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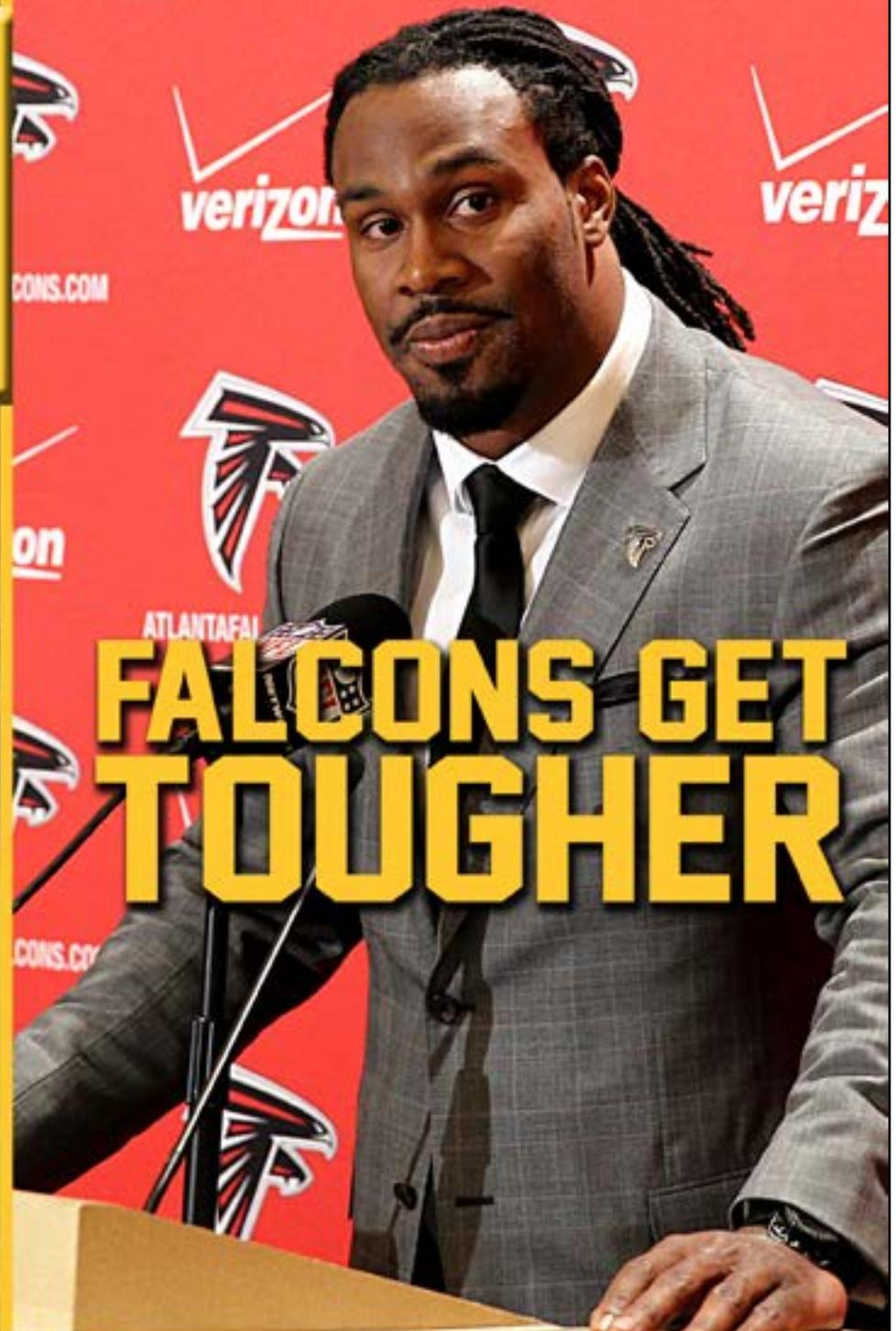
Vol. 9 | Iss. 6 | March 22 - April 4, 2013



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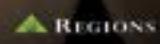
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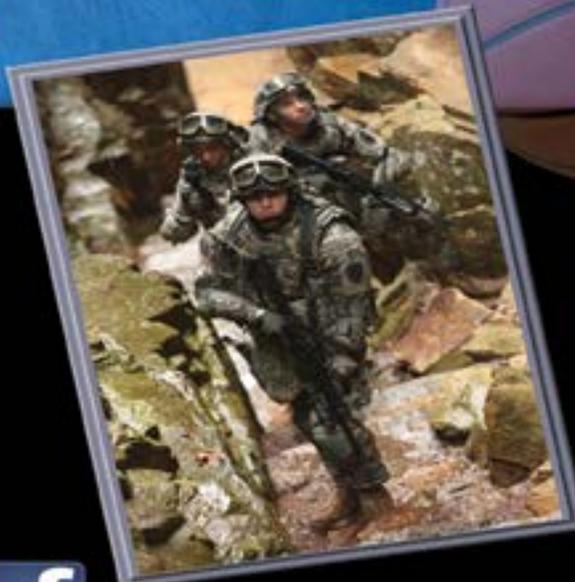


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CAN'T MISS THIS WEEK

- 4** The Fletch looks at top baseball talent in the Georgia high school ranks while Josh Bagriansky gives his thoughts on the Falcons' offseason moves.
- 5** In the cover story, Craig Sager II addresses the Falcons' addition of Steven Jackson and delves into other potential moves.
- 7** Stephen Black gives you the rundown on a high-profile high school football transfer.
- 8-9** We give you our updated rankings for Baseball, Lacrosse and Soccer.

TEAM SCOOP AND VOICES

*COVER DESIGN BY DJ GALBIATI BLALOCK
 COVER PHOTOS COURTESY OF WALTER PINION,
 JIM WORTHINGTON AND JIMMY CRIBB/ATLANTA FALCONS*

- 6** Score List - Numbers
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13 Braves, Falcons, Gladiators, Hawks

SHOT OF THE WEEK...



AL'S AUTOGRAPH: Hawks forward Al Horford met a few fans at a campaign for the Sprint 4G LTE Tour last Tuesday in Buckhead. Horford played a game of H-O-R-S-E (actually S-P-R-I-N-T) with kids then signed autographs during the event. Photo courtesy of Stanton Communications.

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THE FLETCH



Five Georgians could go in MLB first round

By Fletcher Proctor

While many Georgia high school baseball fans will remember 2012 as the year Byron Buxton went No. 2 overall to the Minnesota Twins and Brookwood's Lucas Sims was selected by the hometown Atlanta Braves, 2013 could turn out to be a banner year for prep talent in the MLB draft. All across the state, baseball stars will bash and strikeout their way through the regular season and possibly into the first round.

IN THE WATER ...

Much like this past February when Robert Nkemdiche had eyes all across the nation on Grayson, Rams outfielder Austin Meadows will have baseball scouts flocking to the Gwin-

nett campus to judge whether he is worth a top-10 pick. Meadows, a 2012 Perfect Game first-team Underclassmen All American, has committed to Clemson but appears less likely to attend the ACC institution with each at-bat. In an 18-3 win over Dacula Tuesday, Meadows went 3-for-3 with three runs, three RBIs and his third home run of the season. Meadows helped the Rams to within one win of the GHSA Class AAAAA finals last year. If he gets the Rams, ranked by Baseball America as the nation's No. 13 team, to the finals this year, he could see his stock soar into the top three.

Just up the street from Meadows is Loganville's Clint Frazier. The outfielder has already set the state record for home runs in a

season and career and still is bashing away at an alarming rate for opposing pitchers.

Frazier, who has committed to David Perno and UGA, will likely never set foot in Foley Field as a member of the Bulldogs as he was listed as the No. 3 overall draft prospect by Matt Garrioch, a baseball blogger in his recent look at the 2013 draft talent pool. Frazier and Loganville put on a show in a recent matchup against Meadows and Grayson. Loganville, ranked No. 15 nationally by Baseball America, pounded Grayson 14-4 before the game was halted by the GHSA run rule. Frazier clobbered a pair of home runs in front of roughly 70 scouts and had six dingers in his first seven games of the 2013 seasons.

POTENTIAL PICKS ...

Travis Demeritte, a third baseman, projects well with his quick bat speed and tremendous power. Scouts worry about the Winder-Barrow Bulldog's long and busy swing, but Demeritte has the tools to rake at the next level and scouts also love his arm for the hot corner. He has committed to South Carolina.

Parkview has turned out some incredible talents in recent years and center fielder Josh Hart is the next one. Hart has plus speed and is a great defender. While he isn't a threat

to go deep for 20 home runs each season, he will set the table at the next level according to various scouts. He has committed to Danny Hall and Georgia Tech and could head to the Flats if not selected on the first day of the MLB draft like former teammate Matt Olson was last year. Riverwood's Terry McClure has also committed to the Yellow Jackets after making the Perfect Game 2012 first-team Underclassmen All American list.

The University of Georgia could lose two additional in-state players from its recruiting class to the MLB draft in Redan shortstop Wesley Jones and Walton outfielder/pitcher Stephen Wrenn. Both have received plenty of accolades after the past 24 months and each will likely hear their names called this June.

The most intriguing name coming out of the state of Georgia may just be Eagle's Landing Christian Academy's Jacob Heyward. The future Miami Hurricane is the younger brother of Braves right fielder Jason Heyward. Last season he hit .333 but was pitched around plenty, leading to low RBI and home run totals but a high on-base percentage. Heyward will look to help ELCA to a state title before worrying about the MLB draft or Miami.

Proctor can be reached at fproctor@scoreatl.com.

JOSH'S JOURNAL



Jackson upgrades Falcons' elite offense

By Josh Bagriansky

When Dirk Koetter arrived in Atlanta to take the offensive coordinator job, it was clear things were about to change drastically for the Atlanta Falcons' offense. Known for his pass-happy attack, the hiring represented a serious shift in direction from the more traditional, pound-it-out scheme that was featured under previous OC Mike Mularkey.

The new style paid dividends immediately. Matt Ryan enjoyed his best season under center, Roddy White and Tony Gonzalez enjoyed their usual fine seasons, while Julio Jones' breakout sophomore season saw him attend his first Pro Bowl.

RUNNING MEN ...

The only hole offensively seemed to be the running game. And while the three-man attack of Michael Turner, Jason Snelling and

Jacquizz Rogers did accomplish some nice things in the passing game, the trio certainly left much to be desired on the ground. The NFC South champs tied for 28th in yards-per-carry with just 3.7. The team's paltry 87.3 rush yards-per-game ranked 29th in the league, although certainly much of this had to do with Koetter's system.

Entering the 2013 offseason, general manager Thomas Dimitroff immediately signaled his intent to improve in that area. He began by releasing Turner, who had a fine Falcons career, but appeared to be on the decline and was due \$6.9 million for the upcoming season.

As we all know by now, Turner's replacement is Steven Jackson, one of the most decorated and well-respected running backs in the NFL.

"Steven has been on our mind since the

days leading into free agency," Dimitroff said.

While Jackson is not the premier back he once was, he will certainly improve the Falcons' running game. Jackson rushed for more than 1,000 yards last season, averaging 4.1 per carry. Not exactly numbers you'd expect from the Steven Jackson of old, but they're still steady, consistent numbers. Considering that Atlanta was 26th in rushing attempts per game last season, that's really all Koetter needs.

But while Jackson's consistency in the run game helps plug a hole, his greatest value further enhances the offense's greatest strength: the passing game. Jackson is one of the greatest pass-catching running backs in the game. Rogers was also a strength on third downs last season, particularly in the passing game, but Jackson further opens the play book on first and second downs as well.

Jackson's pass blocking also opens up the door for he and Rogers to play together on third downs, and having both of the pass catching threats on the field at once won't be an easy read for the opposition.

MATCHUP PROBLEMS ...

Overall, Jackson makes the Falcons an absolute nightmare for the opposition as both wideouts, the tight end and the running back must be kept in check at all times. Want to double team Gonzalez? Good luck containing Jackson in open space. Thinking about doubling up on one of Atlanta's wideouts with a

safety? Enjoy a heavy dose of Gonzalez or Jackson over the middle.

Considering his style is an absolute perfect fit for the current Atlanta offense, it's no wonder the team was thinking about him before free agency ever started.

Much was made of the defense's inability to hold a 17-point lead in last season's heartbreaking NFC Championship Game loss to San Francisco. But many forget that it was the offense, Atlanta's undeniable strength, that failed to score a single point in the second half. It's inability to effectively shorten the game with the run failed as well.

In the end, the defense's third and fourth quarter struggles came as little surprise. But it was the suddenly sputtering offense that also cost Atlanta dearly in the 28-24 defeat. Just one touchdown from the star-studded unit would have made the difference.

Jackson's presence certainly makes that sort of collapse far less likely. Sure, he is past his prime. But he's still effective in all facets of the game, and undoubtedly makes the offense even better.

With the final piece seemingly in place for an already fine offense, the Falcons may need just an average defense to take their game one step further this season. And if they can do that, they'll be playing in the Super Bowl next February.

Bagriansky can be reached at jbagriansky@scoreatl.com.



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FREE AGENCY SPLASH



Offense appears set; defense looks to draft

By Craig Sager II



The opening of free agency this month pushed the Super Bowl-hopeful Falcons into their systematic attempt to hold on to valued free agents while fixing the holes from last season's NFC South championship team. Tony Gonzalez, William Moore and Sam Baker were the top three re-signed pieces from last season that management believes are key ingredients in a championship team moving forward.

OFFENSIVE ADJUSTMENTS ...

The first offseason inquiries resolved were on the offensive side of the ball. Baker at left tackle has arguably the most important job on the team in protecting franchise quarterback Matt Ryan's blind side. Baker signed a six-year, \$41.1 million deal, and will add security to the position for several seasons.

All-Pro tight end Tony Gonzalez returns after his most productive season since arriving in Atlanta. The future hall of famer resumes his role with Julio Jones and Roddy White to form the triple-threat receiving corps many consider to be the best in the league. Signing running back Steven Jackson was the finishing touch to improve the offense and resolve the lulls from last season. The move could be considered one of the biggest free-agent signings of the offseason, and the

Falcons anticipate the powerful inside runner will improve them from their 29th-ranked rushing effort in 2012.

"I think this is a very big signing for us," Falcons general manager Thomas Dimitroff told the Associated Press. "It continues to bolster our offensive firepower. It gives us not only strength, power in running ability but also the versatility to catch out of the backfield, which is a very important part of this offense."

In the NFC Championship game, Ryan was 3-for-3 when targeting Harry Douglas, 11-for-13 to Jones and 8-for-8 passing to Gonzalez. The passing offense struggled on screens and tosses out to the flats and Ryan was 0-for-3 when targeting Jacquizz Rodgers out of the backfield. Rodgers had success during the season, pulling in 53 receptions for 402 yards, but could not find anything against the 49ers' defense. Jackson brings a new aspect within the passing game with his combination of speed and size out of the backfield. In 2006, Jackson caught 90 passes for 806 yards. His receptions have gone down since his career-high receiving season, but this is still a key aspect of his skillset and Atlanta could take advantage of it.

Former running back Michael Turner was phased out of the playbook last season

as the Falcons began adapting to a passing attack behind the arm of Ryan. The expectations of this offense are to be the best in the league and the mutual respect between Jackson and the organization has the relationship off to a promising start.

Jackson proved his worth by essentially doing the impossible during his nine-year career in St. Louis by being consistent in the midst of unremitting change and, at times, chaos. The former Ram has rushed for more than 1,000 yards in each of his last eight seasons and did so while playing under six coaches, three sets of owners and four general managers. On the field he was also faced with change, playing with 13 different quarterbacks, 20 tight ends and 50 offensive linemen over the nine-year span. Jackson kept a positive attitude while waiting for his contract to end instead of demanding a trade and gratefully accepted his new contract in Atlanta with a reputation of class.

"For nearly a decade, Steven Jackson served as an inspiration for his St. Louis Rams teammates and our fans," said Rams owner Stan Kroenke.

Jackson joins a Falcons' veteran unit that has tallied five straight winning seasons and four playoff appearances. In the red zone, the Falcons should become increasingly dangerous. Gonzalez single-handedly makes the redzone offense deadly, but with a 6-foot-2, 240-pound running back able to bust through the goal line, the Falcons will be difficult to stop.

HELP WANTED ...

Defensively, Mike Nolan will have some rearranging to do with his personnel and depth chart before the season. Once the Jackson deal was made, all of the attention within the franchise has refocused to the defense where a lot of work remains to be done. The Falcons released John Abraham on March 1, and the franchise's all-time sack leader still sits on the free-agent shelf. Abraham recorded 10 of the team's 29 total sacks last season and his production will have to be both matched and supplemented with a replacement and second effective pass rusher in order to improve the team defense. The 29 sacks ranked the Falcons 28th last season, and the lack of pressure on the quarterback had repercussions in other phases of the defense.

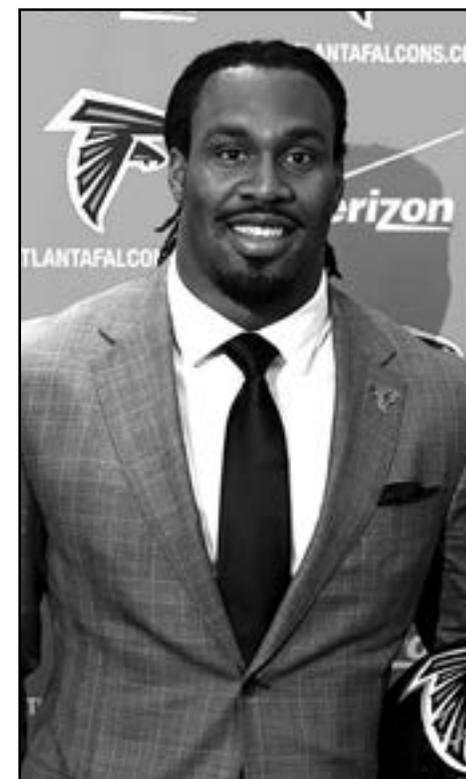
Atlanta was the 25th-ranked team in third-down defense and allowed opponents a 40.5 percent conversion rate. The defensive line struggled against the rush for much of the season and gave up 123.2 yards per game and 4.8 yards per carry. They allowed 16 total rushing touchdowns, which was tied for 24th with the Tennessee Titans.

The pass defense performed well on multiple occasions last season and credit can be given to a solid secondary led by Moore. The unit was first in the league in fewest pass-

ing touchdowns allowed with 14. Big plays in the open field, especially to the tight ends, hurt the pass defense the most. The defense gave up 7.4 yards per pass attempt on the season and 12.0 yards per completion, allowing 242 yards per game through the air. Nolan will likely be aiming to bring in a defender that can physically defend the tight ends in the upcoming draft.

Linebacker Mike Peterson is a free agent and the defense is left with just five linebackers on the roster. The thin defensive line and linebacking corps require Dimitroff to mine for his starting caliber talent in the draft. Making the switch to a 3-4 base could be in the future. The 4-3 did not stand the test against the NFC's multitude of read-option offenses and a 3-4 could allow the Falcons to profit from incoming hybrid players with more versatility. Having the freedom to run both a 4-3 or a 3-4 will help the Falcons because they can focus on getting the most NFL-ready guys and shape the defense to their strengths depending on which scheme has more available talent. Other than Dimitroff's first year in 2008, this is his most important draft to date and the defensive side of the ball depends on it.

Photos courtesy of Jimmy Cribb/Atlanta Falcons. Sager can be reached at csager@scoreatl.com.



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WHOS HOT

THUMBS UP TO REPPIN' GA



Lady Dogs

With no men's basketball programs from the Peach State taking part in the Big Dance, Andy Landers and the UGA women are the only in-state program competing for an NCAA basketball championship in 2013. The Lady Dogs will face Montana Saturday in Spokane, Wash., and would face either Iowa State or Gonzaga Monday.

Spring Sports

Baseball, lacrosse, golf, gymnastics, tennis, soccer and track are in full swing in the state of Georgia as we prepare for an intense April and an exciting May. While football is still king in the Peach State, some of the state's top athletes are taking part in spring sports, so get out and enjoy the action!

On The Air

Former Braves third baseman Chipper Jones is coming out of retirement and heading to NBC Sports Radio. Jones will serve as a guest host on Newy Scruggs' Voices of the Game for an hour each Tuesday beginning April 1. Jones will also co-host a one-hour show on 790 The Zone with Chris Dimino each Friday.

America's Game

The World Baseball Classic has come to a close and Team USA didn't even sniff the finals ... again. The Americans just cannot seem to make it to the semifinal round and even Braves closer Craig Kimbrel fell victim to the stink of the WBC. It may be America's Pastime but the world has passed us.

Kobe's Complaining

How much longer will we have to hear about Kobe Bryant's ankle and how he feels Dahntay Jones undercut him? Bryant missed a potential game-tying shot against Atlanta and limped off the floor after landing on Jones' foot. He has been ripping Jones ever since and ESPN won't let it go either. Let's move on everyone.

Basketball Transfers

Two former Georgia high school standouts have let it be known that they are either leaving or could leave at the end of the semester. Georgia Tech's Julian Royal has announced he will transfer while UCLA's Tony Parker hinted at a possible departure. Future recruits, be sure to base your college decision on more than just sports.



WHOS NOT

THUMBS DOWN TO LEAVIN' GA

SCORE LIST

BY BRIAN JONES

1 **TOURNEY TIME:** It's for the NCAA Basketball Tournament and 64 teams will be fighting for a trip to the Georgia Dome. Louisville is the overall No. 1 seed, but there are several teams that have a legitimate shot at winning it all. It's unfortunate that a team from Georgia is not in the big dance, especially with the Final Four being played in Atlanta.

2 **MORE DRAFT PICKS:** Meanwhile, in fortunate news, the NFL awarded the Falcons four compensatory picks for the upcoming draft. This gives the Birds 11 draft picks and an excellent opportunity to address some needs, especially on defense. The Falcons have done a good job in free agency, now it's time for them to succeed on the last weekend in April.

3 **NEW NEST:** The Atlanta City Council approved a financing plan this week to build the new Falcons stadium. The council voted 11-4 to approve using the hotel/motel tax to cover \$200 million in public funds. The board of the Georgia World Congress Center also approved the plan last Friday which virtually makes the new stadium a done deal.

4 **ALMOST TIME:** Spring training is winding down as the Braves get ready for Opening Day. The Braves look to carry that momentum into the start of the regular season, especially in the first series when the Braves take on Philadelphia. I know it's only the first series of the season, but it's an important series if only because it the hated Phillies.

5 **OVERKILL:** Tennessee head coach Butch Jones must really like Stanton Tuitt from Monroe Area because he sent him 105 recruiting letters, in ONE DAY. This is nothing new because Alabama sent 102 letters to Norcross' Alvin Kamara who chose the Tide over the Bulldogs. I know Jones wants Tuitt to play for his Vols, but 105 letters in one day? Really?

CRUNCHING THE NUMBERS

BY STEPHEN BLACK

0.97 Kris Medlen's ERA in 2012 starts

6.27 Medlen's ERA in 2013 Spring Training

9 Braves who hit safely in a March 18 win over Philly

0 Hits by Dan Uggla on March 18 in four at-bats

.182 Dan Uggla's spring batting average at press time

.220 Uggla's 2012 batting average

800 Michael Turner's rushing yards in 2012

1042 Steven Jackson's rushing yards in 2012

54.8 Turner's career average rushing yards per game

77.4 Jackson's average rushing yards per game

TRIVIA QUESTION

Who was the last Falcon besides Michael Turner to lead the team in rushing?

Answer on Page 14

SANITY AT LAST

"I've come to realize that unlike a lot of sports, you need a very supportive group around you and people that are willing to have the same goal in mind. I believe this is what this team presents for me."

- Falcons free-agent signee Steven Jackson on why he signed with Atlanta

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SCORE

PREP



SEEKING EXPOSURE

Wesleyan starting QB transfers to Lassiter

By Stephen Black

Midway through Will Anderson's junior season at Wesleyan, he had a change of mind. This sort of thing is commonplace among most teenagers, but Anderson's decision would affect two prominent high school football programs and all the players and coaches within them.

During the Wolves' 4-7 campaign in 2012, Anderson, the team's starting quarterback for the second year, decided to act upon his dream of wanting to play college football. He told his parents and the wheels were set in motion. In January, the Andersons moved from their Norcross home to the Lassiter district in eastern Cobb County where Will enrolled in school. Here, Anderson could compete for the starting quarterback job of a high-profile Class AAAAA program that throws the ball almost as much as Kobe Bryant takes shots.

"Will really wanted to improve and really wants to get more looks from colleges, and that's starting to happen right now since

he's transferred," said Will's father, Jeff, on the family decision to move. "He has a dream to play college football and he's had two very good seasons at an excellent school. We love Wesleyan. We thought for him this was probably the best decision."

Anderson was successful at Wesleyan and he and his family still look fondly upon the esteemed Gwinnett private school. With the Wolves, Anderson played baseball in addition to his record-setting football career. Anderson holds school records for career passing yards (4,260), completions (341), passing touchdowns in a game (6) and points in a game (36).

Lassiter, however, throws the ball prolifically out of the spread formation and also is at the forefront of the summer 7-on-7 tournaments that bring out a bevy of college scouts. Coupled with the school's winning baseball program and quality academic reputation, the Andersons thought transferring to Lassiter was a no-brainer. Trojans coach Jep Irwin

welcomes the family with open arms.

"In talking to his dad, he said he really wanted to play college football and felt like it was a little bit bigger stage playing 6A ball," said Irwin. "They kinda called us and said, 'We're coming.' They called the school and said, 'We'd like to move.' I think they'd already decided on Lassiter because of the combination of academics, baseball and football."

Anderson is receiving interest from college football programs such as his dad's alma mater, Furman, as well as Middle Tennessee State and Samford. But the 6-foot-1, 185-pounder has his sights set on more prestigious programs such as Duke, Wake Forest, California and Boise State. While the former two programs provide a mix of BCS conference football and elite academics, the latter two present the chance to play in pass-happy spread offenses similar to the style Irwin's program employs.

"Coach Irwin and (offensive coordinator) (Josh) Herring are just great teachers and it gives Will a chance to at least be considered (for scholarship offers)," said Jeff. "The bottom line is he needs to get better and he wants to get better and he wants to learn. If he's going to play at the next level, he's got to continue to learn and grow and develop."

The downside of the transfer is leaving Wesleyan behind without a proven quarterback and potentially taking the place of quarterbacks at Lassiter who have been in the Trojans' feeder system for years. Rising junior Russ Aarons led the Lassiter JV squad to a 6-1 record last season and was the favorite to take over the starting job heading into the fall. Now, he and Anderson will slug it out after Anderson finishes baseball season.

"Whenever we get Will in the summer (after baseball), they'll compete for the starting job and whenever one of them presents himself as being the starter, we'll name the starter," said Irwin. "But we're going to play the best one. We'd like to find a way for both of them to play a little bit, but we'll have to name a starter at some point."

Anderson's father believes the competition will help everyone involved. "It's competition. You've got to compete in life, right? Competition makes everybody better."

While the starting quarterback race is far from settled, Lassiter is certainly not lacking for quality candidates to replace Eddie Printz, who is now playing for Missouri.

Photos courtesy of Brian L. Morgan and Jim Worthington. Black can be reached at sblack@scoreatl.com.

PREP WORLD



Coaching changes shake football landscape

By Fletcher Proctor

In what is rivaled perhaps by only the college football coaching shuffle each December, the sidelines at high school football games across the Peach State will have many of the same faces in new places in 2013. Many coaches decide to pick up and move on to new jobs because they are seeking a new challenge or they want to move closer to family or perhaps because an opportunity to start a football program from scratch is too much to pass up.

Over the past few seasons, championship coaches have departed for programs with less prestige for various reasons. Lee Shaw left Flowery Branch for Rabun County to move closer to his family while Franklin Stephens left Tucker, fresh off the 2011 Class AAAA state title, to assume the head coaching position at his alma mater, Lamar County.

In 2012, Mark Farris coached Prince Avenue Christian to a berth in the Class A-Private championship game. Farris will coach 2013 at Stratford Academy, his alma mater, which will begin playing GHSA football in 2014.

Prince Avenue Christian didn't wait long

to snag a coach with a championship pedigree as the program hired Camden County's Jeff Herron. The four-time GHSA champion decided to move back to the Athens area where he previously coached at Cedar Shoals before winning a title with Oconee County in 1999. Herron has family in the Athens area.

FAMILY DECISIONS ...

Two other notable coaches made the decision to leave current jobs based on family reasons. Duluth's Corey Jarvis elected to leave Gwinnett County after three seasons and a 12-18 record to take the Mays job. Jarvis told the AJC's Todd Holcomb that the decision to leave Duluth "was a family decision." Jarvis previously coached in DeKalb County at M.L. King from 2005-2009, racking up a 49-11 record. Jason Conner was promoted to take over for Jarvis.

South Cobb's Ed Koester resigned at South Cobb, telling the Marietta Daily Journal that a 90-minute commute had "taken its toll," and that he wanted to spend more time with his family. Koester was 26-27 as head

coach at South Cobb, but led the Eagles to the program's first-ever state playoff win. South Cobb tapped Burke County defensive coordinator Michael Youngblood as its new coach.

NEW CHAPTER ...

Other than Herron's decision to leave Camden County, the biggest eye-opener of a coach leaving one school for another is new Creekview head coach Terry Crowder. The former Chattahoochee coach led the Cougars to the 2010 Class AAAA state title and compiled 60 wins in nine seasons with the north Fulton program. Crowder decided to start fresh and headed to Cherokee County to become just the second coach of the Grizzlies. Al Morrell began the program in 2006 and leaves an impressive 48-25 mark with three playoff appearances over the past five seasons.

Other notable coaching changes so far this season include Joseph Kegler replacing Dell McGee (position with Auburn), Ed Pilcher (Bainbridge) to Berrien, Leroy Ryals (Clarke Central) to Thomasville, Chad Frazier (Heritage-Conyers) to Villa Rica, Cortez Allen (Newton) to ML King, Michael Pollock (Americus-Sumter) to Habersham Central, Kenny Dallas (formerly Landmark Christian) to North Cobb Christian, Kipp Hall (Druid Hills) to Atkinson County, Jason Galt (Dutchtown) to North Forsyth, Chad Fisher (Gordon Central) to Lafayette, Tommy Jones (Lumpkin County) to Dacula, Harney Hester (Tattnall Square) to Howard, Shane Williamson (Toombs County) to Forsyth Central and Mike Parris (Jackson) to Heritage-Conyers.

Some schools promoted from within after seeing previous coaches resign or retire

such as John Ford (Roswell), Buddy Holder (Effingham County), Ben Hall (Jefferson), Todd Wheeler (Coosa), Hildrick Garrison (Bacon County), Scott Hodges (Bremen), David Humphreys (Gordon Central), Tanner Glisson (Manchester), Dary Myricks (Jackson), Ahren Self (Clarke Central), Mike Forrester (Mt. Pisgah) and Jerry Underwood (Franklin County).

Finally, several former assistants will move on to take over other programs including Michael Owens (Brookwood) at Chattahoochee, Bryan Love (Shiloh) at Westlake, Kevin Jones (Lovejoy) at Dutchtown, Phillip Johnson (Wayne County) at Lanier County and Von Lassiter (West Laurens) at Houston County.

Photo of Jeff Herron courtesy of Camden County High School. Proctor can be reached at fproctor@scoreatl.com.



SCORE
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SOCCER RANKINGS

BOYS

GIRLS

CLASS AAAAAA

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Lassiter | 6. East Coweta |
| 2. Lambert | 7. Peachtree Ridge |
| 3. Centennial | 8. Roswell |
| 4. Central Gwinnett | 9. Harrison |
| 5. Brookwood | 10. Duluth |

CLASS AAAAA

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

CLASS AAAA

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Dalton | 6. Chestatee |
| 2. Johnson-Gainesville | 7. Alexander |
| 3. Carrollton | 8. Grady |
| 4. Northwest Whitfield | 9. Veterans |
| 5. Stone Mountain | 10. Mary Persons |

CLASS AAA

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

CLASS AA

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

CLASS A

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Paideia | 6. Hebron Christian |
| 2. Galloway | 7. Pace Academy |
| 3. AIS | 8. Savannah Chr. |
| 4. Holy Innocents' | 9. Savannah Ctry Day |
| 5. Pacelli | 10. Athens Academy |

CLASS AAAAAA

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

CLASS AAAAA

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Northview | 6. Whitewater |
| 2. Heritage-Conyers | 7. Lakeside-DeKalb |
| 3. Union Grove | 8. Cambridge |
| 4. McIntosh | 9. Gainesville |
| 5. Starr's Mill | 10. Dunwoody |

CLASS AAAA

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

CLASS AAA

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Blessed Trinity | 7. White County |
| 2. St. Pius X | 8. North Hall |
| 3. Buford | 9. Callaway |
| 4. Dawson County | 10. Lakeview-Ft. Oglethorpe |
| 5. Woodward Acad. | |
| 6. Jackson County | |

CLASS AA

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

CLASS A

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

RANKINGS SUMMARY

SCORE
Atlanta

New No. 1's in Week 2 soccer polls

By Score Atlanta

No. 2 Grayson fell out of the top five in the baseball rankings after losses to Parkview and Loganville. South Gwinnett dropped out of the rankings entirely while Marietta dove into the rankings at No. 4 after five straight wins. Mill Creek jumped into the top 10 after impressive victories over Hoover (Ala.), Brookwood and Lassiter.

Dunwoody and Hiram debuted in this week's Class 5A rankings, while Woodland-Henry entered the Class 4A poll after four consecutive wins. Lanier also debuted in 4A after impressive wins over North Gwinnett and Archer.

Blessed Trinity moved up to No. 4 in Class 3A. After a win over Class 3A-power St. Pius, Westminster cracked the AA top five.

SOCCER RANKINGS ...

There is a new No. 1 in Class AA as Westminster was replaced by Greater Atlanta Christian after dropping two games to out-of-state teams. GAC picked up a quality win by defeating region-rival Lovett.

In Class 6A, Peachtree Ridge dropped after a loss to Brookwood, which climbed to No. 5. Johns Creek dropped out of the rankings after losing games to No. 3 Centennial and Lambert. Harrison and Duluth entered in the wake of Meadowcreek and Johns Creek. Heritage-Conyers and Pope debuted

in the Class 5A rankings after Tucker and Gainesville lost recent games.

In Class 3A, Buford fell out of the rankings after losses to No. 6 Decatur and West Hall.

Gwinnett County remains on top of the 6A girls rankings despite a recent two-game losing streak by last week's No. 1 Brookwood. Collins Hill assumes the top spot after defeating Meadowcreek and Class 5A No. 3 McIntosh last week. Lambert is the biggest mover, jumping up to No. 3.

LACROSSE RANKINGS ...

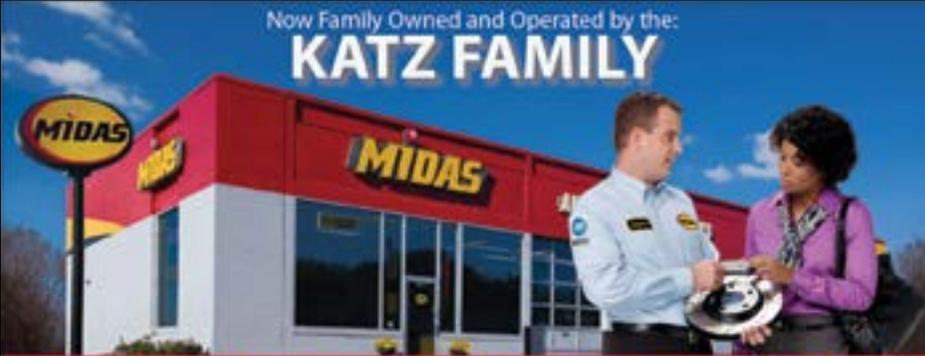
Milton boys remain No. 1 in the latest 6A lacrosse rankings with undefeated Centennial right behind the Eagles while North Gwinnett moved up to No. 6. Johns Creek moved into the rankings at No. 8 as Walton fell out after losing to No. 4 Lambert and No. 1 Milton.

In boys A-5A, Northview and Allatoona are the new No. 1 and No. 2 teams, respectively, after previous No. 1 Greater Atlanta Christian dropped to No. 3.

In girls A-5A, No. 7 St. Pius X picked up a nice win over No. 8 Lakeside-Evans to move past the Panthers in the poll.

Class 6A Lassiter moved up to No. 3 and Walton moved up to No. 4. Kennesaw Mountain debuted in the poll at No. 10.

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S A - B R K

BASEBALL RANKINGS

Class AAAAAA

- Parkview
- Lambert
- Walton
- Marietta
- Mill Creek
- East Coweta
- McEachern
- Lassiter
- Johns Creek
- Grayson

Class AAAA

- Columbus
- Crisp County
- Lanier
- Spalding
- Woodland-Henry
- Marist
- Eastside
- Alexander
- Carrollton
- Dutchtown

Class AA

- Lovett
- Wesleyan
- Jefferson
- Calhoun
- Westminster
- Benedictine
- GAC
- Berrien
- Cook
- Bremen

Class AAAAA

- Loganville
- Gainesville
- Greenbrier
- McIntosh
- Starr's Mill
- Dunwoody
- Ola
- Hiram
- Sequoyah
- Riverwood

Class AAA

- Buford
- Appling County
- Pierce County
- Blessed Trinity
- Tattnall County
- North Hall
- St. Pius
- Cartersville
- Oconee County
- Dodge County

Class A - Private

- ELCA
- Mount Paran
- Brookstone
- George Walton Acad.
- First Presbyterian

Class A - Public

- Charlton County
- ECI
- Schley County
- Gordon Lee
- Baconton Charter

LACROSSE RANKINGS

BOYS

Class AAAAAA

- Milton
- Centennial
- Mill Creek
- Lassiter
- Lambert
- North Gwinnett
- Etowah
- Johns Creek
- Roswell
- Hillgrove

Class A-AAAAA

- Northview
- Allatoona
- Greater Atlanta Christian
- Decatur
- Westminster
- Holy Innocents'
- McIntosh
- Fellowship Christian
- Blessed Trinity
- Lovett

GIRLS

Class AAAAAA

- Milton
- Centennial
- Lassiter
- Walton
- Mill Creek
- Roswell
- Etowah
- West Forsyth
- Chattahoochee
- Kennesaw Mountain

Class A-AAAAA

- Cambridge
- Starr's Mill
- Westminster
- Whitewater
- Kell
- Northview
- St. Pius X
- Lakeside-Evans
- Columbus
- Woodward Academy



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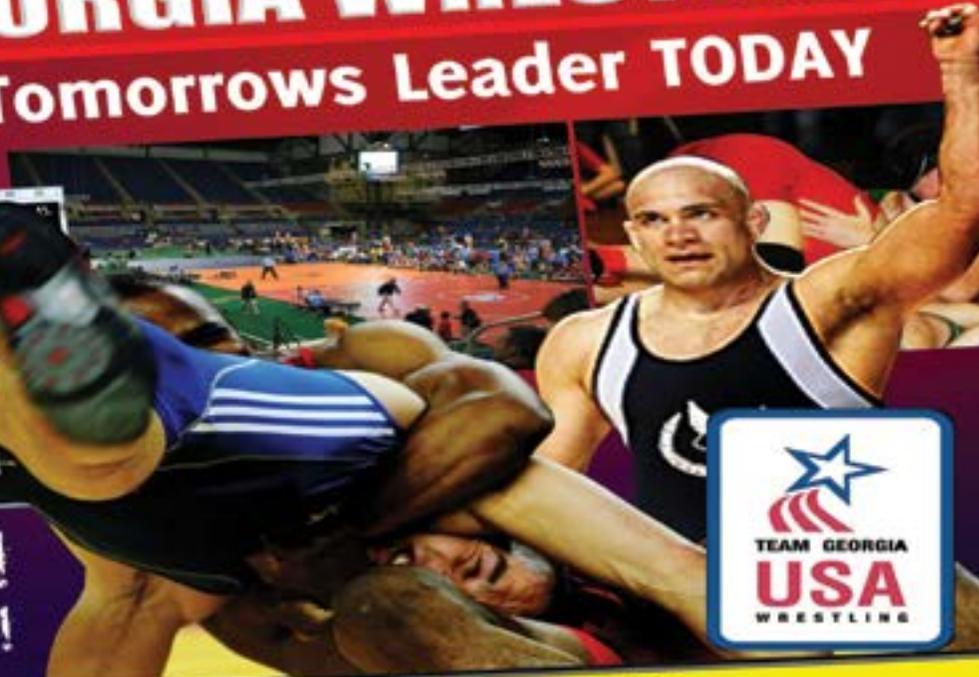
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BULLDOG BEAT



Baseball swept; Lady Dogs in Spokane

By Chris Nieman

The UGA men's basketball team showed promise at times during the 2012-13 season but in the end, the Bulldogs couldn't repeat what the team achieved in 2011: an NCAA tournament berth.

The Dawgs' chances at playing in the NCAA tournament solely relied on the team running the gauntlet in the SEC tournament. Nevertheless, the Bulldogs' aspirations of March Madness failed to come to fruition as the team fell flat on its face in the opening half of tournament play against LSU, trailing by 20 at halftime.

Despite a strong second-half rally and a career-high 32-point performance by the 2012-13 SEC player of the year, Kentavious Caldwell-Pope, Georgia could not overcome a dreadful first half, ultimately losing to the Tigers 68-63.

Now, all that Mark Fox and the UGA community can do is cross their fingers and hope that Caldwell-Pope will return for his junior season.

THE DAWGHOUSE ...

The Diamond Dawgs have seen better days. The team is on a five-game losing streak, including being swept by the Texas A&M Aggies in a three-game series at Blue Bell Park to open SEC conference play.

Georgia looks to rebound as Alabama visits Foley Field for a three-game series this weekend.

GYM-TASTIC ...

The Georgia Gym Dogs put on a spectacle in the team's season finale at N.C. State on St. Patrick's Day, beating the Wolfpack, 197,800-196,000; a season-high score. The No. 5 Georgia gymnastics team is headed to the SEC tournament on Sunday, with high expectations to win it all following the victory over the Wolfpack.

"Oh! It would mean the world," said senior Gym Dog Kati Breazeal. "I mean especially to me and my class. It's our senior year; it's our last year in gymnastics. I mean to have an SEC championship ring would be unreal. It would just finish the season out with a bang."

Georgia will compete against Florida, LSU, and Alabama in Session 2. The Gym Dogs are a combined 1-2 against those teams this season.

BEAR DOWN ...

The No. 13 UGA women's basketball team has been awarded the fourth seed and will play the No. 13-seeded Montana Lady Griz in the first round of the NCAA tournament on Saturday in Spokane, Wash. The Lady Dogs have made 30 of 32 tournaments since its inception in 1981-82.

Nieman can be reached at cneman@scoreatl.com.

TECH BUZZ



Eagles end Jackets' hoops season

By Ryan Caiafa

After a close loss at Boston College to end the regular season, revenge was on Georgia Tech's mind entering the first round of the ACC Tournament. Unfortunately for the Jackets, an opposing freshman saw that the end result was the same.

Eagles freshman Oliver Hanlan had the highest individual point total in an ACC Tournament game since 1970 as he scored 41 points in Boston College's 84-64 victory. The Jackets simply had no answer for Hanlan, who made 14 of 18 shots, including eight three-pointers. The Eagles erased an early 15-point deficit, mostly due to Hanlan's hot shooting, and ran away with the game early in the second half.

Tech ends the season with a 16-15 record, bouncing back from two consecutive losing seasons. The Jackets finished ACC play with a 6-12 mark. As one of the conference's youngest teams, the Jackets have plenty of reason to be optimistic as they enter the offseason.

ROYAL TREATMENT ...

However, coach Brian Gregory's squad will move on without the services of sophomore forward Julian Royal, who has decided to transfer. The Milton product averaged just 6.6 min-

utes per game and less than two points this past season. Royal averaged 4.4 points per game as a freshman and saw action in 30 games.

BEESSBALL ...

To say the Yellow Jackets baseball team has gotten off to a great start would be an understatement. At 17-2 through March 17, the Jackets continue to benefit from strong offensive numbers, particularly from players such as outfielder Brandon Thomas, who currently leads the team in batting average (.479) to go along with his team lead in hits, and catcher Zane Evans, who leads the team with eight home runs.

The pitching has also been nearly as explosive, with Buck Farmer and Cole Pitts both off to impressive starts to the season. Farmer has yet to lose a decision with a 4-0 record, a microscopic 1.64 ERA and 44 strikeouts, while Pitts has been nearly as good, posting a 4-1 record and a 2.17 ERA.

Tech will face its biggest challenge of the season as it travels to Tallahassee to take on fifth-ranked Florida State, which got off to a 16-1 start and suffered its first loss of the season to Maryland on March 15.

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PANTHER PROWL



Panthers fall to Mercer in extra innings

By Fletcher Proctor

Georgia State welcomed Mercer to the GGSU Baseball Complex earlier this week with an eye on securing a victory over its in-state neighbor. Caden Bailey's two-run single helped the Panthers rally from a 3-0 hole to take a 4-3 lead heading to the seventh inning, but Georgia State would fail to score again as Mercer escaped with a 9-4 victory.

Mercer quickly tied the game at four in the top of the seventh before the bats of both teams went quiet until the 11th frame. Mercer's Nick Backlund would drive home two runs on a bases-loaded double as the Bears put up five in the frame to cruise to a win. Mark Hogan finished with three hits for the Panthers while Chad Praid, Chase Raffield and Chris Triplett each contributed a pair of hits in the 11-inning game. Connor Stanley was charged with the loss while starter Nick Squeglia received a no-decision after leaving with the lead.

POWERFUL PANTHERS ...

The softball team earned a run-rule victory over Jacksonville State Tuesday, beating the Gamecocks 11-3 in five innings. The victory was Georgia State's ninth in the team's last 10 games.

Georgia State received 15 total hits, including three apiece from Ashley Christy, Jessica Clifton and Brenna Morrissey. Morrissey filled out the box score with three runs.

Paige Nowacki moved one step closer to the program's all-time home run record after blasting a bomb against Jacksonville State. Nowacki has nine on the year and 29 for her career. The GSU career record is 32.

Georgia State faced defending national champion Alabama Wednesday, but the result was not available at press deadline.

TENNIS ANYONE? ...

The women's tennis team faced Clemson at the Orlando Tennis Center, falling to the No. 14 Tigers 6-1. Whitney Byrd scored the Panthers' lone point, defeating nationally-ranked Beatrice Gumulya 7-5, 7-6 (4). The Panthers' No. 1 doubles team of Abigail Tere-Apisah and Masa Grgan also secured a victory, but Clemson won the doubles point en route to the easy 6-1 victory.

Georgia State will next face Louisville on March 29 and North Texas March 30.

Proctor can be reached at fproctor@scoreatl.com.

OWL OUTLOOK



Baseball drops two of three to Mercer

By Brian Jones

The baseball team started off the 2013 season on fire in winning five of its first eight games.

The Owls have since cooled off, but still took a .500 record into their first conference series of the season this past weekend.

The Owls faced Mercer at home on Friday, Saturday and Sunday with the Bears winning two of three. On Friday, Mercer's Sasha Lagarde hit a three-run homer to tie the game in the top of the ninth and the Bears would score again in the 11th on a wild pitch to win 4-3.

On Saturday, KSU's David Dean stuck out eight batters, but it wasn't enough as the Bears defeated the Owls 5-1.

The Owls were able to break through in Sunday's game to avoid the sweep. Led by freshman Kal Simmons, who went 4-for-4 with three singles, a double and two RBIs, the Owls took down Mercer 5-4 to win Game 3 of the series. Bo Way also had a solid day at the plate with an RBI double to extend his hitting streak to 15 games.

The Owls will have another conference series at Stillwell Stadium this weekend as they face Northern Kentucky.

ON FIRE ...

To say the softball team has been on a roll as of late would be a huge understatement. Since the loss to South Carolina on March 2 the Owls won eight of their next nine games, including taking two of three from Lipscomb this past weekend.

One of the reasons for their success is the pitching of Amanda Henderson, who allowed only three hits and struck out four batters in four innings of work in the 2-0 win against Lipscomb Sunday.

Henderson also pitched on Saturday in the 6-3 win over Lipscomb and went the distance as she struck out 14 batters in seven innings.

For her efforts this past weekend, the Atlantic Sun Conference named Henderson its pitcher of the week. Henderson and the rest of the Owls will look to keep the momentum going when they face Northern Kentucky in a three-game series this weekend.

Jones can be reached at bjones@scoreatl.com.

HAWKS HAVEN



Home-court advantage hopes alive

By Ricky Dimon

With less than one month to go in the regular season, the battle for home-court advantage in the Eastern Conference first round is heating up nicely. Miami, which owns a 23-game winning streak as of Wednesday afternoon, is at least 11 games up on everyone else in the conference. Not even second-place Indiana, however, is assured of enjoying the home-court edge in round one.

The Hawks are in fifth position at the moment, but to say the situation is fluid would be an understatement. They are just a half game ahead of sixth and seventh (Chicago and Boston), but they are within two games of Brooklyn, three games of New York and 4.5 games of Indiana.

Prior to a Monday loss at home versus Dallas (which coincided with a win by the Nets over Detroit), the Hawks scored a crucial 105-93 road win at Brooklyn last Sunday. That momentarily allowed Atlanta to trail the Nets by a mere one game in the standings. A 14-point fourth-quarter margin in the visitors' favor ultimately made for a two-game swing. Josh Smith and Jeff Teague both made major contributions over the final 12 minutes and Al Horford (22 points, 11 rebounds, four steals) led the way from start to finish. Kyle Korver

and DeShawn Stevenson each drained a pair of threes while Dahntay Jones chipped in 13 points off the bench. The Hawks' victory evened their regular-season series against the Nets at two wins apiece.

"Coming into this game were we concerned with the matchups," head coach Larry Drew told the Atlanta Journal Constitution. "The first three games we went big on them. This time we decided to go with our regular lineup and it turns out it was a good call by the coach. We were able to get out and run. Our speed and quickness was very obvious."

HARRIS TEETERING ...

Devin Harris has made four consecutive starts with Jeff Teague suffering from an ankle injury. Teague returned to the starting lineup on Monday, but Harris still got a nod—this time at the expense of Stevenson. The former Net averaged 16 points and six assists over his first two games in the stretch and he scored 10 against Dallas. It remains to be seen how much longer Harris will be a part of the five-man unit with Teague visibly progressing.

Dimon can be reached at rdimon@scoreatl.com.

FALCONS BEAT



Compensatories give Falcons 11 picks

By Craig Sager II

Atlanta finished an impressive first week of free agency, and filling the holes on the defensive side becomes dire after resolving offensive vacancies. Pro Bowl safety and free agent William Moore was re-signed as well as offensive starters Sam Baker and Tony Gonzalez. Free-agent running back Stephen Jackson was brought in to replace veteran Michael Turner, and the organization sees the 29-year-old Jackson as an upgrade from the franchise's all-time rushing leader. Jackson told the organization he saw both a role and an opportunity for a Super Bowl in Atlanta over any other offers, which says a lot about the organization's attitude heading into 2013.

OPTIMUS GRIMES ...

Re-signing cornerback Brent Grimes after Dunta Robinson was released March 1 is significant. Defensive coordinator Mike Nolan runs a lot of nickel packages that require three reliable cornerbacks. Asante Samuel and Robert McClain proved to be solid starters last season, but if Grimes cannot be re-signed, a draft pick or free agent move will have to be made.

In 2012 the Falcons lost Kelvin Hayden, Curtis Lofton, James Sanders and Eric Weems

to free agency and will be rewarded with the maximum four compensatory picks in the April Draft as a result. Atlanta will now get 11 picks including an extra one in the fourth round and three extras in the seventh. A defensive end will be a top priority in the draft and there are plenty of athletes that Nolan could implement into his aggressive schemes.

MARGUS MANIA ...

Margus Hunt is just one end prospect, and at SMU he played every position on the defensive line. Hunt is as versatile as they come and at 6-foot-8, 277 pounds ran a 4.60 40-yard-dash and bench pressed 225 pounds 38 times. Hunt will be likely be available around the late first to early second round, and his freakish athleticism and potential will tempt teams to take a chance. The Falcons ran a 4-3 defense that was suspect to the read option in 2012, and a 3-4 with an athletic anchor on the outside could be a route Nolan may choose depending on the personnel he has at his disposal.

At linebacker, aging Mike Peterson is one of only six linebackers on the active roster.

Sager can be reached at csager@scoreatl.com.

CHOP SHOP



Kimbrel returns with successful outing

By Fletcher Proctor

While spring training stats and numbers aren't necessarily important, some spring training games do take on a sense of importance, especially with a national television audience watching. ESPN was in Champion Stadium Monday as the Braves hosted the Philadelphia Phillies. Atlanta sent expected opening day starter Kris Medlen to the bump and the right-hander surrendered five runs on seven hits in the second inning, part of a five-inning outing that saw him give up nine runs on 14 hits. Amazingly, Medlen was able to pick up the win as the offense slugged for 17 runs in the 17-10 victory.

Justin Upton continues to impress, blasting a pair of home runs and driving in six runs to lead the offense. Nine Braves picked up hits and six batters, including Medlen recorded multiple hits. Dan Uggla was the only Braves starter that failed to notch a hit.

BLOWING SMOKE ...

Craig Kimbrel returned to the Braves after a stint with Team USA in the World Baseball Classic. In his first game action upon returning, Kimbrel struck out one batter and retired two others in one inning of work against the Phillies. Kimbrel pitched in four games during the WBC, giving up a pair of

runs on three hits to take the loss against the Dominican Republic. The Americans were eliminated Friday by Puerto Rico.

One of Kimbrel's expected setup men this season, Jordan Walden, was expected to pitch in Wednesday's game against the Pittsburgh Pirates after receiving an epidural injection for a bulging disc in his back. It was his first action since Feb. 23.

MAKING MOVES ...

The team made its first set of roster moves late last week, trimming the spring roster by 10 players. Cory Rasmus, Juan Jaime and Aaron Northcraft were all optioned to various affiliates while Ryan Buchter, Yohan Flande, Gus Schlosser, Luis De La Cruz, Braeden Schlehuter, Jose Yopez and Joe Leonard were all re-assigned to the team's minor league camp. Pitcher J.R. Graham, the team's No. 2 prospect, was re-assigned to the minor league camp this past Saturday after tossing two scoreless innings against the Yankees. He finished his time with the parent club having tossed nine scoreless innings with five strikeouts, three walks and six hits. He will likely begin the year in Class AA-Mississippi.

Proctor can be reached at fproctor@scoreatl.com.

GWINNETT GLADIATORS



Glads attempt to clinch South Division

By Joe Deighton

Three games remain in the 2012-13 ECHL season for the Gwinnett Gladiators and the team is in prime position to win a second straight South Division title. The Glads have won four straight games and clinched a playoff spot with a 3-2 win over Orlando last Sunday. A division championship would earn Gwinnett a top-3 playoff spot and home-ice advantage for at least the first round of the postseason.

PLAYOFF BOUND ...

Forward Andy Brandt led the way with two goals in the win over the Solar Bears. Rookie Doug Jones put home his 20th goal of the season early in the third period. Jones is the third Gladiator with at least 20 goals this year, joining Casey Pierro-Zabotel and Evan Bloodoff. The rookie forward has 46 points and is a plus-17 in 57 games with Gwinnett. Goalie Mark Vistien started his first game with the Gladiators and played strong with 26 saves on 28 shots. Vistien was just assigned to the team three days earlier from AHL Portland. The expansion Orlando Solar Bears have been a punching bag all season for the Glads, as Gwinnett has won 10 of 12 games and the last three in a row.

HYPHEN HAPPY ...

ECHL leading scorer Pierro-Zabotel was assigned to the AHL's Charlotte Checkers on Tuesday. Pierro-Zabotel has been the leading scorer for Gwinnett all season with 21 goals and 53 assists. The forward has played in all 65 games this season and notched 22 multi-point games for the Gladiators. He led the team with a nine-game point streak earlier this season (four goals, 12 assists). Pierro-Zabotel had nine points in five games this month and will be missed on the first line.

ON THE DOCKET ...

The Glads have a four-point lead in the division over Florida, but the Everblades have two games in hand, which means Gwinnett must finish strong over the final three games. A home-and-away with South Carolina awaits the Glads this weekend. The Stingrays will play hard, as they are fighting for a postseason berth with 78 points. Gwinnett ranks third in the conference with 40 wins and 83 points. Two wins against the Stingrays would almost certainly clinch the division.

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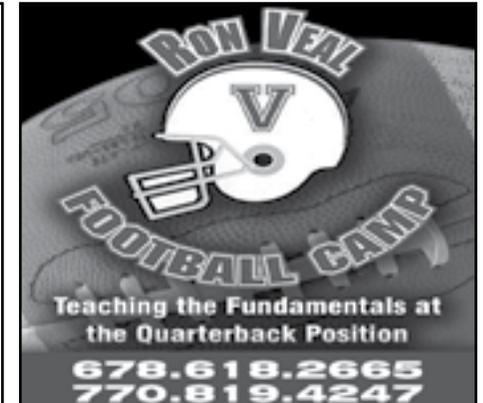


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