



# ATLANTA'S WEEKLY SPORTS PLUS NEWSPAPER

SPORTS RADIO  
**790 THE ZONE**

MARCH 4-10, 2011

CHECK US OUT AT SCOREATL.COM

VOL 7 NO 9

# SCORE Atlanta

## HOOTERS

CATCH THE HAWKS  
AT HOOTERS!

# NEW HORIZONS

## Hawks new deal shows desire to win now

SEE PAGES 7-10  
FOR OUR PREP  
COVERAGE!



# frugalicious!

## 9.9% APR Visa credit card

APR - Annual Percentage Rate. No annual fee. 25-day grace period.

Anyone  
can  
join

acuonline.org

**ASSOCIATED  
CREDIT UNION**

Better than a Bank



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

Now is the time to get your preemergent applied to all warm season turfgrasses and to any fescue yards that will not be aerated and seeded this fall. Personal Touch can be your one-stop shop for all chemical and maintenance needs.

- Design and consultation
- Retaining walls and walkways
- Patios and outdoor fireplaces
- Irrigation design/installation/repair
- Tree and shrub installation
- Fertilization and weed control
- Sod installation
- 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**



**GPB**  
SPORTS CENTRAL

**PUTTING A NEW  
FACE ON HIGH  
SCHOOL SPORTS**

EVERY WEDNESDAY NIGHT AT 7:30 ON CHANNEL 8  
(COMCAST HD 808) WITH ENCORES FRIDAY NIGHTS  
AT 11 AND SATURDAYS AT NOON

**GPB.ORG/SPORTS**



**GHSA  
BASKETBALL**

**LIVE TV  
MARCH  
11-12  
ON GPB**

**STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**GPB**  
SPORTS

**SCORE** **STARTING LINEUP**

**PUBLISHER/EDITOR** I.J. Rosenberg  
**GENERAL MANAGER** Bob Houghton  
**MANAGING EDITOR** Stephen Black  
**ART/CREATIVE DIRECTOR** DJ Galbiati  
**BUSINESS MANAGER** Marvin Botnick  
**BEAT WRITERS** Josh Bagriansky (Hawks), Stephen Black (UGA), Dave Cohen (Georgia State), Joe Deighton (Thrashers), Ricky Dimon (Falcons), Fletcher Proctor (Braves), Thomas Watson (Tech), Brian Jones (Preps)  
**STAFF WRITERS** Jay Thomason, Drew Collins, Sean Conway  
**CONTRIBUTORS** C.C., Brian Katrek, Alex Ewalt, Tad Arapoglou, Dean Zindler, Zander Lentz, Kevin Dankosky, Mitch Evans, Chris Dimino, Matt Stewart, Fred Kalil, Nick Cellini, Dave Marshall, Greg Smith, Steak Shapiro, Beau Bock, Roy Hickman, Dave Cohen, Bob Rathbun, Courtney Capps, Bill Hartman, Chuck Dowdle, Dan Kamal, Dennis Scott, Jeff Batten, Jeff Measor  
**SPECIAL CONTRIBUTORS** Mitch Albom, Dave Kindred, Barry Bloom

**SCORE** **SCHOOL LISTING**

**CHEROKEE/FORSYTH:** Cherokee, Creekview, Etowah, Forsyth Central, North Forsyth, Sequoyah, South Forsyth, West Forsyth, Woodstock  
**COBB:** Allatoona, Campbell, Harrison, Kell, Kennesaw Mountain, Lassiter, Marietta, McEachern, Mt. Paran Christian N. Cobb, N. Cobb Christian, Pebblebrook, Pope, S. Cobb, Sprayberry, Walker, Walton, Wheeler, Whitefield Academy  
**DEKALB:** Arabia Mountain, Chamblee, Columbia, Decatur, Druid Hills, Dunwoody, Lakeside, Marist, Miller Grove, M.L. King, Paldeia, Redan, St. Pius X, Southwest DeKalb, Stephenson, Stone Mountain, Tucker  
**FULTON:** Alpharetta, Blessed Trinity, Centennial, Chattahoochee, Douglass, Grady, John's Creek, Lovett, Mays, Milton, Mt. Pisgah, North Springs, Northview, Riverwood, Roswell, Tri-Cities, Westminster, Woodward Academy  
**GWINNETT:** Berkmar, Brookwood, Buford, C. Gwinnett, Collins Hill, Dacula, Grayson, Greater Atlanta Christian, Meadowcreek, Mill Creek, Norcross, North Gwinnett, Parkview, Peachtree Ridge, South Gwinnett, Wesleyan  
**FAYETTE:** Whitewater, Sandy Creek, Starr's Mill  
**NEWTON:** Eastside

**SHOT OF THE WEEK...**



**FUTURE DAWG:** Georgia signee Isaiah Crowell receives the Touchdown Club of Atlanta Bobby Dodd award Saturday at the Ferst Center on the campus of Georgia Tech. Bulldog coach Mark Richt was in attendance to help Crowell accept the award. *Photo courtesy of Rob Saye.*

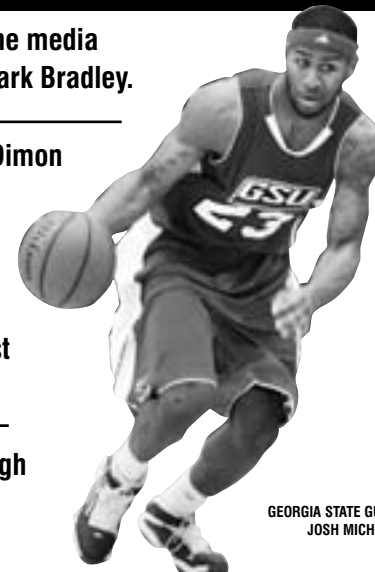
**CAN'T MISS THIS WEEK**

**4** The Fletch notices that others in the media besides himself are fed up with Mark Bradley.

**5** In our cover story reporter Ricky Dimon checks in on the Hawks, who clearly aren't giving up on 2011.

**7** Joe Deighton re-visits some of the upsets that occurred in the first round of state hoops playoffs.

**8-10** Check out our coverage of local high school sports in the prep section.



GEORGIA STATE GUARD  
JOSH MICHEAUX

**TEAM SCOOP AND VOICES**

COVER DESIGN BY DJ GALBIATI  
 COVER PHOTO COURTESY OF ROCKY WIDNER/NBAE/  
 GETTY IMAGES

**6 SCORE LIST - WHO'S HOT**  
**11 SCORE MORE 12 GSU**  
**13 CALENDAR 14 TECH - UGA**

**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 bhoughton@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.

**MAKE YOURS THE BEST SEAT IN THE HOUSE**



Foam beans inside luxurious covers: Cool-lookin', comfortable, inexpensive and durable sofas, chairs and accessories. Perfect for game rooms, home theaters, kid's rooms, family rooms and more!



Amsterdam Walk ~ 500-L4 Amsterdam Avenue

Atlanta ~ 404/574-8099 ~ Open Wednesday - Sunday ~ www.coolbeanzstore.com

## THE FLETCH

ATLANTA'S  
ONLY SPORTS  
MEDIA COLUMN

SCORE



## Bradley blasted for Hewitt criticism; Steak takes unpopular stance on NBA

Apparently the frustration of bored Atlanta newspaper readers has gone national. Many people in the Atlanta area have grown tired of reading column after column and blog after blog where the AJC's Mark Bradley has gone after Georgia Tech men's basketball coach Paul Hewitt, seeking change and picking on the once-proud Tech basketball program.

I've spent many column inches begging Mark Bradley to stop his incessant Fire Mark Richt/Paul Hewitt blogs and articles and come up with something else. CBS Sports and Sports Illustrated college basketball reporter Seth Davis finally had enough and went after Bradley for railing on Hewitt. Last Monday via Twitter, Davis remarked:

"I've never seen a sports columnist repeatedly attack a coach w/ venom like Mark Bradley of AJC attacks Paul Hewitt. I say Fire Bradley 1st."

Have I been critical of Hewitt on my radio show before? Yes. But do I do it EVERY time Georgia Tech plays? No. I keep the topics fresh. When the inevitable deluge of Fire Hewitt calls starts, we steer the conversation to a fresh perspective. Do I have a personal problem with something Hewitt said about the Atlanta media the way Bradley seems to have? No. Just like I have my opinion, Hewitt is allowed to have his. He can say what he chooses the same way I do. But after a while it just gets tired, Bradley.

This is a piece of his rant after Virginia beat Tech last week:

"Another Tech loss, and at its end there came no cascade of boos. There was only more of the numbness that has come to enshroud this once buoyant program. I feel for Tech fans. I feel for Tech players, who are trying hard with not much to show for it. I feel for everyone involved in this bleak tableau.

There's nothing fun here."

In speaking about the potential Twitter war (Bradley had not responded via Tweet as of Tuesday afternoon), 680 The Fan's Sandra Golden gave an inside look at the potential start of the Bradley-Hates-Hewitt campaign. The newest member of The Rude Awakening revealed that several years ago Hewitt made the claim that he didn't read the newspaper and when asked why, responded because of the columnist. Presumably he was speaking about Bradley, who has since taken more shots at Hewitt than he has at Mark Richt and the Atlanta Hawks combined. I guess Bradley should be flattered that he has at least one national reader. But I also guess he might want to let up a tad with the "venom," otherwise Davis's more than 360,000 Twitter followers might weigh in with the AJC.

## NBA MIGNON ...

While it seems Golden has been fitting in quite nicely with 680 the Fan and her new Rude Awakening co-hosts, one of her former co-hosts took a head-scratching stand on the NFL non-guaranteed contracts. Steak Shapiro of Mayhem in the AM was discussing the non-guaranteed nature of contracts in the NFL vs. the guaranteed deals in the NBA and in Major League Baseball. He was attempting to argue (I am SURE this was strictly done to play "disagreeable radio host") that the NFL should guarantee contracts like the NBA and MLB do. One of his co-hosts pointed out how the guaranteed deals hurt the NBA, but Steak retorted that the NBA is pulling in outstanding numbers.

I must agree with Chris and Nick: the numbers in the NBA aren't tied to the contracts and just so happen to be up because the superstars have finally turned into super-

duperstars. The NBA guaranteed contracts hamstringing teams every year, and while there are creative ways to sometimes get around the salary cap, bad deals cripple a team for years while an NFL "bad contract" can be immediately killed off. The NFL is popular BECAUSE of the contract situation with people always playing their way into one or potentially out of one. If a guy doesn't work, cut him and pay the small guaranteed amount or go get a new guy. Yes it stinks for the football players that their contracts aren't guaranteed, but sometimes that works both ways: the players like to holdout for more money too. Don't forget that it sometimes works in their favor.

## MILESTONE SURPASSED ...

A quick congrats to 680 The Fan's drive home show and its co-hosts Buck Belue and John Kincade of Buck & Kincade for its recent passing of the 2500 show-mark. These two are true professionals and can be serious or funny, casual or formal in the same segment. It is truly a treat to drive home with these guys five days a week. The pairing may seem unlikely: a Valdosta kid turned UGA quarterback turned talk show host with a Philly guy turned "carpetbagger," but these two really make it work. I hope that they will be rocking and rolling and talking sports for at least another 2500 shows.

680 The Fan and its family of networks have plunged right back into Braves baseball in its second season serving as the flagship of Atlanta baseball. Buck & Kincade, Chuck & Chernoff and The Rude Awakening will be rotating down in Orlando with Belue helping to call some spring training games. Hopefully with one year under his belt, he'll be a little more comfortable in the baseball broad-

CAN YOU BELIEVE...  
...HE SAID THAT?

*"I see myself not just as a football player but as an entertainer and an icon."*

That was former Auburn quarterback Cam Newton right before his performance at the NFL combine. So you're an icon? An entertainer? Wow, that is great info. Could this guy be any more full of himself? As a fan of a team drafting in the top ten, I hope "my team" decides to go more for a QUARTERBACK than an entertainer. Last time I checked, Madonna never threw a touchdown pass. Get a grip on reality Cam, otherwise your career is going to have the curtain dropped on it...in a hurry. Entertainer? Try just throwing an out route.

cast booth. Last year's experiment was a bit rough. Here's hoping 2011 is better.

Finally, Georgia State fans were probably sighing with a side of eye-rolling after finding out that the AJC finally gave its basketball program some publicity...only to find it was to announce that the head coach had received the boot. Panthers fans shouldn't worry though: even if the AJC decides not to really care about Georgia State, Score Atlanta will be right here, updating the web and featuring Dave Cohen in the paper. If the AJC lets you down, turn to us.

Proctor can be reached at [fproctor@scoreatl.com](mailto:fproctor@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 Ruin Rd.  
Norcross, GA 30093  
770.931.2411

**Training • Grooming  
Boarding • Pet Supplies**

**Man's Best Friend**

WWW.ATLANTAMANSBE.COM

THE PROFESSIONAL DIFFERENCE IN DOG TRAINING

HAWKS

## DEALING

SCORE

RICKY DIMON



## Deal for Hinrich, Armstrong proves Hawks not settling for same old results

At the All-Star break, the Atlanta Hawks found themselves in fifth place in the Eastern Conference, one game behind Orlando and 6.5 games back of Boston and Miami. For the Hawks of yesteryear, that's a pretty good position. For these Hawks, it's not even acceptable.

The team all but announced such an opinion when it shipped off veteran point guard Mike Bibby and 2010 first-round draft pick Jordan Crawford to the Washington Wizards in exchange for Kirk Hinrich and Hilton Armstrong.

Just how bad did the Hawks want to make a deal for a new point guard? Well, Hinrich was not their first choice; that was former Net Devin Harris, who ended up with Utah. Hinrich was not even their second choice; that was former Knick Raymond Felton, who was sent to Denver in the Carmelo Anthony blockbuster. But the Hawks felt like they needed to make a change, and as a result they were even willing to part with their upcoming 2011 first-round draft pick just to get their third choice.

"We felt we had a good opportunity to improve our ballclub by adding Kirk and Hilton," general manager Rick Sund told the team's website. "Kirk is a well-rounded player (who) gives us options at both guard positions. Hilton can play both center and power forward and will add frontcourt depth."

## ROCKY ROAD ...

Atlanta played at home for the first time since Feb. 12 when it took the court against Chicago on Wednesday. The seven-game road trip that spanned the All-Star break was not a smashing success, but it certainly could have been worse. While the Hawks went a pedestrian 3-4 overall, they compiled a perfect 2-0 record when Hinrich played.

After hammering a wretched Detroit team to kick off the journey, Atlanta lost its three toughest games of the trip to New York, Los Angeles and Phoenix. With Hinrich on board and a more manageable duo of games at Golden State and Portland, the Hawks

promptly won two in a row. Hinrich saw 17 minutes of action against the Warriors and chipped in eight points, three rebounds and three assists. The former Kansas star played 29 minutes to Jeff Teague's 13 and again contributed eight points.

"I felt so-so," Hinrich told the Atlanta Journal-Constitution after the win over Golden State. "I'm just trying to get familiar with everybody, the plays and all of that. It wasn't too rough. The good thing is we did such a good job defensively we weren't forced to run a lot of sets. We were able to get offense from our defense."

Hinrich, however, was not feeling good after his second night in a Hawks uniform. The calf problem that hampered him throughout his final days in Washington flared up again and sidelined him from Monday's loss to the Denver Nuggets.

## REASON FOR HOPE ...

Once Hinrich returns to 100 percent and when (and if) Armstrong starts eating up some valuable minutes in the paint, the trade-deadline deal could pay considerable dividends. The Hawks are confident that it will turn out that way.

"I've always been a super fan of Kirk," former North Carolina standout Marvin Williams told the AJC. "Watching him at Kansas, he just competes. In college, coach [Roy] Williams would always make reference to Kirk Hinrich and say he has that toughness and that attitude."

Hinrich's toughness and size (6'4", a good two inches taller than Bibby) should be especially effective on the defensive end. Armstrong (6'11", 235 pounds) was also brought in to wreak havoc on defense. The former Connecticut Husky is not a threat on offense, but if there is one thing he can do, it is protect the basket. The Hawks already have an undersized center in Al Horford, so whenever Josh Smith is out of the game, their interior defense is a liability.

"Since I've been here we've talked about defending and bringing the energy," the AJC

reported Hinrich as saying. "When we do that we can be a tough team because of the talent we have and athletes and the shooters. If we can lock down on the defensive end, it will make the game a lot easier for us."

## SEASON OUTLOOK ...

Nothing will come easy for the Hawks in a beefed-up Eastern Conference. No longer is the West a big, bad wolf like it was in the early 2000s, and power shifted even more toward the East when Anthony went from Denver to New York.

Having just completed their difficult road stretch while also being in a minor transition state, the Hawks have slipped to eight games back of Boston and seven behind Miami (as of Wednesday afternoon). They also trail No. 4 seed Orlando by 2.5, and that could become a critical battle down the stretch as No. 4 gets home-court advantage over No. 5 in the first round of the playoffs.

Atlanta has made its move on the trade front; now it must make a move in the standings. With Hinrich on board, the pieces are in place to do just that.

"We have good players," Hinrich told the AJC. "I think the stuff we are going to do fits me and fits our team. The ball moves a lot. We've got good players who can command double teams. (The trade) was a little bit of a shock, but I was excited to be part of a team that is in the playoff hunt. At this point of my career, all I care about is winning."

At this point in the maturation of the franchise, that is all Atlanta cares about, too. The team has advanced to the second round of post-season play in each of the last two seasons. That would have been parade-worthy for the Hawks of the Mookie Blaylock and Dikembe Mutombo era, but all it did for former head coach Mike Woodson

was give him his marching orders.

The Hawks did not fire Woodson just so they could remain decent. They did not sign Joe Johnson to a \$126 million contract just to be an also-ran. And, they did not part ways with two first-round draft picks just to stay in the hunt.

Say what you will about which team got the best of the other in the most recent trade, but either way, you have to give the Hawks credit. They are letting it be known that they are no longer satisfied with a second-round sweep.

Photo courtesy of Brian Phillips. Dimon can be reached at [rdimon@scoreatl.com](mailto:rdimon@scoreatl.com).



**• THE BEST PLACE TO WATCH MMA IN ATLANTA.**

**• TRIVIA, PINT NIGHTS, LIVE MUSIC AND MORE!**

770-552-8784 • [WWW.NORTHRIVERTAVERN.COM](http://WWW.NORTHRIVERTAVERN.COM)

8879 ROSWELL ROAD • SANDY SPRINGS, GA

# SCORE LIST

BY BRIAN JONES

**1** **MAKING MOVES:** Before the trade deadline passed, the Hawks sent Mike Bibby, Mo Evans and Jordan Crawford to the Washington Wizards in exchange for Kirk Hinrich. The Hawks, who are currently fifth in the Eastern Conference standings, decided to make this move to keep up with Miami, Chicago, Boston and Orlando. Hinrich is an upgrade, but will it be enough?

**2** **A NEW HOME:** The talks are heating up for the Falcons getting a new stadium. It's not a done deal yet, but the Falcons released plans of the new stadium in terms of location, cost and seating arrangements. There are some people who don't want a new stadium and would love for the Falcons to stay at the Dome. But the NFL loves new facilities and the Falcons need to keep pace with the league.

**3** **LIFE GOES ON:** Speaking of the Falcons, wide receiver Brian Finneran does not plan to return to the team next season along with cornerback Brian Williams. The Falcons decided not to resign the veterans but could return to the team once the labor issue is resolved. Williams was a great nickel corner and Finneran has been with the team since 2000. They will definitely be missed.

**4** **SUSPENSION LIFTED:** Georgia running back Washaun Ealey is back on the team after being suspended for the last three weeks. Ealey was suspended on Feb. 8 after failing to report for an early morning punishment run. The junior running back has been the team's leading rusher for the past two seasons, but with Isaiah Crowell coming into the mix, Ealey's playing time could diminish.

**5** **ELITE EIGHT:** The high school basketball tournament is now down to the quarterfinal round when teams travel to neutral sites across the state. Some of the places that will be hosting quarterfinal action are Marietta High School, Fort Valley State and the Georgia Trade Center. Don't forget to visit [ScoreAtl.com](http://ScoreAtl.com) and [GPB.org/sports](http://GPB.org/sports) for the wall-to-wall coverage of the tournament.

# CRUNCHING THE NUMBERS

BY RICKY DIMON

**1** Minutes played by Hilton Armstrong in his first three games with the Hawks

**16.6** Kirk Hinrich's career-best ppg average, which came with the 2006-07 Bulls

**24.3** Average minutes per game for Jeff Teague in Atlanta's first three post-trade games

**26** Days, as of Wednesday, since the Hawks last won a game at Philips Arena

**11** Games since Josh Smith last had more than two blocks in one night

**5** Tiger Woods' standing in the World Golf Rankings after a first-round exit in match play

**0** Non-Europeans currently in the Top 4 of the World Golf Rankings

**3** Ranking in both polls for BYU, which Wednesday lost center Brandon Davies for the season

**35** Georgia's RPI ranking as of Wednesday, a good position for an NCAA berth

**181** Georgia Tech's RPI ranking, just behind La Salle and Ball State

# WHO'S HOT

THUMBS UP TO  
SPRING SUCCESS



## Non-football UGA sports

Less celebrated Georgia athletic teams are enjoying a successful transition from winter to spring sports. The Gym Dogs currently hold a No. 6 ranking and the softballers are No. 1 in multiple polls. The women's swim team just won the SEC meet, while the men's golfers are 13th nationally. Both tennis teams are also in the top 15.

## Atlanta Hawks

The Hawks began the post-Mike Bibby era with two refreshingly easy road wins on the west coast. Flexing a little defensive muscle, they now have the chance to make up ground in the conference standings with 10 of their next 11 games at Philips. Fans hope Kirk Hinrich's tender calf heals quickly.

## Kimberly Wohlers

Special thumbs up to the wife of former Braves closer, Mark Wohlers. The couple's house caught fire Tuesday night, but Kimberly alertly woke and evacuated the family from their home in Milton. Mark saved 112 games for 90's Braves, most memorably Game 6 of the 1995 World Series.

# WHO'S NOT

THUMBS DOWN TO  
WEAK DISCIPLINE



## Mark Richt's Doghouse

With his football teams off-field problems over the last couple years, it's obvious Richt's doghouse has a revolving door. Leading rusher and discipline-challenged Washaun Ealey spent just three weeks in "time-out" after being given an indefinite suspension by Richt in early February. It's doubtful the punishment left any real impression on Ealey.

## Rod Barnes

Former Ole Miss head coach couldn't last four seasons downtown. He was fired over the weekend as the Panthers are limping to the season's thankful end with an 11-18 record. Since college coaching legend Lefty Driesell retired in January of 2003, Ga State has had eight losing seasons including seven in a row.

## The Combine

Big things were expected of former Westlake star and current Heisman trophy winner Cam Newton and UGA's wide receiver AJ Green. Unfortunately, their weekends were uneven at best. Newton had trouble with his passing accuracy, and SEC rival Julio Jones outperformed Green. Luckily, they have personal workouts coming up.

# TRIVIA QUESTION

What all-time career record did Kirk Hinrich set for the Chicago Bulls?

Answer on Page 14

# MY TWO CENTS

Sure enough, just when the month of March commenced, madness and chaos began in basketball tournaments. After the first and second rounds of the high school hoops playoffs, there have already been a number of big-time upsets. The Redan girls, who won the 2008 and 2009 state tournaments and were runners-up last year, lost in the first round to Loganville. Meanwhile, the Roswell girls stunned No. 1 North Gwinnett with a 38-35 win in their home gym. Also, the No. 6 Walton boys fell to Mill Creek while McEachern lost to Westlake. Another fairly eye-opening upset was second-year program Hughes defeating No. 1 seed Harrison.



With the playoffs underway, there is no better time to check [ScoreATL.com](http://ScoreATL.com) and [GPB.org/sports](http://GPB.org/sports) for all the latest high school sports news. We'll have all the playoff brackets, scores, recaps and action throughout the postseason.

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

# SANITY AT LAST

*"Since I've been here we've talked about defending and bringing the energy. When we do that we can be a tough team because of the talent we have and athletes and the shooters. If we can lock down on the defensive end, it will make the game a lot easier for us."*

— New Hawk Kirk Hinrich told the AJC about his role with Atlanta



March madness is here and I'm not talking about the NCAA Tournament. The first round of the GHSA Basketball Tournament produced some stunning upsets on both the boys and girls side.

The top-seeded Redan girls (23-4) went down in a monumental upset defeat to Loganville, 54-50. The Lady Raiders were playing well going into the tournament, winning nine of their last 10 games. On top of that, Redan had appeared in the state title game the past three years, but this year it went home early. "We came out a little flat," head coach Jerry Jackson told the AJC. "We fought back to get in it. We had to execute down the stretch, and we didn't."

Perhaps the most startling aspect of the upset loss was that the Raiders competed in 5A and reached the title game three straight seasons, but this year they moved down to 4A and couldn't get past the first round.

#### HUNGRY HORNETS ...

The Roswell Hornets barely squeaked into the state playoffs, finishing fourth in Region 6-5A with a 13-15 (6-6) record. It was fully expected that they would lose to top-seeded Berkmar (20-8) in the first round, but that's why they play the game. Roswell led 23-17 at the half and held on the rest of the way for a 57-56 win.

Sophomore point guard Sean Brennan poured in a team-high 30 points in leading the Hornets to victory. Head coach Ty Phillips knew that his team had stolen a win.

"I think we played through a lot of adversity," he told the Gwinnett Daily Post. "We knew they (Berkmar) were going to come at us, and they did. We feel fortunate to get out of here with a win."

#### WALTON RAIDED ...

One of the favorites going into the 5A tournament was Walton (19-7). The Raiders finished 12-1 in Region 5-5A and were playing well going into the postseason. However,

they were shut down in the first round against Mill Creek, 65-61. Despite 25 points from senior guard Karl Cochran, the Raiders never really got on track. Lanerryl Esters-Johnson was the only other player on Walton to score in double-figures with 16 points. Johnson hit a three-pointer to pull the Raiders to within two at 63-61, but that would be the last basket of the game for Walton.

The key to victory for Mill Creek was shutting down the high-scoring Raider offense. "We did an outstanding job on (Cochran and Esters-Johnson) all night long," Mill Creek head coach Chad Rogers told the GDP. "Except for a few lay-ups, every shot they took was contested."

#### BRONCOS BUCKED ...

It was supposed to be different for the Brookwood Lady Broncos this year. They came into the state tournament with a sparkling 25-3 overall record and a Region 8-5A cham-

pionship. All that came crashing down with an opening round 84-64 loss to Northview.

The Lady Broncos ran into a sharp-shooter named Sydney Wallace, who scored 37 points. "The Wallace kid was phenomenal," Brookwood head coach Scott Terry told the GDP. Wallace was able to hit four of six three pointers, including one to end the third quarter that gave the Lady Titans a four-point lead. Northview scored eight of the first 10 points to start the fourth and never looked back.

Terry was very proud of the season that his team had. Before the start of this year, Amanda Riley, who would have been a senior this season, succumbed to a battle with cancer.

"I've been coaching for 22 years and I've never enjoyed coaching a group more than them," he said. "Those kids have been through more than a high school kid should ever have to go through. And they handled it with grace, maturity and love."

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



## Hoopsters, grapplers compete for titles

When it came to filling the brackets for the 2011 state basketball tournament, Cherokee County programs sent a message to their more accomplished basketball neighbors around metro Atlanta. The message was simple and succinct: "We can hoop it up now, too."

### SEVEN STRONG ...

In all, seven teams from Cherokee advanced to state. Despite mixed results in the opening games (the teams won three and lost four), evidence suggests the quality of basketball in Cherokee is "trending up." Three teams made their debuts in the state brackets, including the girls teams from Woodstock (5A) and River Ridge (2A) as well as the boys team from Creekview (4A). Unfortunately, all these newcomers did not survive the weekend.

In addition, the Sequoyah girls and boys (4A) made it to Georgia's biggest dance, as did the Etowah (5A) and Creekview girls. Unlike the first-timers, the Etowah girls are used to March basketball. Their goal this winter was to make a substantial run through the brackets. In the opener, the Lady Eagles narrowly slipped past Duluth 44-43 on a McKenney Irvin free throw in the game's final seconds, but then, the Region 5 champs

were upset by Milton on Tuesday night 39-36, when a last-second, game-tying three-point attempt was off-mark.

The Creekview girls coasted through their opener, beating Sprayberry 59-25. In their second-round matchup, the Lady Mustangs lost a nail-biter, 57-52 in overtime to Miller Grove.

An easy 71-51 win over Lithia Springs, left the undefeated Class 4A Sequoyah boys as the last team standing in Cherokee. The Chiefs now boast a record 29-0 record for 2010-2011 thanks to Sean Tate's 28 points.

Forsyth County sent two teams to state. In Class 4A, the Forsyth Central girls lost a close one to Pope 42-39, and the West Forsyth boys (in their first trip to state) lost to Archer 61-49 in 5A.

### WOLVERINES REPRESENT ...

The West Forsyth wrestlers were not to be outdone by their hardwood counterparts. Behind the strength of 160-pound state champion Tyler Everton, the Wolverines grabbed fourth place in last week's dual championships.

Conway can be reached at 404-256-1572.



## Seven hoops teams advance in playoffs

The second round of the state basketball playoffs begins this week, and five DeKalb boys teams and two girls teams will be in action. The Columbia boys and girls played Tuesday night March 1 in Class 5A.

The Columbia boys (27-3, 12-0) beat West Hall 68-52, and will advance to the third round where they will play the winner of the Murray County-Troup game.

Meanwhile, the Lady Eagles (23-6, 12-0) play Central (Carroll) Tuesday, with the winner facing the Chestate-Cartersville victor.

The Miller Grove girls (20-9, 15-6), also played Tuesday night in the Class 4A tournament, beating Creekview 57-52 in overtime.

The Lady Wolverines are in the playoffs for just the second time in the school's short history, and this is the first time they have advanced to the second round. They await the winner of the Mays-Douglas County contest.

In Class 5A, the Stephenson boys (16-13, 6-8) scored a big upset over Campbell Friday night, 86-82. The Jaguars will face Savannah Wednesday night, with the winner advancing to play the winner of the Tift County-Westlake game.

Three DeKalb schools advanced to the

second round of the boys Class 4A tournament. Miller Grove (28-1, 18-1) came into the state playoffs on a down note, having lost the Region 6B-AAAA championship game to Southwest DeKalb.

The loss in the region tournament dropped the Wolverines to a number two seed, and also dropped the Wolverines to the No. 2 rank in the Georgia PrepCountry Coaches Poll.

The Wolverines took their frustrations out on Cedar Shoals in the first round of the playoffs with a 101-52 win. Awaiting them in the second is the team who took their place as No. 1 in the poll, the Sequoyah Chiefs. Should they advance, the Wolverines will face the winner of the Villa Rica-Tucker game.

The Tigers (23-5, 14-2), who were also knocked out of the region tournament by Southwest DeKalb, should not fear the first-seeded Wildcats as they were more battle-tested during the regular season.

The aforementioned Southwest DeKalb Panthers (23-5, 14-3) play Chattahoochee Wednesday night after squeaking by Heritage 70-64 last Friday.

Collins can be reached at 404-256-1572.



## Wildcats and Bucs advance in boys bracket

The state basketball tournament is off and running into the second round and eventually the third round by week's end. Upsets were the name of the game in the opening round, as Walton fell to Mill Creek 65-61 and McEachern was defeated by Westlake 68-65.

The top seed from Region 5 cruised to an opening-round win as the Wheeler Wildcats beat North Gwinnett 75-52. Senior guard K.K. Simmons led the way with 18 points, but he wasn't the only one in double-figures. The Wildcats had a total of five players with at least 10 points. "That means we're moving the ball around," Simmons told the AJC. "If that happens every time, shouldn't nobody beat us."

North Gwinnett was never a threat to Wheeler during the entire game. The Wildcats stretched the lead to 30 at one point, but coach Doug Lipscomb knows the danger of any team even with a big lead. "It's a fact they beat us before (in last year's tournament)," Lipscomb told the AJC. "We take nothing for granted. That's for sure."

They should take nothing for granted this year, because with Walton out, Wheeler is a favorite to make the 5A state title game.

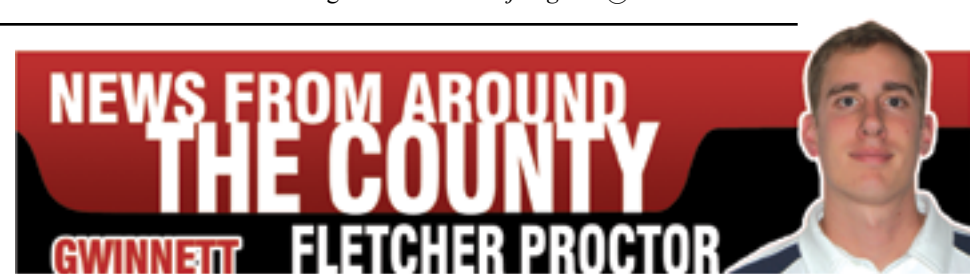
### BURGEONING BUCS ...

It took two overtimes for the Allatoona Buccaneers to defeat Grady in the first round, but they came out with a 56-55 win. Freshman Daniel Fowler hit a game-winning, buzzer-beating layup to seal the victory. Fowler finished with a team-high 12 points. Despite starting with a 2-6 record, the Buccaneers (18-10) are in the second round for the first time in school history.

### THE CAMPBELL CRUSH ...

The Valdosta Lady Spartans had no trouble getting to the third round of the 5A state tournament with convincing wins over Newton, 75-50, and Valdosta, 70-45. Erica Norwood led the team in scoring in both games with 16 points against Newton and 25 against Valdosta. Chakecia Miller scored 20 and had an incredible 12 steals in the Valdosta win. The Lady Spartans face county rival and fourth-seeded North Cobb in the third round. Campbell (24-6) was defeated twice this year by the Lady Warriors (25-5). It should be a tough battle in the rubber match.

Deighton can be reached at jdeighton@scoreatl.com.



## Eagles fly high again; Spartans advance

The coach may have changed but the Collins Hill program stayed just as successful as ever, clinching the Class 5A Dual Wrestling Championship just one week after capturing the Traditional Wrestling title. The Duals title was the fourth in a row and the team has also won the last four Traditional crowns as well, making it eight straight championships. Coach Josh Stephen told Score Atlanta, "(The wrestlers) really stepped up for the team. These guys delivered."

### BASKET BOYS ...

On the hardwood, several schools' hopes of a state title were dashed while several other defending champions' thoughts of a repeat survived another round after the first weekend of playoff action. Defending Class 2A boys champion GAC was paced by Malcolm Brodgon's 21 points and 12 rebounds in a 66-45 win over Elbert County. The Norcross girls advanced to the second round thanks in large part to Diamond DeShields' 23 points against Walton. The Buford girls also cruised after a sluggish start to knock off East Hall while Wesleyan's girls advanced by pasting Warren County.

Not all past champions were able to move on into the second round, however, as the Wesleyan boys fell to Whitefield Academy 62-48 in a rematch of last year's Class A title game. The Wolves had a halftime lead but could not hold on to knock off the 2009 champs. Alex Flagler had 22 points in the loss. Wesleyan won the title in 2010 and in 2008 before Whitefield won in 2009.

In other finals from the first round of the playoffs, the Central Gwinnett boys fell to Milton while Archer picked up the program's first playoff win in the school's first playoff game by scoring 49 second-half points en route to a 61-49 win over West Forsyth. Berkmar lost to Roswell in the first round while the Buford boys won in the playoffs for the first time since 2007. The Norcross boys advanced as did both the Mill Creek girls and boys.

Finally, the Brookwood boys lost to Centennial and the girls dropped a tough result 84-64 to Northview, ending the Lady Broncos season after being ranked in the top ten entering the playoffs.

Proctor can be reached at fproctor@scoreatl.com.





## Milton girls advance; Roswell upsets No. 1

The nationally-ranked Milton boys steal most of the headlines, but the Lady Eagles are under the radar and flying into the quarterfinals of the Class 5A state tournament. As the No. 3 seed out of their region, the Eagles had to go on the road twice to book its spot in the last eight. After dismissing Parkview 46-36 last weekend, Milton toppled Etowah 39-36 on Tuesday night.

The Eagles are joined in the quarterfinals by Region 6-5A rival Roswell, which enjoyed the friendly confines of its home court for rounds one and two because of its region title. Still, the Hornets ran into a premature meeting with top-ranked North Gwinnett, which had to settle for a No. 2 seed by virtue of its upset loss to Norcross in the Region 7-5A final. Going on the road in round two proved to be the Bulldogs' undoing, as they succumbed to Roswell 38-35 on Tuesday.

"We heard people say North Gwinnett was going to be in the final," Hornets head coach Lesley Broadwell told the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. "We wanted to have our say first. To hold that team to 35 points is pretty good defense."

"It's just an adventure with this group," added senior Shanteona Keys. "We're still not

satisfied." Keys' little sister, freshman Andreona, led the way with 12 points and helped Roswell set up a weekend showdown with either Northview or Mill Creek.

Benefiting from the return of University of Georgia signee Erika Ford, who had missed most of the season with a stress fracture in her shin, Chattahoochee reached the Class 4A quarterfinals with victories over Chapel Hill (70-44) and Loganville (58-46).

### BOYS RESULTS ...

Milton, Roswell and Chattahoochee were also still alive on the boys side at press time, although second-round action was played on Wednesday and results were not available. The Eagles, ranked No. 1 in Class 5A, kicked off their playoff bid with a 68-49 win over Central Gwinnett. Both the Hornets and the Cougars prevailed in 57-56 thrillers; Roswell upset Berkmar and Chattahoochee edged Pope.

Centennial, in Region 6-5A along with Milton and Roswell, hosted Brookwood in round one and dominated 82-60. In Class 3A, Woodward opened with a 49-44 victory over Pickens.

*Dimon can be reached at [rdimon@scoreatl.com](mailto:rdimon@scoreatl.com).*

# REGIONS

**REGIONS BANK CONGRATULATES THE PLAYERS, COACHES AND FANS OF THE GHSA 2011 STATE WRESTLING DUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**AAAAA - COLLINS HILL**  
**AAAA - WOODLAND, CARTERSVILLE**  
**AAA - GILMER**  
**AA - JEFFERSON**  
**A - BREMEN**

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](http://GADAONLINE.NET) AND CLICK ON "REGIONS DIRECTORS CUP"

**Barney LIVE IN CONCERT**

**BIRTHDAY BASH!**

**ON SALE NOW!**

**Live Music Party Tour Coming To Your Town**

**APRIL 7**

Tickets: Philips Arena Box Office  
 800-745-3000 • [ticketmaster](http://ticketmaster.com)  
 Ticketmaster.com  
 Groups of 15+ call 404-878-FUNN(3866).

**PHILIPS ARENA**

**TICKETS START AT \$15!**  
 Additional fees may apply.

**BARNEYLIVETOUR.COM**

# 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

SCORE MORE



## Hawks respond after early trip losses

The Hawks' west-coast trip yielded mixed return. They took two of five out west, a record that isn't so bad considering the excursion began with blow-out losses to the Lakers and Suns.

The team responded with two of their better performances of the year, especially on the defensive end, in wins in Golden State and Portland.

The Hawks held the high-flying Warriors to just 79 points in a resounding 16-point win at Oracle Arena.

Josh Smith and Al Horford combined for 48 points on 21-for-32 from the floor as Atlanta dominated in the post.

The Hawks impressed again by beating red-hot Portland at the Rose Garden on Sunday. The final was 90-83, but the Hawks were up double-digits for the vast majority of the game. This time it was the backcourt's turn to dominate, as Jamal Crawford and Joe Johnson had 23 and 22, respectively.

The trip finished with a 100-90 defeat in Denver.

### COMING UP ...

Several top teams come to the Highlight Factory over the next week.

Kevin Durant and Oklahoma City come to town on Friday night. Atlanta has struggled against the Thunder, and OKC was the only team in the NBA that

Atlanta did not defeat last regular season. The Thunder handed Atlanta on Dec. 31, winning 103-94 in comfortable fashion.

Atlanta will want to make a statement when the new-look Knicks come to Philips on Sunday. With Carmelo Anthony and Chauncey Billups now in NYC, the Knicks will think they can make a run at Atlanta and Orlando for the fourth and fifth seeds.

It gets no easier on Tuesday, as Kobe Bryant and the Los Angeles Lakers come to town looking to avenge last season's loss at Philips Arena.

### HINRICH A FIT ...

The trade for Kirk Hinrich surely makes Atlanta a better defensive team. The newly-acquired Hawk is averaging eight points and is shooting 50 percent from behind the arc in two games with the team.

"Kirk is fitting in nice," Crawford said. "We have to continue to jell and find our rhythm and finish strong in these last 23 games."

Meanwhile, Josh Smith could miss three games with a sprained right MCL that he hurt in Denver. The Hawks power forward is listed as day-to-day but there is no timetable for his return.

Bagriansky can be reached at [jbagriansky@scoreatl.com](mailto:jbagriansky@scoreatl.com).



## Finneran, Williams on the way out

The Atlanta Falcons will not bring back veterans Brian Finneran and Brian Williams, this according to their respective agents. Team executives spoke with the agents at last weekend's NFL scouting combine in Indianapolis, and although Finneran and Williams do not appear to be in Atlanta's plans, they could return when and if the labor situation is resolved.

"They know what he's meant in their locker room, but they felt they wanted to give some of the younger receivers a chance to step up," the AJC reported Glenn Schwartzman, who represents Finneran, as saying.

Finneran, 35, has been a Falcon since way back in 2000. In 11 seasons, the receiver caught 236 passes for 3,072 yards and 19 touchdowns. He bounced back from multiple knee injuries that forced him to miss both the 2006 and 2007 campaigns, and he played in all 17 games last season with one start.

Williams, 31, was reduced to a backup role in 2010 due to an injury and the signing of star cornerback Dunta Robinson. He played in all 16 games, recording 36 total tackles and one sack.

What the higher-ups saw at the combine perhaps played a major part

in the Finneran and Williams decisions. The 2011 draft class is deep at both receiver and cornerback, which means Atlanta will have options at the back end of the first and second rounds. Maryland's Torrey Smith is a pass-catching option while the Falcons could also target cornerbacks such as Colorado's Jimmy Smith, Miami's Brandon Harris, or Aaron Williams of Texas.

### Q&A WITH SMITTY ...

Head coach Mike Smith sat down with the Atlanta Journal Constitution in Indianapolis to discuss the team's offensive situation. Smith noted that one of the keys to the Falcons' continued development is delivering the game-changing play. Atlanta's offense had a few of them in 2010—including Roddy White touchdowns against Cincinnati and Baltimore—but is in dire need of more.

"Creating the explosive play is an area where we have to improve," Smith said. "Really, creating those explosive plays are very similar to the turnover ratio. You want to win the ratio just like you do the turnover ratio."

Dimon can be reached at [rdimon@scoreatl.com](mailto:rdimon@scoreatl.com).



## Chipper returns; Freeman impresses

We thought possibly we had seen the last of Chipper Jones last year when he was helped off the field in Houston after he injured his knee while making a play at third base. After missing the remainder of the 2010 season as well as the team's first appearance in the playoffs since 2005, Jones rehabbed the knee and made his spring training debut last Sunday as he attempts to be ready for Opening Day 2011. Jones served as the team's DH in a game against the New York Mets, striking out looking and flying out, but also singling and scoring in his second at-bat. The Braves would drop the exhibition as reliever Scott Proctor allowed a three-run home run late, but Mike Minor pitched well early, delivering on two perfect innings in his bid to lock up the fifth spot in the rotation.

Just one day prior to Jones' debut, the team tied the Mets in its spring opener as Freddie Freeman recorded a 3-3 day with three doubles. Eric Hinske also went deep with a solo home run in new manager Fredi Gonzalez's Braves spring debut.

### HUDSON RUMOR ...

Lastly, the New York Post dropped a story last week that the Yankees called Braves GM Frank Wren to inquire about starter Tim Hudson. Sev-

eral other outlets later denied the story but the Post mentioned that Wren instead offered starter Derek Lowe. Gonzalez told reporters in Florida that he didn't expect the team to move a starter from the rotation.

Last year, Lowe went 5-0 in the final month of the season and pitched well in the postseason against the Giants in the NLDS. While Lowe's contract number is still high (roughly \$30M over the next two years), it was not make a lot of sense to flip him for anything short of Major League-ready prospects at BOTH third base and leftfield, with a developmental starter thrown in for good measure. Sure Lowe does cost the team more than nearly all of the other starters put together, but he pitched well enough down the stretch to erase any ill feelings from his first year in Atlanta. The Braves seem to have plenty of young arms ready to go in Minor, Brandon Beachy, Rodrigo Lopez and Kris Medlen when he returns, but the experience Lowe brings is invaluable in the clubhouse. The Braves would be wise to turn down the Yankees unless a Godfather offer is presented by Brian Cashman and New York.

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



## Dudley makes moves before deadline

The trade deadline came and went with a flurry of activity from the Thrashers. GM Rick Dudley traded forwards Nic Bergfors and Patrick Rissmiller to division rival Florida in exchange for veteran forward Radek Dvorak and a fifth-round pick in this year's draft.

Dvorak adds experience to a young Atlanta lineup. The 33-year old has 555 points over his 15-year career. He has also been to the Stanley Cup Finals twice; once as a member of the Panthers in 1996 and again with the Oilers in 2006. On the surface, trading away a young player like Bergfors doesn't make much sense, but Dudley is still building for the future by picking up draft picks. It seems like he wants to make this team his own by getting rid of any players acquired before he got here. Bergfors was traded for Ilya Kovalchuk last year.

### MODIN, MAC DEALT ...

Dudley picked up another draft pick after trading away 36-year-old Freddy Modin. The low scoring forward was traded to Calgary for a seventh-round pick in the 2011 draft. Modin scored just

three goals in 36 games as a Thrasher. This was an excellent trade for Atlanta because it would seem that Modin's career is just about over. Backup goaltender Drew MacIntyre was shipped off to the Montreal Canadiens' organization in exchange for defenseman Brett Festerling. MacIntyre did not appear in any games for Atlanta in three call-ups from Chicago. There he posted a 2.91 goals against average, while going 12-5-1 in 20 games played. Festerling had three goals and 13 assists for the AHL's Syracuse Crunch and Hamilton Bulldogs this season.

### SCHREMP CLAIMED ...

Exciting forward Rob Schremp was claimed off waivers from the New York Islanders on Monday. He put up 22 points (10 goals, 12 assists) for New York in 45 games this year. Schremp has shown a flare for the dramatic in shootouts. He frequently shoots behind his back and has a variety of moves that are sure to entertain Atlanta fans.

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

SCORE MORE

# MIKAEL'S AUTO SPA


**ATLANTA'S #1  
CAR WASH  
AND DETAILING  
DESTINATION**

**LOCATED IN THE HEART OF  
SANDY SPRINGS ON ROSWELL RD.  
638 Roswell Road • Atlanta, GA • 30328  
404.252.0376**

Visit [DriversEd.com](http://DriversEd.com) and enter discount\* code GAHS during the online payment process.

**Save 25%!**

**DriversEd.com**  
makes earning your license easy.



**DriversEd.com**

Worst of best, easy way to fundraise for your class? Earn a 25% commission and save your friends 15% off drivers ed. Visit [www.DriversEd.com/AffiliateProgram](http://www.DriversEd.com/AffiliateProgram). \*Discount for online drivers ed class only. SA, BAV, A&S, F1 © 2009 DriversEd.com

# PANTHER PROWL



**DAVE COHEN**



## Barnes not retained as basketball coach; baseball off to a 7-1 start

Coming off of an 11-18 regular season finish this season and three 20-loss seasons prior, Georgia State has decided to go in a different direction with its men's basketball program. Rod Barnes will not be retained as head coach, effective immediately, Director of Athletics Cheryl L. Levick announced. A national search for the program's next head coach will begin right away. Assistant coach Paul Graham has been named the interim head coach and will lead the squad in the Colonial Athletic Association Tournament, which begins Friday in Richmond, Va.

"After careful evaluation, we have made the decision to seek new leadership for our men's basketball program," said Levick. "The win-loss record simply does not reflect where we want to be for Georgia State men's basketball. We felt it was in the best interest of the program to make this change now and begin moving forward immediately."

Barnes coached the Panthers for four seasons, compiling a record of 44-79, including a 24-48 mark in CAA play. The Panthers will face UNC-Wilmington in the opening round of the CAA tournament (WRAS-FM 88.5).

### PANTHERETTES ...

In womens action, Georgia State defeated Northeastern, 57-44, in Boston last Sunday afternoon at Solomon Court in the 1,000th all-time game in GSU women's basketball history. Senior guard Traci Haltiwanger scored a career-best 17 points, while Angelique Burttis added 14 points and Cody Paulk contributed 13 points, nine rebounds and four blocks in the win. The Lady Panthers are now 11-17 overall.

### BOYS OF SPRING ...

Panther baseball is off to a 7-1 start after taking three of four games from Western Illi-

nois. Georgia State won the series opener 3-0 and followed that with a double-header sweep on Saturday, 8-7 and 11-5, before losing the final game on Sunday 8-2.

"There's nothing to be ashamed about winning seven out of eight to start the season," said coach Greg Frady. "The mark of a good team is how you respond after you've lost a game. The next stretch of games will be very difficult. We'll be tested for sure, it will be a great challenge, but we'll be ready for it."

*Dave Cohen is in his 28th season as the "Voice of Georgia State Athletics" on WRAS-FM (88.5) and WCFO-AM, Newstalk 1160.*



**GEORGIA STATE BASKETBALL**

**TICKETS ON SALE NOW!**

**866.GA.STATE • GEORGIASTATESPORTS.COM**





# BULLDOG BEAT

STEPHEN BLACK



## Hoop Hounds fall to Florida, defeat Gamecocks; baseball struggling

Near the ides of March, Georgia's hoops squad inched closer to an at-large bid in the NCAA Tournament. The team won its eighth SEC game of the year when it beat South Carolina 64-48 on Saturday in Athens.

Trey Thompkins led the Bulldogs with 20 points on 9-of-16 shooting while Travis Leslie had 15 and Jeremy Price finished with 14. Thompkins also led the team in rebounding with eight.

Just like they did in Columbia earlier in the month, the Bulldogs opened a big lead on the Gamecocks in the first half, but this time, they did not let it slip away as they did in the previous encounter. Mark Fox's squad led 39-22 at the half and cruised to the victory with Carolina never again pulling to within 12.

"That was a good SEC East win and we

had to play extremely hard to get it," said head coach Mark Fox. "Both teams played really hard and I was really proud of our team for coming out of it victorious. I was proud of our team. I was proud of our crowd. I was proud of all things Georgia tonight."

### CHOMPED AGAIN ...

Despite opening up a 31-20 lead in the first half, the Bulldogs lost to Florida 71-62 in Gainesville. The win gave the Gators a sweep of Georgia for the first time since 2008 and also gave UF a nine-game winning streak over the Bulldogs in Gainesville.

Georgia led by seven at the break but saw Florida take the lead with 12:50 left when Erving Walker converted a lay-in. Kenny Boynton then put some space between the

two teams when he scored 12 straight points, including three straight three-point shots.

Leslie led Georgia with 20 points on 8-of-14 shooting while Thompkins was the only other UGA player in double figures with 16.

### ON THE DIAMOND ...

The Bulldog baseball team has opened its season and it stands at 2-5 going into a game at Furman on Wednesday night. Georgia was swept opening weekend at Stetson, defeated Furman for its first win and then suffered a 2-1 series loss against No. 16 Baylor.

Coming up this weekend is a three-game home series with Florida State.

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

Teaching the Fundamentals at the Quarterback Position

678.618.2665  
770.819.4247

# TECH TALK

THOMAS WATSON



## Men's hoops loses on the road again; Matt Skole arrested for DUI

The Yellow Jackets lost last Saturday in a game that could have tied them with N.C. State in the ACC standings. Instead, Georgia Tech lost 79-74 and fell to 3-11 in the conference. The loss was the Jackets' eighth straight in a conference game and extended their road futility to 0-10 this season. It has been almost 14 months since the Yellow Jackets won a game on the road.

Iman Shumpert contributed his usual extraordinary performance with 21 points, eight rebounds and seven assists. But once again, a Tech opponent was allowed to shoot over 50 percent from the floor. The Wolfpack hit exactly half of their shots, 28 of 56, while the Yellow Jackets shot 46 percent (27 of 58) from the floor. Tech has failed to shoot above 50 percent this season. For a jump-shooting

team with no inside presence, this statistic is a big red flag and a strong indicator for why Tech's record sits at 11-17.

### SKOLE CHARGED ...

Information has leaked that on the evening of Feb. 3 baseball player Matt Skole was arrested and faces charges of driving under the influence. The third baseman is beginning his third season with the Yellow Jackets and already has a decorated career.

Skole was named a 2009 First Team Freshman All-American by Collegiate Baseball and last year he was First Team All-ACC. This season Skole was one of only two returning position players and already missed the opening game of the season while recovering

from an ankle sprain, then was suspended the second game for violating team rules.

In six games so far this season, Skole is hitting .478 with one home run and eight RBIs. Last year the Woodstock native knocked out 20 homers and drove in 63 runs while maintaining a .335 batting average.

The report filed by a Georgia State Patrolman says that Skole was pulled over on Roswell Road in Buckhead after he crossed out of his lane several times. The third baseman admitted to drinking a bourbon and Coke but refused to take a breathalyzer test. It will be interesting to see what disciplinary action will be taken as Tech does not have any DUI specific rules for student-athletes.

Watson can be reached at 404-256-1572.

**CHECK OUT SCOREATL.COM!**

TRIVIA ANSWER

Three-point field goals.

TO ADVERTISE IN SCORE ATLANTA:  
404.256.1572

SCORE

Copyright 2011 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.

**FOR MORE HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS COVERAGE CHECK OUT**

**GAPREPNEWS.COM**

**SCORE ATLANTA IN THE SOCIAL MEDIA**

@SCOREATLANTA

FACEBOOK.COM/SCOREATLANTA

**MAKE YOUR OCCASION A SUCCESS!**

Great Rates! Book Your Date!

**PLAY IT AGAIN SAMMY**

Entertainment for All Occasions

**SAMMY ROSENBERG**  
PROFESSIONAL DJ

770.643.1997

*Rhodes Bakery*  
BAKING ATLANTA'S BEST CAKES SINCE 1930

1783 Cheshire Bridge Rd.  
Atlanta, GA 30324  
404.876.3783

890 Holcomb Bridge Rd.  
Roswell, GA 30078  
770.649.1119

**BRING IN THIS AD FOR \$5 OFF YOUR NEXT CAKE**

**NO RISK FUNDRAISING**

**GAME DAY MARKETING**

**PROVEN RESULTS**

770-655-8880

CALL TODAY OR VISIT US AT [www.GAMEDAYMARKETING.NET](http://www.GAMEDAYMARKETING.NET)

**THE MOST IMPORTANT DECISIONS START  
WITH THE MOST IMPORTANT PEOPLE.**



There's strong. And then there's Army Strong. You taught them right from wrong. You told them they could do anything. Now they want the discipline, leadership training and college benefits that come from being in the U.S. Army. If your son or daughter wants to talk about joining, listen. You just might be proud of what they have to say. Find out more at [goarmy.com/for\\_parents](http://goarmy.com/for_parents).



**ARMY STRONG.**

**MONEY FOR COLLEGE  
BONUSES UP TO \$40,000**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE  
YOUR LOCAL ARMY RECRUITER**

©2007. Paid for by the United States Army. All rights reserved.

ALWAYS AT **SCOREATL.COM**



WED. MAR 2  
7PM  
U.S. CHICAGO BULLS

LUCKY DOG  
UPPER LEVEL SEATS  
ONLY \$17

FRI. MAR 4  
7:30PM

U.S. THUNDER  
OKC

Budweiser  
UP FRIDAY  
Upper Level Tickets  
Start at \$15  
\$3 Budweiser Special!

SUN. MAR 6  
6PM

U.S. NEW YORK KNICKS

TUES. MAR 8  
7PM

U.S. LOS ANGELES LAKERS

FOR TICKETS VISIT [HAWKS.COM](http://HAWKS.COM) OR CALL 1.866.715.1500

# HAWKS & THRASHERS UPCOMING GAMES



FLORIDA  
FRI FEB 25  
7:30PM

Chick-fil-A  
VALUE PACKS  
4 TICKETS & 4 COMBOS  
STARTING AT \$85



TORONTO  
SUN FEB 27  
5:00PM

REGINA  
KIDS DAY SPECIAL  
2 TICKETS ONLY \$42



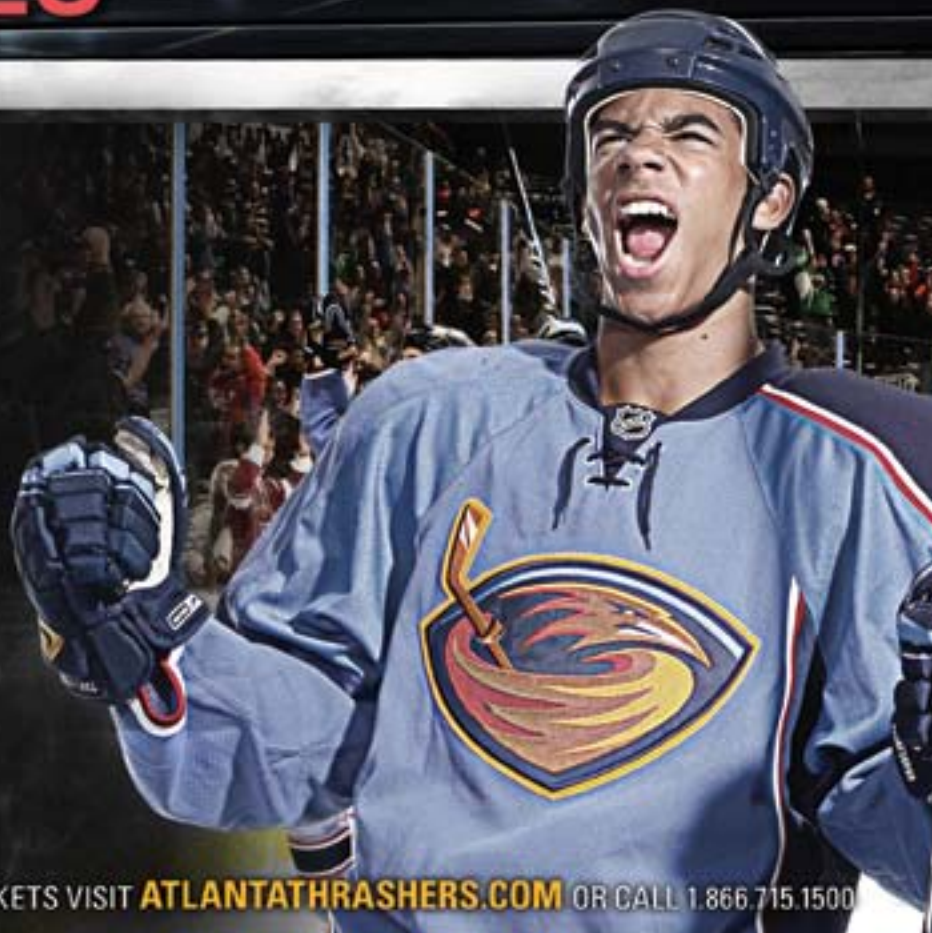
MONTREAL  
TUES MAR 1  
7:00PM

ajc SPECIAL  
200 LEVEL TICKETS  
ONLY \$23



OTTAWA  
THUR MAR 3  
7:00PM

BUD LIGHT  
THIRSTY THURSDAY  
UPPER LEVEL SEATS  
ONLY \$10



FOR TICKETS VISIT [ATLANTATHRASHERS.COM](http://ATLANTATHRASHERS.COM) OR CALL 1.866.715.1500