Zackery has had tremendous success in his first season at Central and his team will begin region play next week against B.E.S.T. Academy. The Lions' lone loss was to Bremen. If Central gets past B.E.S.T., an Oct. 11 showdown with Callaway looks to be the Region 4-AAA championship for all intents and purposes.

Alpharetta's 31-17 win over West Forsyth may go a long way in deciding the Region 6-AAAAAA championship this season. The Raiders have looked solid, if unlucky, in starting the season 2-2. Coach Jason Dukes' bunch lost heartbreakers to Milton (in OT) and No. 10 Lovejoy (by one point). The Raiders and Wolverines tied for the title last season with 6-1 records in region play. This year, however, Alpharetta looks like the region's best team thus far.

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

# SAGER SAYS



## Prep football showcases top players, teams

By Craig Sager II

Football wears the label as the ultimate team sport and I certainly would not argue against that. Every huddle, every snap count and every play requires a group of players and a group of coaches to be on the same page. However, just because it is a team game does not mean that there is any shortage of individual pressure to perform.

Unlike other sports, games are once a week. All week long anticipation builds and recruits wonder if Friday night will lift or sink his stock. At the same time, there is an unrecruited player preparing to square off against Mr. four- or five-star, who is losing sleep as he awaits his chance to make a name for himself.

This is a weekly ritual in the southeastern United States, where the region's fleet of high-

ly-touted prospects is lining up head-to-head every week. Things have not changed and winning is still everything in football and always will be but inside the helmet, we should recognize that there are reputations and collegiate futures that are riding on the game film.

### FOLLOWING THE ACTION ...

Every Friday night CSS televises a Game of the Week and also puts two games on the web for live streaming with interactive chats and social media. Everything high school football goes through the tag #HSFBTalk and fans are able to gather a seemingly endless supply of information as the action unfolds throughout the southeast. The featured games on television and on the web are handpicked and the

matchups are set to showcase the best teams in the southeast and the highest-rated recruits. The spotlight has been bright on these rising stars and they have yet to disappoint.

Beech (Tenn.) has been one of the better stories this year. The now 4-1 team lost Jalen Hurd with a torn labrum (shoulder) after the first week of the season. Hurd is a 6-foot-3, 220-pound, 5-star running back who is committed to the University of Tennessee. Hurd is the top-ranked recruit in the state.

The loss of Hurd did not deter the defending state champions from pounding the rock and senior Dorian Carter got his opportunity to step in as the new primary ball carrier. In the televised CSS game against Independence (Tenn.) the senior put on a memorable performance as he carried the ball 54 times and scored all four of Beech's touchdowns in a 28-24 win. It was likely one of the toughest performances by an individual I will see all season.

The Independence defense knew Carter was getting the football, but the Buccaneers' offense kept pounding the football and stuck with the plan. Watching guys like Carter and the talent from Georgia's neighboring states has been the highlight of the southeastern coverage.

### UPSET CITY ...

Last week featured Memphis University School (Tenn.) upsetting storied South Panola (Miss.) 26-9. South Panola had outgained MUS 184-84 in total yardage, including a lopsided 105 to 3 advantage in rushing at the half, but MUS quarterback James Sexton was an efficient 6-of-9 passing for 73 yards with a touchdown and took a 10-3 lead into the break.

Colton Neel was the difference-maker for MUS. He finished the game with 150 total yards (97 rushing, 53 receiving) and three touchdowns. It marked the second time in four matchups that the Owls topped South Panola, something that not many other programs can say about the defending 6A Mississippi state champions.

This Friday, Norcross will host Mill Creek. The Hawks do not have a feature back and rotate an onslaught of runners. As a result Mill Creek is averaging nearly 300 rushing yards per game this season. Up front, junior Kaleb Kim and the cohesive group of linemen lead the charge. On Friday, the top-ranked defensive end in the country, Norcross' Lorenzo Carter who stands 6-foot-5, 235 pounds and will challenge the up-and-coming Mill Creek lineman.

Sager can be reached at [csager@scoreatl.com](mailto:csager@scoreatl.com).





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# DIVISION CHAMPS



## Braves clinch East, look to erase playoff demons

By Ricky Dimon



Division titles were once taken for granted around these parts, and why not? The Atlanta Braves won 14 of them—all in a row—from 1991 through 2005. Coming out on top of something so trivial as a division was nothing more than a formality before the real season began in October. That's when the Braves captured the NL pennant five times, won the World Series in 1995 and reached the NLCS on four other occasions.

Until this season, however, Atlanta had stumbled through seven consecutive campaigns without a division crown. It advanced to the playoffs only twice in that span, falling in the 2010 divisional round to San Francisco and losing the 2012 NL wild-card game to St. Louis. The Braves have won just a single postseason game since 2005 and they have not won a playoff series since 2001. That kind of recent history—which some other franchises would long for, but a veritable underachievement in Atlanta—is why Sunday's clinching of the NL East means so much.

### OBSTACLE COURSE ...

Additionally, this 2013 ballclub had to endure more than its fair share of struggles

en route to division glory. The standings don't show it, because the Braves were in first place in the NL East for all but one day of the entire season, and they led by as many as 15.5 games in mid-August. But that hardly tells the story.

Jonny Venters has missed the entire year due to a second elbow surgery. Brandon Beachy, arguably the starting rotation's ace in 2012, missed the end of that season following Tommy John surgery and did not return until July 29. He made five starts and has been on the shelf ever since with elbow discomfort. Tim Hudson, the veteran leader of the staff, suffered a broken ankle on July 24 in New York and is out for the remainder of 2013. An appendectomy sidelined Jason Heyward for 23 games in April and May before he got drilled by a pitch on Aug. 20 in New York and had to watch 26 more contests go by the wayside. Dan Uggla struggled with eye issues almost from the beginning of the year, underwent surgery and missed 12 games in August.

As for the Braves' on-field exploits, most have been stellar. They have not, however, been immune to the occasional slump. Fredi Gonzalez's squad dropped 10 of 14 games in

late April and early May and it has lost at least three consecutive games on 10 different occasions this season. Every time, though, Atlanta bounced back to put away any ideas the Washington Nationals had of making a serious run at the division title.

"After that last pitch, I don't even know what happened," closer Craig Kimbrel—who recorded his league-leading 49th save in Sunday's clincher at Wrigley Field—told the team's website. "It was great. It was everything we've worked for the last few years. We've been through a lot together."

### HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL ...

Together is exactly how they did it, and it's exactly how they had to do it with so many players sidelined at various times. When one man went down, it was next man up. The regular season's sensational newcomer, of course, was Evan Gattis. In his rookie campaign after years of well-documented struggles both on and off the field, the 27-year old is making up for lost time. As of Wednesday afternoon, Gattis is tied for fourth on the team with 20 home runs and he has hit them in just 334 at-bats—giving him the best homers-to-at-bats ratio of all Braves players by a wide margin. Gattis burst onto the scene with six home runs in his first 16 games before going deep five times in an eight-game span during May.

"He's great," Hudson told the Atlanta Journal Constitution after Gattis tied a May 21 game against the Twins with a two-out shot in the bottom of the ninth (the Braves eventually won in 10 innings). "It's been awesome to see. He's a clutch hitter and people around the league are scratching their heads trying to figure out how to keep him from putting balls in the seats. It's fun for us to watch."

Atlanta has also thrived on unexpected contributions from Chris Johnson and Jordan Schafer at the plate and from Freddy Garcia on the mound. Johnson was treated as little more than a "throw-in" in the offseason trade with Arizona for Justin Upton. Instead, the third baseman leads the team with a .327 batting average that is second best in the National League and fourth best in all of baseball.

In his second stint with the Braves, Schafer was thought to be an odd man out with the addition of Upton and his brother, B.J. Due to both injuries and B.J.'s prolonged slump, however, Schafer has played in 93 games and has been to the plate 256 times. His .247 average is modest, but he has drawn 29 walks and has stolen 22 bases. Acquired from Baltimore in late August, Garcia has helped soften the blow of the absences of Beachy and Hudson. The 37-year old boasts a 1.65 ERA in 27.1 innings over six appearances with

the Braves, including three starts.

Injuries to starters were certainly unwelcome at the time, but they may end up being some sort of blessing in disguise come playoff time having given experience to other key players while also showcasing the incredible depth of this team.

### CAUSE FOR CONCERN ...

Still, expectations have to be tempered—something that won't be difficult for a fan base that has endured almost non-stop postseason heartbreak since 1991. The Braves are a woe-ful 21st in the majors in batting average and a mediocre 13th and 14th in on-base percentage and runs scored, respectively. Uggla is hitting .182 and B.J. Upton is hitting .186. Atlanta is 10-12 so far in the month of September and is 40-41 away from Turner Field. No other team that has clinched a playoff spot has a losing record on the road and all of the playoff teams other than Cincinnati are at least five games over .500 away from home.

This team is young, inexperienced, struggles to win on the road and is in the midst of a relative slump heading into the playoffs. It is not favored to win the World Series or even get there, and it shouldn't be. But don't tell that to the Braves. After all, they weren't supposed to beat the Nationals in the NL East, either.

Photos courtesy of Jon Barash and Pouya Dianat/Atlanta Braves. Dimon can be reached at [rdimon@scoreatl.com](mailto:rdimon@scoreatl.com).





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BY SEAN CONWAY

# WHOS HOT

## THUMBS UP TO THE BRAVES



### NL East champions

The Braves are division champs for the first time since 2005. They clinched the title last weekend in Chicago and now have their sights set on home-field advantage in the National League playoffs. Freddy Garcia, 37, has a 1.65 ERA in 27.1 innings since being acquired from Baltimore in August.

### Ted Roof

It can't get any worse than Al Groh, but Roof is doing quite well so far in his second stint at Georgia Tech. He was named ACC Coordinator of the Week after the Yellow Jackets' 28-20 win over North Carolina. The Tar Heels gained only 319 total yards of offense, including just 167 in the final three quarters.

### Atlanta Dream

You may not have noticed, but the Dream are through to the WNBA's Eastern Conference Finals. They lost their last four games of the regular season and dropped Game 1 of the first round to Washington but bounced back to win two straight, including a decisive Game 3 on Monday at Philips Arena.

### Sad News

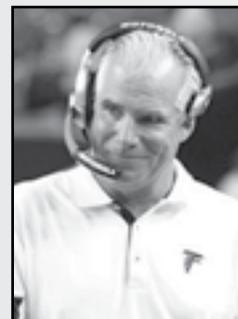
Former Harrison High School and University of Georgia defensive back Paul Oliver died earlier this week at the age of 29. Oliver was part of three region championship teams from 2000-2002 and Harrison finished runner-up in Class AAAAA in 2000. He recorded seven interceptions in three seasons at Georgia.

### Bizarre injuries

Several teams NFL have lost players in wild ways of late. Arizona safety Rashad Johnson had the top of his left middle finger severed, Detroit receiver Nate Burleson broke his arm in a car wreck while moving a pizza in the front seat, and a stripper broke a champagne bottle over the head of Baltimore receiver Jacoby Jones.

### Red-zone woes

The Falcons are scoring touchdowns just 50 percent of the time when they make their way into opponents' red zones through three games this season. In two fourth-quarter trips inside Miami's 20-yard line last Sunday, they came away with a total of three points. That led directly to the Dolphins' 27-23 comeback win.



# WHOS NOT

## THUMBS DOWN TO RECURRING ISSUES

# SCORE LIST

BY BRIAN JONES

**1 FALCONS GROUNDED:** The Falcons are not having a great start to the season as they have lost two of their first three games. Injuries have plagued this team since training camp and the only way for it to get back on track is getting a win Sunday against New England. It will not be an easy task, but I think the Falcons get the victory as long as they can score touchdowns in the red zone.

**2 ESPN DOES ATHENS:** Georgia and LSU will do battle on Saturday and the ESPN College Gameday will be there for the biggest game of the week. Normally when Lee Coso and company are on hand for a Georgia game, it does not bode well for the Bulldogs. Honestly, I'm not sure what the outcome will be, but something tells me the game will be one of the best all season.

**3 A BRAVE DIVISION:** This past weekend, the Braves clinched the NL East for the first time since 2005. They are also in prime position for home-field advantage in the NLDS, which starts next Thursday. It doesn't matter whom the Braves play in the playoffs, they have to get the offense going in order to have a chance to make a deep postseason run.

**4 WAR IN SOUTH GEORGIA:** We are nearing the midway point of the high school football season and there are a couple big games taking place in South Georgia. Colquitt County will travel to Lowndes while Valdosta will go to Kingsland to face Camden County. Be sure to go to [scoreatl.com](http://scoreatl.com) and [ajc.com](http://ajc.com) for the updates on those two games and the rest of the action throughout Georgia.

**5 THE BEST TEAMS:** ESPN did its rankings for the best franchises in sports and two Atlanta teams were ranked fairly high. Out of 122 teams, the Falcons came in at No. 20 while the Braves were right behind them at No. 23. When you have good players, good management and consistent winning, fans will take notice—which is why both franchises are on the rise.

# CRUNCHING THE NUMBERS

BY CRAIG SAGER II

**102** Career touchdown passes by Aaron Murray after Georgia's 45-21 win over North Texas

**34** Career interceptions by Murray

**5** Straight games that the Falcons have reached a double-digit lead

**4** Times in those five games the Falcons eventually lost the lead

**5** Sacks by the Falcons against Miami including career firsts from Akeem Dent and Robert McClain

**3** Straight seasons Julio Jones has caught a touchdown pass of 80 yards or more

**103** Straight games with a reception for Roddy White after his two catches in Week 3

**13** Touchdowns by North Oconee junior running back Kawon Bryant in three games

**2** Times Georgia Tech has started its season 3-0 since 2005

**10** NL East Division titles by the Braves since moving to Turner Field in 1997

# TRIVIA QUESTION

**Georgia and LSU have met three times in the SEC Championship game. What is the only other SECCG matchup to have been played more times?**

**Answer on Page 14**

# SANITY AT LAST

"My daughter at the SEC meetings, Macy, just happened to go over by where the T-shirts were being handed out to the coaches, and made an acquaintance with Mark Richt. She came back after talking to Mark and said, 'Gee, daddy, he's a really nice guy.' She said, 'Do you play those guys?' I said, 'Yeah.' So I also have to keep an eye on her this week. I want to make sure she's not mailing Coach Richt our game plans."

- LSU coach Les Miles said the week of his team's game against Georgia.

# OUR TWO CENTS

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

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## Broncos, Lions win county championships

By Stephen Black, Ricky Dimon and Craig Sager II

Brookwood and host Peachtree Ridge were the stars at last Saturday's Gwinnett County cross country championships, which featured some of the best runners and teams in the state. The Peachtree Ridge boys placed five contestants in the top 19 of the race to edge runner-up Brookwood by seven points. The Lions were led by Kevin Mills, who captured top individual honors with a time of 15:37. Brookwood's Miles Yapp paced his team with a fifth-place finish in 16:14.

Roles were reverse in the girls meet, with Brookwood just barely getting past Peachtree Ridge by two points. The Broncos put all five of their point-scorers in the top 18 of the race, including fourth-place finisher Lauren Brennan in a time of 19:01. Peachtree Ridge had five runners in the top 21, led by runner-up Addy Lippitt's 18:51. Mill Creek, which came in fifth in the

team competition, benefited from Lauren Hovis' third-place showing in 18:59. Tayler Tuttle of Providence Christian won the race in 18:24.

At the Battle of Atlanta hosted last Saturday by Eagle's Landing High School, Kathryn Foreman of Landmark Christian won the girls meet in 18:40. St. Pius X and Marietta finished second and third, respectively, behind Bolles (Fla). Marietta won the boys race in a runaway, as their five point-scorers crossed the line in a six-second span between 16:55 and 17:01—good for individual finishes from 11th to 16th overall. Shaw's Hakeem Mustafaa prevailed in 16:11.

### IN THE CIRCLE ...

Buford staked a claim as the state's best team regardless of class with a 9-0 win over Class AAAAAA No. 1 Lassiter Monday. The game was called after the fifth inning due to

the run rule. It was Lassiter's third loss of the season and Buford's seventh win over a Class AAAAAA foe. The Wolves' lone loss was to Collins Hill, however.

Buford pitcher Bria Bush (7-1) dominated Lassiter and gave up just one hit. The Wolves broke through in the second inning with five runs on four hits. Senior Nikki Cook was 2-for-3 with a triple and an RBI.

Class AAA No. 1 Buford improved to 21-1 with a 17-9 win over Banks County Tuesday. Remington Hasty was 4-for-4 with four RBIs and a homer for Buford while junior Emily Crocker improved to 6-0 with the win. Sophomore Drew Puckett hit a grand slam and Alexus Murray was 2-for-2 with three RBIs. The Wolves are 10-0 in Region 7-AAA.

North Atlanta sophomore middle infielder Paris Powell is among the state leaders with a .568 batting average. Powell's Warriors are 10-7 overall and 5-4 in Region 6-AAAAA play. ... Sprayberry sophomore first baseman Kierston Moore is hitting .549 with six home runs, seven doubles and 19 RBIs. ... Another sopho-

more, Amber Winters of East Paulding, has a .446 average with 42 RBIs and 29 runs.

### ON THE COURT ...

Harrison is back on track after winning the Cobb County championship over the weekend. The Hoyas had to battle with North Cobb and edged the Warriors in three sets (26-24, 25-27, 17-15). ... Pope reached the semifinals before being ousted by Harrison and the Greyhounds' bid to win the tournament for a sixth straight year fell short. ... Buford's Gwinnett County championship over the weekend was the other notable result as the Wolves battled past Greater Atlanta Christian, Wesleyan and North Gwinnett to win the championship. ... Walton competed in the Tampa Berkeley Prep Premier tournament in Florida over the weekend and Celeste Fitzgerald was named to the all-tournament team after a great effort from the sophomore captain and her strong supporting cast. Fitzgerald has 707 assists in 64 played sets this season.

*Photos courtesy of Samuel Romell Ashby. Writers can be reached at 404-256-1572.*

## Football Rankings

### Class AAAAA

- |                       |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1. Northside-WR       | 6. Gainesville   |
| 2. Tucker             | 7. Warner Robins |
| 3. Kell               | 8. Allatoona     |
| 4. Stephenson         | 9. Creekside     |
| 5. Thomas Co. Central | 10. Ware County  |

### Class AAAAA

- |                    |               |
|--------------------|---------------|
| 1. North Gwinnett  | 6. Hillgrove  |
| 2. McEachern       | 7. Mill Creek |
| 3. Colquitt County | 8. Coffee     |
| 4. Peachtree Ridge | 9. Norcross   |
| 5. Valdosta        | 10. Lovejoy   |

- |                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| 1. Sandy Creek | 6. Stockbridge   |
| 2. Carrollton  | 7. Marist        |
| 3. Griffin     | 8. Mary Persons  |
| 4. Statesboro  | 9. Wayne County  |
| 5. Monroe Area | 10. Burke County |

### Class AAA

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

### Class AA

- |                      |                  |
|----------------------|------------------|
| 1. Lovett            | 6. Jefferson     |
| 2. GAC               | 7. Brooks County |
| 3. Lamar County      | 8. Benedictine   |
| 4. Calhoun           | 9. Cook          |
| 5. Washington-Wilkes | 10. Rabun County |

### Class A-Public

- |                  |                       |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. ELCA          | 6. Prince Ave. Chr.   |
| 2. Landmark Chr. | 7. George Walton Aca. |
| 3. Savannah Chr. | 8. Brookstone         |
| 4. Aquinas       | 9. Darlington         |
| 5. Mount Paran   | 10. Mt. Pisgah        |

### Class A-Private

- |                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Irwin County    | 6. Trion           |
| 2. Marion County   | 7. Clinch County   |
| 3. Seminole County | 8. Charlton County |
| 4. Lincoln County  | 9. Gordon Lee      |
| 5. Johnson County  | 10. Wilcox County  |

## Score Atlanta/AJC.com Volleyball Rankings

### Class AAAAAA

- |                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Walton        | 6. East Coweta    |
| 2. South Forsyth | 7. North Cobb     |
| 3. Johns Creek   | 8. Roswell        |
| 4. Harrison      | 9. North Gwinnett |
| 5. Chattahoochee | 10. Woodstock     |

### Class AAAAA

- |                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1. McIntosh     | 6. Whitewater      |
| 2. Starr's Mill | 7. Harris County   |
| 3. Pope         | 8. Northview       |
| 4. Sequoyah     | 9. Lakeside-DeKalb |
| 5. Riverwood    | 10. Northgate      |

### Class AAAA

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

### Class AAA

- |                    |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Blessed Trinity | 6. Oconee County  |
| 2. St. Pius X      | 7. Hart County    |
| 3. Woodward Acad.  | 8. North Hall     |
| 4. Buford          | 9. Islands        |
| 5. Sonoraville     | 10. Morgan County |

### Class AA

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

### Class A

- |                     |                        |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Hebron Christian | 6. ELCA                |
| 2. Holy Innocents'  | 7. Mount Paran         |
| 3. Landmark Chr.    | 8. Pace Academy        |
| 4. Savannah Chr.    | 9. George Walton Acad. |
| 5. Walker           | 10. Savannah Ctry Day  |

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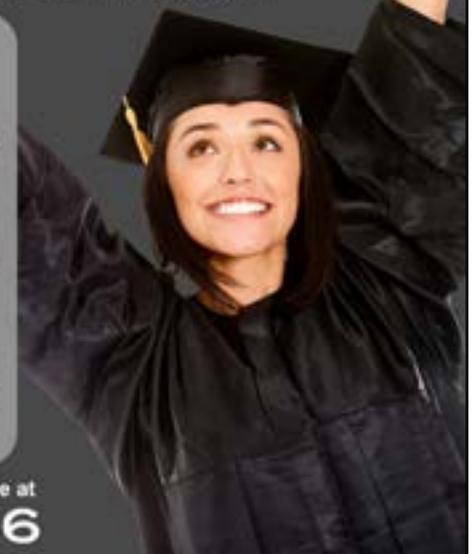
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# DREAM BEAT



## McCoughtry leads Dream to semifinals

By Joe Deighton

Confetti flew down from the rafters in Philips Arena. The Atlanta Dream had advanced to the WNBA's Eastern Conference Finals by defeating the Washington Mystics in a decisive Game 3 80-72. Things looked bleak after a Game 1 loss at home to Washington, but Angel McCoughtry showed great leadership on and off the court. The all-star forward called out her teammates for failing to keep home-court advantage in the first game and willed the Dream to victories in the next two first-round games. McCoughtry scored 13 points and dished out seven assists in the series clinching win.

"In the first game, we didn't have a sense of urgency," McCoughtry told the AP. "(In Games 2 and 3), everyone played with so much heart. It was definitely a big difference, and that is what it takes to win a championship."

Forward Erika de Souza finished with a team-high 18 points and 14 rebounds in leading Atlanta to the next round. The Dream trailed going into the fourth quarter 57-55, but went on a 15-2 run to gain an advantage that they would not relinquish. De Souza scored six points during the run and was instrumental in getting the home town crowd involved.

### FINAL FOUR ...

The quest for the first WNBA championship is still alive and the Dream are back to where many thought they would be at the beginning of the season. Atlanta started by winning 10 of 11 games, but went 7-16 down the stretch to finish at .500.

Last year, the Fever knocked the Dream out of the postseason early two-games-to-one. In 2011, Atlanta beat Indiana to advance to the WNBA Finals. This will be the rubber-match, if you will, and will determine who will represent the Eastern Conference in the 2013 WNBA Finals.

Indiana's Erlana Larkins and Tameka Catchings combined to average 20 rebounds per game during the regular season. The Dream will have to slow down Fever guard Shavonte Zellous. She scored 20 in the series clinching win over Chicago and hit all three of her three-point attempts.

Atlanta has the home-court advantage, but Indiana is the series favorite because they are still the champions and because they beat the best team in the postseason tournament.

Deighton can be reached at [jdeighton@scoreatl.com](mailto:jdeighton@scoreatl.com).

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## BULLDOG BEAT



### Dawgs face tall task in No. 6 Tigers

By Chris Nieman

Georgia, ranked ninth in the AP poll, will play the sixth-ranked LSU Tigers on Saturday between the hedges at Sanford Stadium in a game that has national championship implications. ESPN College Gameday will be returning to Athens for the first time since 2008 and the game will be televised nationally on CBS at 3:30 p.m.

The head-to-head series is 85-years old, dating back to 1928. LSU leads it by four games, with 16-12-1 record. This game marks the third time this season that the Bulldogs have faced a top 10 opponent (they lost to Clemson and beat South Carolina). Georgia is currently riding a 14-game home winning streak—the third longest in school history. A victory over LSU on Saturday would mark the first time in school history that the Bulldogs have beaten two top 10 teams in one year at Sanford Stadium.

Saturday will be the first game between these two historic programs since the 2011 SEC Championship, in which LSU thumped Georgia 42-10. In that game, the Dawgs didn't allow one first down in the first half and led 10-7 at halftime. In the second half, Georgia was simply outmatched by the No. 1 team in the country.

This year's matchup may be a different

story, as the two teams appear to be comparable in talent. The defenses lost arsenals of star players in the 2013 NFL Draft and have had to go back to the drawing board. The offenses are led by quarterbacks Aaron Murray of UGA and Zach Mettenberger and LSU, who rank first and second in SEC passer rating, respectively. Each team possesses a dangerous ground game. Todd Gurley and Jeremy Hill rank third and fourth in rushing yards in the SEC, respectively, and will most likely be called upon early and often on Saturday.

This game certainly warrants the attention it has been receiving, in part because Mettenberger once played for UGA before being dismissed from the team. Questions have naturally arisen, and head coach Mark Richt praised Mettenberger on how he has rebounded.

"I'm proud of how he responded to it," said Richt. "He went to junior college and did extremely well, and he got an opportunity to come back and go to a place like LSU, which is a tribute to him and how he's put himself in tremendous position for his future."

Nieman can be reached at [cnieman@scoreatl.com](mailto:cnieman@scoreatl.com).

## TECH BUZZ



### Football team bringing in honors

By Donnell Suggs

Georgia Tech guard Shaquille Mason was named the ACC's top offensive lineman for the second week in a row following last Saturday's 28-20 win over North Carolina. The Yellow Jackets racked up 324 rushing yards and outscored the Tar Heels 28-7 after the first quarter.

Defensive coordinator and former All-American linebacker Ted Roof was named ACC Coordinator of the Week. Carolina amassed only 319 total yards of offense, including just 167 over the final three quarters. Louis Young, a senior defensive back, was selected as the Yellow Jackets' Male Student-Athlete of the Week. Young had three tackles, two pass breakups and an interception in Tech's victory.

The Yellow Jackets hosted Virginia Tech in an ACC Coastal showdown on Thursday night at Bobby Dodd Stadium, but results were not available at press time. Georgia Tech was 3-0 heading into the contest, while the Hokies went in at 3-1. The game commemorated the 100th anniversary of Grant Field and featured a ceremony for past Yellow Jacket All-Americans at halftime.

Tech will travel to Coral Gables to face the Miami Hurricanes next Saturday. Miami, which is also 3-0, will be coming off a date with the South Florida Bulls. The 'Canes, who de-

stroyed Savannah State 77-7 last weekend, will be expected to do something similar to a winless South Florida squad. The meeting between Georgia Tech and Miami last season ended in a 33-17 loss for the Jackets.

#### NEWS AND NOTES ...

The Georgia Tech volleyball team (6-6) opens conference play away from home this weekend, at Maryland on Friday and at Pittsburgh on Sunday. Tech recently compiled a 2-1 record at the Tennessee Invitational in Knoxville. The Jackets swept both Tennessee and Jacksonville State in three straight sets but lost to Coastal Carolina, 3-1. Quinn Evans, a senior middle blocker, was named female Yellow Jacket Student Athlete of the Week following her efforts at the tournament. She was also named to the All-Tournament Team.

On the tennis court, the women will keep things local as they begin their fall season at Atlanta's famous Piedmont Park this weekend in the Atlanta Classic hosted by neighboring Georgia State University. Tech reached the second round of the NCAA Tournament last season before losing to two-time defending champion Florida.

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## PANTHER PROWL



### Football team winless, but competitive

By Chris Schutter

Georgia State's football team is off to an 0-4 start after a gut-wrenching overtime loss to an undefeated Jacksonville State team last weekend. The Panthers rallied late with 17 points in the fourth quarter to force overtime, but they ultimately lost 32-26. Senior wide receiver Albert Wilson was named GSU's student-athlete of the week after totaling 280 all-purpose yards. The Panthers have a bye this week and will travel to top-ranked Alabama for their last non-conference game of the season on Oct. 5.

Senior volleyball player Emily Averbek was named the Gulf South's Defensive Player of the Week. Averbek leads the Sun Belt Conference with an average of 4.53 digs per set, which has helped her team lead the conference with 16.22 digs per set. In the SIUE Cougar Invitational, Averbek averaged an impressive 5.25 digs per set. She also had 10 assists during the tournament, which paved the way to her inclusion on the All-Tournament Team. Conference play opens on the road when Georgia State travels to Arkansas State on Friday night. After visiting Arkansas Little-Rock on Sunday, the Panthers will have their conference home opener next Wednesday against Western Kentucky.

The women's cross-country team placed third in the 38th GSU invitational. It finished behind only fifth-ranked Auburn and No. 10 Chattanooga. Georgia State's score of 59 was just four points out of second place and well above their Sun Belt rival Troy, which finished fourth with 98 points. The Panthers will now get prepared for the Louisville Classic on Oct. 5 at Tom Sawyer State Park.

#### BASKETBALL HYPE ...

In an effort to really bring home-court advantage to the basketball teams, Georgia State will be attempting to sell out the lower level of the Sports Arena for the first time ever. At every ticket milestone—175 tickets left, 150 tickets left, etc.—the university will be awarding prizes to those who buy a ticket. If referred by a season ticket holder, both parties will be awarded prizes. At \$165 for 15 games, the season tickets are only \$11 per game for the general public or \$9 per game for faculty and staff. There are less than 200 season tickets available. The 2013-14 campaign tips off with a game against Southern Poly at the Sports Arena on Saturday Nov. 9 at 1:00 p.m.

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## OWL OUTLOOK



### Soccer preps for conference slate

By Brian Jones

The soccer team is gearing up for conference play, which begins on Friday. The Owls head into the second part of the season with a little momentum as they blanked Troy 2-0 at Fifth Third Bank Stadium on Sunday.

Freshman forward Maggie Gaughan led KSU as she scored the team's two goals in the win. Those were Gaughan's first goals of her career. She notched her first career goal in the 18th minute and scored her second in the 66th minute.

The Owls defense was just as strong as the offense. The Trojans only had four shots compared to the Owls' 12. Freshman goalkeeper Olivia Sturdivant made two saves for the Owls to get her third win of the season.

As mentioned earlier, the Owls will start Atlantic Sun Conference play on Friday. They will face Lipscomb at Fifth Third Bank Stadium starting at 7 p.m.

#### PROTECTING HOME COURT ...

The volleyball team loves playing at the Convocation Center. Last Friday, the Owls took on USC Upstate and won the match 3-0 for their fifth consecutive win at home. Keyaira Stevenson and Toure Hopkins were the leaders on offense as they had a combined 17 kills. On defense, Camille Pedarza led the way with 19 digs while Fanise Cannon had 11.

"It was good win," Kennesaw State head coach Keith Schunzel told [ksuowls.com](http://ksuowls.com). "The team came out and was focused and we put together a nice, consistent effort which is always tough to do in conference. I thought our team did a good job of sustaining a high level of play throughout the match and our defensive intensity was there as well."

One day later, the home winning streak was snapped when the Owls fell to East Tennessee State 3-1. ETSU won the first two sets (25-15, 25-21) but the Owls came back to win the third set 27-25. In the fourth and final set, KSU was down just 20-19, but ETSU scored the last five points to win the match. The Owls will travel to Florida this weekend to take on Florida Gulf Coast and Stetson.

#### GOLF NEWS ...

The men's golf team overcame a four-shot deficit to win the Rees Jones Invitational over South Florida and South Carolina on Monday. The Owls had four players finish in the top 20. Austin Vick led the way as he tied for fourth place overall. Jimmy Beck placed sixth overall while Kelby Burton and Chris Gugliemio tied for 19th place.

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# HAWKS HAVEN



## Williams on the mend after injury

By Jay Underwood

One of the Hawks' biggest offseason additions prior to the 2012-13 campaign was Lou Williams and, for a second straight year, a key player went down with a season-ending injury. When Williams suffered a torn ACL, other players stepped up and filled in off the bench to diminish the blow. He is rehabbing right now and speculation has begun to swirl around his return and what the timetable is for him to begin basketball activities. Williams and the Hawks have not made plans for his comeback publicly known, but both parties are keeping a positive outlook for early in the season.

Whenever he does get back on the court with his teammates, Williams is sure to make an impact similar to last season when he was the Hawks' main bench player. The former Philadelphia 76er is a combo guard who is great at creating his own shot and, when placed with either Jeff Teague or Dennis Schroeder, he will make for a dynamic backcourt mate. In 39 games last season, Williams averaged 14.1 points and made numerous important plays to close out games, which garnered him the label of being a closer.

### NEW BIG MEN ...

A couple of big men the Hawks signed

this offseason have been making names for themselves playing for their national teams. Gustavo Ayon led his Mexican squad to an upset of Puerto Rico in the FIBA Tournament of the Americas. He scored 20 points and had 16 rebounds in the championship game and was named MVP of the tournament. In 10 contests, Ayon averaged 17.5 points and 9.2 rebounds. He was second in scoring and rebounding in the tournament and should be an added bonus for the Hawks in their frontcourt.

Another member of the reconstructed frontcourt is Pero Antic, a member of the Macedonian national team. In the SuperCup 2013, Antic was one of the leaders for a ballclub that performed above expectations. Antic has a polished offensive game that allows him to venture away from the basket and knock down mid-range jumpers and a few three-pointers. This is where the majority of his points came from in the SuperCup and it is probably a good judge of his role on the Hawks. Antic also has a reputation as a sneaky defender who will slide over in help defense and collect a fair number of blocked and altered shots.

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# FALCONS BEAT



## Brady comes to town; Jones at career pace

By Craig Sager II

Last week's 27-23 road loss to Miami moved Atlanta to 1-2 for the first time since 2011. The Falcons produced five sacks and ran for a season-high 146 yards despite a sidelined Steven Jackson and a long list of other injured starters.

A muffed punt, a missed field goal and a lack of defensive pressure on Miami's 75-yard, 13-play game-winning drive that resulted in the losing effort. Jacquizz Rodgers ran for a career-high 86 yards on 18 carries and Jason Snelling gained 53 yards on 11 rushes while adding 58 yards on four receptions, including a seven-yard touchdown catch.

### SUNDAY NIGHT SHOWDOWN ...

Week 4 brings the 3-0 New England Patriots to the Georgia Dome on Sunday night. The Patriots topped Tampa Bay 23-3 in Week 3 and quarterback Tom Brady threw a touchdown pass for a 51st consecutive game. Drew Brees' record of 54 straight games with a touchdown pass was ended in Atlanta's 23-13 win over Brees and the Saints last season.

In road games, Brady has a career 62-27 record and the three-time Super Bowl champion is 3-0 all time against the Falcons, completing 68 of 100 passes for 877 yards, seven

touchdowns and one interception with a 114.5 quarterback rating.

At 63-20 since 2008, New England has the most regular-season wins in the NFL with the Falcons coming in close behind at 57-27. The Patriots have won 10 of 12 AFC East titles, including four in a row heading into this season.

Atlanta has given up 296 passing yards per game through three weeks, which ranks 25th in the league. Veteran cornerback and starter Asante Samuel spent five seasons playing for the Patriots (2003-2007) and won a pair of Super Bowls.

### JULIO THE GREAT ...

Julio Jones is leading the NFL with 373 receiving yards heading into Week 4. Matt Ryan has completed 27 of 36 passes (75 percent) intended for the third-year pro this season and while Roddy White has been limited with his sprained ankle, Jones has been stretching the field and is on pace for a career year. His 81-yard touchdown in Week 2 made NFL history as Jones became the first receiver to post touchdowns of 80 or more yards in three consecutive seasons.

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# CHOP SHOP



## Braves are division champions again

By Ricky Dimon

For the first time since 2005, the Atlanta Braves are division champions. Atlanta clinched the National League East title last Sunday after a 5-2 road win over the Chicago Cubs was preceded by a Washington Nationals' loss. The Braves wrapped things up by virtue of Washington's setback against Miami one hour earlier, but they finished off Chicago for good measure—and for a much more enthusiastic clubhouse celebration.

"It was important for us to win the game," Justin Upton told the team's website following the clincher. "This wouldn't be as special if we didn't go out and take care of our business. That was our goal from the minute we stepped in here this morning, to take care of it ourselves."

Atlanta had been two outs away from getting the job done on Saturday, but the Cubs rallied for three eighth-inning runs to postpone the party. Fredi Gonzalez's ballclub rebounded less than 24 hours later behind a strong start from Julio Teheran, who went six innings and struck out seven batters while allowing only four hits and one run. Freddie Freeman set the tone with a two-run homer in the first inning and Andrelton Simmons provided insurance with a three-run shot in the eighth. Craig Kimbrel struck out the side in the bottom of the ninth for his league-leading 49th save.

### MORE TO PLAY FOR ...

Goal No. 1 may be crossed off the board, but the Braves will remain busy ahead of next week's postseason. They are still locked in a dogfight for home-field advantage both in the divisional round and throughout the National League playoffs. Following a hangover—perhaps literally—in the form of a 5-0 home loss to Milwaukee on Monday, Atlanta pulled out a 3-2 victory over the Brewers on Tuesday night. Capitalizing on another impressive start by Freddy Garcia, the Braves twice erased one-run deficits before Simmons found the outfield gap for a two-out walkoff in the bottom of the ninth.

The win left Atlanta with a 93-64 record, a half-game better than the Cardinals (one game better in the loss column). The Dodgers were two games back after Tuesday's action. Home-field advantage is critical for a Braves team that is an MLB-best 53-23 at Turner Field and a mere 40-41 on the road.

Atlanta faced Milwaukee again on Wednesday before starting a four-game set with Philadelphia on Thursday. Results were not available at press time.

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# SILVERBACKS BEAT



## Atlanta faces draw-happy Canadians

By Chris Schutter

The Silverbacks kick off against FC Edmonton on Saturday at 7:00 p.m. as the season comes down the stretch. Unlike Atlanta, which will be hosting the Soccer Bowl this year, FC Edmonton is still on the outside looking in. FC Edmonton has had a pretty disappointing fall season, only winning one match and tying a league high five times.

Atlanta can credit its playoff berth to great play in the spring. The Silverbacks led the NASL with 21 points and six wins. Despite FC Edmonton allowing a league-low 12 goals, they were only able to muster 14 points and three wins. FC Edmonton has yet to win a match on the road this season after going defeated on the road in the spring. The Canadians followed up a spring road record of 0-3-3 with a fall road record of 0-2-1. They still have four more road games to try to prevent an embarrassing winless road record for the year.

### GOAL DROUGHT ...

The Silverbacks have only scored more than one goal in one match this fall after having seven such matches in the spring. FC Ed-

monton hasn't been much better. The last time they scored more than one goal was June 30 after scoring more than once only twice in the spring. The two teams have gone a combined 3-9-4 this fall and are sixth and seventh in the points standings.

The Canadians have only lost twice, but they have also only won a single match this season. They have the most ties in the league with five, but it's tough to get to the postseason without points from wins.

The Silverbacks have earned two draws and a loss in their three games vs. FC Edmonton this year. This game has little bearing on Atlanta, since it won the spring season and will be hosting the fall season champion for the Soccer Bowl. However, FC Edmonton is desperate for points. At seven points back from first, they need a lot of things to go their way. There are still a fair amount of matches to be played, but it's almost a lock that FC Edmonton will not be the team coming to Atlanta for the Soccer Bowl at the end of the year.

Schutter can be reached at [cschutter@scoreatl.com](mailto:cschutter@scoreatl.com).

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