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GET TO KNOW THE WRITERS

**JJ LANIER**

JJ Lanier is a native of North Carolina and studied communications at Appalachian State University. JJ currently resides in Asheville, North Carolina. JJ is an expert on the NFL and college basketball. JJ is also an insider on all things ACC.

**KIPP BRANCH**

Kipp Branch has been inside the Brunswick High Pirate Program for over a decade and is affectionately called Mr. Brunswick High. Kipp serves as one of the voices on the Pirates Radio Broadcast and pitched at Valdosta State University. Kipp is knowledgeable about all things 'Southern Sports'.

**TJ HARTNETT**

TJ Hartnett currently resides in Atlanta and graduated from Kennesaw State University. TJ has been an Atlanta sports fan his whole life and has an inside beat on all Atlanta sports teams.

**KENNETH HARRISON, JR.**

Kenneth Harison Jr is a long time Atlanta native and graduated from Kennesaw State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Communications. Kenneth has a pulse on not only the Atlanta sports scene but the entire southern sports scene as well.

**MIKE ANTHONY**

Mike Anthony is a Georgia Southern grad and currently still lives in Statesboro. Mike covers the Eagles on regular basis in all sports as a beat writer. Mike also has vast expertise on MLB.

**RICH STYLES**

Rich Styles currently hosts his own golf radio show called the Back9Boys. Rich graduated with a Bachelors in Communications from Southern Illinois University. Rich knows all things about golf from around the area.

**JASON BISHOP**

Jason Bishop has spent time at CNN Sports and CSS Sports in Atlanta and is currently host of The Jason Bishop Show with Kipp Branch, southeast Georgia's most listened to sports talk show. Jason is from the Golden Isles and no one knows more about area high school football.

The Southern Sports Edition was created to offer sports opinions from a southern perspective. The Southern Sports Edition offers some of the top sports minds and opinions from around the South. From coverage on High School Football to a beat on the Atlanta Braves, the Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets, SEC, ACC and all southern sports with actual southern opinions. The Southern Sports Edition is currently distributed in Southeast Georgia and Northeast Florida and growing everyday.

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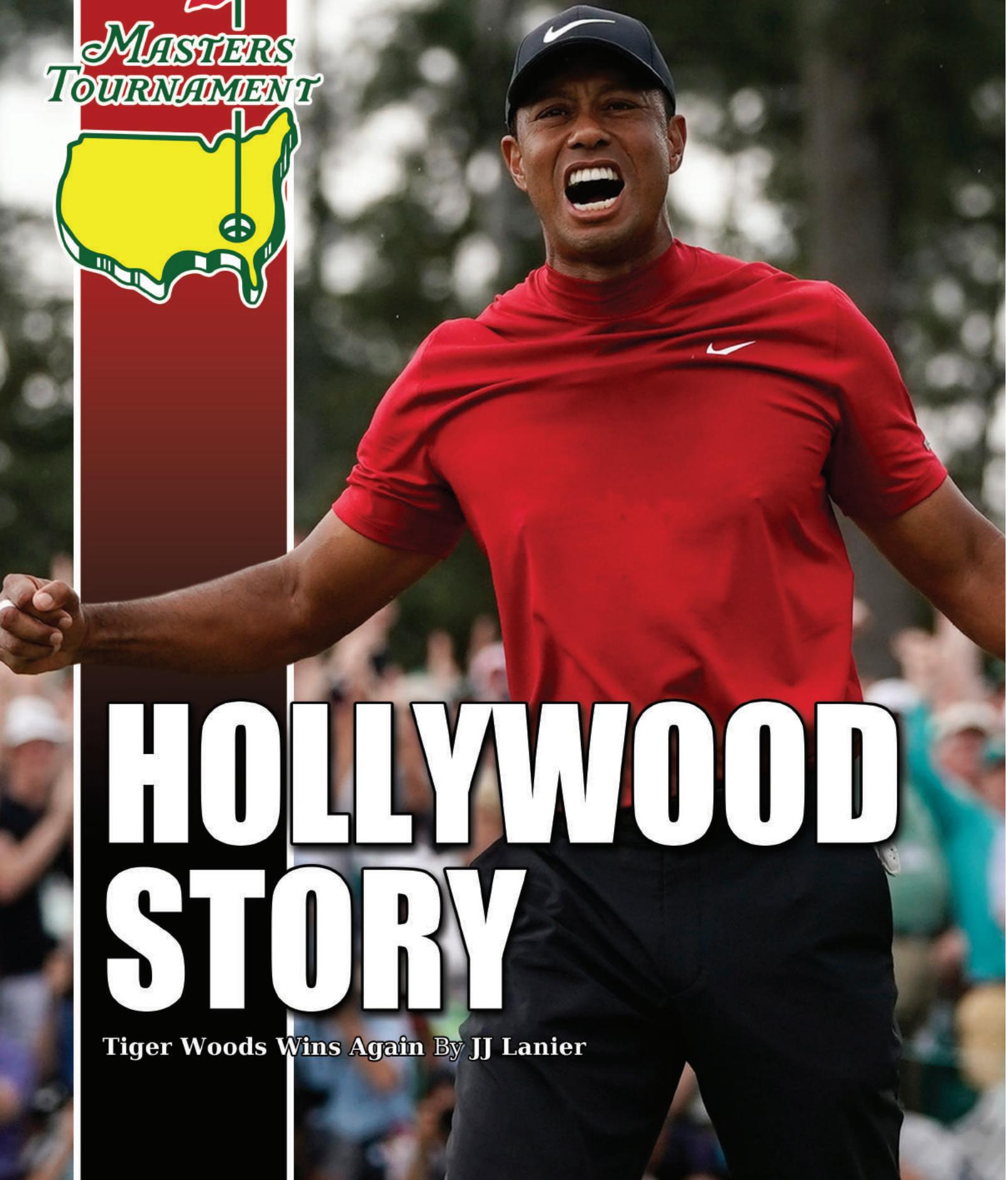
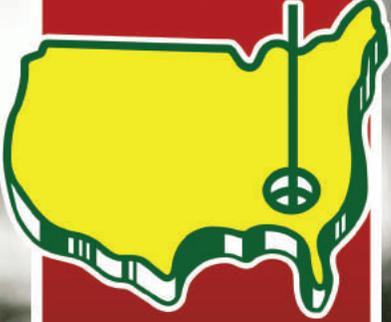


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HOLLYWOOD STORY

Tiger Woods Wins Again By JJ Lanier



At some point there will be a major motion picture about Tiger Woods.

All the plot points are there- a child prodigy with an overbearing father who becomes one of the most, if not the most,

famous athlete in world; an earth-shattering fall from grace due to injuries (both emotional and physical, many self-inflicted), followed by a miraculous return back to the top of his profession.

It's going to happen, it's just a question as to who will inevitably garner an Oscar nomination for playing the role.

Whether you root for Tiger or against him- and the lists on both sides are long and justified- when you consider what has transpired over the past 10-15 years it's hard to argue there has been a more impressive feat in sports history than him winning the Masters. And if there is, it has to be a pretty short list, right?

The fact his first major championship victory took place in Augusta, at arguably the most renowned golf course in the country, just makes the whole event that much more delectable.

I'm sure he would've taken a win at any of the four majors, but there's something about him accomplishing it at the Masters that makes it that much more satisfying.

Over the last few years, whenever Tiger has produced rounds that flashed glimpses of his old self, we've been bombarded with "Tiger's back" articles and talking points.

With this win I imagine those will only increase over the following weeks. If he is truly back and winds up winning a few more tournaments over the course of the season, I'll be interested to see how he is embraced.

To me, one of the best parts to come out of all this, and something I believe is being overlooked, is that there is a completely new generation of golf fans who were able to witness it.

How many times growing up did you see an athlete towards the end of his or her career and wish you could have seen them in their prime? I'm not saying Tiger is in his prime, but what he pulled off would be comparable to Michael Jordan leading the Wizards to NBA championship during his return.

Like Nicklaus in '86, this will become a "Where were you?" moment.

I am currently on the cusp of turning 39. I eat healthy, workout three to four times a week, and all things considered am in very good shape for someone my age. My knees also routinely pop when I stand up, I wake up multiple times during the night, and seem to have acquired a love/hate relationship with dairy.

I mention this because not only is winning the Masters an impressive achievement, but to be the second oldest ever to do it at 43 makes it all the more incredible.

There's a line in "The Dark Knight" when Harvey Dent (Two Face) says "You either die a hero or you live long enough to see yourself become the villain." Now I'm not sure Tiger Woods has ever been close to dying as the hero, but he sure knows what it's like to go from hero to villain....and now possibly back to hero.

I have no idea if Tiger's Masters win is the beginning of his redemption story, or merely the closing highlight at the end of a remarkable career. Either way, it's a story made for Hollywood and we're all lucky to have been able to witness it.



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VICIOUS JAGUAR

Jags Draft Josh Allen By Kipp Branch



Joshua (Josh) Allen is now a Jacksonville Jaguar.

The 2018 SEC Defensive Player of The year will now set up shop in the River City and wreak havoc on AFC South quarterbacks for the next decade.

Allen played his college football at the University of Kentucky and led Kentucky to its first 10-win season since 1977.

Here are Allen's 2018 career highlights and awards to date:

2018 SEC Defensive Player of the Year

Unanimous 2018 First Team All American

Chuck Bednarik Award 2018
Lott Trophy 2018

Nagurski Trophy 2018

First Team All SEC 2018

Allen is proof that recruiting rankings and stars don't mean anything, as one highly thought of recruiting service had Allen rated as a two-star prospect coming out of high school in New Jersey.

Jacksonville didn't think he would there at 7. They thought he would go at 3 or 4 or 5. I absolutely love this pick. Their identity is that defense. The Jags needed an edge rusher, and Allen fell to them and they took him.

Thank you to the Oakland Raiders and New York Giants for making this happen.

Allen was a star in the best football conference in the land, where he registered 17 sacks, 51 total pressures, and 28 hurries in 2018.

He finished his career with 31.5 sacks at UK and is the all-time sack leader there. Allen declared

for the NFL draft after his junior season.

Allen is listed at 6'5 and 260 pounds, and is very quick. He is equipped to be one of those special speed edge rushers that keep opposing offensive coordinators up at night.

When it comes to pass coverage, he can drop into coverage with ease and is fluid in the hips, and moves like a safety. That will be a huge plus for a Jaguar defense that took a step back in 2018. Even with the addition of Nick Foles at QB this organization's identity is defense. Now, with the addition of Allen, the Jaguar pass rush may get back to the standard it set during the 2017 season.

Allen runs a 4.6 40 Yard dash and looks to be another Pro Bowl caliber player on a talented defense. He is a high character young man that will come in, roll up his sleeves and go to work immediately. He is a Tom Coughlin type of player that eventually will take over leadership in that locker room.

I view this selection as a culture builder in Jacksonville. Allen is a winner and a producer and talks with his shoulder pads.

As I was watching the first round unfold, I could not believe Allen didn't go to Raiders at 4 or the Giants at 6. And when the Giants went QB at 6 I said wow Josh Allen is going to be a Jaguar.

They say the NFL is an offensive league now, but do you remember the 13-3 Super Bowl contest that just concluded? The Patriots shut down the high-powered Rams offense and held them to 3 points.

Josh Allen was the absolute best pick the Jaguars could have made. The Jaguars got the biggest steal in the first round.

Draft Grade: A+



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Southeast Georgia Health System Sports Medicine Team (l-r): Adam Norman, M.S., ATC-L; Marissa Turturro, M.S., ATC-L; Becky Joyner, M.S., ATC, PES, ITAT; Chantal Pierre, ATC; Shonta Houston, ATC-L and Paul Trumbull, P.T., MBA, director, Rehabilitation and Sports Medicine Services

High school students who love sports and medicine, and want to learn about career opportunities that involve both, are encouraged to attend the Student Athletic Trainer Camp hosted by Southeast Georgia Health System this summer.

During the three-day comprehensive camp, the Health System's Sports Medicine certified athletic trainers introduce students entering grades 9-12 to the field of sports medicine and athletic training, and the many associated career opportunities. Few experiences can better prepare high school students with an opportunity to pursue athletic training at their high school, college, or as a career.

"We give camp participants an introduction to different health care professions related to sports medicine, including athletic trainer, nutritionist, physician, orthopedic surgeon, physical therapist and physician assistant," says Becky Joyner, M.S.,

ATC, PES, certified athletic trainer, Southeast Georgia Health System Sports Medicine. "We teach basic concepts of anatomy, athletic bracing and taping techniques, and how to react to emergency situations and life-threatening conditions."

Camp participants receive valuable hands-on training for basic skills and techniques used in sports medicine, including:

- Injury treatment
- Athletic taping and bracing
- CPR and automated external defibrillator (AED)
- First aid

"Students who finish this camp often take the skills and lessons learned back to their high school setting and have the opportunity to work with their school's athletic trainer in a student aide position," Ms. Joyner says. "This gives them a much more in-depth learning experience that looks great on a college application."

The eighth annual Student Athletic Trainer Camp takes place **June 11-13, 2019**, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., at the Brunswick High School Gymnasium and Athletic Facilities, 3885 Altama Avenue. Space is limited; registration and payment is due by June 1, 2019. The cost for the three-day camp is \$85 and includes camp materials, lab supplies, T-shirt, CPR certification card, lunch and snacks.

For more information, or to obtain a registration form, please contact Chantal Pierre, ATC, at 561-632-1462 or cpierre@sghs.org or visit sghs.org/satc2019. You can also register online at <https://2019-satc-camp.eventbrite.com>. A \$6.81 service charge is added when registering online.



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NEW DIRTY BIRDS

The Falcons' Draft Picks By TJ Hartnett





The NFL Draft is a magical time. It is both a beginning and an ending.

One door shuts on the college career of young and hungry hopefuls, while the door to their professional career opens wide.

It's a time of hope for fans as well, as they look for their favorite team to draft the players that will turn them around or help them take the next step.

People will debate until they are blue in the face which college player should be drafted at what point in the draft, or who is the best fit for what team and who will be the player that falls the farthest. The point is everyone has an opinion about the NFL Draft and that includes Atlanta Falcons quarterback Matt Ryan, apparently.

Word is that Ryan sent a text message to the Falcons' General Manager, Thomas Dimitroff, thanking him for drafting offensive linemen with both their first and their second picks in the Draft. That says something profound about how badly Ryan needed protection after season that saw him get hit third-most in the league and sacked eighth-most.

Those offensive linemen were Chris Lindstrom at 14 and Kaleb McGary, whom the Falcons traded up for to draft 31st overall.

Lindstrom is a guard from Boston College and McGary played right tackle at Washington, though he could also be moved to guard.

Lindstrom was not likely the 14th best player in the Draft, but the Falcons made a statement by drafting him and by trading their 2nd and 3rd round picks in order to get McGary in the first round. The O-line is going to

be better this year come hell or high water.

Adding to the intrigue is the fact that the Falcons signed two offensive guards during the offseason in Jamon Brown and James Carpenter.

It seemed fairly likely that those two would be starting for Atlanta come September, but with these two draft picks it now seems like a competition for those positions will be on. These are choices that potentially improve the team by leaps and bounds.

After missing the 2nd and 3rd rounds, the Falcons picked up cornerback Kendall Sheffield from Ohio State. Sheffield's game is his speed and will play an important role for the team, if his pectoral injury doesn't plague him the way it plagued Desmond Trufant.

Dimitroff then took John Cominsky, a Defensive End from Charleston, for his second pick in the 4th round. He's got size and versatility, and his presence could keep the likes of Vic Beasley, Jr. and Takk McKinley on their toes and motivated.

Round 5 saw the Falcons draft a running back from Pittsburgh by the name of Qadree Ollison. Ollison is a big dude and should be capable of bringing power to the short-yardage game of the Falcons, serving as a nice compliment to Devonta Freeman.

Atlanta's second pick of the 5th round was another corner: Jordan Miller – also of Washington. Their second at that position of the draft, Miller will add depth to the secondary and join another former Washington player in Trufant there.

For Round 6, the Falcons branched out and took a wide receiver: UL Monroe's Marcus Green. Green isn't going to supplant Julio Jones, but he may be counted upon to make both kickoff and punt returns. He has the potential to provide some explosive returns and provides competition with free agent signing Kenjon Barner for the role.

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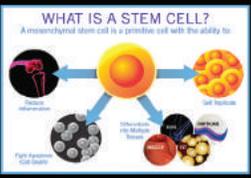

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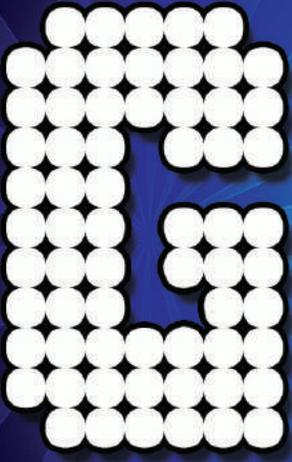
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ACUNA MONEY-TATA

Acuna's New Contract By TJ Hartnett



If we've learned anything from the 11th hour contract signings of Manny Machado and Bryce Harper and the fact that Dallas Keuchel and Craig Kimbrel are spending time with their families nearly a month into the new season, it's that free agency is not the sure-fire promised land it once appeared to be.

In fact, players all across Major League Baseball seemed to have realized that in the past few weeks.

The Harper and Machado deals were followed by a slew of contract extensions, pushing back free agency for the likes of Alex Bregman, Jacob DeGrom, Blake Snell, Paul Goldschmidt, Xander Bogaerts, Justin Verlander and of course Mike Trout.

These are all players who would make a killing on the open market, with teams fighting over them to the tune of escalating contract offers, or at least that would have been the case a few years ago.

The cold stove of 2018-2019 seems to have put ballplayers off of free agency altogether, opting to agree to terms with their current teams instead.

For Braves fans, that trend reached its glorious zenith on Tuesday, as Atlanta inked Ronald Acuna, Jr. to an eight-year, \$100 million-dollar extension, with team options for years 9 and 10.

The details of the contract, briefly, are this: it starts this year, when Acuna will earn \$1 million, then bumps up to \$5 million in 2021 before a nice raise to \$15 million in 2022 and settling in at \$17 million from 2023 to 2026. The team options are worth \$17 million for 2027 and 2028 with a \$10 million buyout before the '27 season.

For a young kid who's got only one year in the majors under his belt (a Rookie of the Year, mind you), that's a lot of scratch. On the other hand, based on this kid's potential ceiling, it might end up being a steal for the Braves.

I was reading MLB end-of-year award predictions last week, and one of them put their money on Acuna to win the National League MVP in his second season. His prediction didn't begin with "now this seems crazy." That's because it's not crazy. What Acuna showed in 111 games in 2018 is that he can be an elite player at the big-league level.

For the sake of comparison, here's what some former MVPs are going to be making in 2019:

Mike Trout - \$36 million

Clayton Kershaw - \$31 million

Bryce Harper - \$30 million
Miguel Cabrera - \$30 million
Justin Verlander - \$28 million
Albert Pujols - \$28 million
Giancarlo Stanton - \$28 million

Let's also not overlook the fact that Acuna's teammate Josh Donaldson, who is 33 and coming off an injury-plagued 2018, is making \$23 million this season.

Now I have no idea if Acuna will win the NL MVP this year, but if he does, he'll be making nearly \$30 million less than the average of the eight guys I just mentioned.

If he wins an MVP award at any point during the next eight seasons, he'll be making at most \$13 million less than that average.

So, at best the Braves are getting a bargain on Acuna's potential production. As much as baseball players get paid, this deal is a good one even if Acuna's rookie campaign turns out to be his ceiling.

A good defensive outfielder who hits around .300 with 25+ dingers and a handful of stolen bases to boot is worth \$17 million easy.

Andrew McCutchen (another former MVP) is making \$17 million with the Phillies this year and he's beyond the days where he can put up those kinds of numbers.

And let's face it: Acuna has not come close to hitting his ceiling. Good deal.





COACHING CAROUSEL

High School Coaching Changes By Kipp Branch



There have been many high school football head coach openings in South Georgia this offseason. The biggest opening was at national high school power Colquitt County.

On March 14, 2019, Rush Propst was relieved of his duties as the high school's head football coach in a unanimous vote by the Colquitt County Board of Education.

His dismissal followed an investigation that determined he had violated the Code of Ethics for Educators for legal compliance, conduct with students, honesty, and public funds and property; including giving pills to students "on more than one occasion" and owing nearly \$450,000 in delinquent federal and state taxes.

The Colquitt job became a hot topic around the state, and rumors swirled in Glynn County for a few weeks as Colquitt showed some interest in Glynn Academy head coach Rocky Hidalgo. Hidalgo ended the speculation by announcing he had no intentions of leaving Glynn Academy.

After an extensive search, The Colquitt County Board of Education voted unanimously to

hire Jones County head coach Justin Rogers.

Rogers, in five seasons at Jones County, has become the most successful coach in school history with a record of 45-15. He's not had a single losing season at the school; his teams have gone 10-3, 9-2, 7-5, 11-2 and 8-3.

In the post-season, the Greyhounds have gone 5-5 under his leadership. Rogers will inherit a talent rich program and will move into a community that is as rabid for high school football as you will ever find. Expect Rogers to keep that program near or at the top of its classification. Great hire by the Packers.

Over at Ware County, Jason Strickland has been named the head coach for the Ware County Gators, after leading Pierce County for two years and leading the Bears to the third round of the state playoffs in 2018.

Strickland was the offensive coordinator for some great Charlton County teams, then he took the Lamar County job in 2008 and took that program from 1 win in 2008 to a 12-1 season in 2011. He took over at Fitzgerald in 2012 and led that program to back to back State title game appearances in 2015 and 2016.

Strickland took over at Pierce County in 2017 and in 2018 led the Bears to a 13-1 record, which is the best in school history.

He has been a head coach for 11 seasons and compiled a 99-39-1 career record. Strickland coached teams have won 10 or more games in 6 of 11 seasons he has been a head coach.

Strickland inherits a talented roster and he should be able to come in and contend for a state title immediately. Jason Strickland is the 15th Head Football Coach in Ware County history.

Pierce County, with the departure of Strickland, hired Ryan Herring as the new head football coach. Herring was head coach at Oxford, Alabama where his teams made multiple playoff appearances.

Herring coached five-star UGA signee Clay Webb, who was rated as one of the top offensive linemen in the nation during the 2109 recruiting cycle.

Look for Herring to continue the winning ways at Pierce County and build his winning brand of football in Blackshear.

And finally, Tony Glazer resigned as head coach at McIntosh County Academy.

The McIntosh County School Board chose Bradley Warren to replace him. Warren had been the head man at Dade County.

Warren has ties to the MCA program and knows the culture well. He will bring a winning tradition back to the single A Darien School.

Let Spring Football begin!





COACH EM UP

SEC Basketball's New Coaches By JJ Lanier



At the end of every season, regardless of the sport or the level of competition, there is turnover within the coaching ranks.

SEC schools have been hiring coaches as if they were contestants on “Supermarket Sweep.” In the span of basically two weeks, they filled their four vacant positions.

Alabama: Nate Oats. I don’t follow the inner workings of the Alabama basketball program, so unless there was some sort of internal dysfunction taking place, I was a bit surprised to see them let Avery Johnson go.

Putting my initial reaction aside, I think the Oats hiring has been the best hire, up to this point. The two time MAC Coach of the Year exceeded expectations at Buffalo and has already made an impact in Tuscaloosa, convincing John Petty to take his name out of the transfer portal and stay at Alabama.

His biggest task though is being just as persuasive with All-SEC

player, Kira Lewis, whose name is still in the portal. If he can convince Lewis to return, Oats’ inaugural season with the Crimson Tide could be a very successful one.

Texas A&M: Buzz Williams. The former Hokies coach is certainly an upgrade from Billy Kennedy. In his eleven years at Marquette and Virginia Tech, Williams’ teams only twice failed to win 20 games, and only missed out on the NCAA Tournament three times.

It may take a year or two for that success to transfer to the Aggies, but there’s nothing in his past to make you think it won’t ultimately happen.

He doesn’t always have the best demeanor with fans and the media, and while that has absolutely nothing to do with his team’s on the court performances, it should make for some interesting columns in College Station.

Vanderbilt: Jerry Stackhouse. This was an interesting hire just because Stackhouse hasn’t been a name thrown around in the college circles that much, but I have to give Vanderbilt credit for thinking outside the box.

Stackhouse has minimal head coaching experience- he had a short stint in the D-League where he did win Coach of the Year in 2017- and

I have no idea how he’ll do on the recruiting trail.

He does have a very good reputation on the NBA level though, and obviously did a good job developing his players in the D-League; hence the COY award.

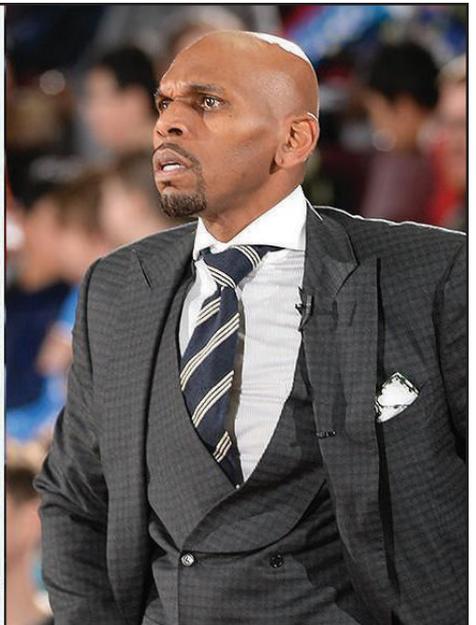
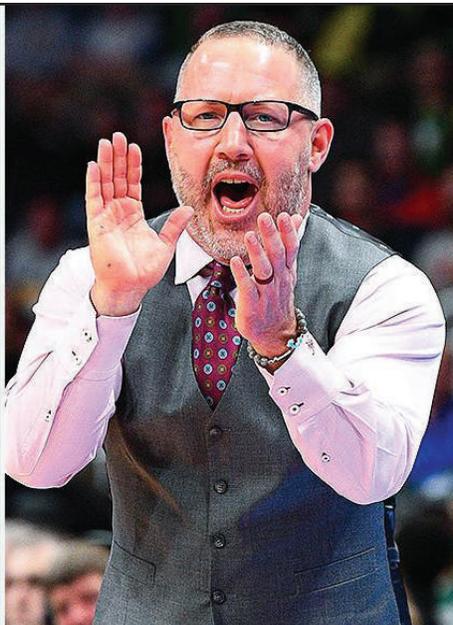
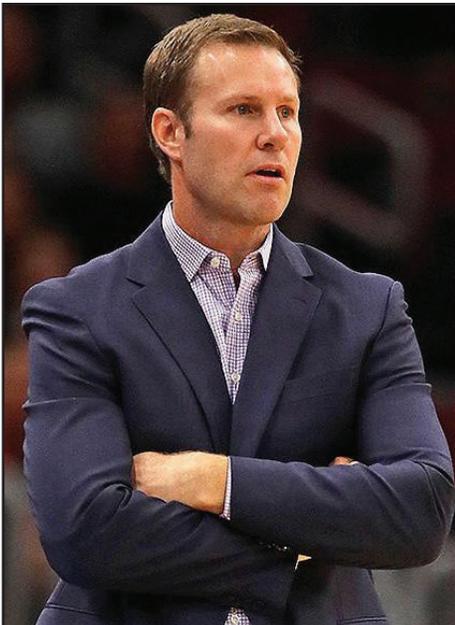
Personally, I’ve always liked Stackhouse- as much as a Duke fan can like a Carolina player- so I hope he’s able to succeed.

Arkansas: Eric Musselman. Musselman’s a decent coach, but besides Nevada’s Elite 8 run in the tourney last year, I’m not sure there’s anything in his coaching past that makes you think he’s going to be the answer.

I guess when you haven’t made the Sweet Sixteen since 1996 you’re kind of forced to take whomever you can get. I’m not wishing for the guy to fail, but if you were to ask me which of these four will be the first to go, my money would be on Musselman.

The level of play within the SEC has drastically improved over the past few years, so all four coaches have their work cut out for them.

The question now is “Will they make the grade, or will they be forced back on the shelf, waiting for the next coaching cart to swing by and pick them up?”





SAVE THE DATES

Schedule Announcement Videos By JJ Lanier





the Panthers. Their idea to present the matchups as if they were competing in an actual video game was nothing short of brilliant.

As someone who spent the better part of the '90s navigating through his teenage years, I appreciated their nods to games like Mortal Kombat, NBA Jam, and Goldeneye. The only thing that could've improved their overall presentation was somehow slipping in a score of 28-3 for either of their matchups against Atlanta.

Now, since I am a big Game of Thrones fan, and even though it has become a popular trend of late, I can give the Falcons props for their homage to one of the most popular shows of my generation.

While you can debate the originality of the idea, the video did provide possibly the best five seconds put on film this year. There is certainly no love lost between Carolina and Atlanta, but the one thing both fan bases can agree upon is their complete disdain for anything associate with the New Orleans Saints.

So, when the Falcons video included a ram knocking over a Saints player, followed by a ref running up to the knocked player and waving off any infraction I almost gave them a standing ovation, in my living room. That's pettiness at its finest, and I'm all in.

There will be numerous touchdown celebrations, quarterback sack dances, and taunts throughout the season, but I don't know if any of them will be as brutal as that takedown the Falcons just performed on the Saints.

I do think there was some room for improvement though. Maybe it's just me, but I feel like they missed a golden opportunity by not including a "Jameis Winston running out of Publix" set piece.

I admit I haven't actively searched out New Orleans or Tampa Bay's schedule release video, but I doubt it compares at all to these two.

Oh, and as for the actual schedule itself, would it really matter all much if not for these videos? I mean, most of the games are already predetermined and no matter how difficult or easy we perceive a schedule to be, it all changes once the season begins anyway.

One thing the NFL does better than any other league- the NBA isn't too far behind- is they've turned their season into a year around event.

The release of their schedule is just one more thing we as fans now have to look forward to. I know I sound like Meathead, but I almost don't care how my team does this season; it's all about the announcement video now.

It's all about the presentation. In the past, when a recruit signed with a school, or a player announced he or she was turning pro, at the most they would hold a conference at their respective school to mark the occasion.

Now, it's all about the theatrics; Instagram posts, professionally done videos, etc.

That same hype has trickled down now to the release of the NFL Schedule.

Instead of quietly releasing the upcoming season schedule, it's all about the creativity from each team's marketing and social media departments. I know I might come across like a millennial version of Archie Bunker, yelling at those "darn kids", but I actually love it.

And thankfully for those of us in this area, both Atlanta and Carolina were the two videos battling it out for the top spot.

If you're grading on the overall creativity and consistency of the video I think you have to go with





FOLDED

Why The AAF Didn't Make It By Mike Anthony



It's been more than 30 years, and some people still haven't learned their lesson.

For the better part of the last half century, football has been the most popular sport in America.

The Super Bowl has supplanted the World Series as the pinnacle of the sports-watching season and the last decade or two has seen college football rise to second place behind

As it turns out, the AAF wasn't even as successful as those previous failures.

Just eight weeks into its' 10-week season, the AAF has shut down all football operations. The league didn't even make it two weeks in before a desperate infusion of additional cash was needed to cover paychecks and even that couldn't float the league through its first regular season.

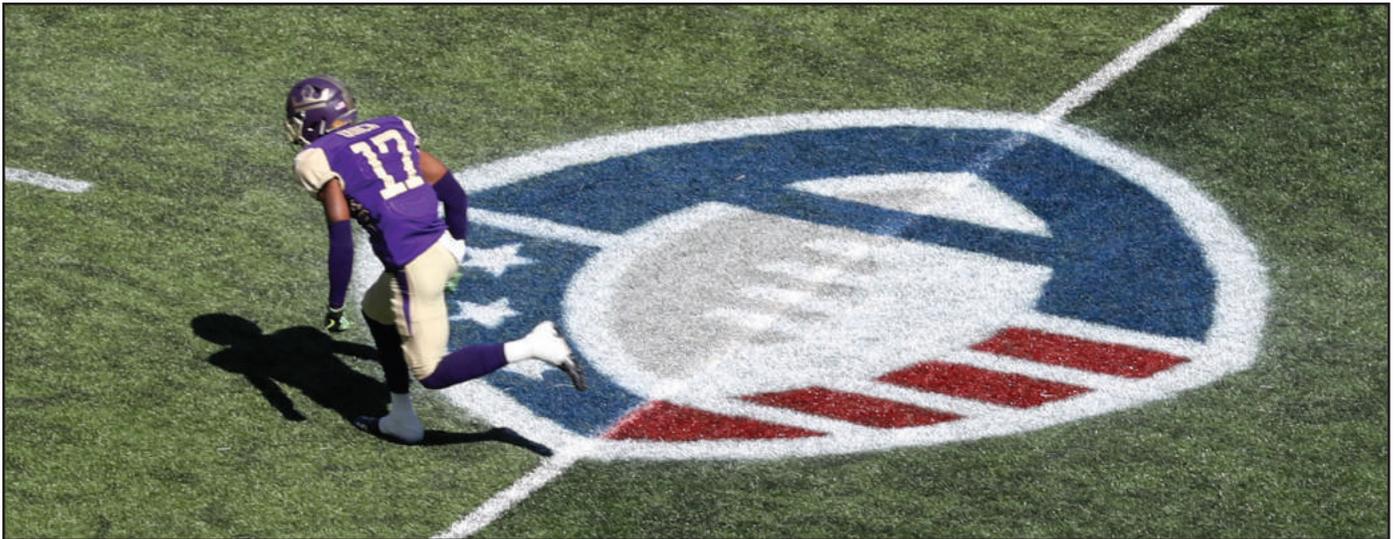
There's no shame to be had by the players and franchises of the AAF. A few hundred football players were out there doing their best to maybe catch the eye of a scout who could get them to the next level. Good for them for chasing their dreams.

the hundreds of thousands to tailgate and cheer and travel to far-reaching bowl game destinations, but that's still just a few months of commitment.

The AAF - like other leagues before it - has crapped out on the same faulty line of thinking. The fact that America loves football doesn't mean it has the ability to tolerate sub-par versions of the game through an entire calendar year.

A sea of players that plunged head-first into a new league shows that there is an ample supply of talent that is willing to keep toiling away in hopes of making it to the NFL someday. Unfortunately, the AAF was never the place for those players.

There may well be a league or



the NFL in terms of attention paid to any specific sports season.

But that still doesn't mean that there's room for more football.

The Alliance of American Football kicked off its inaugural season just a week after the Patriots defeated the Rams in the Super Bowl. The upstart league drew some ratings and attention in early weeks from folks who weren't quite ready to settle into a winter of basketball, hockey and early-season golf.

The AAF assumed to fly high where other leagues, such as the USFL and the XFL had failed previously.

But as for the executives and corporate-types who continue to hatch these 'professional' football leagues, it's really time to take a step back.

The immediate failure of the AAF - and what can be assumed to be an uphill battle for the reiteration of the XFL next season - has served home the fact that there is a saturation point for even the most beloved sport in the country.

Fans go nuts over their favorite NFL team, but maybe that's because they only have to make a 5-6 month investment.

College fan bases show up by

program that can serve as a stepping stone for players to move from college into the pros, or that can provide a chance for former pros to get back into the game. But the AAF was just another league that served the front offices and league owners far more than the players.

Just like the failed leagues before it, the AAF promised 'FOOTBALL' and not much else.

And unfortunately for the AAF, football fans have remained consistent in believing that there can be too much of a good thing.



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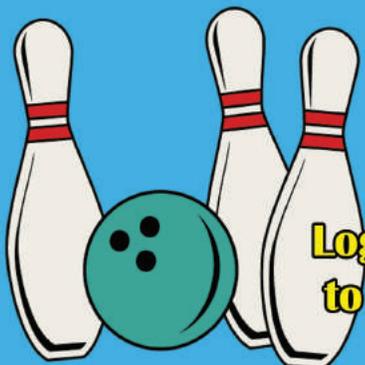
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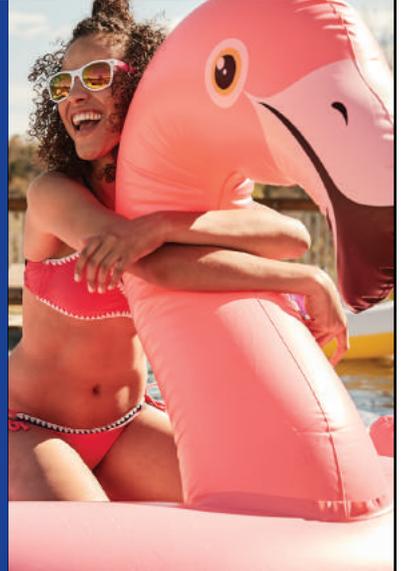
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