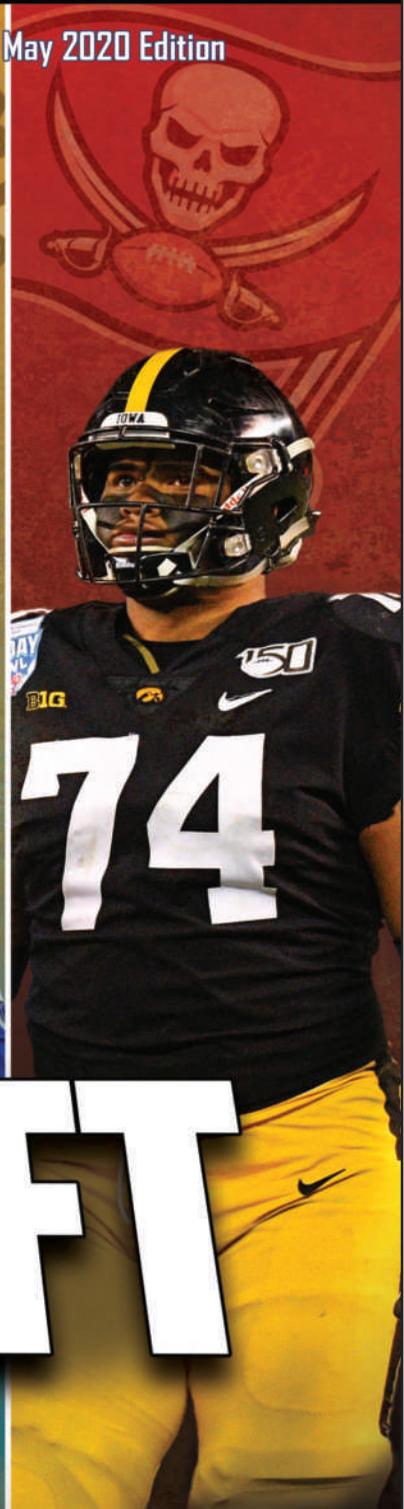


# THE *SOUTHERN SPORTS* EDITION

May 2020 Edition



# 2020 NFL DRAFT



THE JAGS OFFSEASON



TOP 5 UGA QUARTERBACKS



BEST BRAVES OF ALL TIME





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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.

**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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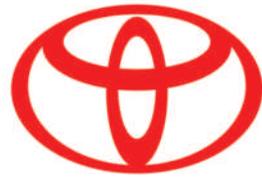
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# TIDES TURNING IN RIVER CITY

The Jags Offseason By Robert Craft



**T**he Jacksonville Jaguars traded Nick Foles, the Super Bowl 52 MVP, to the Chicago Bears for the Bears' fourth round compensatory pick.

Foles, who signed a four year, \$88-million contract with the Jaguars a year ago, will now compete with Mitchell Trubisky for the Bears starting job.

The Foles trade qualifies as a disaster for General Manager Dave Caldwell and Coach Doug Marrone. He only played four games last season because of a shoulder injury and earned 30.5 million dollars.

Gardner Minshew, a 2019 sixth round pick out of Washington State, for now, becomes the Jags' starting quarterback. Minshew went 6-6 as a starter with 21 touchdowns, 6 interceptions and a 91.2 passer rating.

The Foles trade is another move in a busy offseason that saw the Jags trade defensive lineman Calais Campbell to Baltimore, cornerback A.J. Bouye to Denver, placing the franchise tag on defensive end Yannick Ngakoue (\$19.3 million this season) and declining the option on defensive tackle Marcell Dareus.

The Jags signed former Cleveland linebacker Joe Schobert to a 5-year \$53 million deal and former Cincinnati cornerback Darqueze Dennard to a 3-year deal worth 13.5 million dollars.

The Jags will have 12 selections in the 2020 NFL Draft: two in the first round (#9 & #20), one in the second round (#42), one in the third round (#73), four in the fourth round (#116, #137, #140), two in the fifth round (#157 & #165), two in the sixth round (#189 & #206) and one in the seventh round (#223).

If you are panicking, thinking the Jags are "Tanking for Trevor", let's take a closer look at the trades. Bouye wasn't the Jags' best corner last season (Tre Herndon) and my guess is they will address the cornerback position in the draft.

Dareus only played six games last year, and after 9 seasons the wear and tear is taking its toll on Dareus. Campbell made the Pro Bowl last season but his production has slipped from the previous two seasons.

No matter how you feel about Dave Caldwell, the reality is, he and Doug Marrone are the ones making the moves this offseason. The further reality is the Jags are having a very good offseason.

The Jags are stockpiling draft capital for a lot of players many believed might have to be released.

Dave Caldwell and Doug Marrone are running out of time in Jacksonville unless they turn it around in 2020. It's hard to envision such a turnaround with Minshew.

The best hope for Dave Caldwell and Doug Marrone to keep their jobs beyond this season is to sign Cam Newton.

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# MAKING THE GRADES

Grading The First Round Picks By Kipp Branch



**T**he first sign of normalcy returning happened with the first round of the NFL Draft.

Let's take a look at teams in our geographical area and assign a first-round grade.

**Atlanta Falcons:** The Falcons selected cornerback AJ Terrell from Clemson with the 16th pick.

Atlanta had their sights set on CJ Henderson from Florida, but Jacksonville took Henderson with the 9th pick.

Apparently, Thomas Dimitroff missed the National Championship game where Terrell got scorched for over 200 yards by Joe Burrow and LSU.

Yes, we know CB is a big need for Atlanta, but Terrell that early in the first round? I don't like the selection when Kenneth Murray LB from Oklahoma was still on the board. Terrell needs technique work, and there was more value on the board when the Falcons made the pick.  
Grade: D

**Jacksonville Jaguars:** The Jags had two first round selections.

With the 9th pick the Jaguars took CJ Henderson cornerback from

Florida. Henderson was regarded by most as the second-best corner in the draft behind Jeff Okudah, who was selected by the Lions at pick number 3.

Henderson is a good cover corner and has great ball skills. The issue with Henderson is he runs away from contact at times and that worried scouts.

I think this is a reach at #9 for Jacksonville who passed on Jerry Jeudy, Henry Ruggs, and CeeDee Lamb in typical Jaguar fashion.  
Grade: C

At pick 20 the Jaguars selected K'Lavion Chaisson OLB of LSU.

I think this is a great pick for Jacksonville to add another edge rusher to team up with Josh Allen on the Jacksonville defense. The pass rush is back in Jacksonville.

Chaisson is a match up problem who can rush the passer, drop in coverage, and play solid in the run game. Great pick by the Jags to get a three-down player at LB.  
Grade: A

**Miami Dolphins:** With the 5th pick the Dolphins selected Tua Tagovailoa QB from Alabama.

Tua is the man immediately in South Beach. If he can stay healthy, he can be a force in the NFL.

Tua is an accurate passer with a nice touch on the football. Many compare him to Steve Young and if he lives up to that hype then Miami will get back into playoff discussions soon.

Miami has had 21 starting quarterbacks since Dan Marino retired after the 1999 season. Ouch!

Grade: A

With pick 18 the Dolphins selected Austin Jackson OT from USC. Jackson is only 20 years old but has very good feet. He may not be ready in 2020 to contribute but has a pretty good upside. The jury is out on this selection.  
Grade: C-

With the 30th pick the Dolphins selected CB Noah Igbinohene from Auburn. Another SEC selection in the first round. I like this pick for Miami in a position of need. Tough and physical kid.  
Grade: B

**Tampa Bay Buccaneers:** The Bucs gave up a 4th round pick to San Francisco to move up one spot to take OT Tristin Wirfs from Iowa.

Iowa may be Offensive Line U right now in college football. Many thought Wirfs was the best offensive lineman available in this draft.

He ran a 4.85 40-yard dash at the combine, and had 36.5 inch vertical jump. This kid is athletic and a valuable asset to protect Tom Brady. I love this pick, and Tampa got a kid that had a top five grade entering the draft.  
Grade: A+

It is a relief to watch something live on TV that is sports related.



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# HOW TO STAY FIT DURING THE CORONAVIRUS

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How often have you said, “I don’t have time to exercise!” Well, now that many of us are working from home, sheltering in place and self-quarantining, there’s never been a better time to get in shape.



“Now more than ever, we need the stress-busting, immune-boosting benefits of regular workouts,” says Christopher M. Yonz, M.D., an orthopaedic surgeon and sports medicine physician with Summit Sports Medicine & Orthopaedic Surgery and member of the Southeast Georgia Health System Camden Campus medical staff.

“If you haven’t exercised recently, start slow, build up gradually and set reasonable goals. Aim for 30 minutes of moderate activity daily, five days a week. You can spread it out in 10-minute intervals throughout the day,” Dr. Yonz says.

Here are his suggestions for three easy, free fitness activities you can do at home. Note: If you are pregnant or have an existing medical condition, ask your doctor before starting an exercise program.

## 1. No Gym? No Problem.

“You don’t need expensive equipment for cardio and strength training. You can use your own body weight for an overall workout. Speed up or slow down the exercises depending on your fitness level. If you’re unclear how to do an exercise, try Fitbit, the Nike fitness app or watch a YouTube video,” advises Dr. Yonz.

Here’s a sample routine:

1. 5-minute warm-up: Moving stretches, such as circling arms while extended, leg kicks, marching in place.
2. 5-10 minutes of cardio: Jumping jacks, run or march in place, dancing, burpees, side-to-side hops.
3. 20 minutes of strength training: Alternate push-ups, squats, single-leg squats, walking lunges, ab crunches, planks, step-ups onto a sturdy bench or stool, wall sits (squat with legs hip distance apart and your back against a wall), high knees (run in place, lifting knees high).
4. 5-minute cool down: Slow, stationary stretches such as toe touches and stretching your quadriceps, calf and hamstring muscles.

## 2. Walking on Sunshine.

Walking around your neighborhood is a great, family-friendly exercise. “Work up to 30 minutes a day. As you progress, you should be able to walk briskly while maintaining a conversation,” shares Dr. Yonz. “Remember to stretch before and after.”

## 3. Biking to Better Health.

If you own a bike, start pedaling! “Cycling is a low-impact activity with many benefits. It tones the lower body, increases flexibility and balance, provides overall cardio conditioning, is gentle on arthritic joints and reduces stress. Just remember to wear a helmet,” says Dr. Yonz.

If you experience COVID-19 symptoms, call the Health System Screening Hotline, 912-466-7222, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. For COVID-19 updates, visit [sghs.org](http://sghs.org) or [cdc.gov](http://cdc.gov).

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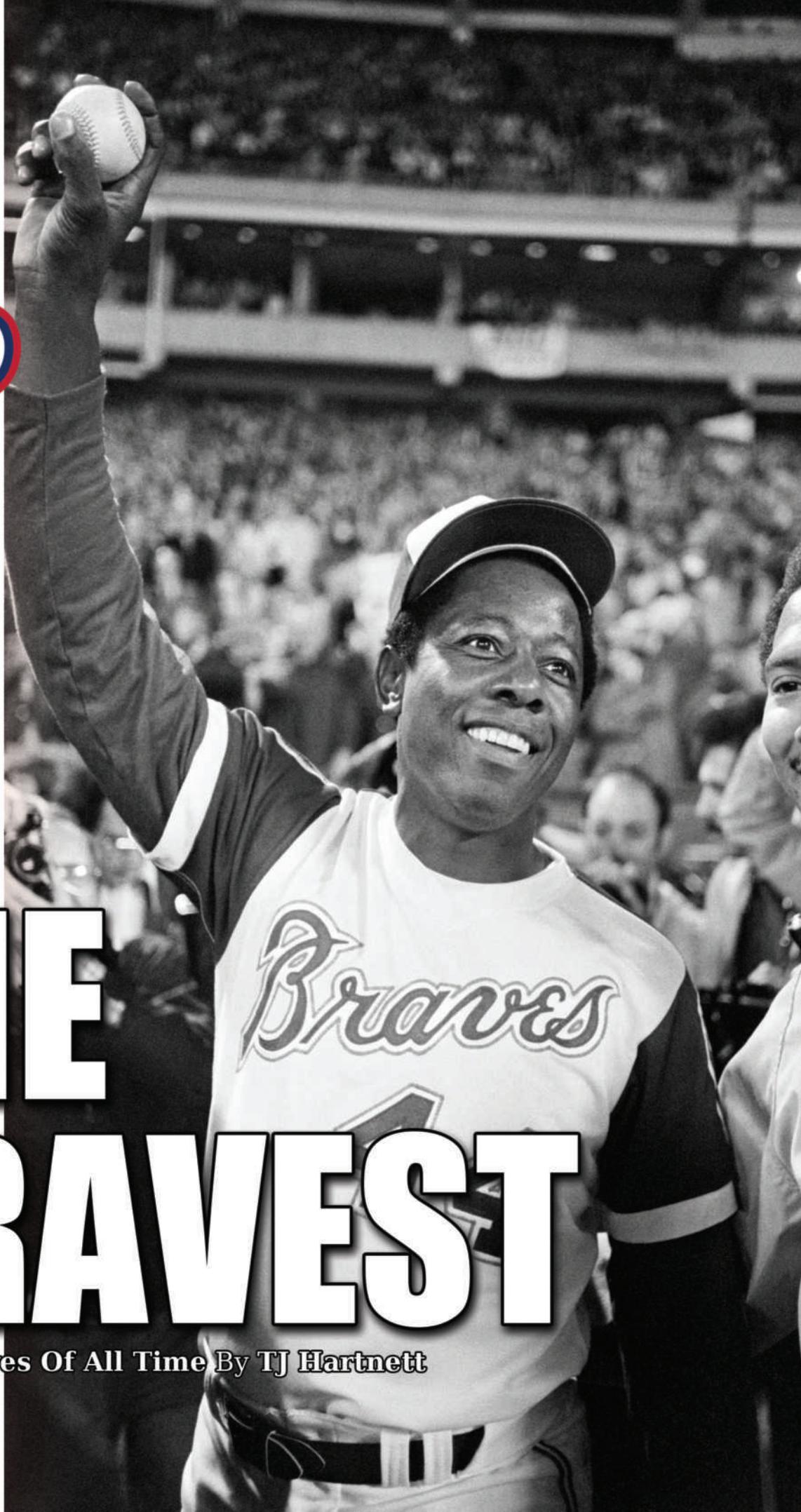
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# THE BRAVEST

The Best Braves Of All Time By TJ Hartnett



As this long stretch of time without any baseball games continues stretching out even longer, we've got time to look back on games, players, and teams of the past, and reflect.

The Atlanta Braves are one of the most celebrated franchises in baseball, with three World Series championships across three cities (a record), a run of 14-straight division titles (a record), and some of the greatest players the game has ever seen donning an Atlanta uniform.

It's those players I want to look back on today and try to figure out the best ever player at each position for the Braves.

That is, I'm going to make up an all-time Braves roster – the greatest to ever suit up at each position, with one starter and one reliever.

Some of these will be easy. You've already thought them up after reading these first few sentences; some of them will be tough to single out just one player; and some of them will seem like I'm bending the rules, which I will be, because there are no rules. I'm making this up with impunity.

Let's do the position players first.

Catcher: there are actually a few good options here, beyond what you may think of off the top of your head: Brian McCann, Javy Lopez, Joe Torre, even Dale Murphy, if you felt like it.

I, however, don't feel like it, and therefore I'm going with Javy Lopez.

Lopez caught the best pitching trio of all time in Atlanta (ironically the only no-hitter he caught was thrown by Kent Mercker), and won the division every year he was on the team, compared to 3 out of 10 for Mac. Javy also had some of the biggest seasons at the plate when he was behind it.

First Base: Fred McGriff should be in the Hall of Fame, but Freddie Freeman is the guy here. He's in the top 10 all-time for the franchise in WAR and he's 30.

Second Base: There are a lot fewer options here than most other positions: Marcus Giles and Glenn Hubbard are the only two with long and memorable stints in the past few decades, and while both

were notable, I'm going to jump the gun a little and go with Ozzie Albies.

Albies is locked up to a long-term deal, so I'm looking ahead here and assuming that if his production at least stays consistent to what it has been, he'll be the obvious choice.

Shortstop: here's one where the Braves keep almost having a franchise player, but then don't: Andrelton Simmons being the most recent example (jury's out on Dansby). I'm going to go with Rafael Furcal. He was an above-average defender and a better hitter than he has ever been given credit for.

Third Base: Eddie Mathews. The only guy to play for the Braves in all three cities. Hall of Famer. 512 home runs. He gets overshadowed in the Braves lore a lot by another Hall of Fame third baseman, but Matthews was the real deal.

And before you riot...

Left Field: Before you accuse me of riding a crazy train, keep in mind that Chipper Jones was the full-time left fielder for two and a half seasons. Yes, he's a third basemen by trade, but the years he spent patrolling the outfield were enough to allow me to squeeze both him and Mathews onto this roster (if I weren't allowed to put Chipper in left? He'd be the third baseman. Sorry, Eddie).

Center Field: Andrew Jones. Duh.

Right Field: Hank Aaron. Duh.

Starting Pitcher: Okay so originally I was going to provide a full starting five, but I decided to make myself pick one guy from the wealth of starting pitching legends the Braves have employed dating back to Hall of Famer Kid Nichols (who played 11 season with the Boston freakin' Beaneaters and was apparently never replaced by a relief pitching in his entire career).

So, given the limitation I placed upon myself, I narrowed it down to Nichols, Warren Spahn, Greg Maddux, Tom Glavine, John Smoltz, and Mike Hampton (just kidding).

Maddux is the guy. Spahn is close, but Maddux gets the edge because I got to watch him play and I could rarely believe what I was seeing.

Closer: I could go Smoltz here and include two of the three greats of the 90s, but in truth the best closer the Braves have ever had is Craig Kimbrel. The stats back it up.

There you have it! Disagree? I'm sure you might.



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# BEST OF THE BEST

Top Dawgs By Kipp Branch



**I** know this topic will spark some debate among the faithful UGA fans out there who are sheltered in place waiting for football season to roll around again. These are my personal rankings.

**My Top 5 UGA Quarterbacks of All-Time:**

**Aaron Murray (2010-13):** The SEC's all-time passing yardage and touchdowns leader tossed for 121 TD's and over 13,000 passing yards as a four-year starter for UGA. If Murray was the QB for UGA in 2017 and 2018, I believe UGA would have won the National Championship during those two seasons.

Murray did not have a Kirby Smart defense helping him out during his time at UGA. Murray is the most productive QB in UGA history, but does not seem to be near the top of these types of lists, but AM was the man!

**David Greene (2001-2004):** Greene led the Bulldogs to a 42-10 record as a starter, and ranks third all-time for career passing yards in the SEC.

Greene will always have a special place in the hearts of UGA faithful as he led the 2002 Dawgs to an SEC title breaking a 20-year title drought in Athens. Greene was his best with the game on the line with dramatic wins at Tennessee in 2001 and at Auburn in 2002.

**Buck Belue (1978-1981):** Buck came to UGA from Valdosta High School. We saw flashes of the swagger as a freshman in 78 when Belue led a 20-point comeback against Georgia Tech in a memorable 29-28 win that had a 13-year-old Kipp Branch dancing on the dirt road he lived on.

Belue was involved in the greatest play in UGA football history to Lindsay Scott that beat Florida once again and is the only QB on my list

with a National Championship. Buck always will get on my greatest UGA QB list.

**Matthew Stafford (2006-2008):** Stafford is the most talented QB to ever put on a jersey in Athens, Georgia.

The 2007 team ended the season as the #2 ranked team in the country. Stafford pretty much was a pro quarterback playing college football during his time at UGA.

Stafford went on to be the first selection in the 2009 NFL Draft for the Detroit Lions, and has every passing record in Lions history.

**D. J. Shockley (2002-2005):** Shockley will always have my respect because he was the ultimate team player.

A five-star QB recruit that waited his turn in Athens behind David Greene and started his senior season and led UGA to an SEC title in 2005. Shockley is the last true dual threat QB UGA has had and will always be loved in Athens.

Just missing the list: **Jake Fromm (2017-2019):** This will make my wife upset because she loves her some Jake Fromm.

Fromm had a great career in Athens, but every other QB on my list would have won a Natty with the defense Jake had while at UGA.

Great wins against ND, 3-0 against Florida, and an SEC Title will rank Jake near the top of some others list but he can't crack my top 5.

**Ray Goff (1973-1976):** Ray may not have been a great coach, but he was the SEC Player of the Year in 1976 for the SEC Champion Georgia Bulldogs. I don't need to say anything else about that.

**Eric Zeier (1991-1994):** When Zeier left UGA in 1994 he was the career passing yards leader in the SEC. Led UGA to a 10-2 record in 1992.

Fran Tarkenton was in the NFL when I came into the world so he did not make my list.

There you have it. Aaron Murray is the greatest QB in UGA history because I said so. Stay safe folks.



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# BEASTS FROM THE EAST

A Look At The SEC East By Kenneth Harrison Jr



**T**he SEC East should be a very interesting division in college football. Here is how I think the division stacks up.

**Florida:** I give the Gators a slight edge over Georgia.

Under Dan Mullen's watch, Florida has won 21 games and finished in the top 10 in back-to-back years.

The offense needs to take the next step and improve. The offensive line returns four starters so they should get better. Kyle Trask will be one of the best quarterbacks in the conference.

Tight end Kyle Pitts (54 catches) along with receivers Jacob Copeland, Trevon Grimes and Kadarius Toney make up a strong receiving corp.

The defense should still be strong this season, adding UGA transfer Brenton Cox to strengthen the pass rush. The secondary will be one of the best in the SEC thanks to Marco Wilson and Kaiir Elam.

I think the deciding factor will be crossover scheduling. LSU comes to Gainesville and Georgia plays at Alabama.

**Georgia:** The Bulldogs lose quarterback Jake Fromm, running back

D'Andre Swift and four offensive line starters.

Wake Forest transfer Jamie Newman will be the new QB. Last season Newman threw for 2,868 yards, 26 touchdowns and 11 interceptions. He also rushed for 574 yards and 6 TD's.

WR George Pickens had a good freshman season and he could have a breakout sophomore year.

In 2019 the defense ranked at the top of the SEC in yards per play allowed (4.3) and fewest points a game (12.6). They lost safety J.R. Reed and DL Tyler Clark but return most of the unit intact.

**Tennessee:** The Volunteers are going into coach Jeremy Pruitt's third year on the right track.

They started 2019 0-2 but rebounded and won their final six games. Quarterback play is a huge question mark and they need a drastic improvement. Whether it's Jarrett Guarantano, Brian Maurer, J.T. ShROUT or freshman Harrison Bailey, this position will determine the success of the team.

The offensive line and running backs should be the strength of the offense.

The defense improved, holding teams to 5.01 yards per game. I think the Vols are due for a big upset in 2020. I doubt it comes against Alabama or at UGA. Most likely it will be at Oklahoma or home against Florida.

**Kentucky:** The Wildcats won 26 games through the first five seasons under Mark Stoops, Kentucky has posted

18 over the last two years. Finishing 8-5 in 2019 was an accomplishment for Stoops and his staff.

Starting QB Terry Wilson was lost for the season due to injury in early September but he is returning. The O-line is one of the best in the conference and they return three backs that have at least 500 rushing yards in 2019.

Kentucky's defense finished fourth in the SEC in fewest points allowed per game (19.3) and allowed 5.3 yards a snap.

**South Carolina:** The pressure is mounting for Will Muschamp after finishing 4-8. He hired former Colorado State coach Mike Bobo as offensive coordinator.

They have a few options at QB with transfer Collin Hill (Colorado State), Dakereon Joyner, Ryan Hilinski and freshman Luke Doty battling for the starting job. They lost their top three running backs.

**Mizzou:** The Tigers were 8-5 in 2018 and 6-6 in 2019.

Eli Drinkwitz is in his first year in Columbia. He is coming off of only one year as a head coach at Appalachian State.

They will not be able to make a bowl this season.

**Vanderbilt:** The Commodores finished 3-9 last season. On the bright side these guys are intelligent since they attend Vandy.

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# DECADE OF DOMINANCE

NFC South Players Representing By JJ Lanier



**W**ith the 2010's in our rearview mirror it was only a matter of time before the All-Decade NFL Team was announced.

While there were some individual teams that had more representation than the entire NFC South, it's not as though the division was under appreciated, garnering five players itself.

his name on the Best Of... list for this upcoming decade.

**Alex Mack & Jahri Evans-** My dad, who is a newspaper editor, recently joked with me that sports writers are like wide receivers (divas) and editors are more like the lineman (unsung heroes).

I joked I would at least compare him to a defensive lineman, since most fans actually had an idea who those players are. I should know more about both players, and offensive linemen in general, but I don't root for either Atlanta or New Orleans (or any of the teams Evans has subsequently played for) and my brain only has a finite amount of space to hold information.

Most of that storage is currently

and ended his career with the Panthers, so that's my reasoning.

I was a bit surprised to see his name on this list since his production had dropped over the latter half of the decade, but still glad he made it.

Peppers' incredible athleticism was one of the more incredible displays I've seen from an athlete, in any sport. If only he hadn't gone to UNC.

**Luke Kuechly-** There was a stretch of time where Kuechly was the best defensive player in the NFL.

Besides his athletic ability, I loved his mental approach to the game. One of the things the former linebacker was known for was his ability to call out the opposition's play based on their formation



**Julio Jones-** The NFL records and Awards & Honors section of Jones' Wikipedia page reads like one of those Lifetime Achievement speeches at the Oscars; there are twenty-five currently listed.

Jones is that rare case where he may not have ever been the best receiver in the NFL at any point over the past ten years, but when you look at the totality of the decade, you could argue there wasn't anyone better.

The Atlanta wide out still has a number of productive seasons left in him and I wouldn't be shocked to see

being used to hold useless pop culture references and the multiple storylines in Tiger King. That said, both players are obviously considered to be the best at their positions, hence the award, and you'll certainly not get any argument from me.

**Julius Peppers-** Depending on the day, my favorite Carolina Panther rotates between Cam Newton, Steve Smith, and Julius Peppers.

Now, I'm taking some liberties even including Peppers since he spent the better part of this last decade playing in Chicago and Green Bay, but he began

and pre-snap movement.

Had injuries not pushed him into an early retirement I truly think he could've been not only one of the greatest linebackers of the decade, but one of the greatest of all time.

I'm sure there's a player or two you feel was deserving of being added to the list, but it's a difficult job that, for the most part I think the Hall of Fame did a pretty decent job of putting it together.

There is so much talent in the NFL right now, I can only imagine what the next All-Decade team will look like.

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# PAST BUZZES

An Unforgettable Year For Tech By Kenneth Harrison Jr



It is very difficult to have one elite team for a university. Having that in multiple sports typically does not happen, especially for football and men's basketball. I want to revisit 1990, a great year for Georgia Tech.

The basketball team for the 1989-90 season had a great year. They were led by coach Bobby Cremins. They were led by a talented trio of players nicknamed "Lethal Weapon 3". That consisted of ACC Player of the Year Dennis Scott, National Freshman of the Year Kenny Anderson and Brian Oliver.

They had some big wins during the regular season against ranked teams including No. 18 Pitt, No. 17 NC State, No. 15 Louisville and No. 20 Clemson. They also demolished No. 25 North Carolina, 102 - 75.

During the regular season they were swept by Duke and Virginia. In the ACC Tournament they beat both teams and NC State for the third time to win the conference tournament.

They advanced to the Final Four in Denver. On the way there

they beat Michigan State in the Sweet Sixteen. The Spartans were Big Ten champs and the top seed in the region. They were ranked third nationally and led by junior Steve Smith.

In the Final Four they lost to UNLV, 90 - 81. The Running Rebels went on to win the national championship. Tech finished the season 28 - 7.

In the fall of 1990, the football team had a historic undefeated season. They were led by head coach Bobby Ross and quarterback Shawn Jones. For the season the Yellow Jackets offense scored 379 points while the defense allowed 186 points.

Jones passed for 2,008 yards, 13 touchdowns and he had 6 rushing touchdowns. William Bell led the team in rushing with 891 yards, 5 touchdowns and averaged 5.5 yards per carry.

On defense they were led by All-American defensive back Ken Swilling. He had 5 interceptions that season. He is said to have predicted an undefeated season before it started, supposedly based on a dream. Safety Willie Clay was second on the team with three picks.

The Yellow Jackets started the season with a home win against NC State. They beat ranked teams like No. 25 South Carolina, No. 15 Clemson and No. 1 Virginia. The game against

UVA was nationally televised.

The tie happened at North Carolina, 13 -13. Overtime was not added to FBS football until the 1995-96 bowl season.

They also beat archrival Georgia 40 - 23 in Athens. They went to the Citrus Bowl and played No. 19 Nebraska. Going into the game the Cornhuskers were 9 - 2. The Yellow Jackets won big, 45 -21.

They finished the season 11-0-1 and No. 1 in the Coaches Poll. Colorado was the top team in the AP Poll and they were 11-1-1. I'm not sure how the Buffalos were voted No. 1 since they had a loss.

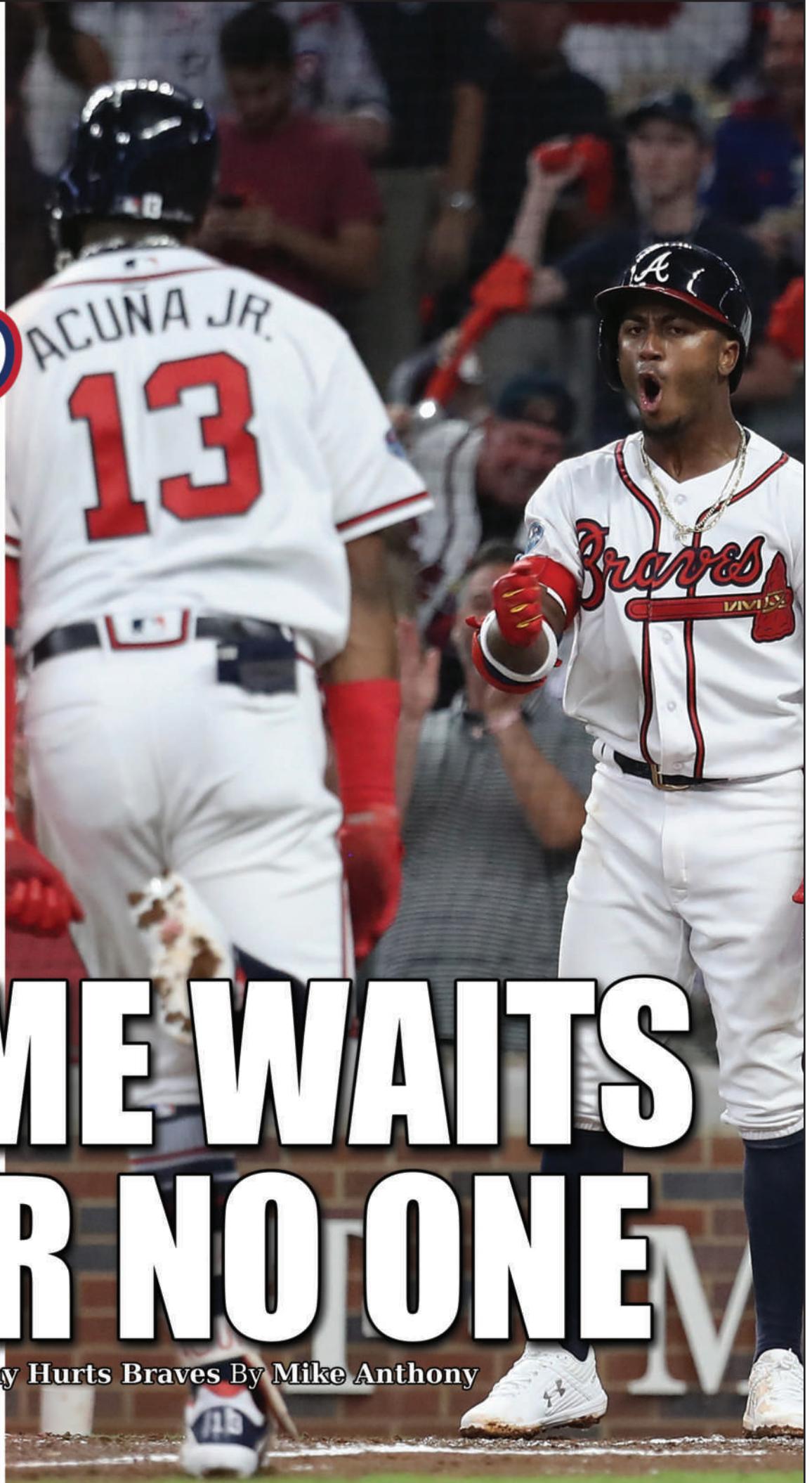
They also had a game against Missouri where they were given a fifth down. That led to them scoring a touchdown on the last play to win the game 33 -31.

They also have a common opponent, Nebraska. Colorado beat Nebraska 27 - 12.

"A lot of special things happened that season," said Ross said. It was a great accomplishment by a lot of people. We started all the way at the bottom three years before that and went all the way to the top."

1990 was an amazing year for Georgia Tech that will never be duplicated.





# TIME WAITS FOR NO ONE

Suspended Play Hurts Braves By Mike Anthony



**T**here is still plenty of speculation about how much of the 2020 Major League Baseball season - if any - will be played.

But one sure thing is that when play resumes the Atlanta Braves will still be one of the better teams in baseball, with every reason to believe that a World Series title is within their grasp.

However, the agreement reached by MLB and its players' association regarding pay and service time could

lose just the same at a much smaller price.

That's where the current pandemic and suspension of play is hurting the Braves. If play resumes this season, all will be fine. Atlanta will contend for a third consecutive NL East title, although a shortened season figures to be a disadvantage for more talented teams better suited to handle the grind of a full schedule.

If a shorter 2020 hampers the Braves' competitiveness or the worst case scenario happens and there is no baseball until next spring, that's when the numbers will start working against them.

The biggest item in the agreement is that, in the event of a total cancellation of the current season, all players will receive an identical credit of their MLB

group Liberty Media, which had often been criticized for being tight with money prior to the last two seasons of winning baseball.

The wave of youth that has been instrumental in the Braves' rise is about to get a considerable pay raise. Mike Soroka, Max Fried, Sean Newcomb, A.J. Minter and Chad Sobotka will all be arbitration-eligible next season, guaranteeing a pay raise for all and increasing in accordance with their performance over their first three seasons.

Star outfielder Ronald Acuna will be the biggest hit on the payroll. Acuna is slated to make just \$1 million in 2020, but the contract extension he signed last year bumps that to \$15 million in 2021 and levels out at \$17 million per year after that.



put a dent in the length of the Braves' current run of great play.

Over the last decade, many baseball teams have adopted a roller-coaster philosophy to competing. They will ride out success for a while, but are now more apt to trade off aging and expensive talent.

The rebuilding process can be painful for fans and is done for financial benefit of the club - the thought being that there's no reason to pay top dollar for declining veteran talent that won't make the playoffs when a roster full of marginal veterans and young players can

service time accrued in 2019.

That would mean the Braves' big offseason adds of Cole Hamels and Marcel Ozuna would again be free agents as both are signed to one-year deals.

Mark Melancon would also be a free agent as the contract he signed before being traded to Atlanta expires this year.

There is also the issue of age as Freddie Freeman will turn 31 this season and has just one year remaining on his deal.

Losing players is one issue, but adding on payroll seems to be an even bigger concern for Braves ownership

Ozzie Albies will also be breaking the bank as he will make an additional \$2 million in 2021.

The Braves' roster, as currently constructed, will remain relatively young, even if no baseball is played this season. But the contract structure of the team shows that 2020 is definitely the year Atlanta thinks it can make a World Series push.

If the Braves don't see any action this year and want to be in a similar spot for 2021, they'll have to make tough decisions on free agents while the payroll begins to soar.



# WILD WEST

A Look At The SEC West By Kenneth Harrison Jr



Everyone is aware of the current COVID-19 pandemic and how it has changed everyday life for the world.

The social distancing also has an impact on sports since players cannot compete against or work out with each other.

I think this will be a factor this college football season, assuming we still have one. I'm going to preview the SEC West in 2020.

**Alabama:** They were plagued with injuries in 2019. One player returning from injury is linebacker Dylan Moses. He missed the entire 2019 season with a torn ACL. He led the Crimson Tide with 86 tackles in 2018.

They also lost the top running back in the class of 2019 for the season, Trey Sanders. Najee Harris is also back after passing on the draft.

Quarterback play is under the spotlight with Tua Tagovailoa off to the NFL, but Mac Jones played well at the end of 2019, and true freshman Bryce Young will join the mix.

I don't think they will have

the same bad luck with injuries two years in a row.

**LSU:** The reigning national champs lose Heisman winning quarterback Joe Burrow. Offensive coordinator Joe Brady left for the NFL. Running back Clyde Edwards-Helaire and wide receiver Justin Jefferson left early for the NFL.

Biletnikoff Award winner Ja'Marr Chase and Terrace Marshall are returning, and they combined for 33 touchdown catches.

**Texas A&M:** The Aggies have returning talent on both sides of the ball.

Leading running back Isaiah Spiller (946 yards) will improve as a sophomore and the offensive line remains largely intact.

The receiving corps is led by receivers Jhamon Ausbon (66 catches) and Ainius Smith (22) and tight ends Jalen Wydermyer and Baylor Cupp.

Can quarterback Kellen Mond take the next step in development as a senior? The defense also returns most of its key pieces.

**Auburn:** Bo Nix should be one of the most improved players in 2020. He had a good freshman season with 2,542 yards, 16 touchdowns, 6 picks and he completed 58% of his passes. He also rushed for 313 yards and 7 scores.

Former Arkansas coach Chad Morris was hired as the team's

new offensive coordinator, and his experience working with quarterbacks should help Nix develop as a passer.

The Tigers return a solid stable of running backs, and the team's top three statistical receivers. Unfortunately, the offensive line loses four starters.

The Tigers also have the same problem in the trenches on defense, losing three starters.

**Ole Miss:** The Rebels lost eight games in 2019 but five came by eight points or less.

New coach Lane Kiffin isn't stepping into a total rebuild. QB John Rhys Plumlee had a dynamic freshman season and the top three receivers are back. Both tackles are gone so the line may have some problems.

Ole Miss showed marked improvement on defense in 2019. After giving up 36.2 points a game in 2018, this unit allowed 26.5 last season.

**Mississippi State:** This is Mike Leach's first year in Starkville.

He's known for high-powered offense, but he needs to find a quarterback and receivers. All-SEC running back Kylin Hill returned for his senior year.

**Arkansas:** The Razorbacks have lost 19 consecutive conference games. They have a new coach, Sam Pittman. They have former Last Chance U star, running back Rakeem Boyd (1,133 yards)





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