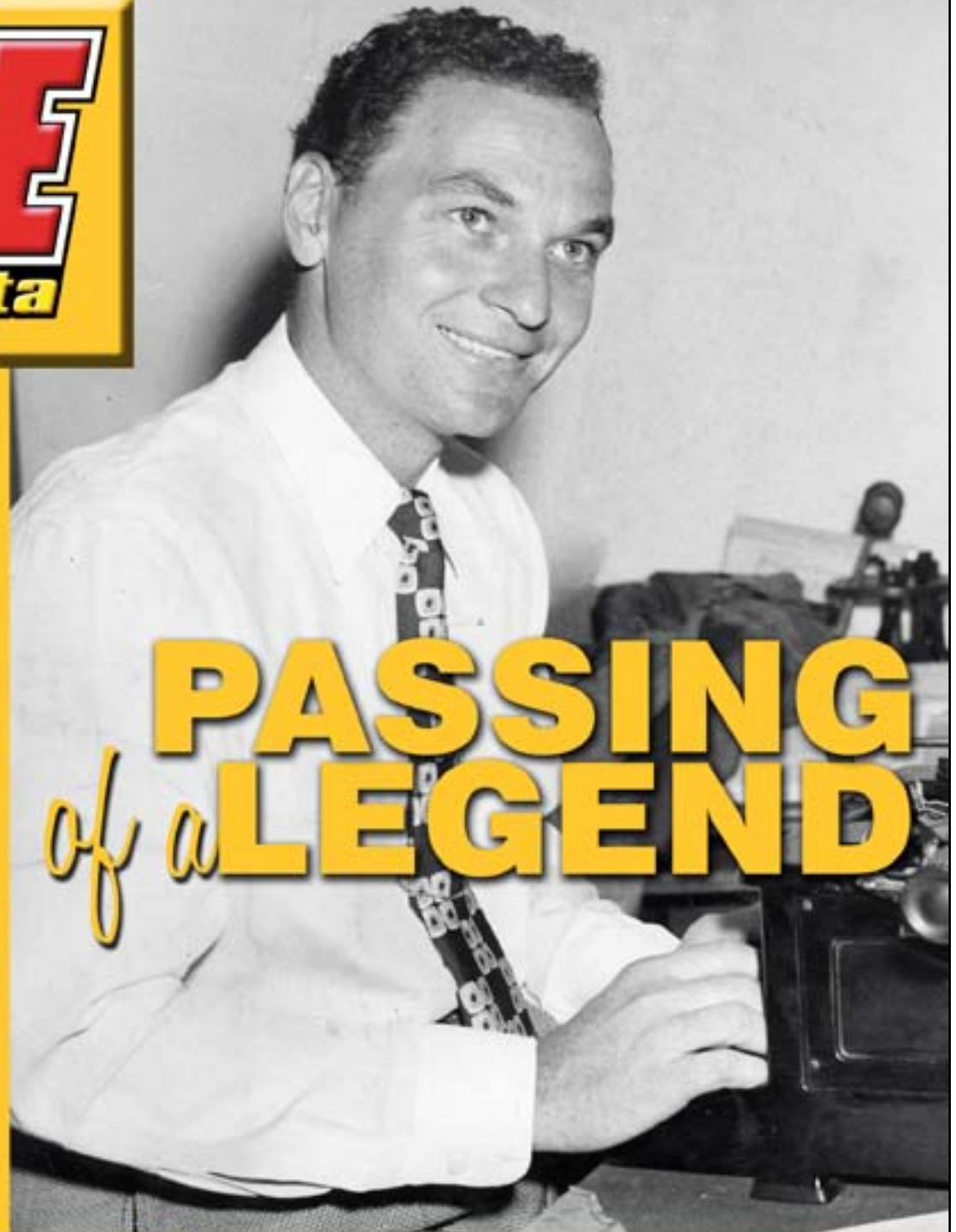


SCORE

Vol. 8 | Iss. 6 | Mar 23 - Apr 5, 2012 **atlanta**



**JACKETS
MARCH ON!**



**PASSING
of a LEGEND**

HOOTERS

**MARCH MADNESS +
HOOTERS = MAYHEM!**



SPORTS RADIO
790 THE ZONE

**CHECK OUT OUR PREP
COVERAGE ON PAGE 7!**



**We convert your piled, filed,
boxed and shelved films and photos so that
you can relive them with today's technology**

Video Impact
The Experts in Visual Communication

TRANSFERRING MEMORIES SINCE 1985
404.256.4108 | 5975 Roswell Road, Suite A-125

THE ALL-AMERICAN LINEUP

Designed, Engineered and Assembled in the U.S.A.

CLAYTON APPLIANCE, INC.

200 NORTH 85 PARKWAY
FAYETTEVILLE, GA 30214
(770) 461-8331

MAXIMA™ FRONT LOAD LAUNDRY PAIR

The **PowerWash™ System** combines the PowerWash™ cycle, the Optimal Dose Dispenser and Power Spray technology to deliver the best cleaning in the industry.*



ASSEMBLED IN OHIO

TALL TUB DISHWASHER

100% Stainless Steel tub interior maintains a premium appearance while providing higher heat retention for better drying performance.

Silverware Blast™ spray jets eliminates the need to pre-rinse by focusing 3X water pressure directly onto silverware so even the dirtiest utensils come out clean the first time, every time.



ASSEMBLED IN OHIO



MHW9000YR & MFC9000YR
Washers with optional "S.S." pedestal, model XRPC1500R

MDD9000SAB

MFR6000KEM

METH900KS

26 CU. FT. FRENCH DOOR REFRIGERATOR

The **flush dispenser with Precision Touch controls** provide style and advanced technology, helping to keep track of refrigerator temperatures and settings without opening the doors.

The **Wide-N-Fresh Deli Drawer** provides ample storage for large party platters, deli trays and snacks.



ASSEMBLED IN IOWA

6.7 CU. FT. GEMINI™ DOUBLE OVEN ELECTRIC RANGE

Two separate ovens. One complete meal.*
Dual ovens can bake at different temperatures at the same time, making it easy to cook an entire meal at once.

Power Preheat the upper oven **up to 40% faster** than full-size conventional Maytag® ovens to help prepare meals more quickly.

6.0 cu. ft. Gas Range also available (MGT8775KS)



ASSEMBLED IN TENNESSEE



*Parts vary by model.
Visit maytag.com for warranty details.



DESIGNED, ENGINEERED &
ASSEMBLED IN THE U.S.A.

*Among leading competitive brand front load washers, comparable cycles, using default settings.

®Registered trademark™Trademark of Maytag Properties, LLC or its related companies. ©2011. All rights reserved. MGT1071

SCORE
atlanta

STARTING LINEUP

PUBLISHER/EDITOR I.J. Rosenberg
ART/CREATIVE DIRECTOR DJ Galbiati
SENIOR MANAGING EDITOR Stephen Black
ASST. MANAGING DIRECTOR Fletcher Proctor
BUSINESS MANAGER Marvin Botnick
SALES Chris Love

BEAT WRITERS

Stephen Black (UGA), Sean Conway (Falcons),
Joe Deighton (Gladiators), Fletcher Proctor (Braves),
Brian Jones (Basketball), Robby Kalland (Hawks),
Thomas Watson (Tech), Ryan Caiafa (GSU)

STAFF WRITERS

Josh Bagriansky
Chris Lionetti

TO ADVERTISE IN SCORE ATLANTA:
404.256.1572

Copyright 2012 Score Atlanta Publishing, LLC. All rights reserved. Score Atlanta is published every week on Fridays. Views expressed in Score Atlanta are not necessarily the opinion of Score Atlanta, its staff or advertisers. Score Atlanta does not knowingly accept false or misleading editorial content or advertising nor is Score Atlanta responsible for the content or claims of any advertising or editorial in this publication. No content (articles, photographs, graphics) in Score Atlanta may be used for reproduction without written permission from the publisher.

CAN'T MISS THIS WEEK

4 I.J. Rosenberg writes about the passing of his friend and mentor, Furman Bisher.

5 Josh Bagriansky salutes sportswriting icon Furman Bisher and his remarkable life and career in this week's cover story.

7 Mariah Stackhouse is an emerging golfer from North Clayton and our Fletcher Proctor tells her story here.

8/9 We break down the spring sports season in Georgia high school athletics.

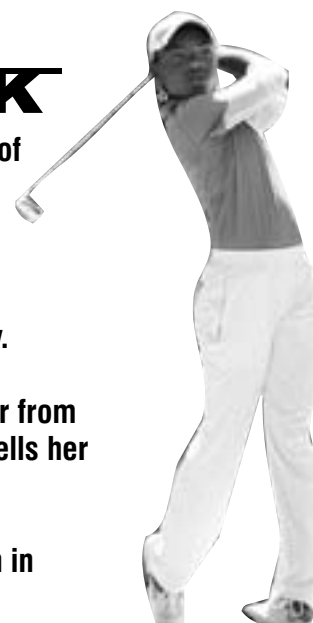
TEAM SCOOP AND VOICES

COVER DESIGN BY DJ GALBIATI
COVER PHOTOS COURTESY OF GEORGIA TECH ATHLETICS
AND THE ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION

6 SCORE LIST - TRIVIA

12 GSU/KSU/UGA/TECH

13 SCORE MORE



SHOT OF THE WEEK...



WILD INDIANS: McEachern's girls basketball team overwhelmed Norcross in the semifinals last Friday in Gwinnett. Here, Lady Blue Devils star Patrice Butler is swarmed by the Lady Indians' defense. McEachern won the game 64-61. Photo by Walter Pinion.

INSIDE AT SCORE

ON THE Score Atlanta is looking for new sales associates as well as writing and graphic design interns. For sales positions, e-mail Bob Houghton at boughton@scoreatl.com. For writing internships, e-mail Stephen Black at sblack@scoreatl.com. For graphic design internships, e-mail DJ Galbiati at djgalbiati@scoreatl.com. Feel free to call 404-256-1572 to speak with someone about any of these positions.

Joseph & Friends

AVEDA Lifestyle Salon & Spa

Est. 1989

770.993.0058

JosephAndFriends.com

ROSWELL

1570 Holcomb Bridge Road
Roswell, GA 30076

MILTON

13057 Highway 9 North
Alpharetta, GA 30004

JOHNS CREEK

11720 Medlock Bridge Road
Duluth, GA 30097

CUMMING

5735 Clarion Street
Cumming, GA 30040



THE FLETCH



Bisher tributes circulate local media

By Fletcher Proctor

One of the absolute legends of Atlanta sportswriting, Furman Bisher, passed away last Sunday at the age of 93. According to reports, Mr. Bisher suffered a heart attack and was taken to the hospital.

The former AJC sports writer covered the Kentucky Derby, the Masters, the Braves, Georgia and Georgia Tech among other topics including Super Bowls and NASCAR during his 59 years with the AJC. After retiring in 2009, he still covered various events and also contributed to the Southern Community Newspapers Inc., which owns the Gwinnett Daily Post. He was also a contributor to Sports Illustrated and the Sporting News. Mr. Bisher was a member

of the Atlanta Sports Hall of Fame, the International Golf Writers Hall of Fame and the National Sportscasters and Sportswriters Hall of Fame and won the Red Smith Award for contributions to journalism.

The tributes for Mr. Bisher have come from all over the state, with AJC colleagues, Gwinnett Daily Post columnists, and even our own president, IJ Rosenberg, honoring his memory. Mark Bradley wrote of a road trip to Clemson that he recalled fondly while Jeff Schultz remembered his friend. Rosenberg has been posting some of his fondest memories of "The Bish" all week.

I personally was thrilled to receive an email from Mr. Bisher a few years back af-

ter writing a cover story about the Braves' new front office of Frank Wren and Bruce Manno. Here was Bisher, an award-winning author who helped bring the Braves to Atlanta, emailing me to tell me he enjoyed my piece on the Braves. That was special for me and it is something that I will not forget. The Masters coverage this year just will not be the same without Mr. Bisher walking around the Augusta grounds.

LESS IS MORE ...

Former Braves pitching coach Leo Mazzone has decided to scale back his hours on 680 The Fan's The Rude Awakening according to a story in the AJC, and that could not be better news for the average listener to the morning-drive show.

When discussing baseball Mazzone is an asset to the show, but too many times point man Chris Rude would try to get Mazzone off on a silly topic which derailed his momentum. And when the topic is anything but baseball, Mazzone has trouble fitting in and offering a consistent opinion. He is too easily-swayed by co-host Perry Laurentino's arguments that he switches sometimes in mid-thought.

Mazzone was/is far better on the Braves

pregame coverage when he is in a comfort zone and can sit back and play the "I used to be the Atlanta pitching coach" card. Mazzone has been skipping the first hour of the show and the other hosts seem to click without him "hmm-ing" and "OK-ing" every so often. It will be interesting to see, moving forward, if the show decides to cut him out after the baseball season.

WHO'S THE WORST ...

Earlier this week, we posed a question on twitter @scoreatlanta and on our site recently: which Atlanta "rival" do you love beating the most. The Celtics were in town and many people remember Paul Pierce's comments the year that Atlanta swept the regular season series with the Celtics that Boston didn't consider Atlanta a rival. While I expected a bunch of people to say the C's for that reason, most said they loved beating the Heat more than the Celtics. A few folks love to tag the Celtics, but far more folks tweeted and voted that LeBron James' Heat is public enemy No. 1. I guess just like the Celtics players themselves, Atlanta's beef with Boston is ancient history.

Proctor can be reached at fproctor@scoreatl.com.

CHEAP SEATS



My farewell to a friend and mentor

By IJ Rosenberg

Furman Bisher died this week at the young age of 93. I loved the man. Period. He was my mentor during my 13-plus years at the Atlanta Journal-Constitution and I never met someone with so much energy in his later years.

AN ALL-TIMER ...

He was one of the greatest sportswriters to ever live and if he ever would have gone into fiction writing he would have been up there right beside Hemmingway, who also cut his spurs on sports.

There are so many Bisher stories I could tell you but we would be here for weeks. Actually my favorite one came off the field, or perhaps away from the typewriter.

On a trip in the late 1980's to an Auburn-

Georgia football matchup, four of us from the AJC drove to cover the game. Before we got there, we all decided it was time to eat and, as sportswriters typically do, we spared no expense; we pulled into a McDonald's.

Now Furman, who could afford prime rib at every meal and was about 70 at the time, let us know that he had never eaten at the Golden Arches. We thought he was kidding, but Furman never was the kidding type and said this was a first. We walked in and lined up to order and Furman was behind me. I finished and he walked up to the counter, took off his glasses and looked up at the menu. Perplexed, he looked at the woman ready to take his order and said, "Ma'am, I will have one of those Happy Meals."

We all lost it but sure enough they gave him one, he ate it, pocketed the toy and I don't think he ever understood what we thought was so funny.

BASEBALL YARNS ...

Furman taught me a lot, everything from the right way to interview an athlete or coach to how not to end your sentence with a preposition. When the Braves were hot in the 1990's and I was the AJC beat writer for the team, we took many a trip across the county, including two I will never forget.

In 1992, we were in Los Angeles and after the game, we looked to grab a cab back to the hotel. Dodger Stadium is only a few minutes from where we were staying downtown but a big Lincoln pulled up to us and in it was Tommy Lasorda. The Dodgers manager said, "Furman, get in and bring the kid." Furman got in the front, I slid in the back and Lasorda had a big, brown bag with him on the seat that smelled awfully good.

When we went through security, he handed it to the guard on duty and said, "Enjoy your dinner. We had ribs tonight." Lasorda then turned Bisher and said, "Those guys don't make a lot. I like to take care of them." We then headed to the hotel, listening to big band music with me comfortably in the back and two legends up front. I remember Bisher telling me, "What Tommy did with that se-

curity guard should tell you something about him. Everyone thinks Tommy is full of himself. Remember what you saw the next time you write about him."

Lesson learned with who we liked to call "The Bish." He wrote the foreword to my 1991 best-selling book "Miracle Season" and we co-wrote a book on Latin baseball players that was written in Spanish. When I left the paper in 1998, we stayed close and I have sent him every single issue of Score Atlanta.

Yes, Furman was a legend and I have decided to remember him this way. In 1991 at the World Series in Minnesota, I sat in the main press box between Furman and Lewis Gizzard, another writing legend. Lewis typed on a typewriter and Furman on a beat up computer. It was Game 7 and the game was scoreless and about to go into the 10th inning. Grizzard was pulling his hair out because deadline approached while Furman sat there coolly pecking away and turned to me and said, "I.J., what do you think about this first sentence."

Blown away that he would ask a just-turned-29-year-old his opinion, I can't even remember what I said.

I do know that I will never forget Furman and, friend, this Happy Meal is for you.

Rosenberg, the president of Score Atlanta, worked with Bisher at the AJC from 1985-98. Rosenberg can be reached at ijrosenberg@scoreatl.com.



BRING IN THIS AD FOR 15% OFF ANY SERVICE!

12916 Hwy. 92
Woodstock, GA 30188
770.592.6960

3630 Old Milton Pkwy, #140
Alpharetta, GA 30004
770.619.3988

1793 Beaver Run Rd.
Norcross, GA 30093
770.931.2411

WWW.ATLANTAMANSBE.COM

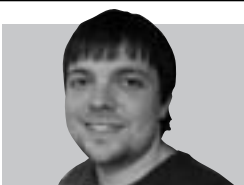
THE PROFESSIONAL DIFFERENCE IN DOG TRAINING

Training • Grooming
Boarding • Pet Supplies

Man's Best Friend

4 | MARCH 23-APRIL 5, 2012 | VOL. 8 ISS. 6

GOODBYE, OLD FRIEND



Atlanta mourns sportswriting giant

By Josh Bagriansky



Atlanta lost a local legend this week. North Carolina native Furman Bisher, a long-time columnist for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution and most recently for SCNI, passed away at the age of 93 from a heart attack.

Bisher's writing certainly provided a massive influence within the Atlanta sports community, but his impact went way beyond his penmanship. As someone whose career began when this city was still a small town of sorts, Bisher was one of the instrumental forces in altering the sporting landscape in Atlanta, changing it from that of a small and largely ignored market to the booming professional sports city it is today.

IMMEDIATE SUCCESS ...

Born in Denton, N.C., Bisher's parents named him after a well known Baptist minister, James Furman.

Bisher's success as a journalist was almost instant after graduating from the University of North Carolina in 1938. At just 20 years of age, he became the editor of the Lumberton Voice in Lumberton, N.C.

Several years later, Bisher found himself serving his country as a junior grade lieutenant in the U.S. Navy, where he edited a military newspaper and managed the Armed Services Radio Network in the South Pacific.

After returning home, Bisher would accomplish one of his most impressive feats as a journalist. In 1949, Bisher scored the only published interview with the infamous "Shoeless" Joe Jackson since his supposed involvement in the 1919 Black Sox Scandal. The former third baseman insisted upon his innocence in the interview and trusted only Bisher to tell his story.

"I had never seen Shoeless Joe before,"

Bisher once told longtime co-worker Jeff Schultz. "When we spoke he said 'this will be the first time I tell this story and the last.'"

Bisher would go on to call the interview one of his "biggest scoops" in Jackson's obituary after the old ball player passed away two years later.

ON TO ATLANTA ...

Bisher's fine career earned him a job at the Atlanta Constitution in 1950. It was there that he would really make a name for himself, becoming a household name in the Atlanta sports community thanks to his writing, opinions and overall influence on sports in a city that blossomed into an urban center during his tenure.

Bisher's accolades are too many to list in full. Some of the highest accolades included being named one of the nation's five best columnists by esteemed Time Magazine in 1961, serving as president of the Football Writers Association of America in 1959 and 1960, and presiding over the National Sportscasters and Sportswriters Association from 1964 to 1976.

In 1968, he scored a piece with another baseball legend, working in conjunction with Hank Aaron to write the legendary Braves superstar's first autobiography, *Aaron, RF*. Years later, Aaron was all set to break Babe Ruth's record for all-time home runs, and Bisher wrote an afterword to include Aaron's seasons from 1968 to 1973.

But his reach extended far beyond his writing. He was an active advocate for bringing professional sports to Atlanta. Bisher served as a charter member of the Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium Authority, an essential group in bringing the Braves to Atlanta.

By career's end, Bisher was inducted in the Georgia and Atlanta Sports Halls of Fame, and he was inducted into the Atlanta Press Club Hall of Fame in 2011.

FONDLY REMEMBERED ...

Rob Green Sr., a former columnist at the Charlotte Observer, worked for Bisher in his early days as an editor, where Bisher pushed the young writer to do more. For a hardworker like Bisher, striving for perfection was the only way to work. Green remembered his old colleague and friend's work ethic fondly after writing a tribute to him in the Observer.

"His travels [from Atlanta] often brought him to his native North Carolina to write about a football game between a Georgia team and one of our Big Four," Green wrote. "Never mind that he was one of the biggest names in sportswriting, he worked harder than anybody else in the press box. He would write a column for the early editions, maybe describing the campus, the weather, the crowd making its way into the stadium, relatively meaningless tidbits, but from his keyboard, they read beautifully. Then when the game was over he would write a lengthy account of the game and then another column, twiddling with a curl that hung down on his forehead as he chose his words. It was not unusual for him to be the last writer out of the press box."

Bisher was more than a writer, as Jeff Schultz wrote; he was a "legend." In his column about Bisher, the longtime AJC writer remembered Bisher as not just an esteemed colleague, but also a true pal.

"The man who watched Cy Young pitch, the man who saw Joe Louis box, the man who covered the very first post-bootlegging NASCAR race," Schultz wrote. "One of the few people who legitimately deserved to have the word 'legend' attached to his name — just dialed my cell phone to say, 'Hello, young man. I like what you wrote.'"

"I'm sad today, not just because I lost a friend and former colleague in Furman Bisher but because this is like a door to history slamming shut for all of us."

Having lived and written through so many eras, Bisher saw more over his illustrious career than one could imagine.

"People look at me like I'm in a museum or something," Bisher told Schultz. "It's like I'm one of those stone things, talking to you. A talking statue. They can't quite understand it. They look at me and say, 'You really knew him?' It really didn't strike me as that unusual at the time."

Schultz wasn't the only person in awe of Bisher's gift. Whether it was his writing, editing, friendships or opinions, Furman Bisher was a true legend, and is one of the principle figures in making Atlanta the sports town it is today.

Photo of Furman Bisher courtesy of The Atlanta Journal-Constitution. Bagriansky can be reached at jbagriansky@scoreatl.com.



Better than a Bank

Qualified members can reduce their loan rate by up to 3% with timely payments for 36 consecutive months.

**RATE
REWARD**

auto loans

Get associated.

← frugalicious!

acuonline.org

WHO'S HOT

THUMBS UP TO HOSTING MARCH MADNESS



NCAA Regionals

Two weeks ago, Atlanta hosted the prestigious ACC Tournament. Now, we're welcoming four of the best 16 men's college basketball teams in the country with a Final Four berth on the line. These events are simply more evidence that Atlanta is one of the premier cities for hosting big time sports.

Minor accomplishments

With less than two weeks remaining in spring training, Braves pitcher Mike Minor has yet to give up a run in Grapefruit League action, earned or unearned. The young lefty from Vanderbilt has earned his spot in the Braves' rotation for 2012 and possibly for many years to come. Kudos, Mike.

Peyton signing

The former star quarterback at Indianapolis and future NFL Hall of Famer has landed in Denver. His arm strength is improving and the way teams from coast-to-coast courted him proves how important and newsworthy he and free agency in general is to football fans, even in mid-March.

Lady Dogs

Georgia may perennially boast one of the most talented teams in the country, yet they seemingly always get eliminated early in the NCAA Tournament. I mean, when was the last time the Lady Dogs made a Cinderella run in the postseason? Rarely, if ever, as they are always seeded highly, yet always underachieve.

Huddy's balky back

Tim Hudson has been a warrior (albeit off-injured) for the Braves. And now, he's the venerable leader on a pitching staff loaded with young guns. Unfortunately, he won't be the opening day starter because he's still recovering from offseason back surgery. Hurry back, Tim. We need you!

Ohio basketball

Ohio basketball? Four teams from Ohio advanced to the Sweet Sixteen. Yes, there are some great college hoops teams from Ohio, but here's the bigger problem: our state can't consistently send even one team to the Big Dance. Let's keep our talent in Georgia and make a run (or more) of our own.



WHO'S NOT

THUMBS DOWN TO MISSING MARCH MADNESS

SCORE LIST

BY BRIAN JONES

1 DOME DANCING: The Georgia Dome will be rocking on Friday as the South region semifinals of the NCAA tournament begins. Baylor will face Xavier in the first game and Kentucky will face Indiana in the nightcap. It is sure to be a tough ticket, if only for Game 2 as Wildcats and Hoosiers fans are swarming the internet, trying to get into the semifinal. It is an important event for Atlanta, as the city prepares for the Final Four next year.

2 VIZCAINO OUT: The Braves suffered a huge blow this week when they learned Aroldys Vizcaino is out for the season due to an injured elbow. Vizcaino will need Tommy John surgery and won't be ready to go until March 2013. Even though Vizcaino had a rough September last year (9.40 ERA), he had an outstanding August (1.66 ERA). There is enough talent in the bullpen to replace Vizcaino; even though he will be missed, the Braves will find a replacement in a hurry.

3 WARD RETIRES: Former UGA and Pittsburgh Steelers standout Hines Ward has officially retired after 14 seasons in the NFL. The Forest Park grad holds Steelers records in receptions, receiving yards and receiving touchdowns. He also won two Super Bowls and was even named Super Bowl XL MVP. Now the question is, should Ward be in the Hall of Fame? Some people may not agree with this, but I believe he should be based on his on-the-field accomplishments.

4 HEISMAN RUN?: There have been reports coming out of UGA spring practice that Isaiah Crowell wants to make a run at the Heisman Trophy this year. Crowell, who was named SEC Freshman of the Year, had issues last season staying healthy and he could not seem to stay out of trouble off the field. Crowell is saying the right things now, and I think he realizes he could have done more to help his team win more games last year.

5 R.I.P. BISH: We were sad to learn about the passing of Furman Bisher over the weekend. Bisher was a legend and there will not be another writer like him. He covered a bevy of great events over the years and has interviewed so many great sports figures. My favorite column has to be the Thanksgiving column he did each year. Thoughts and prayers go out to the Bisher family for their loss.

CRUNCHING THE NUMBERS

1 Rank for newly re-signed John Abraham among active NFL players for career sacks

2 Abraham's rank in Falcons franchise history for sacks (58.5) after seven years

3 Years on the deal the Falcons gave the 34-year-old free agent

4 Teams in tonight's NCAA South region semifinals at the Dome: UK, Indiana, Baylor, Xavier

5 Innings for Jair Jurrjens in his most recent spring start. He gave up seven runs on eight hits

6 Current spot the Hawks occupy in the Eastern Conference playoff race

7/1 Braves pitcher Kris Medlen's K/BB ratio, though he was recently moved to the bullpen

8 Members of the 2012 UGA recruiting class from outside of the state of Georgia

9 RBIs for Braves 2B Dan Uggla through his first 14 spring training games

10 Rating Grayson's Robert Nkemdiche gave his recent recruiting trip to LSU

TRIVIA QUESTION

Other than Georgia Tech, how many women's basketball teams made appearances in the Sweet 16 for the first time this year?

Answer on Page 14

SANITY AT LAST

"I did not participate in any bounty program, nor did I have any knowledge relating to its real existence."

- Saints QB Drew Brees on his team's bounty program, which was met with serious sanctions by the NFL, including coach Sean Payton being suspended for the year and former defensive coordinator Gregg Williams suspended indefinitely.

COACH'S DIARY

New Centennial football coach Jeffrey Carlberg is quickly putting his fingerprints all over the Knights program, and he has invited Score along for the ride during his first year at the helm. Here are highlights from last week.

Our morning workouts and afternoon speed training sessions continue to be an asset to our program. Leadership is developing within the team and the kids are beginning to catch on to the workload and the expectations of them. We are starting to build better relationships with one another and a trust level that is imperative for the health of the program.

We still have two openings on our

staff that have yet to be filled. We know who we want to hire but have to see if there will be teaching positions in the building for them.

Several football players have taken my seminar, which meets Monday, Wednesday and Friday, so that we can further develop our relationships and start implementing some of our philosophies with the team.

Finally, I finished up our individual senior meetings this week. It was a great series of meetings with the seniors. I now have a better feel for the mindset of these players and I've learned what expectations these players have for our program.





North Clayton's Stackhouse impresses

By Fletcher Proctor

North Clayton senior Mariah Stackhouse recently claimed her fifth straight co-player of the year award by the Georgia State Golf Association, becoming just the third player to ever pull off that feat. Stackhouse has also represented the country in the PING Junior Solheim Cup, won the Georgia Women's Amateur Championship, the PGA Georgia Women's Open Championship, the USGA Women's State Team championship and played in the 2011 US Women's Open.

Stackhouse just turned 18 last week.

EARLY INTRO ...

Stackhouse, who was introduced to the game at the age of two by her father, has won 44 championships since 2001. "I would definitely say it has been a product of hard work," said Stackhouse of her success. Her five straight Georgia State Golf Association player of the year honors is an example of how hard she works to achieve a goal she sets

for herself. "After I received (the honor) the first time, I definitely made it a goal to see how many years I could recapture the title."

Early on in her high school career, Stackhouse made her mark in the GHSA championships. As a freshman in 2009, Stackhouse earned low medalist honors for Class AAAA, and bettered her score one year later as a sophomore to earn medalist honors again. In 2011 Stackhouse won the Low Amateur Medalist honor, but this time the honor came from the U.S. Women's Open event.

Stackhouse was the youngest African-American female ever to appear in the U.S. Women's Open, and she hopes to take away important lessons from the weekend. "I used (the Open appearance) as an experience to show just how much is required at the highest level of women's professional golf." As for being the youngest African-American qualifier, it is nothing new for Stackhouse. "Ever since I began playing, there have been few

African-American girls competing along with me so I've never paid any attention to the fact. I desire only to become the best golfer I can be, color aside."

JET SET ...

Last year was a busy year for Stackhouse with the U.S. Open, the AJGA, the Exide Technology Jr. Open Championship, the victory at Steelwood, the win at the Bill Dickey Junior Invitational and the PING Junior Solheim Cup in Ireland. She made it through though, loving every minute of it. "I love traveling to new places and meeting new people, which is one of the reasons I love golf," gushed Stackhouse.

The year ended with a commitment to Stanford in November. "Academics have always been the most important focus in my life," said Stackhouse of her decision to attend Stanford. "As I began to explore college options, I focused on schools like Duke and Stanford for this reason. I chose Stanford because it's a highly-ranked university, the golf facilities are superb, and I felt at home on my unofficial visits."

For now North Clayton's 2011 Homecoming Queen is enjoying her senior year

while getting ready to head west to Palo Alto. Golf is a 365-day sport but Stackhouse does manage to find some time to be with her friends. "I have full practices on the weekends, and I practice as much as possible during the week, but it is good to have free time to hang out and be a regular teen," Stackhouse admitted. "I'm a very social person so I make sure to have fun."

Can she be the next Tiger Woods, or the first Mariah? Her summer plans are certainly ambitious. "I'll begin to focus on playing in amateur events to better my amateur ranking," revealed Stackhouse. "This will be the first year that I'm able to compete in the U.S. Women's Amateur, so my goal is to qualify and see what it takes to win that event." Stackhouse also is aiming to once again qualify for the U.S. Open and stay for the weekend. "Lastly, I'd like to win an AJGA Invitational before I'm done with junior golf."

Her junior golf career may soon be coming to an end, but odds are you'll be hearing the name Mariah Stackhouse for years to come.

Photos courtesy of mstackhouse.com. Proctor can be reached at fproctor@scoreatl.com.

LACROSSE NEWS



Lambert teams class of the state

By Stephen Black

Area 3, Class A-AAAA-leading Lambert won two big games in the past week, first defeating Class AAAAA power Walton 10-8 on Tuesday then Roswell 10-3 on Saturday. Like their male counterparts, Lambert's girls squad had a successful week. The Longhorns won games against Wesleyan on Wednesday (18-14) and North Forsyth (16-8) Saturday. However, South Forsyth beat Lambert 10-6 on Friday.

BROTHER-LEE MILESTONE ...

Peachtree Ridge defeated Grayson 12-8 Saturday as twin brothers Steven and Jacob Lee each scored three goals. The twins were celebrating their 16th birthday.

Area 4, Class A-AAAA is led by Marist, as the War Eagles boast a 3-0 record in area play. Marist enjoyed a dominant week by

shutting out area rivals Dunwoody (14-0) and Druid Hills (18-0).

Area 2, Class A-AAAA Westminster lost a 12-6 affair to Class AAAAA power Milton 12-6 on Wednesday, but defeated Decatur 8-6 Saturday. The win over the Bulldogs was a crucial match in Class A-AAAA, as it pitted two serious contenders from different regions. Decatur is undefeated in Area 4, while the Wildcats are tied for the lead in Area 2.

The match of the week this week may be the Lassiter-Milton game, as the Trojans travel to Milton Thursday. The two programs are among the favorites to win the Class AAAAA title and each are leading their respective areas thus far. Results were not available at press time.

The Trojans spent last week by outclass-

ing the competition, as Harrison (9-3) and Northview (7-5) became Lassiter's latest victims. Coach Brendan Leezer's team is now 7-0.

Perennial Class A-AAAA power Lovett split two games last week, defeating Whitewater 16-3 and losing to Pope 7-4. The Lions face a tough test Saturday, when Lambert pays a visit.

The Milton girls improved their record to 5-0 with wins over out-of-state competition over the weekend. The host Eagles defeated Episcopal (Va.) 18-0 Friday before taking down Cy-Fair (Texas) 15-3 Saturday. This week, Milton traveled to West Forsyth on Thursday. The result was not available at press time.

Westminster's girls lacrosse team recently edged Episcopal (Va.) 11-10 before outscoring Chattahoochee 16-12. The high-scoring Wildcats are 6-0 and have scored at least 11 goals in each game.

Peachtree Ridge and Mill Creek butted heads on Wednesday in a bigtime girls match. The Lions were 7-1, while the Hawks entered the match 8-0. Peachtree Ridge was handed its lone loss this season when Mill Creek defeated the Lions 15-6 on Feb. 25. The result was not available at press time.

Black can be reached at sblack@scoreatl.com.

CHICAGO BULLS

WED
MAR 28

Derrick Rose
Great Seats!

CASINO NIGHT 2012

SUNDAY
APRIL 1ST 6-10PM
AT OPERA NIGHTCLUB

GENERAL ADMISSION \$125
FOR INFORMATION
CALL 404.878.3497
(PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE HAWKS FOUNDATION)

BAD LUCK KNIGHTS ...

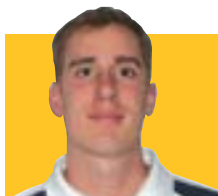
Meanwhile, St. Francis probably feels a bit snakebitten. The Knights have lost five one-run games this season, including one that was called due to darkness. Jeff Nichols' squad has also taken three teams to extra innings, only to fall each time in eight frames. Earlier this week, despite three hits and three runs from Mark Schulte, St. Francis fell 11-7 to Riverside Military. Earlier this season, the two teams battled to a 6-6 tie that was called due to darkness. St. Francis will hope to switch up its luck with a stretch of six-straight

region games before stepping out of Region 5-A in early April.

Finally, North Gwinnett and Collins Hill are used to extra frames when the two Region 7-AAAAA foes square off, but Monday saw the Bulldogs and Eagles play 10 before North Gwinnett escaped with a 3-1 win. Michael Haynes drove in the game-winning run then recorded the save in the bottom of the inning. North Gwinnett finished with 15 hits. Franklin County also edged Stephens County earlier this week 4-3.

Proctor can be reached at fproctor@scoreatl.com.

BASEBALL NEWS



Defending champion looking strong early

By Fletcher Proctor

Two Georgia teams made Jim Halley's USA TODAY national top 25 list as defending Class AAAAA champion Parkview came in at No. 2 while Columbus, two-time defending Class AAA champion, checked in at No. 6. Parkview has started the season 6-2 after a recent 11-1 win over Shiloh. Reigning Gatorade Player of the Year Matt Olson is 3-0 after going five innings, recording five strikeouts. Ryan Blanton, Jeff Ronporin, Jack Esmonde and Hunter Thornton have been hot to start the season as have Rob Youngblood and Josh Hart. The Panthers have eight starters back from last year's championship squad as well as its four top pitchers. This Wednesday, Parkview will travel to Cary, N.C., to participate in the USA National High School Invitational.

Columbus will also take part in that event as will Brookwood. Those two met on the diamond last week when Columbus blanked the Broncos 3-0. Columbus had beaten Parkview earlier in the week 7-6.

HEBRON BRINGS IT ...

Defending Class A champion Hebron Christian has looked good early this year, especially on the mound. Jordan Hillyer struck out 11 batters while going the distance in a 10-2 win over Prince Avenue. Hillyer drove in a pair in the win while P.J. Westbury added a pair of hits and an RBI in the win. The Lions were 8-1 as of Monday, with a perfect 5-0 Region 8-A record. Amazingly the team had posted four straight shutouts before Prince Avenue managed to plate two runners.

SOCCER NEWS



Cobb continues successful streak

By Brian Jones

First, Walton football reached the state finals for the first time in school history. Then the McEachern girls basketball team not only won the state title, they did it without losing a game and made a case to be called national champion.

GOLF/TENNIS NEWS



Golfers prepare for major tournies

By Robby Kalland

Some of the biggest golf tournaments of the boys season are coming up as the Georgia/South Carolina Cup will take place at the Orchard Golf Club in Clarkesville, Ga., on Friday and Saturday. At the tournament, many of the state's top teams will compete against some of South Carolina's finest. Team Georgia consists of Gainesville,

Now, the Lassiter boys soccer team is looking like they could win a national title if the Trojans continue the hot streak they are on. After losing to Collins Hill in the semifinals last year, the Trojans are back and they appear stronger than ever.

ESPN has the team ranked No. 1 in the country, and they have beaten three teams in the ESPN Powerade Fab 50 poll: No. 3 Centennial, No. 38 Collins Hill and No. 16 Parkview. The Trojans have a huge contest tonight when they face Wheeler (8-2) No. 46 in the country.

Centennial has been playing good soccer also with just the one blemish on its schedule thanks to the Trojans. Since losing to Lassiter on March 3, the Knights shut out Alpharetta 4-0 and took apart Northview 6-1. The Knights did, however, tie Habersham Central 2-2 on Tuesday.

LADY EAGLES SOAR ...

While the girls don't have as many teams

ranked in the ESPN Powerade Fab 50, there are still a few teams that are looking to be on top of the poll when the season concludes. The Milton Lady Eagles are ranked No. 16 and have a 10-0-1 record. The tie came against St. Pius on Tuesday, a team that is also undefeated and ranked No. 36 in the ESPN poll.

Walton is not ranked in the ESPN poll, but if the Raiders continue to win games against quality opponents, ESPN will soon show them some love. The Lady Raiders cruised past Wheeler 5-0 on Tuesday to improve their record to 8-1. They are ranked No. 2 in the AAAAA Prepcountry Coaches poll.

Speaking of Walton, it looks like the boys team is getting back on track. After losing three consecutive games earlier in the year, the defending AAAAA state champions have won four out of its last five games. Goalkeeper Alex McCaluey gave up only one goal in the last four wins for the Raiders.

Jones can be reached at bjones@scoreatl.com.

St. Pius X, Milton, Johns Creek, Habersham Central, Marist, Academy of Richmond County and Westminster.

Another major tournament will begin Monday as Gainesville will host its annual Big Red Elephant tournament. The tournament uses the modified stableford system, which has different point values for each score (eight points for an eagle, four for a birdie, two for a par, one for a bogey and none for double bogey or higher). This provides a different experience for the golfers as it is usually the only tournament in the state that uses the stableford system. Host Gainesville, Johns Creek, Riverside Military, St. Pius X and others will be competing at Chattahoochee Golf Course. Johns Creek is coming off of a win in the Three vs. Four tournament at Chateau Elan Saturday, where the Gladiators posted a 283 to defeat Gainesville by 11 strokes. Also participating in the tournament were Habersham Central (306), Richmond Academy (306), North Hall (309) and St. Pius X (328).

ON THE COURT ...

Class AAAAA boys tennis features a

number of very good squads including perennial powerhouse Walton and last year's state champion, Brookwood. Alpharetta, Collins Hill and Lassiter also will be looking to assert themselves into the title conversation come May. Brookwood and Walton have been able to stay unbeaten thus far into the season, and the competition will only get tougher from now as they move towards the state tournament. Walton will face Johns Creek from Class AAAA on March 27 in a matchup of undefeated teams.

In girls' tennis, Walton continues to dominate, as the Lady Raiders have won 153 consecutive matches and will look to stay perfect this year while trying for yet another state championship. The Lady Raiders' latest victory came over Lassiter as they won the match 4-1 behind their No. 1 singles player Suzanne Zenoni, and No. 1 doubles partners Katie Riley and Jessica Cramer. Walton has one more match remaining against Wheeler on March 22 before the region tournament begins March 28. The Lady Raiders are seeking their ninth consecutive Class AAAAA state championship.

Kalland can be reached at rkalland@scoreatl.com.

Gray's Limousine Service, LLC

770-687-8993 • 24 Hour Service • Reliable & Professional

Airport Service
Weddings
Golf Outings
Corporate Accounts
Executive Dinners
Proms/Birthdays



30% OFF

First Time Customer Discount
Limited time only!



Gray's Limousine Service, LLC

770-687-8993 • dlgray2000@yahoo.com

SCORE HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS NEWSLETTER

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS, 5 DAYS A WEEK, RIGHT IN YOUR INBOX!

SIGN UP TODAY!

TEXT
SCORENEWSLETTER
TO 22828



ALL YOUR SPORTS MARKETING NEEDS

SCORE media

NEWSLETTERS | WEBCASTING/TV PRODUCTION
EVENTS | WEBSITES | SOCIAL MEDIA
SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS



How To Get Your Career Off To A Fast Start!



Want to get a leg up on the competition? Then take some career advice that will put you on track: join the National Guard. In exchange for your part-time service, you'll get:

- ★ Paid expert training while you learn valuable job skills
- ★ Up to 100% Tuition Assistance*

If you're looking for a rewarding profession, make it your business to know what the Guard has to offer.

Call 1-800-GO-GUARD or visit us at www.NATIONALGUARD.com

** Up to \$4,500 per fiscal year (1 Oct - 30 Sept)*

Georgia
**NATIONAL
GUARD**
NATIONALGUARD.com

PANTHER PROWL



Remarkable hoops season ends

By Ryan Caiafa

After a tough 64-59 loss to Mercer in the CollegeInsider.com Tournament, the Georgia State Panthers' storied season came to a close in controversial fashion. Despite Coach Ron Hunter's ejection in the second half, the Panthers nearly rallied from 14 points down to take the game from Mercer. Hunter was tossed after receiving two technical fouls following a non-call when Eric Buckner was knocked to the floor. Devonta White led the way with 18 points for the Panthers, who struggled throughout the game to find the basket. State shot just 32.8 percent for the game while scoring just 18 points in the first half.

It was a tough end for six seniors on the squad including Buckner, who set a school record with 167 blocks. Also moving on are James Fields (who scored 12 against Mercer), and Jihad Ali, whose play was revitalized by Hunter's arrival and influence. Hunter's impact on the program can't be understated as he coached the team to a 22-12 record, its best record since 2003-04.

After years of struggling teams and low attendance, Hunter's arrival changed the entire culture of the program, bringing a winning attitude and in turn, bringing the fans back to the GSU Sports Arena. The Panthers were picked to

finished 11th in the CAA, not only did they exceed expectations, they were convincing in doing so. An 11-game winning streak, which included wins against powerhouses VCU and Drexel highlighted the stellar season. Despite losing his six seniors, Hunter is reloading with a recruiting class that includes his son R.J. and Buford High School's T.J. Shipes. While there will certainly be an adjustment period, there is indeed plenty of room for optimism going into next season.

HISTORIC COMEBACK ...

When you're down 12-2 entering the bottom of the ninth inning, there isn't much reason to believe in a comeback. On March 16, the Panthers completed one of the most improbable comebacks you will ever see. The Panthers sent 14 batters to the plate and scored 11 runs in the bottom of the ninth to defeat Northeastern 13-12, at Panthersville. The team tallied nine hits in the final frame and won the game on a walk-off single by Kody Adams. Despite a 9-12 start to the season, GSU hopes the comeback win will spark the team and help them finish the season atop the CAA standings once again.

Caiafa can be reached at rcaiafa@scoreatl.com

OWL OUTLOOK



Owls remain hot after Spring Break

By Chris Lionetti

Winners of six of its past eight, the Kennesaw State baseball program (11-9) has finally found its offensive stroke. The Owls are averaging almost seven runs a game during the eight game period. Kennesaw recently opened its conference schedule against Mercer and took two out of the three games against their in-state rival. Catcher Ronnie Freeman has played a big role in the team's success of late. Freeman was recently named the Atlantic Sun Player of the Week after batting .391 with 12 RBI over his past five games. The award is Freeman's fourth career nod. He is batting .342 with 22 RBI on the season.

SOFTBALL HOMESTAND ...

After recently splitting a doubleheader with the Georgia State Panthers, Kennesaw's softball (15-12) team will then host a three-game homestand against Samford and Georgia Southern (doubleheader). The Owls dropped the first game against Georgia State, 3-1, but split the doubleheader by defeating the Panthers, 3-1. The most notable performance came in the second game came from Amanda Henderson, who tossed seven

innings and struck out 16 batters. Catcher Lindsay Vollmer provided the offense for Kennesaw State with two hits and two RBI. In the first game, Abbey Mixon provided four scoreless innings of relief with five strikeouts.

NEWS AND NOTES ...

The Owls men's tennis (7-7) team has been out of action for the past two weeks but faces Lipscomb and Belmont this weekend. The Owls are looking to get back to their winning ways after being blanked by Bethune Cookman on March 9. The Lady Owls (6-5) also face off against Lipscomb and Belmont but also, have a date with Georgia State this week.

The Lady Owls golf team finished fourth in a 14-team field at the Insignity Lady Jaguar Intercollegiate this past weekend. Lea Charpier led the Owls with a score of 71, which was good for an eighth-place finish. The men's golf team defeated South Florida, 3-1, in the fourth round of the Callway Match Play.

Lionetti can be reached at [404-256-1572](tel:404-256-1572).

BULLDOG BEAT



Diamond Dawgs overcome rivals

By Stephen Black

Georgia (16-6) defeated in-state rival Georgia Tech Tuesday in Athens 7-1 after six pitchers silenced the No. 15 Jackets' bats. Freshman David Sosebee got the win after throwing three shutout innings to start the game.

Brett DeLoach got the Bulldogs started with a solo homer in the second inning. Conor Welton ended the scoring in the inning with a two-run single that staked a 4-0 lead for the Bulldogs.

Georgia will now travel to Nashville this weekend for a SEC series against Vanderbilt.

SEC OPENER ...

The Diamond Dawgs opened SEC play by taking two of three from Tennessee (11-8, 1-2) in the conference-opening series for both squads last weekend. After winning both the Friday and Saturday games, the visiting Vols shut out Georgia Sunday to avoid a series sweep.

The No. 18 Bulldogs started out the series with a shutout as five Bulldog pitchers combined to give up nine hits. Alex Wood started and got four innings of work before giving way to Bryan Benzor, who threw 2.1 innings. Earl Daniels, Luke Crumley and Blake Dietrich combined for 2.2 innings of no-hit relief to close it out. Kyle Farmer was 3-for-4 at the plate with a solo homer for the Bulldogs.

The next day, David Perno's club fell behind 5-1 before climbing back and eventually overwhelming the Vols 10-5. The comeback was ignited with a five-run fourth inning that erased the deficit and gave the Bulldogs a lead they would not lose. Levi Hyams had three hits – including a homer – and three RBIs, while Hunter Cole also had three hits and a round-tripper to go with two RBIs.

In Game 3, Tennessee's Nick Williams threw six scoreless innings in the Vols' 3-0 win. Williams made the most of his first career start, as he is usually a relief pitcher. Michael Palazzone pitched for the Dawgs, throwing five innings with seven strikeouts and two earned runs.

LADIES OUSTED ...

The Lady Dogs basketball team made its annual trip to the NCAA tournament, only to be upset in the first round. Fourth-seeded Georgia was ousted by No. 13-seed Marist to be the only one of eight SEC teams to be defeated in Round 1. Andy Landers' squad fell despite 21 points from Khaalidah Miller.

It was the 18th consecutive trip to the NCAA tournament for UGA.

Black can be reached at sblack@scoreatl.com.

TECH TALK



Tech continues record-breaking year

By Thomas Watson

For the first time in school history, the Georgia Tech women's basketball team has advanced to the Sweet 16. "Way overdue, Georgia Tech being in the Sweet 16," coach MaChelle Joseph said after the 76-64 victory over Georgetown Monday night.

The Lady Jackets are easily having their best season in school history, and they are looking for more – having won 15 out of their last 18 games. "We know we've never been to the Sweet 16 before, so we want to celebrate," Metra Walthour said. "But this is not as far as we want to go. We're here to play and we're confident, and we know we're not done yet."

BEAR OF A CHALLENGE ...

To continue its impressive run, Tech will have to take down the top seed in the tournament, Baylor. To accomplish that tall order, Joseph's squad will need to maintain the offensive production the team showed against fifth-seeded Georgetown.

Freshman Sydney Wallace led the team with 23 points, going 9-for-20 from the floor, including 5-for-14 from three-point land. As a team, Tech shot 50 percent while playing tight defense and holding Georgetown to only 33.8 percent shooting.

Wallace is having a breakout performance in the NCAA tournament after only playing 23 total minutes in the ACC tournament. The freshman guard also had 28 points off the bench in Tech's opening round win over Sacred Heart. "I just came here with confidence, and I knew I had to step up for my seniors and just play my role," said Wallace.

One of those seniors, Sasha Goodlett, also had a big game for her team against the Lady Hoyas. Goodlett had a double-double, scoring 14 points and grabbing 11 rebounds. The Mississippi native shot 6-for-8 and added a block. Goodlett will have to have another great game, as she will be responsible for Baylor's Brittney Griner, who is possibly the most dominant player in the tournament.

This senior class has been the best in school history, amassing more wins over four years than any other group. Now the seniors have also accounted for the best season with 26 overall wins, including 12 in the ACC, both are tops in school history. The No. 4 seed is the highest Tech has ever earned entering the NCAA tournament.

Watson can be reached at twatson@scoreatl.com.

HAWKS HAVEN



Hawks winning despite injuries

By Robby Kalland

The Atlanta Hawks (26-20) have been hit hard by the injury bug all year, and the Hawks have been playing with a very short roster in recent games. The shortened season has taken its toll on the Hawks, who are currently playing without Jannero Pargo (appendectomy), Willie Green (back/hamstring), Marvin Williams (hip), Vladimir Radmanovic (back) and Al Horford (left pectoral). Jeff Teague, Josh Smith and Zaza Pachulia are the only players not to have missed a game this season.

Despite the injury problems plaguing the Hawks, they have been able to place themselves firmly within the Eastern Conference playoff picture, currently holding down the sixth spot, 1.5 games up on the Boston Celtics.

ROAD WOES ...

The Hawks returned home Friday for the first time after going on a six-game road trip where they struggled to a 2-4 record. The Hawks are 13-15 overall on the road, and have struggled against better teams. On their most recent road trip the Hawks fell to the Clippers, Nuggets, Heat and Pistons, with their two victories coming against the Kings and Pacers. The reason for their struggles against the top teams can be attributed to the lack of depth, and their short bench tends to

get exposed more in close games and also in back-to-backs.

HOME COOKING ...

The Hawks have enjoyed success at the Highlight Factory this year going 13-7. They hope to continue their successful home play this week against the Nets on Friday. The New Jersey game is the first of three games in three days, as they play a get-away game in Washington Saturday before returning home to face the Jazz Sunday.

This four-game stretch is very important for the Hawks, who will need to take advantage of playing some of the lesser teams in the league. The combined record for their next four opponents is 66-114, and to keep their hopes of a good playoff seed alive, the Hawks must win games like these. The final 20 games on the schedule favor the Hawks, whose toughest tests remaining are the Bulls, Magic and Clippers with the majority of games against non-playoff teams, or lower-seeded teams. The Hawks should be able to build some confidence heading into the playoffs and are looking to get better with return of players from injury later in the year.

Kalland can be reached at rkalland@scoreatl.com.

FALCONS FLIGHT



Falcons march into free agency

By Sean Conway

Future Hall of Famer Peyton Manning has landed in Denver with the Broncos, and superstar defensive end Mario Williams has signed a contract with the Buffalo Bills. Up in Flowery Branch, the opening of the free-agent signing period has been decidedly much less spectacular.

TORTOISE VS. HARE ...

The message from Flowery Branch can easily be paraphrased as, "This process (and process is a word the Falcons' brass loves) is more like a marathon than a sprint."

General manager Thomas Dimitroff and his personnel staff have been busy, just not flashy. They've made decisions to part with some players from last fall's playoff team, they've re-signed some core players and they've brought in some new faces. History and the words of the GM himself should let fans know that the Falcons have no intention of simply remaining status quo.

With the urgency in which new offensive and defensive coordinators were brought in to coach up the 2012 Falcons, it's obvious that the Flowery Branch brain trust believes new ideas and a new message will resonate with the roster. Expectations are also very high that new O-line coach Pat Hill, formerly the head

coach at Fresno State, will "coach 'em up."

On defense, the Falcons have locked down two of their best three players in cornerback Brent Grimes and defensive end John Abraham for another run. Three-time Pro Bowl linebacker Lofa Tatupu has been added as well. Tatupu, who missed last fall due to injuries, is expected to compete with Akeem Dent for the starting middle linebacker spot, should Curtis Lofton leave via free agency.

On the other side of the ball, the Falcons re-signed reserve quarterback Chris Redman and slot receiver Harry Douglas. Newly-acquired Vince Manuwai, formerly of the Jacksonville Jaguars, is expected to win the starting spot at right guard in training camp.

While the deals so far aren't big on wow factor, Dimitroff made it clear in a podcast with NFL.com that fans can expect more. Dimitroff said, "Free agency is going to be very important. ... It doesn't mean that we need to be very aggressive at the beginning of free agency. It means that we have to have a great feel for what free agency may have offer us in the weeks to come."

Falcons fans can now sit back and watch as Dimitroff kicks it into high gear.

Conway can be reached at scomway@scoreatl.com.

CHOP SHOP



Medlen out of battle for starting spot

By Fletcher Proctor

With all of the hype entering the season of whether Julio Teheran or Randall Delgado would get a spot in the rotation, it seems as though the "loser" of last year's spring battle, Mike Minor, has the spot sewn up. Through his first four spring training starts, the lefthander has not given up a run in 14 innings while striking out 10 and surrendering just seven hits and five walks. Minor will likely begin the year as the No. 4 starter with either Delgado or Teheran as the No. 5 until staff ace Tim Hudson returns from injury.

Hudson is targeting May 1 for his return from November back surgery. Kris Medlen has been impressive in several starts this season but will likely begin the year as a "swing" pitcher, coming out of the bullpen for several innings of relief or as a spot starter.

The Braves continued to struggle record-wise earlier this week with a 4-3 loss to the defending World Champion St. Louis Cardinals. Brian McCann pounded a home run off Mitchell Boggs for his first round-tripper of the spring and the team's lone extra-base hit in the loss. The offense managed just seven other hits, all singles.

CUTS LIKE A KNIFE ...

The team made several cuts last weekend, dropping a number of pitchers from contention for the starting day staff. Jaye Chapman, J.J. Hoover, Todd Redmond, Luis Avilan and Sean Gilmartin were all sent away from the big league camp. Gilmartin, the team's 2011 first-round pick, was assigned to minor league camp while the rest were sent to Class AAA Gwinnett. Evan Gattis, a catcher who bashed 22 home runs in 88 games last year in Rome, was sent to Class A Lynchburg. He will be cross-trained at first base as well as catcher.

In injury news, Jack Wilson has missed the first month of spring training with a strained calf, but the utility infielder could begin the year on the 25-man roster. Initially the team thought he may to start the year on the DL, but Wilson is improving faster than the original four-to-six week recovery timetable.

The news isn't as good for Arodys Vizcaino though. The reliever will miss the season following Tommy John elbow surgery Tuesday. He was recently named the top relief pitching prospect by Baseball America.

Proctor can be reached at fproctor@scoreatl.com.

GWINNETT GLADIATORS



Glads prepare for postseason play

By Joe Deighton

For the seventh time in the past nine seasons, the Gwinnett Gladiators will be in the ECHL's Kelly Cup playoffs. The Glads clinched a postseason berth with a 4-3 win over Greenville last Saturday. Gwinnett erased a 2-0 deficit in the second period to earn their 26th home win of the season.

Forward Bryan Brutlag scored the game-winning goal, while starting goalie Marc Cheverie stopped 28 of 31 shots. It was the last regular season home game for the Gladiators, as they finished 26-7-0-3 at home this year. Gwinnett will have a major advantage in the playoffs, especially if they can earn the top seed in the conference over the last five games of the season.

ANOTHER BRICK ...

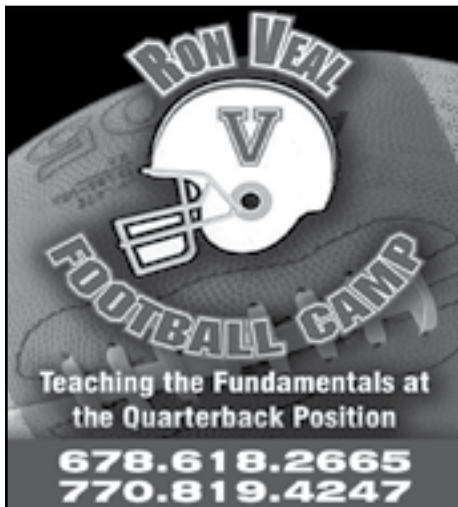
Cheverie picked up the third win in his last three starts on Saturday. Since Jeff Jakaitis went down midway through the year, Cheverie and Ryan Zapsolski have split time. Cheverie has had the hot hand lately, saving 67 of 75 shots in three wins over Cincinnati and Greenville. Zapsolski has two shutouts in 14 starts, while Cheverie has none in 18 starts. Both goaltenders are

capable of carrying the Glads to a championship, but the starter going into the playoffs will be determined over the last week of the regular season. Zapsolski has the only postseason experience of the two, playing one playoff game for the Florida Everblades a year ago, allowing four goals on 41 shots.

ROSTER MOVES ...

The playoffs are looming and the Gladiators got a big boost with the return of forward Joey Haddad. The dynamic winger played 38 games earlier this season for Gwinnett, scoring 15 goals and adding 15 assists. Haddad should be on the top line, along with top scoring forward Brutlag. This gives the Glads a formidable scoring line and they should get a lot of ice time in the postseason. Forward Doug Jones, a native of Marietta, Ga., was signed on Tuesday. Jones played four years at Dartmouth University, tallying 29 goals and 78 assists. Roster moves can be made up until April 2 at 3 p.m. when the Kelly Cup playoff rosters must be set.

Deighton can be reached at jdeighton@scoreatl.com.



Teaching the Fundamentals at the Quarterback Position

678.618.2665
770.819.4247

TRIVIA ANSWER

Three total teams, including Tech, appeared in the Sweet 16 this season for the first time in the Women's NCAA tournament. St. Bonaventure and St. John's were the other two.

WHAT ABOUT YOU?

We want to hear from you! Find us on Facebook and Twitter. Give us Feedback on your favorite articles, tell us what you'd like to see in upcoming issues and stay up-to-date on sporting news from Metro Atlanta!



facebook.com/
scoreatlanta

@scoreatlanta



MIKAEL'S AUTO SPA

ATLANTA'S #1 CAR WASH AND DETAILING DESTINATION

LOCATED IN THE HEART OF SANDY SPRINGS ON ROSWELL RD.
6380 Roswell Rd. • Atlanta, GA • 30328 • 404.252.0376

MAKE YOUR OCCASION A SUCCESS!

Great rates! Book your date!




WANT TO PLAY GUITAR?
RIC SEYMOUR
guitarist for Capricorn/Epic Recording Artists
WetWillie is now teaching at
ATLANTA MUSIC BROKERS
ROSWELL, GA.
CALL 404-819-3910 OR 770-552-6778



Personal **TOUCH**
LAWN CARE, INC.
A · T · L · A · N · T · A



Spring is approaching and now is the time to prepare by mulching your property, which will both beautify your landscape as well as help retain moisture during this drought period. Also, a preemergent should be applied to both warm and cool season turf grasses to help keep them weed-free throughout the growing season. Personal Touch is your one-stop shop for any and all of your landscape and hardscape needs.

- Design and consultation
 - Retaining walls and walkways
 - Irrigation design/installation/repair
 - Patios and outdoor fireplaces
 - Tree and shrub installation
 - Sod installation
 - Fertilization and weed control
 - Soil Testing and pH correction
 - Mulch and annual installation
 - Long term property maintenance & more!
- Call today for a *free estimate*.

770.908.1238

WWW.PTLCATLANTA.COM



REGIONS

**REGIONS BANK CONGRATULATES THE
PLAYERS, COACHES AND FANS OF THE
GHSA 2011-12 STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS**



Regions Bank supports high school athletic achievement through sponsorship of the GADA Directors Cup. For the latest updates on current standings go to GADAonline.net and click on "Regions Directors Cup".

BASKETBALL

BOYS

**CLASS AAAAA
MILTON**

**CLASS AAAA
MILLER GROVE**

**CLASS AAA
COLUMBIA**

**CLASS AA
LANEY**

**CLASS A
WHITEFIELD ACADEMY**

GIRLS

**CLASS AAAAA
McEACHERN**

**CLASS AAAA
MILLER GROVE**

**CLASS AAA
COLUMBIA**

**CLASS AA
LOVETT**

**CLASS A
WESLEYAN**

Finally **THE ROCK** Comes Back to Atlanta

ATLANTA, GA



Live at

PHILIPS
ARENA

RAW SUPER SHOW



THIS MONDAY 8:15PM

ON SALE NOW TICKETS START AT \$20

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE PHILIPS ARENA BOX OFFICE, ALL TICKETMASTER OUTLETS,
TICKETMASTER.COM/WWE OR CHARGE-BY-PHONE 800-745-3000



TM & © 2012 WWE. All Rights Reserved. Talent subject to change.