

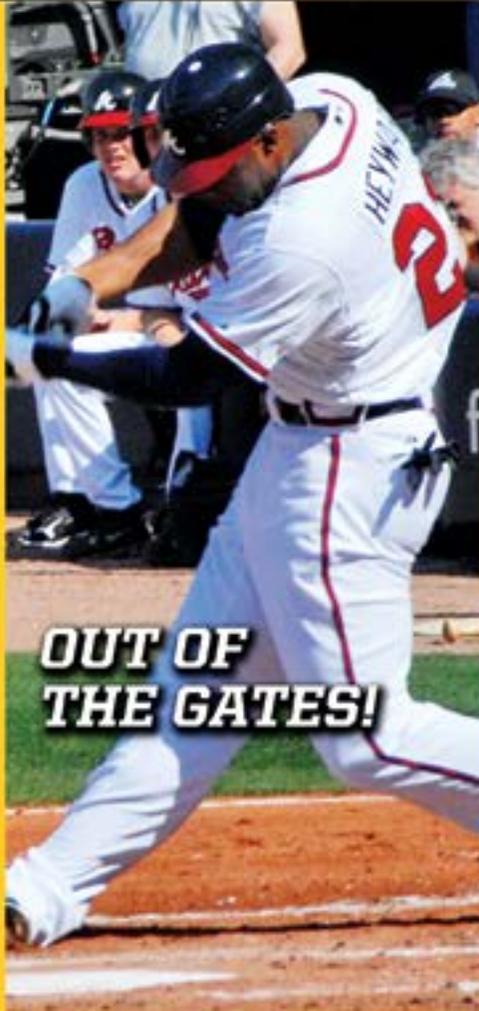
# SCORE

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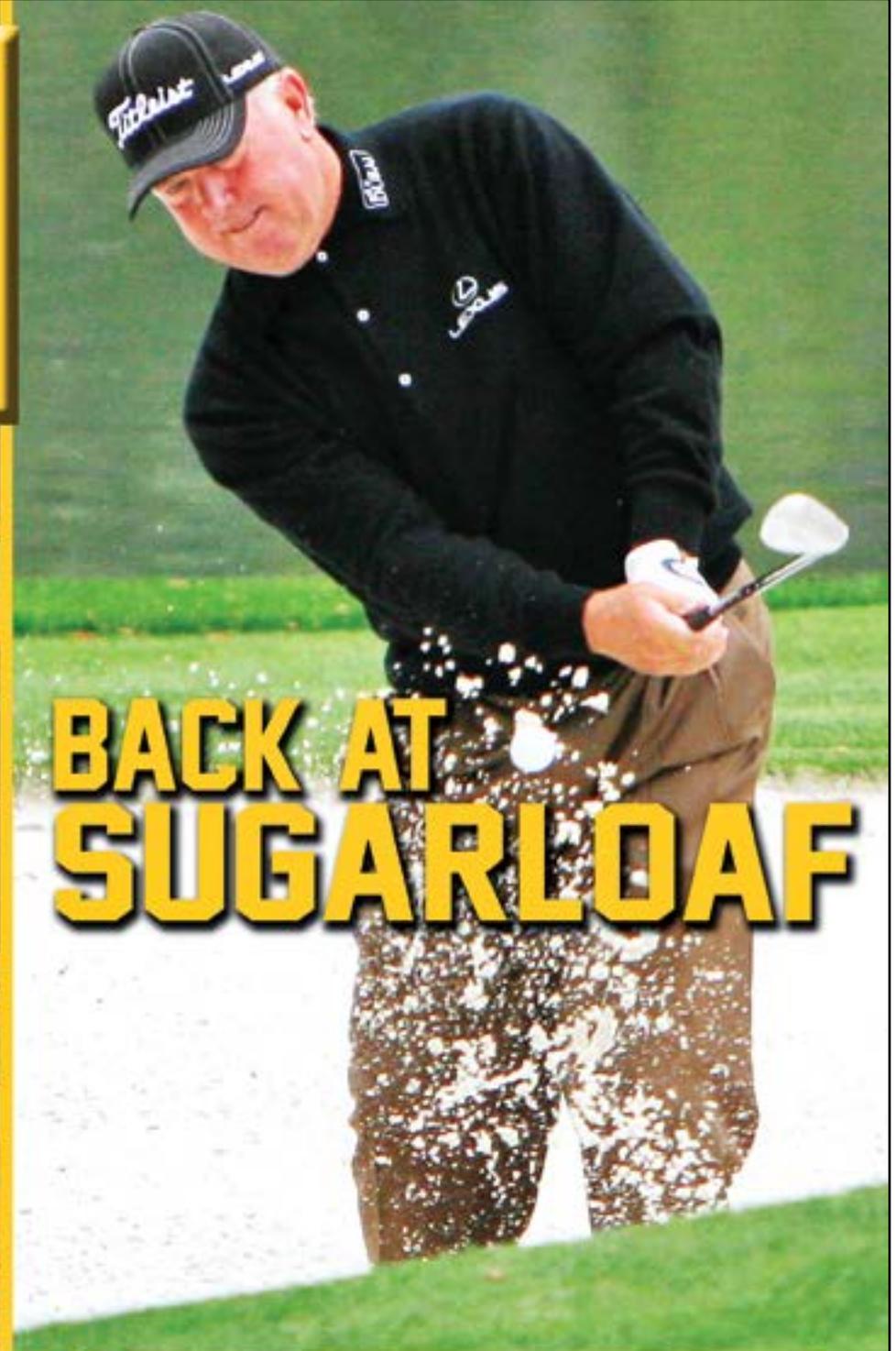
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THIS WEEK**

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- 5** In our cover story, Jay Underwood writes that big-time golf is finally back at TPC Sugarloaf as the Greater Gwinnett Championship comes to town.
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- 8-10** Check out our baseball, lacrosse and soccer rankings!

**TEAM SCOOP  
AND VOICES**

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 COVER PHOTOS COURTESY OF TERANCE JOHNSON,  
 JON BARASH AND ROB SAYE*

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**INSIDE AT SCORE**  
**ON THE** 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.

**SHOT OF THE  
WEEK...**

**TOM TERRIFIC:** PGA Champions Tour golfer Tom Watson will be at TPC Sugarloaf this weekend in Duluth for the Greater Gwinnett Championship along with several other legends. It is the first PGA event held at the alluring private course since 2008. Photo courtesy of Rob Saye.

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# THE FLETCH



## Sports talk radio should stop doing news

By Fletcher Proctor

Monday's horrible Boston Marathon bombings will send a chill down the spines of Americans who still remember the 9/11 attacks when our country was attacked by foreign terrorists. While information is still coming out on the explosions, people are turning to news outlets wherever they can find them. However, there is one place that probably shouldn't be doing news and that is sports talk radio.

When the news hit Monday afternoon that the finish line of the Boston Marathon had been hit, like many that were able, I watched the news and scoured the web for more information. After several hours of hearing more and more about the story, I got into my car to head home. On my ride home, I, like many

other sports fans, enjoy listening to sports talk radio, but what I heard made me roll my eyes. Both 680 The Fan and 790 The Zone were giving updates on the events and in some cases, going live to sister stations that were airing live press conferences. This may sound harsh, but leave the news to the news stations.

Delivering the news is a difficult job and many years of practice goes into properly delivering news, especially a breaking story like this. I was a news director for a pair of radio stations for two years. A reporter covers news differently than he/she covers sports. You have to change mindsets. If you've never attempted to do news and are trying to merely switch your sports talk mode into news mode, it won't work. To hear guys that normally

spout off about the NFL Draft, the Georgia Bulldogs and the Braves try to talk in their serious voices about the bombings just didn't work. With so many different avenues available to get news, why in the world would I tune to a sports talk station to hear those guys try to give me what is going on? I understand ESPN was covering it, but the four-letter network did so by airing ABC's coverage and supplementing it with Emmy-winning sportscasters. If I wanted to hear news talk, I would tune to news talk.

Does this mean I want to stick my head in the sand about it? No. When you give the sports updates every 20 minutes, give me a quick hit on the news. But how about sticking to sports? In these crazy times, sometimes I need a break from reading and watching and hearing about the bombings. Sometimes I just want to be able to sit in my car during rush hour and just escape.

### AH, AUGUSTA ...

The eyes of the golf world once again turned to Georgia for last week's event at Augusta National. The Masters' ratings were through the roof, especially when Adam Scott and Angel Cabrera went to a playoff. CBS, ESPN and The Golf Channel's ratings were likely at their highest though Saturday right before CBS began to air third-round coverage as

the Tiger Woods' story began getting airtime. Woods was assessed a two-stroke penalty after a viewer called Masters officials to alert them that Woods received an improper drop.

Before I get into some of the local reaction, which was overblown outrage, how in the world does golf let this happen? A viewer saw Woods' drop and called in to complain about it. Seriously? I watch college football with bad calls all the time. Can I call the SEC officials? Can I call Bud Selig when an ump blows a call? Come on Golf!

But some of the reaction to Woods receiving a penalty instead of a DQ was unreal. The rule that would have disqualified him was changed several years ago, so those people were wrong. Woods received no special treatment. And for those folks saying he should have withdrawn? Really? Would you have withdrawn? I doubt it.

I attended Sunday's round and Woods by far had the biggest crowd despite the fact he didn't really have a shot at the green jacket. I am not sure why a certain sect of the population hates him other than he wasn't a good husband. That is fine if you want to hate him, but understand the rules before you spout off. By the way, those that do understand the rules seem to love following him around on the course.

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

# BIG B'S WORLD



## Draft day predictions for Falcons fans

By Brian Jones

It's the end of April and this only means one thing for sports fans.

The NFL Draft is upon us and there really hasn't been a time when there has been so much uncertainty about who will be the first pick, how many trades will be made, or which projected first-round pick will be left out in the cold.

Many Falcons fans have uncertainty about what their team is going to do on draft day. The Falcons have 11 draft picks including the No. 30 overall pick, two picks during the second day and eight picks on the final day.

So who will the Falcons draft? It's hard to tell because when a team is picking at No. 30, they almost have to take the best player available instead of just a need. The Falcons have done a good job addressing some of the

needs this offseason with the signing of running back Steven Jackson, defensive end Osi Umenyiora and linebacker Brian Banks.

However, the Falcons need a couple of cornerbacks to add depth, another offensive tackle, a defensive lineman and a tight end. So general manager Thomas Dimitroff will have his work cut out for him during draft weekend.

But I'm not here to tell you who I think the Falcons should draft. Instead I'm going to tell you two things I know that are going to happen for the Falcons during draft weekend.

The first thing is that the Falcons will look for players that were leaders on and off the field. Since 2008 when Dimitroff and coach Mike Smith took over the franchise, 33 of the 38 draft picks were college seniors.

And of those 33 players, 17 of them were voted team captains including Matt Ryan, Sam Baker and Thomas DeCoud.

The second thing is the Falcons will make a trade during the three days of the draft. Every year since 2008, Dimitroff has made a draft day trade and it won't end this year. There is no way 11 draft picks will make the team and if Dimitroff sees a player he likes and is available, you better believe he will trade some picks to move up or down depending on the situation.

It will be an interesting draft for the Falcons but at the same time based on Dimitroff's recent track record, it should be a successful draft as well.

### BLAZING BRAVES ...

Speaking of successful, the Braves are playing pretty good baseball as of late. Many experts thought that with the lineup the Braves would field every day, they would have a chance to win the NL East. But nobody thought they would win 12 of their first 13 games of the season.

The reason the Braves are hot is they are scoring runs with the long ball. Justin Upton leads all major leaguers with eight home runs and the team has hit 20 which is second best in the National League.

But the pitching, which has been the cornerstone for the franchise the last 20 years,

has really separated the Braves from everyone else. The team ERA is a shade under two, which is the best in the Major Leagues.

Paul Maholm has led the way with a 0.00 ERA and three wins. Tim Hudson, Kris Medlen and Mike Minor have also pitched well and the bullpen led by Eric O'Flaherty and Craig Kimbrel has been unhittable. I know it's early in the season and this hot streak will come to an end, but the Braves are sending a message to rest of the league and it looks like they have put the recent postseason disappointments behind them.

### BOSTON TRAGEDY ...

What happened during the Boston Marathon is hard to swallow. We have all seen the photos and videos of the victims, but we also saw the bravery of the first responders trying to get everyone to safety.

The Boston Marathon is one of the most popular marathons in the world and officials have confirmed the race will go on next year. Whoever was responsible for the bombings accomplished only one thing: hurting innocent people. However, that person or group of people did not break the spirit of America, and the city of Boston as well as the rest of the country will be stronger because of this tragedy.

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



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# GREATER GWINNETT CHAMPIONSHIP



## Championship golf returns to Sugarloaf

By Jay Underwood



Following a beautiful week at the Masters, several accomplished golfers are heading up the road to Duluth to compete on the Champions Tour. In the inaugural Greater Gwinnett Championship, past major tournament winners, senior PGA tour golfers and others will compete over 54 holes. Teeing off Friday, the TPC Sugarloaf will be covered in legends throughout the weekend with the likes of, Ben Crenshaw, Bernhard Langer, Tom Watson and many others.

### THE SETTING ...

TPC Sugarloaf is best known for hosting the AT&T Classic before it was cancelled in 2008. The AT&T Classic was always held the week before the Masters to give players a tournament to warm-up under the Georgia pines. This new event will be a part of the Champions Tour through the 2016 season to see how it performs and, if it passes the test, it could become a new tradition on the tour.

If you see players getting misty eyed on the course, it's from all of the fond memories they had playing here during their years on the PGA Tour. TPC Sugarloaf gave Duffy

Waldorf fits through the years, but he still returns as a course record holder with a low round of 63, a mark also held by Tiger Woods, Phil Mickelson and Ben Crane. Others return to try and grab that elusive win after finishing runner-up to some of the other great golfers.

Kenny Perry is looking forward to going back even if it brings back memories of what could have been. In a playoff with Ryuji Imada in the 2008 AT&T Classic, Perry was looking to find the green while avoiding the lake on the front side. He found the only tree on the hole and his ball ricocheted across the green and into the lake anyway. He would finish second that year, his best finish at the course.

There are 81 professionals who will be competing for the first victory in the inaugural tournament. There will be no cut in place, so it will be an exciting Sunday following the turn. While it's still early in the season, there are many golfers looking to take the lead in the Charles Schwab Cup. Langer comes into the weekend atop the standings, and he will look to maintain the momentum from his Masters performance to keep him there.

There will also be a rookie looking to

move up the board in the Champions Cup. Rocco Mediate will be looking for his second victory on the senior circuit and looks to be the top challenger to Langer for the top spot in senior golf. Last season's Cup winner, Tom Lehman, is sitting back in 15th place and will be looking to make his presence felt and springboard the rest of his season by having a strong showing in Duluth this weekend.

### GIVING BACK ...

While the stop by the Champions Tour will generate lots of revenue for local businesses, it will also generate funding for lots of local charities that need the help. The charities benefitting will be Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, Georgia Gwinnett College Foundation, Gwinnett Children's Shelter, Gwinnett County Public Schools Foundation and Gwinnett Tech Foundation. These are all local organizations that will be able to maintain operations with the money they receive this weekend during the tournament.

The course and area have been garnering praise since the players arrived Monday and some have even gone as far as saying that TPC Sugarloaf is their favorite TPC course to play on tour. It is a course that doesn't favor anyone's particular playing style because it is long, but also has the rolling hills of the north Georgia landscape. It will be interesting to see what types of shots players hit when they don't have the greatest lie on the par fours and fives. While these are still some of the best golfers in the world, they have lost a little length on their game, and reaching the greens in two will be a difficult task for some. The winner will likely be the player who uses his irons to best get him in position to make the shots he needs.

TPC Sugarloaf is a private club so this may be the only chance many patrons have to walk the course. It is known for being a beautiful course to walk, and that is exemplified by what makes golf in Georgia so grand. The hills will present a challenge for some just on the conditioning front since it is such a long hilly course with long walks between the greens and the next tee box.

This reemergence of professional golf back into Gwinnett may cause some to wonder if the PGA Tour is on its way back as well. While a successful tournament could pave the PGA's return, people should just appreciate the legends out on the course playing the game they love at a high level. If the Tour does decide to come back to Duluth,

the Gwinnett Sports Commission would welcome them back with open arms.

For now, the Tour members will walk the pine-shaded fairways making the difficult hills look easy and taking the patrons back to younger days when they watched the likes of Watson while he was winning his eight majors. While few believe Watson will be in contention on Sunday, he will still have a large following because of his stature in the history of golf. He will be starting his tournament on the 10th tee and teeing off with Langer and David Frost at 12:30.

The tournament also featured a pro-am portion Wednesday and Thursday that was open to the public. With a new twist, this year's pro-am will allow local businessmen to participate for a fee and play alongside their heroes. This is a weeklong event that will continue to evolve and grow while it remains on the Champions Tour.

*Photos courtesy of Rob Saye. Underwood can be reached at [junderwood@scoreatl.com](mailto:junderwood@scoreatl.com).*



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BY FLETCHER PROCTOR

# WHOS HOT

THUMBS UP TO THE LONG BALL



## Mashed Taters

The Atlanta Braves continue to go deep on a regular basis, recently bashing five home runs in a 6-3 victory over the Kansas City Royals. While the offense is generating the buzz, the pitching staff is proving to be just as big. Left-handed starter Paul Maholm must be considered an early Cy Young favorite after a hot start.

## Wizard of Oz

Adam Scott will take the Masters' green jacket to Australia for the first time in the country's rich golf history. Scott defeated Angel Cabrera in a two-hole playoff to become the first Aussie to win the prestigious tournament at Augusta National. With the win, Scott also put to rest all talk that he couldn't win the big one.

## Decision Time

The NFL Draft is upon us and Falcons fans will eagerly tune in next Thursday to see what "Trader Thomas" Dimitroff does on draft night. Atlanta's GM has a history of making moves on draft day. Will the Dirty Birds trade up for a defensive end, stand pat for a corner or move down for more picks?

## Falling Stock

Questions surrounding Jarvis Jones' long-term health have the former UGA linebacker's draft stock slipping. Jones was one of the best players in the SEC the last two seasons and doctors cleared him to play for the Dawgs. If Jones slips down into the 20's, a team is getting a steal as he has top-five talent.

## Losing Control

The Atlanta Hawks will make the NBA playoffs but their playoff seeding was no longer under their control as of Wednesday. Atlanta lost to Toronto 113-96 on national television Tuesday night, letting total control of its own destiny fall by the wayside. Atlanta's playoff seeding was contingent upon Chicago's fate and was not known at press deadline.

## Ponzi Scheming

A grand jury recently returned a 85-count indictment against former UGA head football coach Jim Donnan in a case involving a Ponzi scheme. The charges include conspiracy, mail fraud and wire fraud. Donnan was fired by UGA following the 2000 season after a Hall of Fame career at Marshall. Donnan has entered a plea of not guilty.



# WHOS NOT

THUMBS DOWN TO BEING SHADY

# SCORE LIST

BY BRIAN JONES

**1** **FAST START:** We all thought the Braves would be a good team, but I don't think anyone expected to have a start like they had this year. After losing the third game of the season to the Phillies, the Braves swept the Cubs, Marlins and Nationals. I know it's very early in the season, but a start like this could set the tone for the rest of the year.

**2** **DRAFT TIME:** It's almost here. Next week, many NFL fans will say the 2013 season has begun because the NFL Draft will take place starting Thursday. The Falcons have 11 draft picks including the No. 30 overall pick. It's hard to say who the Falcons will choose with their No. 1 pick, but I would not be surprised if they trade down to acquire another second-round pick.

**3** **SECOND SEASON:** The NBA playoffs are here and the Hawks are looking to finally get past the first two rounds and reach the Eastern Conference Finals. At press time it has not yet been determined if the Hawks would have the No. 5 or No. 6 seed. In a way, I'm hoping the Hawks get No. 6 because if they win their first-round matchup, they would not have to face Miami in the second round.

**4** **COACH HIRED:** KSU football head coach Brian Bohannon started to put together his coaching staff this week as he hired former Central-Carroll High School head coach Grant Chesnut to be his offensive coordinator/offensive line coach. Chesnut has a ton of high school coaching experience which should help with recruiting kids in the metro Atlanta area.

**5** **R.I.P. PAT:** Former New York Giant and sports broadcaster Pat Summerall passed away on Tuesday at the age of 82. While he did not have many ties with the city of Atlanta, he did call his fair share of Falcons games including the 1998 NFC Championship game and the Super Bowl that same year. Summerall was a football icon and he will be missed.

# CRUNCHING THE NUMBERS

BY FLETCHER PROCTOR

**11** The number of picks the Atlanta Falcons held for the upcoming NFL Draft as of press deadline

**17** Players drafted by Atlanta GM Thomas Dimitroff that have started at least one game for the Falcons.

**11** Oklahoma and USC players drafted by the Falcons since 1966, more than any other school in that time frame

**13** Games it took Justin Upton to reach eight home runs in 2013; it took 93 games in 2012

**0** Career multi-homer games for Juan Francisco before the third baseman went deep twice in Tuesday's win

**0** Runs allowed by Braves starter Paul Maholm in his first three starts of 2013, all wins

**4** Pitchers since 1961 to accomplish that feat: Luis Tiant (1966); Woody Williams (2003); Zack Greinke (2009); Maholm

**1** Inherited runners the Atlanta bullpen has allowed to score this season entering Wednesday

**7** Games Al Horford missed this season due to injury. He missed 71 during the 2011-12 season

**3** New assistants added to the new Kennesaw State football staff. KSU begins play in the fall of 2015

# TRIVIA QUESTION

The Hawks are on a six-year postseason streak. What is the franchise record for most consecutive playoff appearances?

Answer on Page 14

# SANITY AT LAST

*"It's nice to have that type of arsenal in your club because it's a game-changer. One swing of the bat and you can put some runs on the board, so that's always nice."*

- Braves manager Fredi Gonzalez on the team's power-hitting prowess this season.

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We are even providing coverage for sports that have never received coverage before. Looking for gymnastics information? Fletcher Proctor has you covered. Interested in tennis, lacrosse or track and field? He's all over those sports too. Stephen Black has his fingers on the pulse of baseball and he can tell you exactly what is happening across the state in soccer and golf.

Score also creates rankings for several sports which can consistently be found at the beginning of each week. Looking for lacrosse rankings? Check AJC.com Sunday evening. Soccer on Mondays and baseball Tuesdays.

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## Local prospects shine in camp spotlights

By Craig Sager II & Fletcher Proctor

A pair of recruiting camps recently took place in the Atlanta area and some of the nation's top recruiting talent took part in at least one of the events. The Rivals.com Camp Series set up shop at Marietta High School to evaluate the region of talent that is considered to be the paramount of high school football.

"We have been looking forward to coming to Atlanta," said camp director Al Luginbill before the camp. "Everybody knows the SEC is where the best football is played and it is because the best players are coming from here."

The camp was invitation only and more than 200 campers, including some of Georgia's biggest names, were in attendance. The states of Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee and Alabama were all represented.

More than 30 rivals.com evaluators had their eyes glued to the five hours of drills to get an up-close look at each player.

### SEVERAL STANDOUTS ...

Defensive end Lorenzo Carter out of Norcross is the No. 1 recruit in Georgia and a top 10 prospect in the country and had all the attention early. Carter used his 6-foot-5, 232-pound frame and wide receiver speed to

shine during combat drills. Carter would be lined up with an offensive lineman and would have to try and get to the stationary quarterback behind them as fast as possible. He was a mismatch each rep and blew by linemen the same way a kick returner would shake a kicker in the open field.

Class of 2015 standout Tyler Queen was another guy who showed out at the Rivals camp. The rising junior quarterbacked his North Cobb Warriors to the state semifinals as a sophomore last season while breaking the Cobb County single-season scoring record. Queen has a 6-foot-3, 235-pound frame and an arm that had all the receivers jousting for position in line to get matched up with him in the one-on-one drills. Deep out routes and back-shoulder throws by Queen proved to be impressive as he demonstrated his great fundamentals and athleticism.

Walton quarterback Price Wilson is a rising senior and will get a chance to square off with Queen next season in Raider Valley. The two were competing at the camp and Wilson was making big-time throws. Among the talented quarterbacks at the camp, Wilson was one of the guys that looked like he was in mid-

season form throwing the football.

Five-star quarterback Deshaun Watson of defending state champion Gainesville was there as well as Sandy Creek quarterback Cole Garvin.

The wideouts that were getting open for these big-name passers were equally impressive. Emanuel Beal is a recent transfer from Wheeler to Hillgrove and was unstoppable during drills. Beal's 6-foot-1, 205-pound frame was the most impressive of any of the receivers. He won the one-on-one battles with ease and he appears ready to establish himself on the Hawks' offense when their spring practice begins.

Cole Cook was one of the big name tight ends present, and the 6-foot-6, 235 pounder from Carrollton showed the scouts how he can mismatch a defense. Cook has offers from Missouri, Mississippi State, N.C. State, Cincinnati and Troy.

The defensive side of the ball featured Malkom Parrish, who was named the camp's best defensive performer. Parrish took no time to make a statement, and in one-on-one coverage drills, he intercepted the first four balls thrown his way. The Brooks County shutdown corner is leaning towards Georgia and Oregon at the next level. He was a unanimous decision among the experts as the top performer on defense.

"This might be the most talent we ever have seen at one of these camps," said Luginbill as the players left the field.

There is a lot of offseason left with spring practice around the corner. A competitive spring and a summer of 7-on-7's will continue to set the stage for a star studded 2013 season in Georgia.

### MVP HIGHLIGHTS ...

Lee County head coach Dean Fabrizio has a superstar at quarterback in Stephen Collier. Last year as a junior, Collier passed for more than 2,000 yards and ran for another 500 yards. He accounted for 33 touchdowns (27 passing, six rushing) and stands 6-foot-4, 210 pounds and is still growing according to Fabrizio. Luckily for Collier and Fabrizio, the quarterback will have two of the state's top linemen watching his back this year in rising senior Jesse Freeman and rising sophomore Chris Barnes. Freeman and Barnes took part in the MVP Camp in Atlanta and Rusty Mansell was highly complimentary of each tackle.

Mansell noted in a piece for Dawgs247, Freeman is "the real deal." Fabrizio said he was outstanding early on in the camp and Mansell praised Freeman for his ability to handle defensive tackle Chris Williams of Sandy Creek in consecutive reps.

Mansell has also high on Barnes, who he said "created a lot of buzz on Saturday."

Barnes, who is still just a freshman, was able to go against one of the state's top rising seniors in Bryson Allen-Williams.

*Photo courtesy of Craig Sager II. Proctor and Sager can be reached at 404-256-1572.*

# RANKINGS BREAKDOWN

**SCORE**  
Atlanta

## Johns Creek baseball ascends to No. 1

**By Score Atlanta**

Johns Creek, winners of 10 of its last 12 games, has taken over the top spot in the Class AAAAAA baseball poll. The Gladiators knocked off former No. 1 Lambert last week. The Longhorns have now lost four of five games and tumbled to No. 5. Marietta suffered an upset loss to Lakeside-DeKalb and fell to No. 3 while Walton lost to Roswell and dropped to No. 8.

Class AAAAA also sports a new top-ranked team as Gainesville ascended to No. 1 after a two-game sweep of Loganville. Meanwhile, Pope and East Paulding entered the poll after long win streaks against competitive region competition. Griffin entered the Class AAAA rankings after Carrollton, losers of two games last week, dropped out.

In Class AAA, North Oconee and Chapel Hill each dove into the top 10 as a result of recent winning streaks. Pepperell entered the Class AA top five after beating Bremen 5-0 to put an exclamation on the Dragons' 14-game winning streak. Calhoun re-entered the top 10 and Lamar County debuted in the poll riding a five-game winning streak.

Holy Innocents' debuted in Class A-Private as the Golden Bears have not lost a game to anyone not named ELCA in Class A this season. In the Class-Public rankings, Gordon Lee jumped to No. 1 as both Charlton County and ECI took losses last week.

### HOYA TAKEOVER ...

Harrison sent waves through the Class AAAAAA girls soccer poll with a 2-1 victory over No. 2 Parkview, enabling the Hoyas to move up to No. 1. Harrison has not lost since early February when No. 7 Brookwood handed the Hoyas a 2-0 loss in Snellville. Parkview dropped just one spot to No. 3 after beating Class AAAAA No. 7 Heritage-Conyers. Mill Creek lost to Hilton Head Island (S.C.) high school and dropped from the top spot after then tying Beaufort (S.C.). South Forsyth fell to No. 5 after dropping a match to Milton last week. Collins Hill holds strong at No. 6 following a tied with Flowery Branch while Brookwood, Grayson, Tift County and Hillgrove round out the top 10.

Whitewater bumped up two spots in

Class AAAAA to No. 1 after a successful 2-0 week. Northview fell one spot after losing at home to Riverwood. The Titans rebounded by beating Forsyth Central. No. 8 McIntosh fell to Class AA No. 3 Westminster 1-0 to drop a few spots. Flowery Branch jumps into the poll at No. 10, taking Gainesville's spot.

St. Pius X jumped from No. 3 to No. 1 after handing No. 3 Blessed Trinity its first loss of the year. Buford stays at No. 2 after a recent win over Lovett. Lakeview-Fort Oglethorpe moves into the poll at No. 9 after Woodward Academy fell out following a rough stretch.

### SOCCER SHAKEUP ...

Losses and ties hit Class AAAAAA ranked boys soccer teams like a ton of bricks this week as Roswell dropped out after a loss to Dacula and Lambert fell out of the top five after being defeated by West Forsyth. East Coweta and Brookwood each tied games. Meanwhile, Collins Hill and Walton each moved into the top 10 for the first time this year.

Class AAA saw the most movement this week. No. 1 St. Pius X held steady after beating second-ranked Blessed Trinity 2-1 in the classification's game of the year. Meanwhile, West Hall, Dawson County, Woodward Academy, North Hall and Cartersville each suffered losses. East Hall is ranked this week after upsetting Dawson County.

Two top five teams in Class AA fell as Calhoun and Westminster each lost games to out-of-state teams. Lovett, however, handed Chattanooga-power Baylor (Tenn.) its first loss of the year and moved back into the AA poll as a result.

### LACROSSE LAND ...

Girls lacrosse Class AAAAAA No. 1 Milton was impressive against Winter Springs (Fla.), Kent Denver (Col.) and Good Counsel (D.C.) last week, posting a 2-0-1 record. Meanwhile, Class A-AAAAA No. 1 Westminster notched a win over Lovett while No. 2 Cambridge scored a pair of wins over Lambert and North Forsyth. No. 3 Kell went 1-1 against teams from North Carolina while Starr's Mill climbed to No. 7 after defeating Marist and Whitewater.

*Photo courtesy of Sonny Kennedy. Email sblack@scoreatl.com with any rankings questions or comments.*


**BOYS**

# SOCCER RANKINGS

### CLASS AAAAAA

- |                     |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 1. Lassiter         | 6. Lambert       |
| 2. Centennial       | 7. Harrison      |
| 3. East Coweta      | 8. South Forsyth |
| 4. Brookwood        | 9. Collins Hill  |
| 5. Central Gwinnett | 10. Walton       |

### CLASS AAAAA

- |                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1. McIntosh       | 6. Heritage-Conyers |
| 2. Glynn Academy  | 7. Clarke Central   |
| 3. Starr's Mill   | 8. Lithia Springs   |
| 4. Houston County | 9. Greenbrier       |
| 5. Allatoona      | 10. Evans           |

### CLASS AAAA

- |                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| 1. St. Pius X      | 6. North Murray  |
| 2. Blessed Trinity | 7. Dawson County |
| 3. West Hall       | 8. Cross Keys    |
| 4. Woodward Acad.  | 9. East Hall     |
| 5. Cartersville    | 10. North Hall   |

### CLASS AAA

- |                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Dalton              | 6. Grady         |
| 2. Chestatee           | 7. NW Whitfield  |
| 3. Carrollton          | 8. SE Whitfield  |
| 4. Johnson-Gainesville | 9. Spalding      |
| 5. Alexander           | 10. Mary Persons |

### CLASS AA

- |                |                     |
|----------------|---------------------|
| 1. GAC         | 6. Westside-Augusta |
| 2. Westminster | 7. Benedictine      |
| 3. Calhoun     | 8. Wesleyan         |
| 4. Coosa       | 9. Lovett           |
| 5. Thomasville | 10. Murray County   |

### CLASS A

- |                     |                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Atlanta Intl.    | 6. Fellowship Chr.    |
| 2. Paideia          | 7. Pinecrest Acad.    |
| 3. Hebron Christian | 8. Mount Paran        |
| 4. Pacelli          | 9. First Presbyterian |
| 5. Pace Academy     | 10. Galloway          |

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# COACHES ONLY



## Football Recruiting Expos hosts two events

By Score Atlanta

College Park's Hilton Garden Inn Millennium Center will be a busy place April 26 as football coaches will be able to take part in a pair of fascinating events. Football Recruiting Expos is putting on two events that will allow high school coaches to get in direct contact with college coaches. The morning event will give high school football coaches access to college coaches from FCS, Division II, III, NAIA and junior college schools for the 2013 Spring Metro Atlanta College Football Recruiting Fair. The coaches-only event will afford high school coaches the opportunity to bring highlight tapes, player profiles and transcripts of prospects from the 2013 and 2014 classes to share with the college coaches.

Event Coordinator Ahmad Tinker said the recruiting fair is a wonderful chance for coaches to promote upcoming college prospects.

"Many of the bigger programs have already started focusing on the 2014 class, and the coaches will be able to get their players out there to these schools," said Tinker.

Tinker and Football Recruiting Expos has been involved with the Spring Metro Atlanta College Recruiting Fair since 2008.

### SUPER FRIDAY ...

The second event to be held at the Hilton

Garden Inn Millennium Center is the Georgia Minority Coaches Association "Super Friday" Clinic. This clinic is open to all coaches and has been the platform event for the GAMCA for the past four years.

"This is one of the best football coaches clinics around and it helps coaches become better professionals," said Tinker. "We have some of the biggest coaches from the SEC coming in this year to help our coaches with program building and with how to deal with today's athletes."

The Super Friday Clinic will have six SEC coaches addressing the audience including Georgia's Mark Richt, Alabama's Nick Saban, Mississippi State's Dan Mullen, Tennessee's Butch Jones, Vanderbilt's James Franklin and Auburn's Gus Malzahn. Tinker noted the coaches will help share ideas and practices that will go a long way to help the high school coaches in attendance improve both as coaches and as professionals. As the event has grown, Tinker noted that the list of speakers has grown as has the profile of the invited guests. While coaches from the Southeastern Conference will dominate the podium this year, the GAMCA and Football Recruiting Expos will have coaches from the ACC speak in 2014.

For more information on both events, visit [mcaofga.com](http://mcaofga.com) and [fresports.com](http://fresports.com).

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S A - B R K

# GIRLS

## SOCCER RANKINGS

### CLASS AAAAAA

- |                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Harrison      | 6. Collins Hill |
| 2. Lassiter      | 7. Brookwood    |
| 3. Parkview      | 8. Grayson      |
| 4. Mill Creek    | 9. Tift County  |
| 5. South Forsyth | 10. Hillgrove   |

### CLASS AAAAA

- |                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Whitewater      | 6. North Paulding   |
| 2. Northview       | 7. Heritage-Conyers |
| 3. Lakeside-DeKalb | 8. McIntosh         |
| 4. Starr's Mill    | 9. Houston County   |
| 5. Glynn Academy   | 10. Flowery Branch  |

### CLASS AAAA

- |                     |              |
|---------------------|--------------|
| 1. Marist           | 6. Veterans  |
| 2. Heritage-Catoosa | 7. Alexander |
| 3. Locust Grove     | 8. Grady     |
| 4. Cairo            | 9. Spalding  |
| 5. Chestatee        | 10. Columbus |

### CLASS AAA

- |                    |                            |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. St. Pius X      | 6. Jackson County          |
| 2. Buford          | 7. White County            |
| 3. Blessed Trinity | 8. North Oconee            |
| 4. Dawson County   | 9. Lakeview-Ft. Oglethorpe |
| 5. Chapel Hill     | 10. Cartersville           |

### CLASS AA

- |                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
| 1. GAC                 | 6. Vidalia       |
| 2. Westminster         | 7. Temple        |
| 3. Calhoun             | 8. Putnam County |
| 4. Oglethorpe Co.      | 9. Bremen        |
| 5. St. Vincent's Acad. | 10. Dublin       |

### CLASS A

- |                     |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1. First Presb. Day | 6. Savannah Ctry Day |
| 2. Hebron Christian | 7. Holy Innocents'   |
| 3. Mount Paran      | 8. Paideia           |
| 4. Providence Chr.  | 9. Calvary Day       |
| 5. Strong Rock Chr. | 10. Fellowship Chr.  |

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# SPORTS AND INJURIES



## Children's teaches kids how to prevent ACL injuries

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

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

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

The Children's Healthcare of Atlanta ACL Injury Prevention Program is designed

to reduce knee injuries in young athletes while also improving their sports performance.

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

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

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

athletic trainers.

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

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

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

Visit [choa.org/ACL](http://choa.org/ACL) for more information about the Children's ACL Injury Prevention Program.

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

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



## BASEBALL RANKINGS

### Class AAAAAA

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

### Class AAAAA

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

### Class AAAA

1. Crisp County
2. Columbus
3. Alexander
4. Marist
5. Eastside
6. Redan
7. Veterans
8. Stephens County
9. Lanier
10. Griffin

### Class AAA

1. Blessed Trinity
2. North Hall
3. Pierce County
4. Buford
5. Cartersville
6. St. Pius
7. Woodward Academy
8. North Oconee
9. Chapel Hill
10. Tattall County

### Class AA

1. Jefferson
2. Lovett
3. Westminster
4. Berrien
5. Pepperell
6. Bremen
7. Benedictine
8. Wesleyan
9. Calhoun
10. Lamar County

### Class A- Private

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

### Class A- Public

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

## LACROSSE RANKINGS

### BOYS

#### Class AAAAAA

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

#### Class A-AAAAA

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

### GIRLS

#### Class AAAAAA

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

#### Class A-AAAAA

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



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## BULLDOG BEAT



### Diamond Dogs hunt first series win

By Chris Nieman

This is shaping up to be a season to forget for the Georgia Bulldogs. The Diamond Dawgs, at times, have displayed glimpses of team cohesiveness and the ability to play fundamentally sound baseball, but most of the season has been overshadowed by flat-out disastrous play. No matter what adjustments have been addressed, from altering the pitching rotation to switching up the batting lineup, the team cannot seem to sustain a winning streak. Georgia's home record is sitting at a lousy 8-14: in no way, shape or form can any team stay afloat and/or contend if it cannot defend its home turf.

When it rains, it pours and that correlates well with the Diamond Dawgs' success, or lack thereof, against SEC Toes. In five three-game SEC series, skipper David Perno and the Bulldogs have gone "0-fer" in conference play, including losing two out of three to the Auburn Tigers. In that span, Georgia has only won three of 15 contests, not to mention being swept by Texas A&M and Alabama.

The competition doesn't get any easier as the Diamond Dawgs host the No. 2 Vanderbilt Commodores in a three-game series starting Friday at Foley Field. What a statement it would be if the Bulldogs could pull off their first series victory.

#### DOGS DRAFTED ...

After leading the Lady Dogs to their first Elite Eight since 2004, three Georgia seniors were selected in the 2013 WNBA Draft on Monday night. Selected 21st overall in the second round by the Indiana Fever was Jasmine Hassell, an All-SEC forward that led the Lady Dogs in scoring with 12.7 points. Jasmine James and Anne Marie Armstrong were selected back-to-back in the third round by the Seattle Storm and the Atlanta Dream, respectively.

#### KCP GOES PRO ...

Any hope of the 2013-14 UGA men's basketball program being a contender possibly went right out the window on Monday when Mark Fox announced that redshirt-sophomore Kentavious Caldwell-Pope has declared for the 2013 NBA Draft.

"It's been a pleasure to coach Kentavious and to see him grow as both a player and a person," Fox said. "I wish him nothing but success as he pursues his dreams. He will always be a part of the Georgia family."

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

## TECH BUZZ



### Jackets bounce back against Virginia

By Ryan Caiafa

After dropping a tough series against Duke last weekend in Durham, the Jackets looked to return to their winning ways back home against the fifth-ranked Virginia Cavaliers. Friday night's game saw Buck Farmer, who has been Tech's best and most consistent pitcher, throw his second straight complete game, allowing one run and striking out 10 Cavaliers to earn his seventh win of the season as the Jackets took the first game of the series 2-1. Zane Evans, Kyle Wren, and A.J. Murray each contributed two hits for the Jackets. Saturday's game was a different story for Tech as Virginia got to Dusty Isaacs early and tagged him for five runs on seven hits as they won 7-2. One of the Jackets' few positive notes on offense saw Daniel Palka hit his ninth home run of the season. Palka also drove in the team's second run as well.

The rubber game of the series turned out to be a rain-soaked affair that ended early as the Jackets were able to take a 3-2 advantage before the game was called in the bottom of the sixth as the field conditions worsened and the travel curfew for Virginia neared. Cole

Pitts pitched 5.1 innings, allowing two runs on two hits, and picked up his fifth win of the season. Murray's RBI double in the fourth inning put the Jackets on top for good and ultimately clinched the series win. After the weekend, the Jackets stand at 26-10 overall, with an 11-7 conference record.

#### KUCHAR AT MASTERS ...

Tech alumnus Matt Kuchar put together another top-10 finish at the Masters in Augusta this past weekend, tying for eighth after finishing third in 2012. Kuchar finished at 3-under-par, tying Sergio Garcia and Lee Westwood. A first-round 68 immediately put him in contention, but Kuchar had to battle back after following with a 75 in Round Two. Over the weekend, he shot a 69 and 73 in the third and final rounds, respectively to ultimately finish eighth in the tournament won by Adam Scott, who held off Angel Cabrera to take home the green jacket. Another Tech alumnus, Stewart Cink finished tied for 25th at 2-over-par.

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

## PANTHER PROWL



### Miles, Panthers approach spring game

By Jay Underwood

Georgia State's spring game is set for Saturday, and it will be the first time the Panthers take the field led by a coach not named Bill Curry. New head coach Trent Miles and his staff have worked tirelessly this off-season to get their team prepared for the jump to FBS, and this Saturday they will be playing their first FBS game, even if it is against themselves.

#### PLAYING THE GAME ...

With many questions swirling during springs practices about position battles and what type of offense will be run, the players finally get to go out and do what they love: playing the game of football. With no true leader in the race for starting quarterback, all the three of the candidates will be rotating between first team and second team, so look for offensive coordinator Jeff Jagodzinski to ride the hot hand.

Due to a lack of depth, the spring game will be run more like a practice, featuring 7-on-7 drills, position drills, and a brief full-squad scrimmage to end the day. Miles understands that fans will be anxious to see results immediately, but he has enough experience to

know that building a program is a lot more than just winning games early on.

This spring, Miles finally got to see the pieces he had to work with and is excited that he has finally gotten a game plan on how to proceed with the program in all facets of its construction. In the first season or two, there will be players playing out of position to cover up weaknesses in the depth chart.

In the team's last scrimmage, quarterback Ben McLane completed 13 of 21 passes with a touchdown and no interceptions. Much of this found success can be attributed to more time in the pocket and better all-around play from an offensive line that had finally started to develop some chemistry. This chemistry has had an incredible effect on the entire offense. Once the team is back to full strength, whomever leads the offense should be able to work the ball around and maintain drives allowing the defense to stay fresh on the sideline, an issue they faced all of last season.

The game begins at 1:00 on Saturday and admission is free.

*Underwood can be reached at [junderwood@scoreatl.com](mailto:junderwood@scoreatl.com).*

## OWL OUTLOOK



### Bohannon hires three assistant coaches

By Brian Jones

The inaugural football season is still 27 months away, but there's still a lot of work to be done between now and the first game of the season.

One of the things head coach Brian Bohannon has to do is put together his coaching staff. He started that process this week as he hired Grant Chesnut as the offensive coordinator and offensive line coach.

Chesnut has spent the last two years as the athletic director and head football coach at Central High School in Carrollton and brings a wealth of coaching experience as he has been in the business for 14 years.

"Grant is an outstanding coach and communicator. He believes in developing young men and helping them be successful in life," Bohannon told [ksuowls.com](http://ksuowls.com). "Grant and I have a lot of similar philosophies and thoughts in the way we want to do things and he and I have established a relationship over the last couple of years."

#### COACH CHESNUT ...

Before taking over as the head coach of Central, Chesnut was the offensive coordinator, offensive line and strength and conditioning coach for Mary Persons High School from 2007-10. Before that, Chesnut spent two years as the defensive line coach for Camden

County High School, three seasons as the co-defensive coordinator and defensive line coach at Thomasville and one season as the offensive line coach for Pickens County.

Chesnut also spent two seasons coaching at the college level, as he was the defensive line coach at Presbyterian College in 2000 and 2001.

"My family and I are extremely humbled to be asked to be a part of the Kennesaw State community," Chesnut told [ksuowls.com](http://ksuowls.com).

Bohannon also hired Liam Klein and Shane Bowen, who worked with Bohannon at Georgia Tech. Their positions were not announced at press time.

#### BASEBALL NEWS ...

With all this football talk, we can't forget about the spring sports at KSU and the baseball team has been up-and-down as of late.

Over the weekend, the Owls dropped two of three games to conference rival Jacksonville which dropped them to fourth place in the Atlantic Sun Conference. On Tuesday, the Owls lost a non-conference game to Georgia State 3-2 in extra innings. Alex Liquori led the Owls with a two-run homer in the bottom of the seventh.

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

# HAWKS HAVEN



## Hawks head into sixth straight postseason

By Ricky Dimon

The Atlanta Hawks will be competing in their sixth consecutive postseason when the action kicks off this weekend across the NBA. With it comes the end of a mostly uninteresting stretch of basketball. Atlanta clinched a playoff spot more than two weeks ago and it never made a serious push for home-court advantage in the first round (Brooklyn, the No. 4 seed, is four games clear of the Hawks as of Wednesday afternoon). Larry Drew's crew has been bouncing back and forth with Chicago between the fifth and sixth spot without showing too much interest one way or the other.

Tuesday's penultimate regular season game against Toronto showcased Atlanta's attitude toward its playoff positioning. Leading the Bulls by a half game, the home team was without Al Horford (sore left shoulder) and DeShawn Stevenson (illness) and it played Josh Smith for just 13 minutes, Kyle Korver for 18 minutes and Jeff Teague also for 18 minutes. The Raptors feasted on their depleted opponents to the tune of a 113-96 victory that left the Hawks in a tie for the No. 6 seed with Chicago. Korver led the way for Atlanta despite his limited time, draining a trio of three-pointers and finishing with 13 points. Ivan Johnson

and Mike Scott, who logged 27 minutes on the floor, both contributed 12 points.

### PLAYOFF SCENARIOS ...

The Bulls hold the tiebreaker over Atlanta due to their 2-1 record in the head-to-head series during the season. Currently in sixth as a result, the Hawks would face Indiana in the first round. Should they resurface at No. 5, the Hawks would go up against Brooklyn. Part of the six seed's attractiveness is avoiding Miami until at least the Eastern Conference Finals. The finale of playoff positioning came on Wednesday and boiled down to Atlanta at New York and Chicago vs. Washington, but results were not available at press time (only an Atlanta win and a Chicago loss would flip-flop the standings).

Both of the regular-season series against the Pacers and Nets were split. The Hawks beat Indiana twice at home before dropping a pair of road contests, most recently a 100-94 decision on March 25. They went 1-1 in home and away dates with Brooklyn back in January (both teams won at home) then did the same last month (both teams lost at home).

*Dimon can be reached at rdimon@scoreatl.com.*

# FALCONS BEAT



## Draft day brings decisions for Falcons

By Craig Sager II

Developing a draft pick into an inexpensive starter has been the recipe of a surging franchise that has posted five straight winning seasons. Fifteen of the Falcons' 22 consistent starters last year were former Atlanta draft picks and Dimitroff acquired 10 of the 15 after taking over in 2008. The defensive line, however, has remained an Achilles heel of the Falcons' defense and its two most important pieces in recent years, Jonathan Abraham and Jonathan Babineaux, both predated the arrival of Dimitroff.

The gap from the first- to seventh-round talent is seemingly shrinking each year. Two of the best pass rushers from a season ago were former Bucs defensive end Michael Bennett, who was an undrafted free agent, and sixth-round pick Greg Hardy. Bennett had 10 sacks last year and Hardy had 11.

The Falcons have 11 draft picks and plenty of key roles available to the incoming draft class. Atlanta cut cornerback Dunta Robinson, who signed with the Chiefs, and let free agents Brent Grimes (Miami) and Christopher Owens (Cleveland) walk. They will be in the market for an NFL-ready corner to help Asante Samuel, Robert McClain and Dominique Franks.

### LOCAL TALENT ...

When Atlanta drafted former Central Gwinnett Black Knight defensive end Jonathan Massaquoi in 2012, it marked the 16th time a former Georgia high school football player was drafted by the Falcons since 1988. The Dallas Cowboys are the only team with a higher total (17). The average per draft has been 13.7, and the Falcons could add more former Georgia varsity talent to its roster.

No Georgia ties on the roster are stronger than starting linebacker Akeem Dent's, who played his high school football just five miles from the Georgia Dome at Douglass High School. The former Georgia Bulldog will see more than a dozen of his former teammates available draft day. The record for most Bulldogs taken in a draft was eight in 2002, but it appears this year will break it. As many as nine Bulldogs have been projected to go in the first three rounds. Jarvis Jones, Alec Ogletree and John Jenkins headline the double-digit list of defensive prospects, and the possibility of the needy Atlanta defense acquiring Peach State talent towards its 2013 Super Bowl campaign is a likely result.

*Sager can be reached at csager@scoreatl.com.*

# CHOP SHOP



## Braves streaking through early schedule

By Fletcher Proctor

The Atlanta Braves took two of three from the Philadelphia Phillies to open the season, beating Cole Hamels and Roy Halladay in the process, offering plenty of optimism for the 2013 season. After failing to score a run in the third game of the year, Atlanta quickly ran off a nine-game winning streak that saw the Braves sweep three-game series with the Chicago Cubs, Miami Marlins and Washington Nationals. While the Cubs and Marlins are expected to be bad, taking three straight from the Nationals in Washington caught the attention of baseball pundits from across the country.

Grantland's Jonah Keri moved the Braves to the top of this week's MLB The 30 power rankings while ESPN's baseball experts moved the Braves up to No. 1, dethroning Washington in the process. Matt Snyder of CBSSports.com also promoted the Braves past the Nats in his latest poll.

### BRAVES PITCHING ...

Just as in the heyday of the 1990's, Atlanta's formula for success during the recent winning streak started with pitching. Paul Maholm has been untouchable all season, winning his first three starts while not allowing a single run in 20.1 innings. According to ESPN Stats and Info., Maholm joined Luis Tiant (1966), Woody

Williams (2003) and Zack Grienke (2009) as the only pitchers since 1961 to win their first three starts of the year without allowing a run.

After working over Washington Sunday, Maholm as struck out 20 while allowing just 11 hits and five walks. Batters are hitting just .153 off him this season. Maholm is 12-5 with a 2.15 ERA in his past 21 appearances dating back to his time with the Cubs.

Tim Hudson and Mike Minor are both 2-0 with Minor sporting a 0.69 ERA after just two starts. Minor has allowed 10 hits and one earned run, a solo home run, with 11 strikeouts in 13 innings. Hudson is 2-0 with a no-decision from Opening Day's win. He has pitched 18 innings and he outdueled Stephen Strasburg last Saturday in a 3-1 Braves win.

### STILL STROKING ...

While his home run pace has slowed a touch, Justin Upton entered Tuesday's Jackie Robinson Day game against Kansas City as the MLB home run leader with seven bombs. Upton blasted a homer off Gio Gonzalez in Atlanta's 9-0 win Sunday, his first since blasting six in his first seven games. Evan Gattis is second on the team with four.

*Proctor can be reached at fproctor@scoreatl.com.*

# GWINNETT GLADIATORS



## Glads back in Kelly Cup semifinals

By Joe Deighton

The Gwinnett Gladiators are on their way to the Kelly Cup semifinals after breaking out the brooms in the first round against South Carolina. The Glads thoroughly dominated the opening-round series by outscoring the Stingrays 15-6 in the four-game sweep. Gwinnett will face Cincinnati on Friday in Game 1 of the second round at The Arena at Gwinnett Center.

### SWEET SWEEP ...

The Gladiators notched the third playoff sweep in their history when they beat South Carolina in the opening round of the Kelly Cup Playoffs. It took four games to dispose of the Stingrays, but this series felt like it was over after the Glads won 5-0 in Game 1. The shutout in the first game set the tone for the series and the ice was tilted towards Gwinnett in each successive game.

Left wing forward Ryan Ginand led the way for Gwinnett with seven points (three goals, four assists) in the series. Forward Evan Bloodoff tallied three goals, including the game-winner in Game 4. Starting goalie Louis Dominguez was spectacular in all four games, making a total of 108 saves and putting up a shutout in Game 1.

The series sweep comes as a surprise to

most because Gwinnett and South Carolina played so evenly during the regular season. Now, the Gladiators will face the second-seeded Cincinnati Cyclones. No one expected a sweep in the first round and no one expects a sweep in the second, but Dominguez has been unflappable and the Gladiators are hungry.

### SEMIS PREVIEW ...

The Cincinnati Cyclones come into the second-round matchup with the Glads after beating Toledo in six games. The Cyclones took a 3-0 lead in their opening-round series, but struggled to beat Toledo, eventually winning Game 6 in overtime. Gwinnett is the more rested team, Cincy is the more tested team and the first two games will show which of those aspects will pay off.

This is the fifth trip to the second round of the Kelly Cup Playoffs for the Gladiators and they have a 2-2 record in the previous four series. Game 2 has made a big difference in the previous trips to the semifinals. The two winning series have produced wins in Game 2; the two losses have produced Game 2 defeats. Game 1 will be important for both teams, Game 2 will be more important to the Glads.

*Deighton can be reached at jdeighton@scoreatl.com.*

*Roybal*  
Photography

troybal@gmail.com  
770-280-7003  
tobiasroybal.com



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