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March 2020 Edition

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GET TO KNOW THE WRITERS



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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.



TEDDY BISHOP

Teddy Bishop is from south Georgia and graduated from Armstrong Atlantic University. Teddy has been the voice of the Brunswick High Pirates for almost 20 years and is an expert on Tennis, High School Football and MLB.



ROBERT CRAFT

Robert is an expert on the Florida sports scene. From the Florida Gators to the Orlando Magic, Robert has you covered.



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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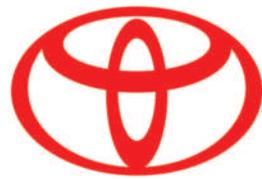
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REBUILDING THE REBUILD

Jags To Reset In 2020 By Kenneth Harrison, Jr



The Jacksonville Jaguars played in the AFC Championship game in 2017. They held a second half lead at New England before losing, 24 – 20. They went into the 2018 season as a legit Super Bowl contender and finished 5 -11.

The Jags had a good running back in Leonard Fournette and an elite defense. Quarterback was considered the weak link so they finally got rid of Blake Bortles.

In March of 2019, they signed Super Bowl LII MVP quarterback Nick Foles to a four-year contract worth \$88 million. \$50.1 million is guaranteed and could pay up to \$102 million with incentives.

That generated excitement for the fan base but he was injured in Week 1 against Kansas City in the first quarter. He suffered a broken left clavicle and had surgery the next day. He did not return until Week 11 and rookie Gardner Minshew started in his place.

Foles only had four starts and threw three touchdowns with two interceptions. The team finished the year 6 -10.

The good news is they earned the No. 9 pick. The Jaguars' pick will be their 18th time in the top 10 since the franchise came into existence in 1995, the most of any team. The Cardinals, who will be making their 15th top-10 pick since 1995, are second.

They also acquired the 20th pick when they traded Jalen Ramsey to the Los Angeles Rams.

The good news is they have nine draft picks in the upcoming 2020 draft. The bad news is there are now several holes in Jacksonville's roster. The offensive and defensive efficiency rankings are both 26th.

They rank 24th in total defense and 20th in total offense. Let's take a look and see what impact players the Jags might select in the first round.

With the ninth pick, the Jags can go in several different directions. The offensive line needs a solid left tackle and Louisville's Mekhi Becton would be a good fit. He's 6'7, 369 pounds but he's very athletic. He has good footwork, balance and strength. He would fit nicely with 2019 second-round right tackle Jawaan Taylor.

The other option could be a play-making wide receiver. Receiver CeeDee Lamb (Oklahoma) could provide speed and explosive plays. Second-year receiver D.J. Chark Jr. had a breakout 2019 campaign (75/1,008/8), but the team needs more weapons for Gardner Minshew (or Nick Foles).

Lamb had 62 catches, 1,327 yards and 14 touchdowns in 2019. He averaged 21.4 yards per reception.

The last option with this pick is on the defensive side of the ball. I think the top three prospects; cornerback Jeffrey Okudah, defensive tackle Derrick Brown and linebacker Isaiah Simmons should be off the board before this pick. South Carolina DT Javon Kinlaw would be the best player available and he could help shore up the interior.

With the 20th pick, I think CB Trevon Diggs (Alabama) would be a good fit. They need a corner to replace Ramsey. Diggs has good physical traits standing at 6'2, 207 pounds. He had 37 total tackles, 3 interceptions and 8 pass deflections last season. If runs in the 4.4 range at the combine they have to take him.

If they don't select them, I expect them to take another corner, C.J. Henderson (Florida). The biggest knock on him is his tackling but he has the height (6'1) and speed to be an elite cover corner.

Jacksonville has a chance to turn the franchise around with this draft.

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THE PLAYERS



**THE
5TH MAJOR**

The Players Championship 2020 By Kipp Branch



The Players Championship simply known as The Players began in 1974 and has become known as the toughest field in golf.

The Players has the largest prize pool on the PGA tour and annually attracts the world's best.

Outside of the 4 Major Championships, The Players is the most prestigious tournament in golf. The Players in not a regular tour stop, it is the 5th Major.

the past three years
Memorial Tournament and Arnold Palmer Invitational winners from the past three years

Top 50 from the Official World Golf Ranking

Senior Players champion from prior year
Top 10 current year FedEx Cup points leaders

Remaining positions and alternates filled through current year FedEx Cup standings

The Players has yet to produce a successful title defense. Jack Nicklaus won three of the first five events, but never back to back and on different courses.

Since moving to TPC Sawgrass in 1982, five players have won twice. Those players are Fred Couples, Steve Elkington, Davis Love III, Hal Sutton,

April. I don't think Rory wins this year, but plays well. I believe Rory is aiming at peaking at Augusta where he finished tied for 21st in 2019. Rory does have two top five finishes in his last two events on the California swing.

Tony Finau: Tony is coming off a runner-up finish in Phoenix a few weeks ago. Finau has a game that is suited to win major championships and events like The Players. He is due for a breakout win. Don't be surprised to see Finau in contention on the back 9 on Sunday. Tony is going to have a great 2020 season on the PGA tour.

Adam Scott: Scott is hot with two wins in his last two starts worldwide. He plays his best on the tough courses and will be in contention to win his second Players in March.



Rory McIlroy won in 2019 by beating Jim Furyk by a single stroke.

Historically, The Players has been played in March for decades, but moved to May in 2007, and in 2019 returned to the traditional March time slot. The field consists of 144 players consisting of the following criteria:

Winners of PGA Tour events since last Players

Top 125 from previous season's FedEx Cup points list

Major champions from the past five years
Players Championship winners from the past five years

The Tour Championship winners from the past three years

World Golf Championship winners from

and Tiger Woods. Nicklaus is the only 3-time winner of the event.

My Favorites:

Tiger Woods: Can Tiger join Jack as a three-time winner this year? Woods won with wins in 2001 and 2013. Tiger is currently the ninth ranked player in the world according to the World Golf Ranking. I look for Tiger to play well as he gears up for Augusta. I think Tiger will finish in the top 10 at The Players.

Rory McIlroy: Can Rory repeat as Players Champion? History says no. The best finish by a defending champion is fifth place. Rory is the number one player in the world and a repeat win at The Players would probably cement that ranking going into Masters Week in

My Pick to Win:

Jon Rahm: Rahm is in contention everywhere he plays around the world. He has won in Dubai, the Open De Espana in his home country of Spain in the past six months.

He finished runner up at Tiger's tourney and recently at Torrey Pines. Rahm is the 3rd ranked player in the world and is on the cusp of being the next Spanish superstar in the sport like Seve, Jose Maria Olazabal, and Sergio before him.

Rahm is only 25 years old, and could be the number one player in the world by the end of 2020.

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IT'S GREAT TO BE A GATOR

Florida's Strong Recruiting By Kenneth Harrison, Jr



The 2020 recruiting classes are officially in the books. One team I want to examine is the Florida Gators. Their recruiting class is ranked eighth nationally, one spot behind Auburn. We can argue Florida's class is better.

They have 1 five-star recruit, 17 four-star players and 6 three-star players. Auburn does not have a five-star player, 16 four-stars and 10 three-star players.

The highest rated player is five-star defensive tackle Gervon Dexter from Lake Wales, Florida. He's 6'6 and 294 pounds so he has prototypical size for the position.

He was the top-rated player in the state of Florida and sixth nationally. Dexter runs a 4.88 forty so he also has great speed and athleticism.

He only started playing football two years ago for Lake Wales High but has made an elite impact ever since. In two seasons, Dexter recorded 27 sacks, 53 tackles for loss, 178 total tackles, 14 forced fumbles, and three batted passes - all in 23 games.

Several four-star D-linemen will join Dexter in the trenches. Weak side defensive end Antwaun Powell (Chesapeake, VA), d tackles Lamar Goods (Oakdale, CT), Johnnie Brown (Sebring, FL), Jalen Lee (Watson, LA) and strong side defensive end Princely Umanmielen.

Four-star cornerback Ethan Pouncey is ranked tenth best at the position in the 2020 recruiting class. The last name looks familiar because he's the younger cousin of Maurkice and Mike.

Ethan is 6'1, 160 lbs. so he has to get to the training table and weight room. His older brother Jordan is a

wide receiver, who was previously at Texas but he is transferring to UF.

There are three other four-star corners coming to Gainesville. Avery Helm (Missouri City, TX), Jahari Rogers (Arlington, TX) and Mordecai McDaniel (Washington, DC).

First, I want to point out it is impressive for the Gators to land top recruits from Texas.

All of these corners are at least 6'1 so they have great size to compete with tall receivers.

They have four-star safety Rashad Torrence II from Marietta, Ga. He was on the team that won the 7A GHSA state championship, so he knows what it takes to win.

As a senior, he had 111 tackles, 7 pass breakups and 1 interception. I think he might be one of the most underrated recruits and I expect him to be a star.

Four-star dual threat quarterback Anthony Richardson is from Gainesville. He attended Eastside High just a few miles from the campus. He is also on Season 4 of the Netflix documentary series "QB1: Beyond the Lights."

Richardson is 6'4, 233 lbs. and the fifth ranked dual threat QB in the 2020 class. He only played in six games in 2019 before he suffered a season ending shoulder injury. In those games, he scored 15 total touchdowns and the team averaged 24.5 points per game.

There are also several talented playmakers joining the Gators. Wide receivers Xzavier Henderson (Miami, FL), Jaquavion Frazier (Dunnellon, FL), Leonard Manuel (Fort Lauderdale, FL) and tight end Jonathan Odom (Tampa, FL).

The one weakness this class does not have a running back but former five-star back Lorenzo Lingard is transferring in from Miami.

I think this class has the chance to make Florida a consistent national contender again.



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TOP DAWG

Edwards' Season A Success? By JJ Lanier



Writing about sports, and really just writing in general, can be a fickle endeavor.

Originally, I sat down to write about what is sure to be Anthony Edwards' single season in Athens, and whether or not it should be deemed a success or failure.

I thought it would be pretty simple since in most cases, when a highly recruited player spurns one of the more well-known programs for one with not as much caché behind it, the answer is usually fairly cut and dry.

Most of the time both the player and team underperform, leaving behind a season that is unforgettable to almost everyone involved. However, Edwards and Georgia is that rare case where the success of one has not translated into success for the other.

For all intents and purposes, Edwards has lived up to being the number one ranked player in his class. He's basically a guarantee for SEC Freshman is the Year and there's a good possibility he'll receive that same recognition on the national level.

I'd be shocked if he isn't a 1st team All-SEC player (possibly SEC Player of the Year) and is currently projected as a Top 3 pick in this year's draft. When you look at what he's accomplished this season, from his perspective, it's really hard to look at his short-lived tenure in Athens as a bust.

Of course, the key phrase there is "from his perspective" because as good as he's been- especially these last few weeks- Georgia's season has been the exact opposite. If Edwards individual season has been "Parasite", Georgia's has been "CATS".

No one with realistic expectations thought this was a Final

Four team, but when you have arguably the second most talented player in your program's history on campus, you at least hope to capitalize on their time there.

Normally, that includes some mixture of national exposure, either from upsets, an overachieving season, or at the very least an appearance in the NCAA Tournament.

This way you're not only proving to recruits that you can help propel them to the next level, but that people will actually know who they are when they get there.

Besides Edwards' game against Michigan State back in November, where his highlights were all over the internet, has anyone outside of the SEC even watched him play?

Imagine the narrative surrounding the basketball team if instead of battling with Vanderbilt not to finish in last place, they were somewhere in the middle of the conference, battling for a tournament bid, with one or two upsets under the belt.

I also don't think it's too farfetched to say that Edwards would be getting some National Player of the Year whispers as well in this scenario, something that always plays well to future recruits.

Now, please don't get me wrong, I'm not saying Edwards is perfect and this season's disappointment falls on Tom Crean and the rest of the roster- neither of those statements are true. That just happens to be a different column for another day.

We should start to see over the next few years if Edwards' individual success will help Georgia on the recruiting trail or if their lack of team success will continue to be a hindrance; the results ultimately judging whether this season was success or not.

Either way, it should be a lot easier to write about.

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SUPER NFC SOUTH

Which Teams Are Contenders? By JJ Lanier



The NFL gets a lot of credit for its parity from year to year and there are multiple examples over the years proving that to be true.

When it comes to the Super Bowl, because of the Patriots stranglehold on the AFC, most of the parity has come from the NFC.

There has been a different team representing the conference in each of the past six seasons, many of which were not considered to be Super Bowl contenders to begin the season.

As we look towards next season, could one of the NFC South teams be that team to surprise everyone with a Super Bowl run?

The obvious answer would be the New Orleans Saints, which takes them out of this particular conversation since they wouldn't be a surprise.

Out of the three remaining divisional teams, I don't think there's much doubt the Panthers are the

longest of long shots next year.

They have a new coach with a new philosophy, they lost their best defensive player (Luke Kuechly) to retirement and decided not to bring back their most reliable offensive player (Greg Olsen).

And then there's the question of whether Cam will ready, if he'll be back in Charlotte at all. Trust me, Kenny Maybe had a better chance of making it to the second round of "Dancing With the Stars" than the Panthers do of making it to the Super Bowl.

Next up, to me at least, are the Falcons. I realize most people probably believe in the Falcons more than the Buccaneers, but I'm just not there.

Atlanta has been on the decline for the last three seasons; they haven't been able to quite put things together on either side of the ball since their Super Bowl run, and frankly, I don't trust Dan Quinn.

I stated earlier this season, the worst thing that could happen to Atlanta was to finish the season strong, giving management a reason to keep Quinn around, and I'm sticking to it.

On the flip side, the talent is there to make a run, especially on the offensive side of the ball, which is why I give them a better chance than

Carolina. On paper they look like best team out of the three to give New Orleans a run for the division title, but I'm not quite sold on it happening. So, yes, between the Panthers, Falcons, and Buccaneers, I would pick Tampa to be the surprise team next year. I don't know if it's the viral infection I've been battling combined with the Police Academy marathon I binged today (thanks Netflix), but for some reason I'm going with the Buccaneers.

Truth be told, I'm not really sure why I should even feel this way, except that after five years I'm still foolish enough to think James Winston can surely get his stuff together for at least one full season.

I mean, the 5,100 yard and 33 touchdowns is so appealing, as long as you completely ignore the 30 interceptions that went along with it. Surely Bruce Arians can do something with that, right?

Of course, these things were being said about the 49ers last year, and the Rams the year before that, and the Eagles before that, which is why every team begins each season with a renewed sense of hope.

Maybe we'll be able to add an NFC South team to that list; except for the Panthers. Seriously, it's going to be a long year.





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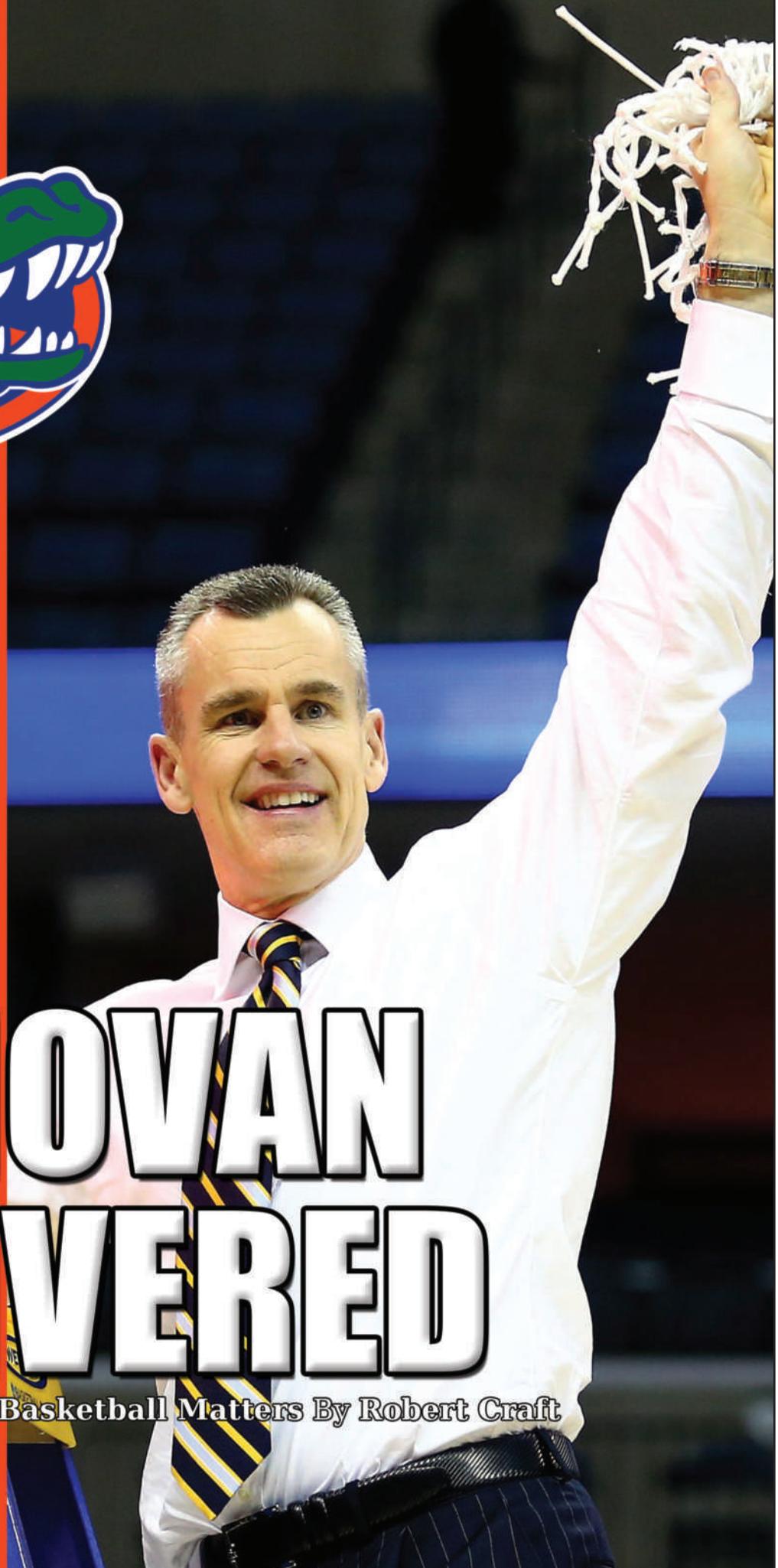
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GEORGIA'S MOST LISTENED TO SPORTS SHOW



DONOVAN DELIVERED

The Reason Florida Basketball Matters By Robert Craft



Former Florida coach Billy Donovan returned to the program he put on the college basketball map.

For the first time since 2015 we will see the man return to the O'Connell Center floor that was named after him. His signature was placed at both ends of the court between the 3-point line and the top of the key.

Donovan is the current coach of the Oklahoma City Thunder. With

appearance and became the second squad in school history to appear in the final top 25 polls (17 in ESPN and 23 in Associated Press).

While success in the regular season became a standard, post season the Gators consistently underperformed.

In the 2005-2006 season, Donovan's sophomore led Gator team posted a school-best win streak to start the season reeling off 17 straight wins and reaching number 2 in the Associated Press poll. The Gators struggled during conference play, posting a 10-6 conference record heading into the SEC tournament.

Florida cruised through the SEC tournament and defeated South Carolina in the finals, earning the Gators second conference tournament title. In the 2006 NCAA tournament, The Gators were a

Championships. The Gators defeated the Ohio State Buckeyes 84-75 for the repeat championship.

With the Florida Gators football having won the 2007 BCS National Championship game (also over Ohio State). The University of Florida became the first school in NCAA history to hold both the football and basketball National Championships at the same time.

The Gators in the Donovan era were 467-186. The Gators won two national championships (2006 & 2007), four SEC tournaments championships (2005,2006,2007 & 2014) and six regular season conference titles (2000,2001,2007,2013 & 2014). Donovan's Gators reached the Final Four 4 times with trips in 2000 and 2014 in addition to the national championship seasons.



the NBA All-Star Weekend, Donovan was honored at halftime of the Florida vs Vanderbilt contest.

Donovan became the coach at Florida in March of 1996 after Lon Kruger resigned to take the job at the University of Illinois.

The Gator basketball program had only fleeting success over its history. The Gators reached the Final Four under Kruger in 1994, but slipped back to mediocre levels the next season.

The 1998-1999 season the Gators went 22-9 earning 20 plus wins for only the fifth time in school history. They made their third NCAA Sweet Sixteen

three seed.

2005-2006 Gator basketball team would come together and defeat UCLA 73-57 to capture the school's first NCAA basketball title. As exciting as the championship game, during the post championship celebration, the entire starting five (Lee Humphrey, Taurean Green, Joakim Noah, Al Horford and Cory Brewer) announced they would return and attempt to win back to back championships.

The 2006-2007 Gators did not disappoint Gator Nation. They became the first team since the 1991 and 1992 Duke teams to win back to back NCAA

Billy Donovan is the second coach in Division I history to notch 500 career wins before reaching his 50th birthday. The other was Hall of Famer Bobby Knight.

Billy Donovan thanked former players (30 plus in attendance), former assistants (8 in attendance), his former boss Jeremy Foley, his family and Gator Nation for helping him reach this career pinnacle.

Simply put, Billy Donovan made basketball matter at the football first school.



THE COACHING RANKS

Breaking Down SEC Coaches By Kipp Branch



Our greatest game is now in the off season.

You already see early 2020 predictions being made for the college football season.

The SEC has a few new head coaches who are ready to make their mark on the conference. Here are my head coach rankings heading into the 2020 season:

Nick Saban: The Alabama HC is the gold standard that all college football coaches are measured by.

The Tide just finished an 11-2 season with a win over Michigan in the Citrus Bowl and you would think the Alabama football program is on life support if you listen to the experts around the country. Saban will be back in 2020 and the SEC West will feel the full wrath of Saban.

Ed Orgeron: Coach O can do just about anything he wants in the State of Louisiana right now after leading LSU to a Natty. It's hard not to love the man and the kids really play hard for him. LSU is a blue blood again in college football because of Coach O. Go Tigahs!

Kirby Smart: Yeah Kirby seems to be the butt of jokes because UGA hasn't won a national title since 1980, but the

butt of those jokes should go towards Ray Goff, Jim Donnan, and Mark Richt correct?

Kirby: 44-12 at UGA in four years, and coming off three straight 11-1 regular seasons. Kirby retooled his offensive staff after the Sugar Bowl and Florida is already the trendy pick in the East, so Kirby can use that as a motivational tool this offseason.

Jimbo Fisher: The Aggie HC is starting to drop down this list after getting the big \$75 million contract from A&M. It is time for Aggie fans to see a good ROI on their investment in 2020.

Dan Mullen: Back to Back top 10 finishes in Gainesville is what the Gator nation expects out of Big Game Dan. The Gators now are dealing with high expectations for the first time in a few years so let's see how they respond to it. My guess is they will be just fine.

Gus Malzahn: Who does less with more than Gus? It is time for Auburn to get back in the playoff hunt in the SEC. Too much talent at Auburn to have another 9-4 type season.

Mark Stoops: While you have been napping Stoops has built Kentucky into a respectable football program. The Cats have as many as 19 starters coming back in 2020.

Sleep on Kentucky at your own risk.

Mike Leach: Joe Moorhead, we hardly knew you.

The Pirate has won at Texas Tech and Washington State. The Air Raid is coming to the SEC and Leach will have you busting a gut like you are at a Kevin

Hart concert.

Leach will win SEC Media Days this summer and field a good football team to go along with it.

Jeremy Pruitt: Pruitt is hardcore and has Tennessee on the rebound.

Look out moving forward for the Vols. Those of you that have forgotten about Vol football don't worry they will be back soon, and you will hear Rocky Top 736 times during a 60-minute football game.

Will Muschamp: Good coach coaching in a tough environment, while Dabo is rolling at Clemson.

Georgia found out the hard way in 2019 and missed the college football playoff because of the South Carolina Gamecocks.

Lane Kiffin: Great offensive mind, but last time he was in the SEC as a HC he left Tennessee in a total mess. I think he moves up this list but starts here in 2020.

Derek Mason: Vandy is a tough place to build a resume. Mason's teams play really hard, but are out-talented most weeks in the SEC.

Eli Drinkwitz: Yes, he looks like a CPA and did great things in Boone, NC, but we will see if that can carry over to Columbia, Missouri.

Sam Pittman: Arkansas is a raging dumpster fire that has some good tradition. We shall see if the Pit Boss can turn things around in NW Arkansas.

Hurry up SEC Media Days so I can tune into Mike Leach.





Ballin'

Will 2020 Be The Bucs' Year? By Robert Craft



The Tampa Bay Buccaneers opened the season with cautious optimism. The hiring of Bruce Arians and staff brought a renewal light to Buccaneers fans.

That light flickered all season with glimpses of future hopes.

The Buccaneers finished the season 7-9 record and 3rd place in the NFC South division. The Buc's were awful at home with a 2-6 record compared to a 5-3 road record.

The Bucs' season was capped off with a 28-22 overtime loss to the Atlanta Falcons. This game was a microcosm of the Buc's season.

The Buc's took a 22-16 lead into the locker room at halftime. The Falcon tied the game late in the 4th quarter with a Younghoe Koo field goal to send the game into overtime.

On the first possession of overtime, Bucs' quarterback Jameis Winston threw his league leading 30th interception, a pick 6 for the Falcons. Game over, season over.

Jameis Winston was the first pick in the 2015 NFL Draft. Buccaneers fans cheered that they

finally had a franchise quarterback. Winston was selected to his first Pro Bowl game making him the first rookie quarterback in Buccaneer history to be selected. Promising, right?

This season he led the NFL in passing yards with 5,109 and interceptions with 30. He is the first player in NFL history to throw 30 touchdowns and 30 interceptions in the same season.

Winston made history on his final throw of the year with his seventh pick 6 of the season. Winston's first and last pass as a Buc were both pick 6's.

His five years in Tampa Bay have been nothing short of a nauseating roller coaster, with captivating highs and head scratching lows.

Don't get me wrong, the Buccaneers have many holes to fill on their roster. Coach Bruce Arians and General Manager Jason Licht have a difficult decision at the game's most important position this offseason, as quarterback Jameis Winston's contract has expired.

The Buccaneers should have hope for Winston, despite his shortcomings at quarterback. He had a career year in his first season under Bruce Arians. Turnovers have plagued him throughout his NFL career, as Winston has thrown 88 interceptions and had 50 fumbles in 72 games.

Coach Bruce Arians' season

ending press conference addressed Jameis Winston's pick 6 to end the season, "It smells as bad as it could possibly smell and it'll smell that way for a long time."

Here is the question Buccaneers fans: Is a 5,000 yard quarterback still worth 30 million a year if he can't consistently win?

The Buccaneers must make a decision about Winston quickly so they can focus on other possible free agents.

Jason Pierre-Paul, Carl Nassib, Shaq Barrett, Ndamukong Suh, Demar Dotson and Breshard Perriman are all potential free agents that the Bucs must resign.

Offensive line and secondary must be addressed in the draft and free agency.

The Bucs offensive line was nowhere near NFL caliber. They ranked 24th in rushing yards per game and gave up 47 sacks this season.

After the Bucs released former first round draft pick Vernon Hargreaves, the trio of Jamel Dean, Carlton Davis, and Sean Murphy-Bunting began to produce some nice numbers with 31 pass deflections, 3 forced fumbles and 4 interceptions. In a pass happy NFL, you cannot have enough quality defensive backs.

The Bucs have not made the playoffs since 2008. Will 2020 be the year?





OUT OF THE SHALLOWS

The Dolphins' 2020 Draft By Robert Craft



With the Super Bowl in the rear view, the Miami Dolphins can officially start executing their off-season draft plans. The Miami Dolphins have 14 picks in the 2020 NFL Draft.

The Dolphins will be a key contender in the 2020 draft, as they currently hold three first round picks and two second round selections.

The speculation is in full

It is going to be a lot of fun for Dolphin fans to see how Chris Grier (Miami's General Manager) maneuvers free agency and the draft to rebuild this story franchise.

As the Dolphins transition into buyers instead of sellers, they are going to need to do their due diligence to maximize their cap space.

Miami's wheeling and dealing netted it two additional first round draft picks, at 18 and 26, in addition to their own selection at 5. So, the Dolphins choose wisely, they can set their rebuilding plan in motion in a big way.

One thing is obvious in building a NFL team, you must possess a gifted quarterback to obtain sustained winning and championships.

with elite accuracy; a requirement for a potential franchise quarterback.

I realize that the Dolphins have a lot of holes on both sides of the ball, but Rome wasn't built in a day, and neither will this Dolphin's team. With the current draft choices and cap space, it is safe to say this is a good foundation to start the rebuild.

The Dolphins almost never make bold moves at the draft and if they want this franchise to be relevant again, they must roll the dice and move up to assure you get the quarterback to build around.

Watching Pat Mahomes this year reminded me of that feeling I used to get when Dan Marino was quarterback. The feeling of hope; by hope I mean the feeling that the



swing when it comes to trying to predict what the Dolphins will do with those three first round picks, with more guessing and predictions sure to come.

According to Spotrac, the Dolphins are set to own the most cap space in the NFL next year for a cool 90 to 115 million dollars in cap space.

Needless to say, the Dolphins are going to have a ton of money to convince a handful of top talented free agents to come play in South Beach.

In a pass happy NFL, teams must have a top tier quarterback to win Super Bowls.

The Dolphins rebuild has always been centered around drafting a franchise quarterback. The football gods have been cruel to Alabama quarterback, Tua Tagovailoa, as he saw his season cut short by injury.

The Dolphins have had their eyes on Tua for quite some time and if the medical report on Tua's hip looks good the Dolphins shouldn't pass on him. Tua is a super talented passer

Dolphins were never out of a game, the feeling that the Dolphins could overcome any deficit, the feeling the Dolphins can contend for the playoffs and Super Bowl.

Dolphins fans I'll leave with a quote from Jimmy Johnson "Do you want to be safe and good or do you want to take a chance and be great?"

That is what this off-season is all about for the Miami Dolphins, that is if you're talking about the Super Bowl.



NUMBERS DON'T LIE

Breaking Down SEC Dominance By Kipp Branch



I was listening recently and don't ask me why I was tuned in to a regional radio show that suggested that the ACC was the best football conference in the country due to Clemson's recent success on the gridiron.

These types of things interest me because I know the SEC is the king in football, so I looked up the stats to confirm what I already know. Here goes:

P5 Conference Bowl Records (All-Time)

SEC: 261-195-9 (.571)

ACC: 132-140-2 (.485)

BIG 12: 84-88-0 (.488)

B1G: 143-163-1 (.467)

PAC 12: 149-136-5 (.522)

The PAC 12 is the only other "Power 5" conference with a winning bowl record.

SEC All-Time vs. Other Conferences (current conferences)

SEC vs:

ACC: 319-171-10 (.648)

AAC: 19-8-0 (.704)

B1G: 96-65-2 (.595)

BIG 12: 98-79-6 (.552)

CUSA: 158-28 (.849)

MAC: 98-14 (.875)

Mountain West: 25-11 (.694)

PAC 12: 74-43-5 (.627)

Sun Belt: 154-11 (.933) -

Random tidbits:

SEC TEAMS VS. ACC

	W	L	T	Win %	PFPG	PAPG
Alabama	26	5	0	83.9	28.3	13.3
Arkansas	0	2	0	0.0	17.0	27.5
Auburn	34	12	0	73.9	26.5	16.6
Florida	33	26	2	55.7	24.3	19.6
Georgia	77	27	5	72.9	25.4	17.1
Kentucky	15	15	1	50.0	19.5	18.5
LSU	24	2	0	92.3	28.5	10.8
Mississippi	1	4	0	20.0	18.0	31.4
Mississippi St	6	7	0	46.2	24.5	28.2
S. Carolina	18	23	0	43.9	20.7	24.4
Tennessee	36	15	1	70.2	24.7	15.8
Texas A&M	2	4	0	33.3	35.5	32.5
Vanderbilt	31	25	0	55.4	21.4	21.3

Clemson is by far the best football program in the ACC currently, but their all-time record against the SEC is 56-99-5, and 6-9 in bowl games.

CLEMSON VS. SEC TEAMS

	W	L	T	Win %	PFPG	PAPG
Alabama	2	11	0	15.4	13.2	31.5
Auburn	9	17	1	35.2	16.3	22.6
Florida	2	2	1	50.0	14.8	22.2
Georgia	9	28	2	25.6	12.8	22.8
Kentucky	5	6	0	45.5	13.7	13.0
LSU	1	3	0	25.0	14.3	20.8
Mississippi	0	1	0	0.0	0.0	13.0
Mississippi St	1	1	1	50.0	11.7	10.3
S. Carolina	18	10	0	64.3	28.0	21.2
Tennessee	1	4	0	20.0	17.6	22.0
Texas A&M	2	0	0	100.0	26.0	18.0
Vanderbilt	1	1	0	50.0	16.0	14.5

Note: Clemson is 18-42-4 all-time against Georgia but for this story only games against SEC are counted.

SEC was formed in 1933. Florida State is the only ACC team with a winning record against the SEC.

FSU has a losing all-time record against SEC teams, but a winning record against the SEC since they joined the ACC in the 1990's.

SEC Bowl Records vs. P5 Opponents

The SEC is 47-29 (.618) against the ACC in bowl games.

The SEC is 57-32 (.640) against the B1G in bowl games.

The SEC is 46-36-1 (.560) against the BIG 12 in bowl games.

The SEC is 9-7-1 (.559) against the PAC 12 in bowl games.

Clemson does have a winning record against the SEC over the last decade thanks to their current ownership of South Carolina.

There you have it folks, proof in numbers that the SEC is the most dominant football conference in the country.

I respect the ACC as a football conference, but FSU, Miami and Virginia Tech need give the Tigers some help at the top.

LSU is the current king of College Football and flat out owns the ACC.

Clemson is probably the best overall program right now, but the SEC is the most powerful conference because the numbers don't lie.



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